

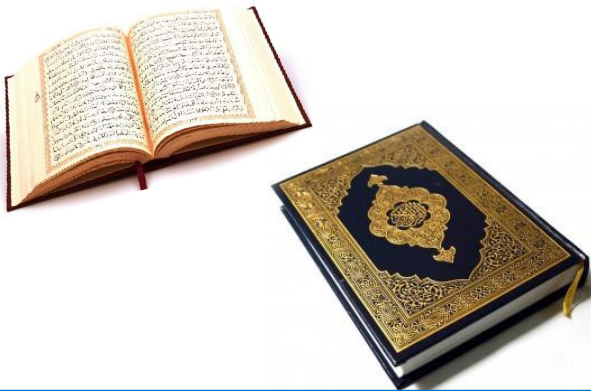


Sacred Texts

The Qur'an

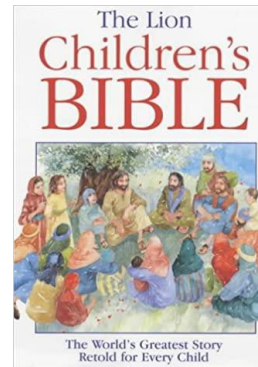
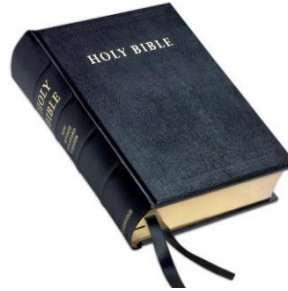
Muslims believe the Qur'an contains the exact word of God as revealed through the Angel Jibril to the Prophet Muhammad (p.b.u.h.). Not one word of its 114 Suras (chapters) has been changed over the centuries, so that the Qur'an is in every detail the same text which was revealed to Muhammad (p.b.u.h.) fourteen centuries ago.

The Qur'an is written in Arabic (which is read from right to left). Muslims often learn the words of the Qur'an by heart and recite them rather than read them. A Muslim who knows the entire Qur'an by heart is known as a hafiz.



The Bible

The special book in the religion of Christianity is the Bible. The Bible is named after what the Greeks called it, 'Biblio' which means 'the books'. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew. It was written by about 40 different authors, ranging from fishermen to kings, doctors to shepherds and scholars to prophets.



The Bible is a collection of 66 books and is split into two sections (The Old Testament and The New Testament). The Old Testament was written before Jesus was born and tells the stories of the creation of Earth. The Old Testament is shared by Christian and Jewish people. The New Testament tells the story of Jesus's life and teaching.

The Torah

The most holy book of Judaism is the Torah. It is a Hebrew word that translates as 'teaching' or 'instruction'. It is the first part of the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible) and includes lots of information about rules, laws, sayings and stories (in the 5 books of Moses). The Hebrew names of the five books that make up the Torah are Bereshit, Shemot, Vayikra, Bemidbar and Devarim.



The Sefer Torah is the full name given to the Torah scrolls. These are written by trained people, in Hebrew, on parchment. Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people.

The Synagogue is the place of worship for Jewish people. At the eastern end, facing Jerusalem, is the Ark, which is a special big cupboard. This is where the Torah scrolls are kept.

Key Stories

Prophet Muhammed and the Spider (the Qur'an)

David and Goliath (the Torah)

The Lost Sheep (the Bible)

Did you know?

The Bible is the best selling book of all time!

Key Questions

- How do you know how to live your life?
- Have you ever had to make a decision between right and wrong?
- Why are the Bible, Qur'an and Torah important to believers?
- Are all religious books the same?