

Weddings from Different Cultures



Weddings

When people get married, they have a wedding ceremony.

Wedding ceremonies are not all the same. People make choices about the type of wedding they have depending on what they believe in and what is important to them.



Have you ever been to a wedding?

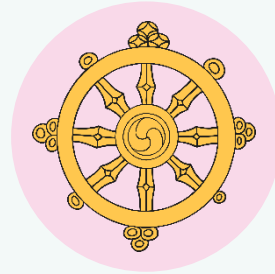
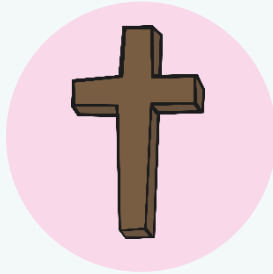
What was it like?

What happened during the ceremony and celebrations?



It is important that we treat all people, their beliefs and the choices they make with kindness and respect.

Christianity



Buddhism

Islam



Click on a
symbol to find
out more!

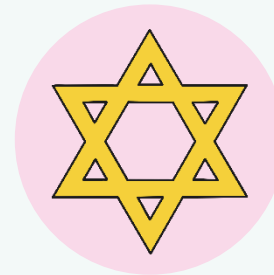


Sikhi

Hinduism



Secular



Judaism



Christian Weddings

[Click on the pictures to find out more!](#)

Christians believe that marriage is one of God's gifts. Weddings usually take place in a church but can take place anywhere the bride and groom decide as long as the place is registered for marriage.



The bride and groom exchange **rings** which show their eternal love (there is no beginning or end to a ring).



The bride sometimes wears a veil. Traditionally, this was to show her modesty but nowadays, it is considered an accessory.

[Click for more.](#)

Christian Weddings

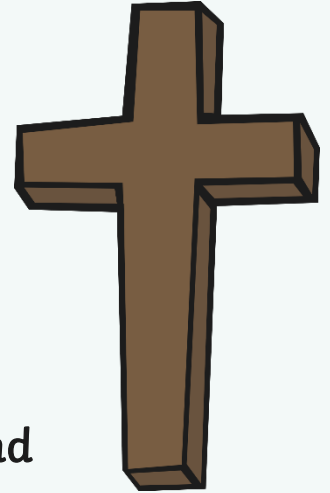
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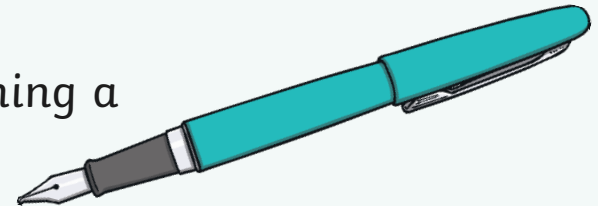
The bride and groom say **vows** and **declarations** in front of God and the guests. The wedding ceremony varies greatly depending on the culture of the people involved.



The couple are pronounced **husband** and **wife** to show that they are now united as one in the eyes of God.



The marriage is made legal by the couple signing a register book.



Talk about it... Have you ever been to a Christian wedding?



Islamic Weddings

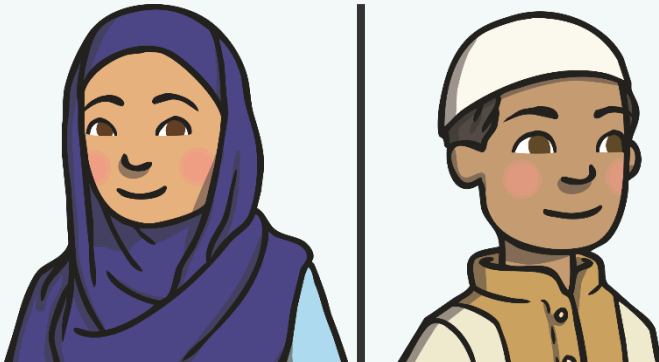
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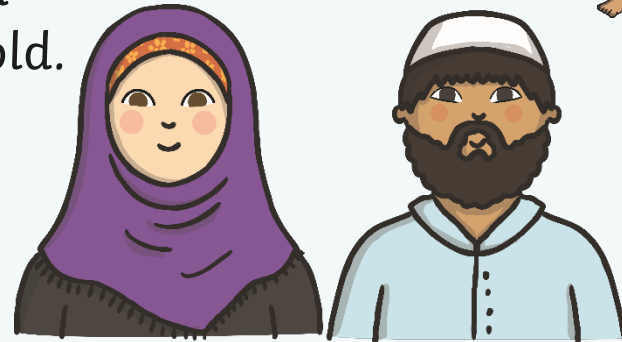
Followers of the religion of Islam are called Muslims. The weddings are different depending on which country the people come from.



