

R&W - Why is water symbolic?

cleanse*	To make something clean or fresh.	ritual	A special set of actions, sometimes for a religious ceremony.
commitment	A promise or firm decision to do something.	significance	The importance or meaning of something.
conserve	The importance or meaning of something.	spiritual	Connecting with non-physical aspects of being human, sometimes linked to God.
offering*	A gift as part of a religious or spiritual practice.	symbolise	To represent something else, often an idea or quality.
perspectives	Different ways of looking at or thinking about something.	value	How important or useful something is considered to be.
purity	The state of being clean and free from bad things or sin.		

Water is considered important as essential for life but for many people it is also important symbolically as part of their religious or cultural beliefs and practices.



There are stories in scripture that suggest God has power over water. Many people consider water to be sacred because of this.



Baptism* is a Christian ritual where water is used to symbolise cleansing and starting a new life following Jesus. Baptism can take place at any age from babies to adults.



*key vocabulary Y3

R&W - Why is water symbolic?

The Kumbh Mela festival is a major Hindu festival that involves sacred bathing in rivers, receiving blessings and taking part in puja.



For some people, taking action to protect water reflects their beliefs about it being precious, sacred or important.



Water is used as an offering in some Buddhist and **Shinto*** rituals.



© Debbie Jolliff / Alamy Stock Photo