

Mapping pilgrimage



Locate these famous pilgrimage sites on a map.



How far is each site from where you live?

How long would it take you to travel there?

What might you find difficult about undertaking a pilgrimage like this one?



Canterbury
Christianity



Mecca
Islam



Varanasi
Hinduism



The Golden Temple
Sikhism



Jerusalem
Christianity, Islam, Judaism



Lumbini
Buddhism



Make a pilgrim badge

Pilgrims often brought home tokens from their pilgrimage to remember their journey.

Before these souvenirs were produced, some pilgrims would chip off bits of stone from the holy shrines to take back with them.

The badges were designed to show the saint or the relic at the shrine. Pilgrims often wore these badges on their hats, cloaks or around their necks.

It was believed that these badges could bring good luck to their owner or even to have performed miracles. These miracles were said to have been thanks to the saint whose shrine the badges were bought from.



Why do you think pilgrim badges were seen as a good idea by the Church and by pilgrims?

Look at these pictures of pilgrim badges.

Can you match the badge to the pilgrimage site?

Santiago de Compostella, The shrine of Saint James, Spain

The badge of Saint James was the scallop shell, though no-one knows why. Perhaps, it was because he first met Jesus at the seashore. This shell is now a common symbol of pilgrimage.

Rome, Saint Peter and Saint Paul

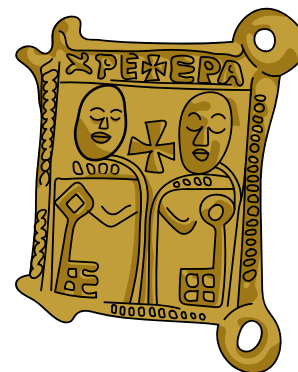
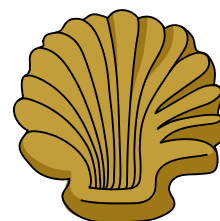
Saint Peter is said to hold the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, so these badges often show keys.

St Thomas Becket, Canterbury

An Archbishop in his mitre (special hat), sometimes shown surrounded with ornate decoration.

Ampulla from Jerusalem

Some pilgrim tokens were flask or jug shaped (ampulla) and could be filled with holy water.



Make a pilgrim badge



Design and make a badge for a pilgrim visiting Canterbury Cathedral today.

Remember the examples you have seen and make sure there are clues for people to guess where your badge came from.

Pilgrim badges used to be made from metals such as tin or pewter. You could use metallic card or even craft foil.