Muslim brides may wear a white wedding dress or a brightly coloured shalwar-qameez outfit in red and gold.



The couple don't have to be in the same room when they marry.



Some marriages are arranged with the help of the parents.

Click for more.

Islamic Weddings

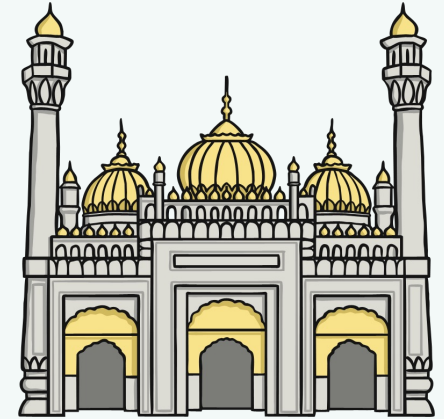
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The Muslim ceremony is called a Nikah. In Islam, there is also a Nikkah, which is the legal contract signed for the marriage. **Nikkah** is the legal contract signed by the bride and groom.

The husband sometimes pays an agreed money gift to the bride called a **mahr**. This payment is for the bride to keep and use as she wishes.

Most of the time, the bride and groom have a **Walimah**. This is a large feast where the couple announce their marriage publicly. Many wedding customs are a matter of culture rather than Islam.



Click [here](#) to see a photo of a Muslim wedding couple.



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Hindu Weddings

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Click on the pictures to find out more!

A Hindu wedding is called a **Vivaha**. The most important part of a Hindu marriage ceremony is **Saptapadi**. This means 'seven steps' and is when the bride and groom will take seven steps around the holy fire as they say their vows in **Sanskrit**.



The wedding often lasts for three days and usually includes the ceremony, a meal, dancing or performances and a reception.

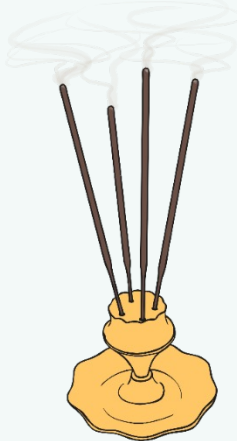
Click [here](#) to watch a short video clip 'Marriage in Hinduism'.

Buddhist Weddings

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Click on the pictures to find out more!

In Buddhism, marriage is not viewed as a **religious** duty. Buddhists have the freedom to make their own decisions about their marriage.



The bride and groom light candles and incense and lay flowers around a statue of the Buddha. They recite their vows and there may be readings from the Sigālovāda Sutta.



Click for more.

Buddhist Weddings

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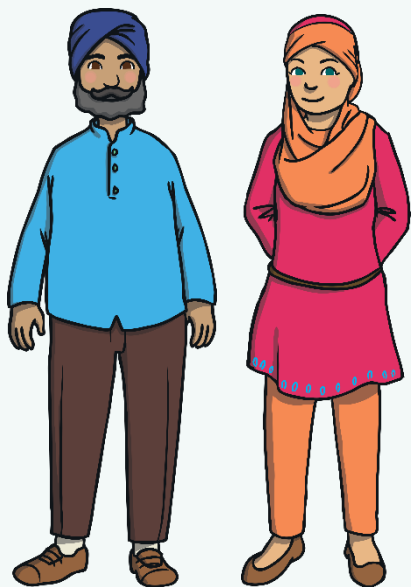
Click on the pictures to find out more!

The weddings are **different** depending on which country the people come from.



The bride will traditionally wear a dress made from bhaku, a richly decorated fabric. A silk, long-sleeved blouse is worn over the top. The groom dresses in the same fabrics. Most grooms wear long trousers or a skirt, a waistcoat, a hat and a sash.

Sikh Weddings



The Sikh wedding ceremony is called the **Anand Karaj**. The couple can meet on their own or the marriage can be arranged by their parents.



Sikh brides usually wear a lehenga and choli, a salwar kameez or a sari. In traditional weddings, a Sikh groom will wear a Kurta which is usually white with a long coat over the top. He will often wear a sash over his shoulder.

[Click for more.](#)

Sikh Weddings

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Sikh weddings usually take place in a **gurdwara**. On arrival at the gurdwara, a **milnea** - meaning introductions - is carried out between the two families.

