

# CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGION

## Beliefs

- in an unseen world of God(s), spirits or natural forces.
- about human nature and life
- about the natural world
- about the 'afterlife'

## and Believers

- who are the believers?

## Sacred Texts and writings

Which include, for example:

- myths relate to stories about 'beginnings', how the world was created.
- legends collection of stories based on sacred or important people from history.
- parables fictitious stories told to point out a moral, about ordinary people.

## Ethics

"Ethics is the examination of collective and individual decision-making about what are desirable human actions, and the exploration of why people make such judgements."

Chaos and Clarity

"The rules or standards governing the conduct of the members of a profession."

The American Heritage® Concise Dictionary

## Rituals and Ceremonies

- Rites of passage and, in particular, initiation rites.
- Rites of worship or devotion.

Each ritual has:

- a structure
- symbols