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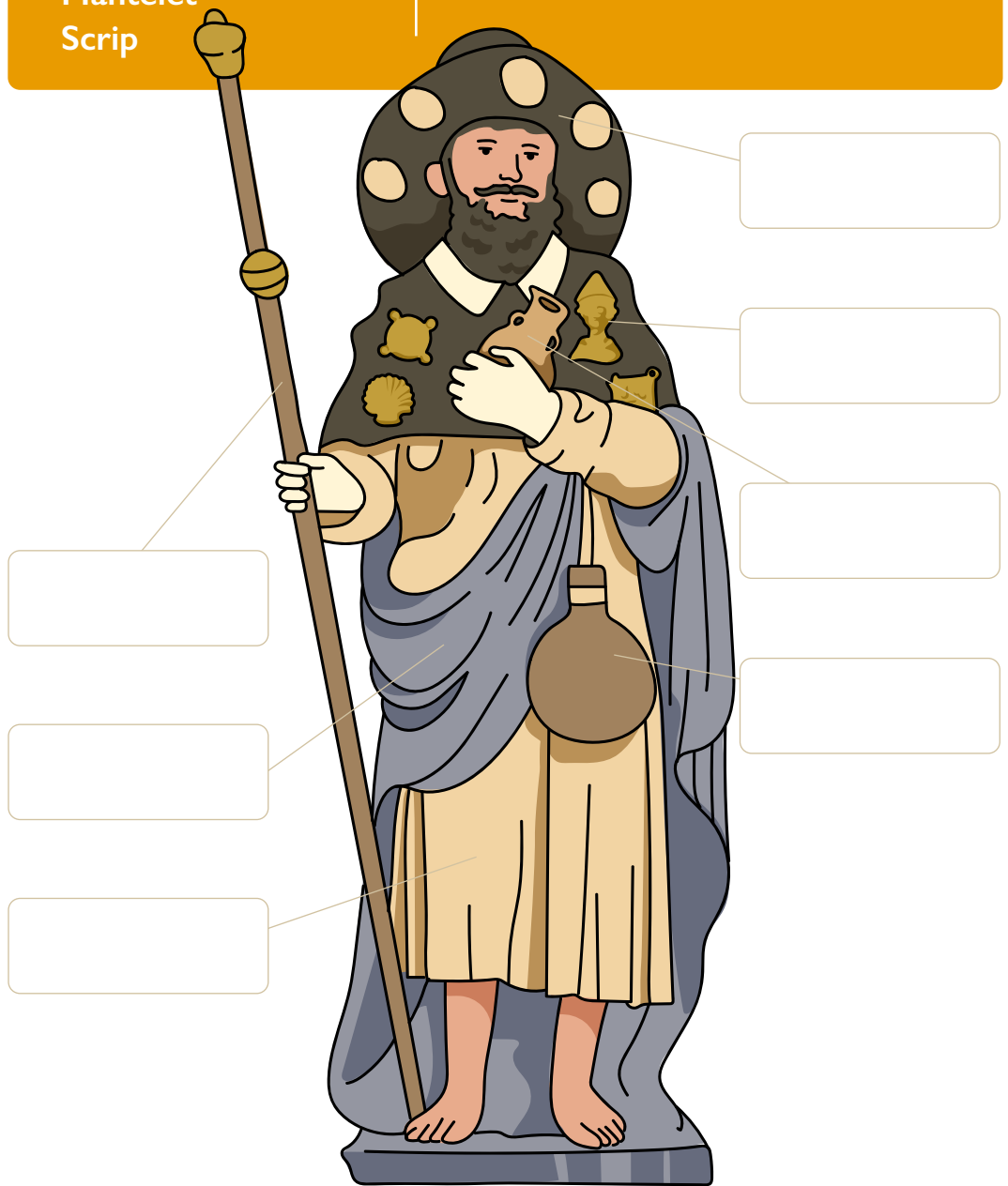
A kit list for a pilgrim



Label this drawing of a medieval pilgrim using the words in the box.

- Pilgrim badges
- Pilgrim hat
- Wooden staff
- Ampullae
- Slavein
- Mantelet
- Scrip

A slavein is a knee length tunic worn by pilgrims.
 An ampullae is a small flask used for holding holy oil or water.
 A mantelet is a short cloak or shawl.
 A scrip is a satchel style bag often worn by medieval travellers



A kit list for a pilgrim



What do you think this pilgrim has in his bag?

Write a list of the things this pilgrim might have brought with him on his journey to Canterbury Cathedral.



What do you think pilgrims bring to the Cathedral today?

Write a list of things that a modern pilgrim might bring with them to Canterbury Cathedral.

What other things might a medieval pilgrim do to prepare for the journey? What might a modern pilgrim do?



A miracle window

The shrine of Saint Thomas Becket was housed in the Trinity Chapel at the far east end of the Cathedral. It was surrounded by a series of stained glass windows.

Today we call these the Miracle Windows. These windows tell the stories of many pilgrims that visited the shrine and depict some of the miracles attributed to Saint Thomas.



Imagine you are a medieval pilgrim visiting the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket. Write an account of a miracle that occurs after your visit. Or perhaps you are on a pilgrimage to Canterbury to give thanks for a miracle that has just happened, just like William of Kellet.

One of the miracle stories depicted in the windows tells us about William of Kellet and his pilgrimage to Canterbury

