Fertile Question: *Is my existence part of a bigger plan?*

Core Content Area 1: Where do we come from?

**TOPIC 1.1: The search for meaning and the spiritual quest**

**Depthing Understanding: Pilgrimage**

In this lesson students will explore the place of pilgrimage in the lives of religious adherents.

Teachers: Before You Start!

1. Familiarise yourself with the resources referred to in this lesson.

For students to explore the place of pilgrimage in the lives of religious adherents and their search for meaning, select from the following activities:

In religion and spirituality, a pilgrimage is a long journey or search of great moral significance. Sometimes, it is a journey to a sacred place or shrine of importance to a person's beliefs and faith. Members of every major religion participate in pilgrimages. A person who makes such a journey is called a pilgrim. Zanzig and others identify four stages of the pilgrimage: restlessness or yearning, separation or journey, awakening or transformation and response or return.

1. Explore various experiences of pilgrimage,
   a. Explore the importance of the Haj in the life of a Muslim.
      i. View this short movie clip of the pilgrimage to Mecca. Write down any questions which you have.
      ii. Search for answers to the questions using a resource such as the BBC religion site. Share interesting facts with a partner.
   b. Explore examples of pilgrimage that have arisen from the Christian tradition.
      ii. View the trailer of the movie *The Way* which depicts one man's experience of a Camino Santiago pilgrimage as he tries to understand his son better. Identify the stages of pilgrimage as you are viewing.
      iii. Why might a physical challenge be a part of a pilgrimage? Discuss.
   c. Plan a pilgrimage.
      i. People often journey to the spiritual heart of Australia, the Land of the Holy Spirit, where they experience a deep sense of ecological conversion. Imagine yourself as one such pilgrim. Research trips to the Red Centre from where you live and create a complete travel itinerary including real time costs and time spent.
Useful Resources

Useful Websites


One pilgrim’s experience [http://www.pioneerwest.net/nomad/redcntr.html](http://www.pioneerwest.net/nomad/redcntr.html)

Blog entry 2012 Pilgrimage

Acknowledgement

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