



Pilgrimage: a three-minute film teachers' notes

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Watch the film here: <https://youtu.be/FpV8iBIHFB8>

Transcript

NARRATOR: I'm going on a journey. The route is one I know well, but this time it's different. Today, my journey is a pilgrimage. Every year, hundreds of millions of people go on pilgrimages.

Most religions have their own special places that draw the faithful, sometimes over hundreds or thousands of miles. But I'm not going far.

Halfway around the world, or a few stops on the bus, it's still a pilgrimage.

See, a pilgrimage isn't just the travelling. And though it's usually to a religious site, it's not actually all about the final destination either.

A pilgrimage is always spiritual, not necessarily physical. You can go on your own, with friends, complete strangers even.

What matters that is the things you hold in your head and your heart as you travel. The things you think about, who you think about, the people you travel through life with.

So this journey is a chance to reflect; silent contemplation as the world happens around me.

And by the time I get to Westminster Abbey, although my journey's been short, I've still come a long way on my pilgrimage.

HENRY III: I'm a big Edward the Confessor fan. Ahem, *Saint* Edward the Confessor. Biiiiig fan. Love him. And you see, Westminster Abbey is his church.

Edward wanted to go to St Peter's in Rome. You know, on a pilgrimage. But kings can't just up and leave whenever they feel like it.

"This is a safety announcement. Any unattended thrones will be removed or destroyed".

So instead Edward built this Church; and dedicated it to St Peter. But Edward was pretty holy himself. After he died, he was buried here.

Well I had to rebuild, didn't I? The place was nearly 200 years old.

Built in 1060 and can't you just tell?! Practically falling apart...

And here you have it. A church fit for a saint, and I put Edward's shrine at the heart. It's my way to honour him. And there he is, the saint himself. In you come lads. You know, I think it's fitting that so many pilgrims come to pray to St Edward. Sorta come full circle, don't you think?

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