1. William of Kellet injures himself with an axe whilst working.



2. Badly injured and in bed he is visited by Saint Thomas.



3. The next morning, a woman changing his bandage can see no trace of the wound.



4. He makes a pilgrimage to Canterbury to thank Saint Thomas for his miraculous recovery.

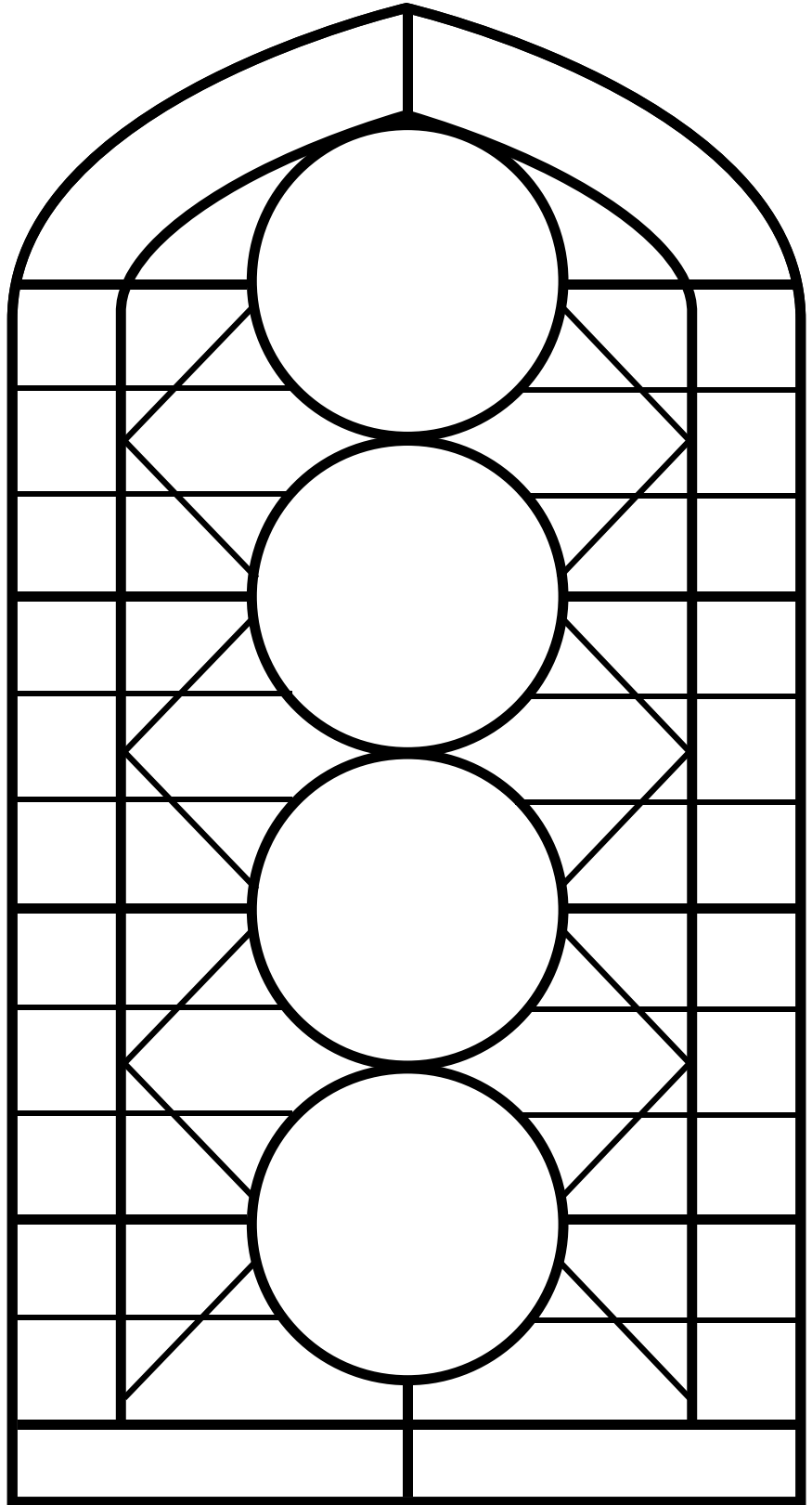


We know from accounts written at the time that the shrine which stood at the centre of the Trinity Chapel was an amazing sight. The remains of Saint Thomas were housed in a golden chest covered in jewels. Pilgrims visiting the shrine would have been shown each jewel in turn, told how much it was worth and who donated it. They would also have heard some of the miracle stories depicted in the surrounding windows.

A miracle window



Design a stained glass window to celebrate your miracle. You could then make your window using acetate and coloured marker pens.



Pilgrim or tourist



Many people have visited Canterbury Cathedral since it was first built.

Recently visitors to the Cathedral were asked why they came to visit.

Here are some of their answers.

Can you decide if these quotes were said by Tourists or Pilgrims and sort them into the right circle of the Venn diagram?

Tip! Some may overlap. Why do you think this is?

