

Worship and Beliefs

Choose a religion that you would like to know more about. It needs to be one that has a place of worship near you. Preferably it should be the religion of an international with whom you are becoming friends. You can ask him or her if you could visit and observe during their time of worship. You can also find places on the Internet by searching under your city or town for “places of worship,” and “Buddhist,” etc. You may be able to have someone meet you and help you understand more if you call in advance to ask about visiting.

Ask to be able to interview someone about the religion and worship practices. Then seek for answers to questions such as the following. Write at least a two-page summary of what you learned.

OBSERVATIONS

1. The name of the place and the type of religion:
2. Describe the outside and inside of the worship place:
3. What did you observe people doing?
4. Of the things that were said, what did you understand?
5. What similarities did you see or hear to your own beliefs and style of worship?
6. What differences did you see or hear to your own beliefs and style of worship?
7. Describe your overall reaction, feelings and thoughts about this experience.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What beliefs and practices are especially important to you in your religion?
2. What are the most important things that anybody who says they are a part of your religion should know and do?
3. How did your religion start?
4. Are there any important holy places in your religion and where are they?
5. What important holidays or ceremonies does your religion have?
6. What are the scriptures like and do people read them very much? (Do they understand what they read or chant?)
7. Do you believe in a God, gods, angels, ghosts, or spirits? Please tell me about it.
8. What do you think happens when people die?
9. What do you think people can do to help themselves have a better future life?