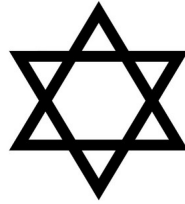
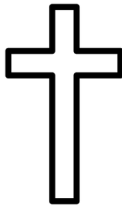


Pagan Symbols

Religions hold a rich variety of different symbols and signs. Images that represent a religion, without any further explanation needed. For example, look at the pictures below. Have you seen them before? Do you recognise them? What religion does each picture make you think of?



Even if you don't know what these symbols mean, chances are that you have seen them before. Symbols and images hold meaning for us and they can also be a part of our identity. You may have seen religious people wearing the above symbols on items of jewellery or maybe even tattoos. They are the symbols for Judaism, Hinduism, and Christianity. Do you know which one is which?

Fill in the name of each religion, under its symbol.

Paganism also has its own different signs and symbols.

There are many different faiths, paths and groups that exist under the Pagan umbrella. The symbols below are used by different Pagans to represent these various paths of Paganism. Have a look at them and what each one means.



Pentagram

This symbol has been used for lots of different things throughout history. In Paganism, the pentagram is used by Wiccans and other Witchcraft religions. Lots of people see the five points of the pentagram as representing Earth, Air, Fire, Water, and Spirit.



Valknut

This symbol has been found on a number of archaeological items. There is some debate about its original meaning. But many take it to be a symbol of Odin, the chief God of the Heathen religion.



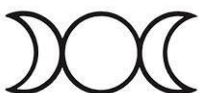
Awen

The Awen is a modern symbol and is used to represent the path of Druidry. The three lines represent three rays of light. These rays are interpreted as meaning different things, including the three levels of Druidry: Bard, Ovate, and Druid.



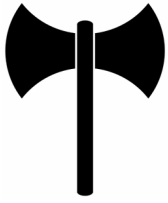
Ankh

The Ankh is very well known as an Egyptian symbol. It is the hieroglyph meaning 'life'. The symbol of the Ankh is commonly used to represent the path of Paganism called Kemeticism, which follows the Gods and practices of ancient Egypt.



Triple Moon

This symbol depicts three phases of the moon: waxing, full, and waning. The symbol of the triple moon is often used in Wicca, to represent the Goddess, who is seen as having three aspects: maiden, mother, and crone.



Labrys

The Labrys is a double-headed axe, which was a religious symbol in ancient Greek religion, especially in ancient Crete. Among the Minoans of Crete, it was a feminine symbol associated with Goddesses. In later Greek religion, it was used by Zeus, to create storms. The labrys is a symbol associated with Greek Paganism, known as Hellenism. It has also been adopted within LGBTQ+ culture, as a representation of lesbianism.



Triquetra

The triple knot symbol, known as the Triquetra, commonly features on old Celtic monuments and artwork. It has been used by Celtic Pagans and Christians, alike. Many Celtic Pagans use this symbol as a representation of Celtic Paganism.

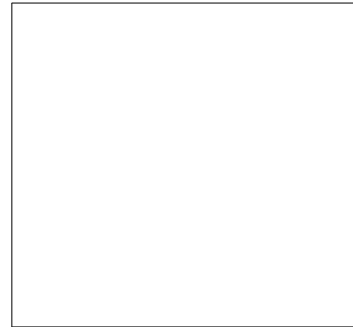
Class Work

Now, read the descriptions below, and draw the correct Pagan symbol to go with it.

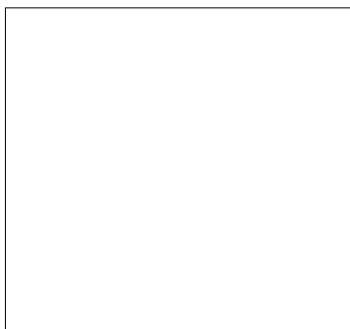
1. This is an ancient symbol meaning “life”.



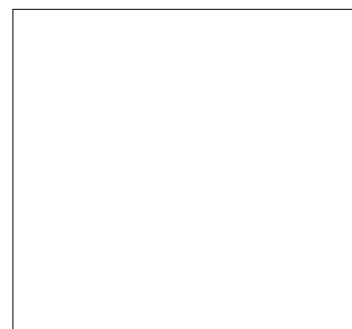
2. This symbol is used in the Heathen religion, often associated with the God Odin.



3. This symbol represents both the moon and the Wiccan Goddess.



4. In Hellenism, this symbol is connected to ancient Goddesses on Crete and is also used by the God Zeus.

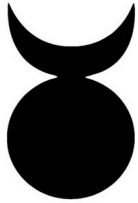


5. For many, this symbol represents earth, air, fire, water, and spirit.



Independent Research

Look at the Pagan symbols below. Each one is connected to a different Pagan faith. Research each symbol and write a short paragraph about it. You should include the name of the symbol, what Pagan faith it is associated with and what the symbol means or represents.







Research Guidance

The following search terms may be helpful for completing this homework:
Pagan, Symbol, Spiral, Goddess, God, Hammer, Jewellery