



What are your strongest beliefs?

# Faith and the Arts

Can you feel emotions through music or art?

## Overview

If people have strong beliefs, then they may use art, music or dance to express them or to share them with others. Some aspects of faith and religion can be difficult to put into words and the creative arts can be a way to communicate religious beliefs. Music and dance can be used as part of worship and many sacred buildings use art to make them beautiful or to help worshippers feel near to God. Sometimes symbols are used to stand for something else e.g. the heart is a symbol of love.

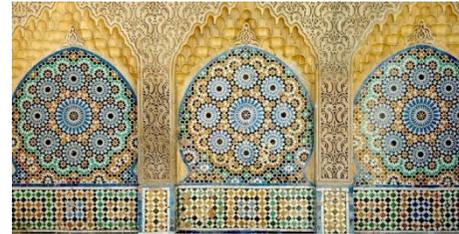
## Christian Symbols

	<b>The Cross</b> Jesus died on a cross. Christians use this symbol to remember his sacrifice. Some crosses show Jesus (a crucifix); some are empty to show that he rose again.
	<b>Dove</b> The dove is a symbol of God's holy spirit. In the story of Noah, the dove returned with an olive branch in its beak, so it is a symbol of hope.
	<b>Icthus / Fish</b> This was once a secret sign of Christianity. In Greek, the letters of Jesus Christ, God's Son, Saviour spell out IXΘΥΣ, which means fish.
	<b>Candle</b> A lit candle reminds Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. It also symbolises hope in dark times.

Would a Christian prefer to pray in a beautiful church or out in natural surroundings that God created?

## Islamic Art

Muslims believe it is wrong to represent Allah's work. For this reason, they consider it wrong to make pictures of humans or animals. Much of Islamic art uses calligraphy (beautiful handwriting) and geometric patterns.



## Stained Glass Windows

Stained glass is used in many sacred buildings. It can show events from religious texts, use symbols or create an atmosphere of calm for prayer.



What symbol would you use for...  
Patience? Wisdom?  
Generosity?  
Tranquillity?