To light a candle

To discover history

To walk with friends old and new

To find out about Saint Thomas Becket

To look at the architecture

To reflect

The calm atmosphere

To experience peace and quiet

To pray

To join a service

Sacred space

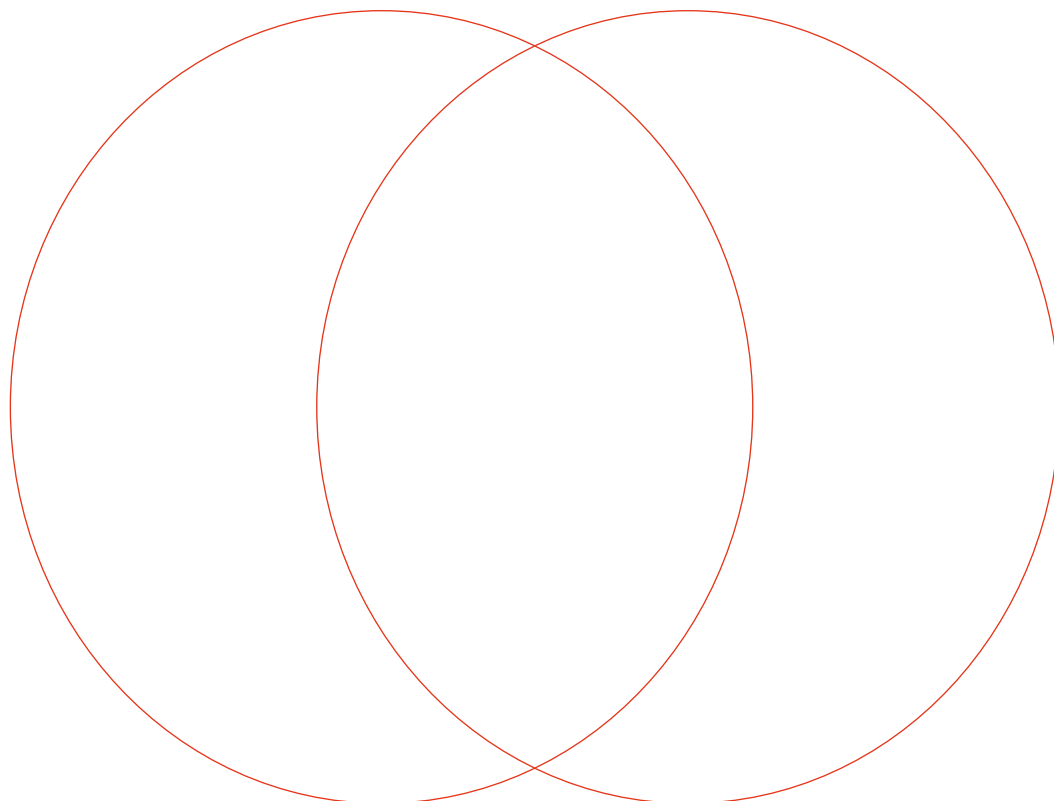
To make a donation

To listen to music

To buy a souvenir

Tourists

Pilgrims



Pilgrim or tourist



Read the quotes from visitors to Canterbury below and decide what their main reason was for visiting.

Why do you think you might like to visit the Cathedral?

Would you go as a Pilgrim or a Tourist, or would you be both? Is there a difference?



The Monks of Canterbury announce a miracle, 1445

'Alexander Stephenson, born at Aberdeen in Scotland, twenty-four years old, suffered severely with his feet, with vile worms in them. After making a vow at a place of pilgrimage of the Virgin Mary, he made his way to the shrine of the holy martyr Thomas at Canterbury. There, in the full view of men, the saint restored his feet on the second day of May 1445. The next day, the saint, permitted Alexander, with the aid of God's mercy, to step easily on the ground.'

A Modern visitor to Canterbury Cathedral

'I bought a number of postcards of the Martyrdom Chapel in the Cathedral as mementos of my pilgrimage for myself and to send to the individuals whose burdens the pilgrimage had been designed to help carry, and I treated myself to some lavish books about the cathedral as souvenirs.'

A Modern Pilgrim travelling from London to Canterbury

'I lit a candle at the site of Becket's Martyrdom as a mark of having arrived at the end of my pilgrimage. I lit some candles near the crypt for the people whose concerns and anxieties I had been "carrying" on the walk.'

German Pilgrim, 15th Century

'Canterbury Cathedral is so elegant that almost nothing like it can be found in any other Christian country. This is acknowledged by all pilgrims... The tomb is constructed of pure gold and is so adorned with gems and splendid offerings that I do not know of its equal. Among other priceless things there is to be seen in it a gemstone which shines at night and which is half the size of a hen's egg. This tomb has been enriched by the gifts of many kings, princes, wealthy merchants and other pious men....'

