Symbols of Religion

KEY VOCABULARY

symbol	an image or object which represents something
Israelites	the ancient ancestors of the modern Jewish people, who lived in Canaan, which was split into two kingdoms: Judah and Israel
menorah	a candle with seven or nine branches, used as a symbol in Judaism for knowledge and wisdom
sacrifice	the act of giving something up for someone else
idol	a special statue representing a god/gods to be worshipped
The Trimurti	the three gods, central to Hinduism, who represent creation, preservation and destruction – Brahma represents creation, Vishnu represents preservation and Shiva represents destruction
Brahman	Hindus believe Brahman is a spiritual power and the source of everything that exists



menorah

a menorah is an important Jewish symbol with candles which are lit during the festival of Hanukkah

Key symbols and their meaning

✝ cross of Christ / crucifix	The cross is a Christian symbol. It represents the cross on which Jesus was executed by the Romans. It symbolises the salvation, suffering and sacrifice of Jesus.
☪ crescent moon and star	There is no specific religious significance of the crescent moon and star symbol for Muslims. The symbol of the moon relates to the following of the lunar calendar in Islam.
ॐ Om	The Om symbol is used in Hinduism to signify the universe and the Ultimate Reality. Some people say that this symbol represents the three aspects of God: the Brahma (a), the Vishna (u), and the Shiva (m).
✡ Star of David	The Star of David is a Jewish symbol, a six-pointed star used on the flag of Israel. In Hebrew, the star is called Magen David (Shield of David), showing God as the protector of David who was King of Israel.