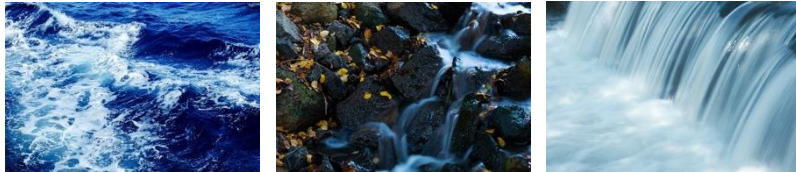




Water in Religion

A symbol stands for or represents something else. Water, and how it is used, is an important symbol in many religions for the following reasons:

- Water cleans, washing away impurities and making something look as good as new.
- It cleans a person on the outside, and symbolically, on the inside so they can start afresh, like a new person.
- Water is also important to our survival. Without water there is no life.



Water is used in ritual washing in Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and other religion.

Did you know?

A ritual is a special religious ceremony that is performed in a particular order.

Some rivers or pools are considered special or scared to followers of religion.



The River Ganges
The River Ganges is sacred to Hindus.



The River Jordan
The River Jordan and the pools of Lourdes are sacred to Christians.



The Well of Zamzam
The Well of Zamzam is sacred to Muslims.

Christianity

Water is used in the Christian ritual of baptism.

Baptism is an act of cleansing; washing away what is old and bad and starting a fresh.

Baptism is also seen as a declaration of someone's faith or beliefs.



Judaism

In Judaism, water is used in a ritual washing.

The Torah talks of cleansing and immersion in water, which would happen in a Mikveh.

A Mikveh is a pool of naturally gathered water (from either rain, river or sea) that is used for ritual cleansing.

Every synagogue or Jewish place of worship has a Mikveh.



Islam

Muslims use water to wash before each of their five daily prayers or before handling the Qur'an. This is called Wudu.

Wudu involves using pure water to wash the face, rub the head with water, wash the hands and arms up to the elbows and the feet up to the ankles.

Every Muslim place of worship or mosque has running water available for Wudu.



Hinduism

To Hindus all water is scared. It is seen as a purifier, cleanser and life giver and is used in many Hindu rituals.

Hindu temples have a tank of water available which followers can wash in and therefore purify themselves before prayers.

Water is also used in many Hindu rituals.