Design a poster



Design a poster for Canterbury as a destination for pilgrimage in medieval times or today.

Use words and pictures to show:

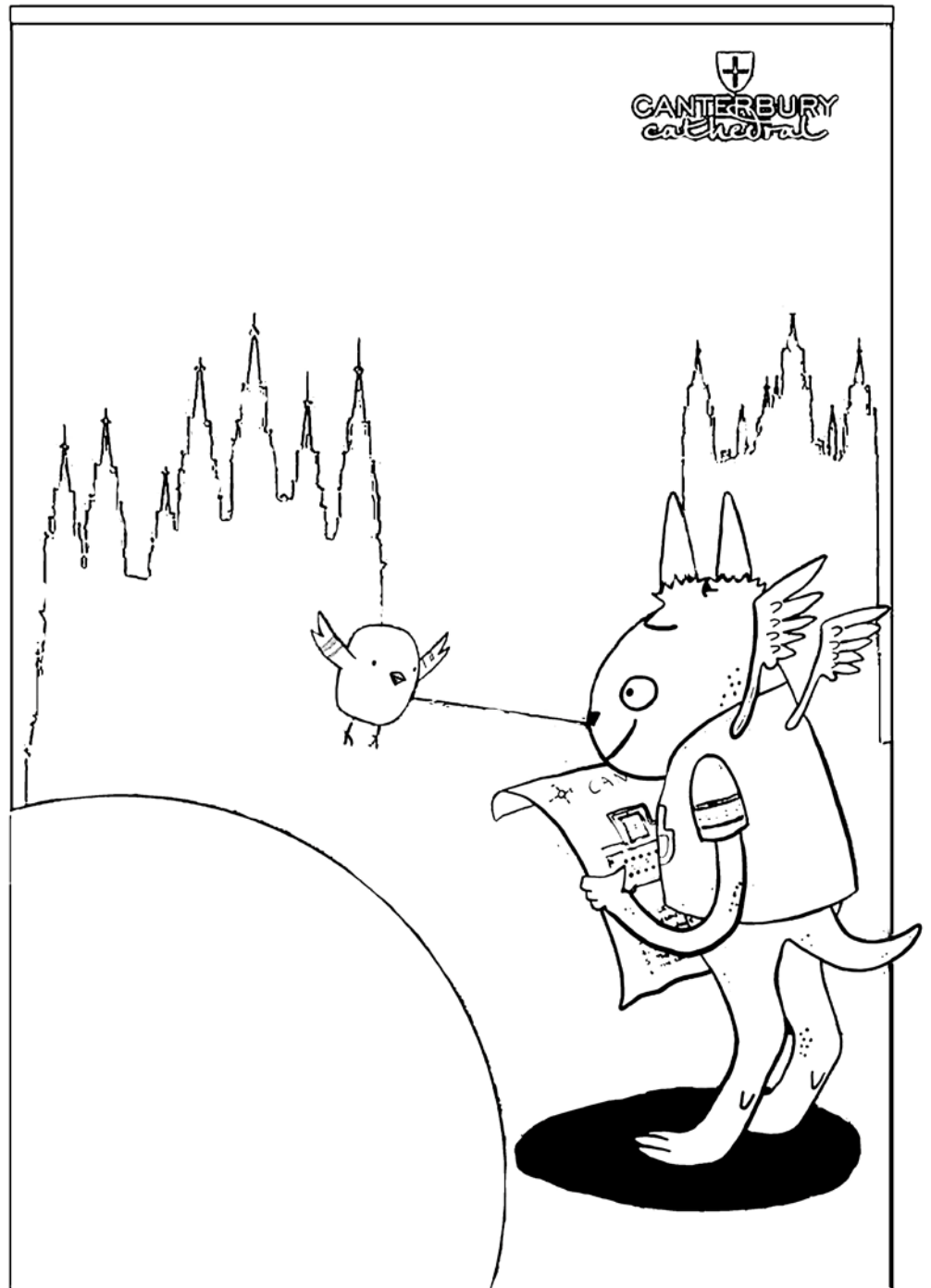
How pilgrims might travel to Canterbury?

What Canterbury can offer the pilgrims?

What they can do when they get to the Cathedral?

What the benefits of the pilgrimage will be?

Why they should visit Canterbury rather than another pilgrimage site?



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