The main ceremony is very simple and includes hymns, readings and music. After the ceremony, a reading is given and a sweet pudding called **karah prasad** is passed out to all guests.

Click [here](#) to see a photo of the Sikh holy book: Guru Granth Sahib Ji Sikhi scripture.

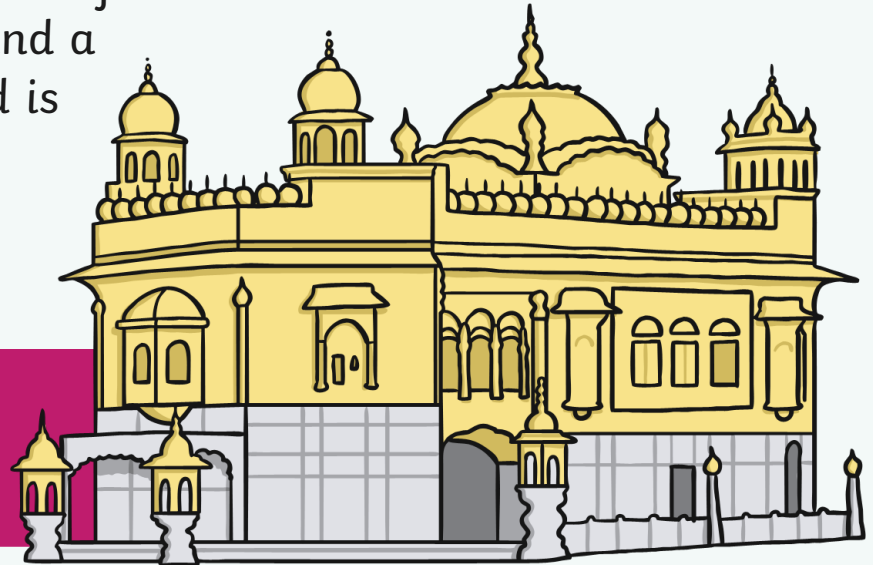


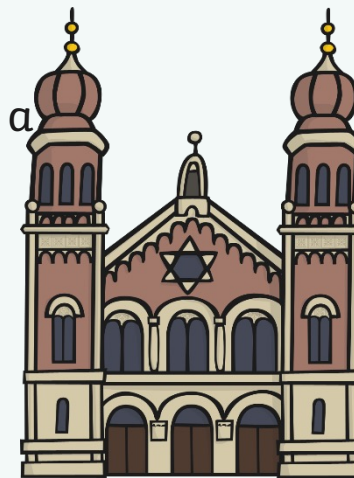


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Jewish Weddings

Home

The bride and groom can marry anywhere. Some choose a **synagogue**. They must stand under a wedding canopy called a **chuppah** during the ceremony. This symbolises their future home together.



A rabbi must be present at the wedding to make it legal but they do not have to be the one taking the ceremony.

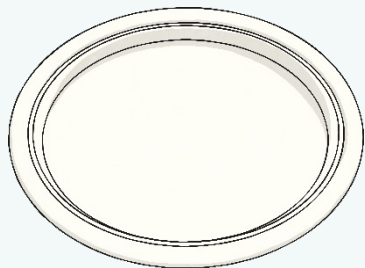
The couple exchange **rings** which symbolises the unbroken circle and union of the married couple.



[Click for more.](#)

Jewish Weddings

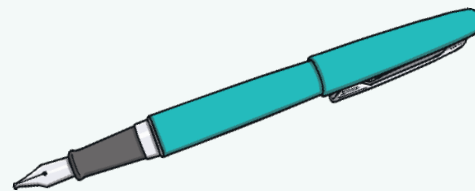
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It is traditional for the bride and groom to **fast** on the day of the wedding.

After the rings have been exchanged, the groom breaks a glass by standing on it.

It is common for the bride and groom to sign the Jewish marriage contract, called a **ketubah**.



Traditionally, the wedding guests take part in a **hora**. This is a Jewish wedding dance where the bride and groom are lifted into the air on chairs while their guests dance in a circle around them.

Secular Weddings

Home

Some people choose to have a wedding ceremony that is not based on a specific culture or religion.

There are different types of secular ceremonies.

The person who leads the ceremony has to be trained and legally appointed.

Civil weddings can take place in different places including a register office, other buildings which have been approved and outside.

Some people choose to enter into a civil partnership. Civil partnerships are a way of legally recognising a relationship between two people.

