

Vocabulary	Meaning
rites of passage	ceremonies associated with the major moments in life such as birth and marriage. Religions often have special ceremonies to mark a rite of passage. The ceremonies have special meanings and symbols.
initiation	being entered formally into a religion
marriage	a legal union between two people
vows	promises made between two people at a marriage ceremony
sacrifice	giving up something which is valuable to you
fasting	not eating or drinking anything during daylight hours
Ramadan	the ninth month of the Islamic calendar
Lent	40 days and nights when Christians prepare for Easter

### Assessment focus – Evaluate

Discern the value of the concept in the lives of those living in the tradition studied, as well as recognising some of the issues this might raise

**What is the value of rites of passage to me and believers?**

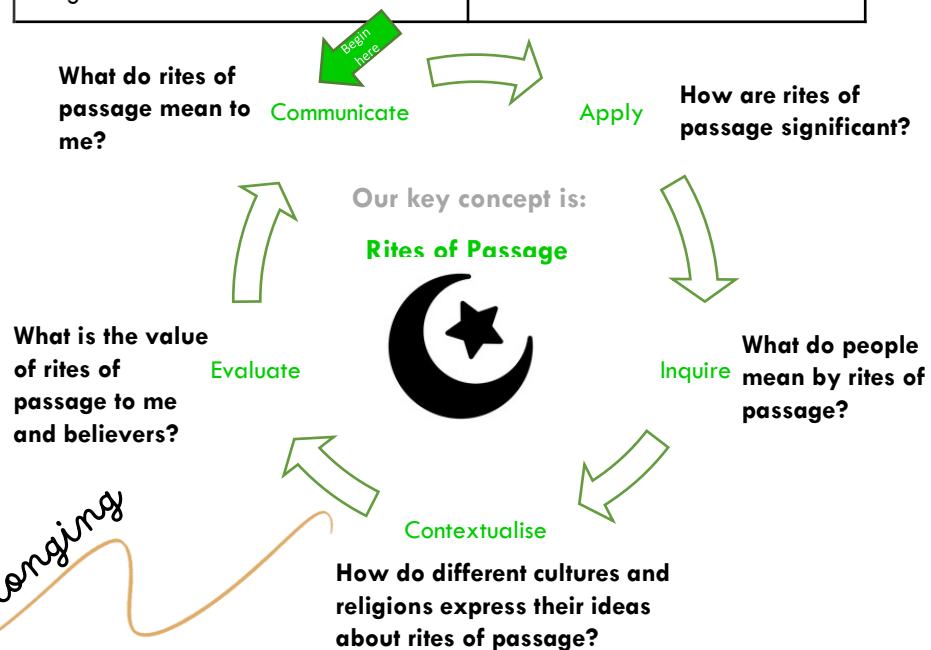
### Key knowledge – Rites of Passage

#### Birth ceremonies

In **Christianity**, at an **infant christening** the priest pours water on the baby's head, it symbolises new life, cleansing from sin and admission to the Church. In **Islam**, the father whispers the **Adhan** in the ear of the new-born baby. After seven days the **Agigah** ceremony takes place. This involves shaving the baby's head, naming the child and donating to the poor. At the age of four years, four months and four days, the **Bismillah** initiation ceremony occurs. This marks the start of the child's religious education.

#### Wedding ceremonies

In **Christianity**, marriage is in the presence of God and usually takes place in a church. The bride and groom promise to 'love and cherish, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death us do part'. In **Islam**, are held by the Imam and include readings from the Qur'an. There is a spoken and written contract and the groom gives his bride money or property (**mahr**).



Our golden thread