

*Exploring Our World*

# Journeys



**Extended Version**

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# Journeys

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Illustrated by Phillip Vernon



**Bear Lands Publishing**

## About Aled and Siân

Aled and Siân love doing exciting things and exploring the world around them. In the *Exploring Our World* series Aled and Siân share some of their experiences with their Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim friends. Aled and Siân also enjoy listening to their friends' stories, and learn about how these relate to their own. This helps the friends get to know one another better.

The series takes seriously the social significance of religion and is based on extensive research into how children learn about themselves, others and the world in which they live.

To support this storybook series, there is a large range of free downloadable resources for children and teachers available at [hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources](http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/Resources) and [st-marys-centre.org.uk](http://st-marys-centre.org.uk)

The storybooks and activities are devised for 3- to 5-year-olds and 5- to 7-year-olds, but the downloadable resources make the series relevant for younger and older children too.

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### Titles in the *Exploring Our World* series are:

*3- to -5-year-olds*  
Celebrations  
Myself and Others  
Times and Seasons

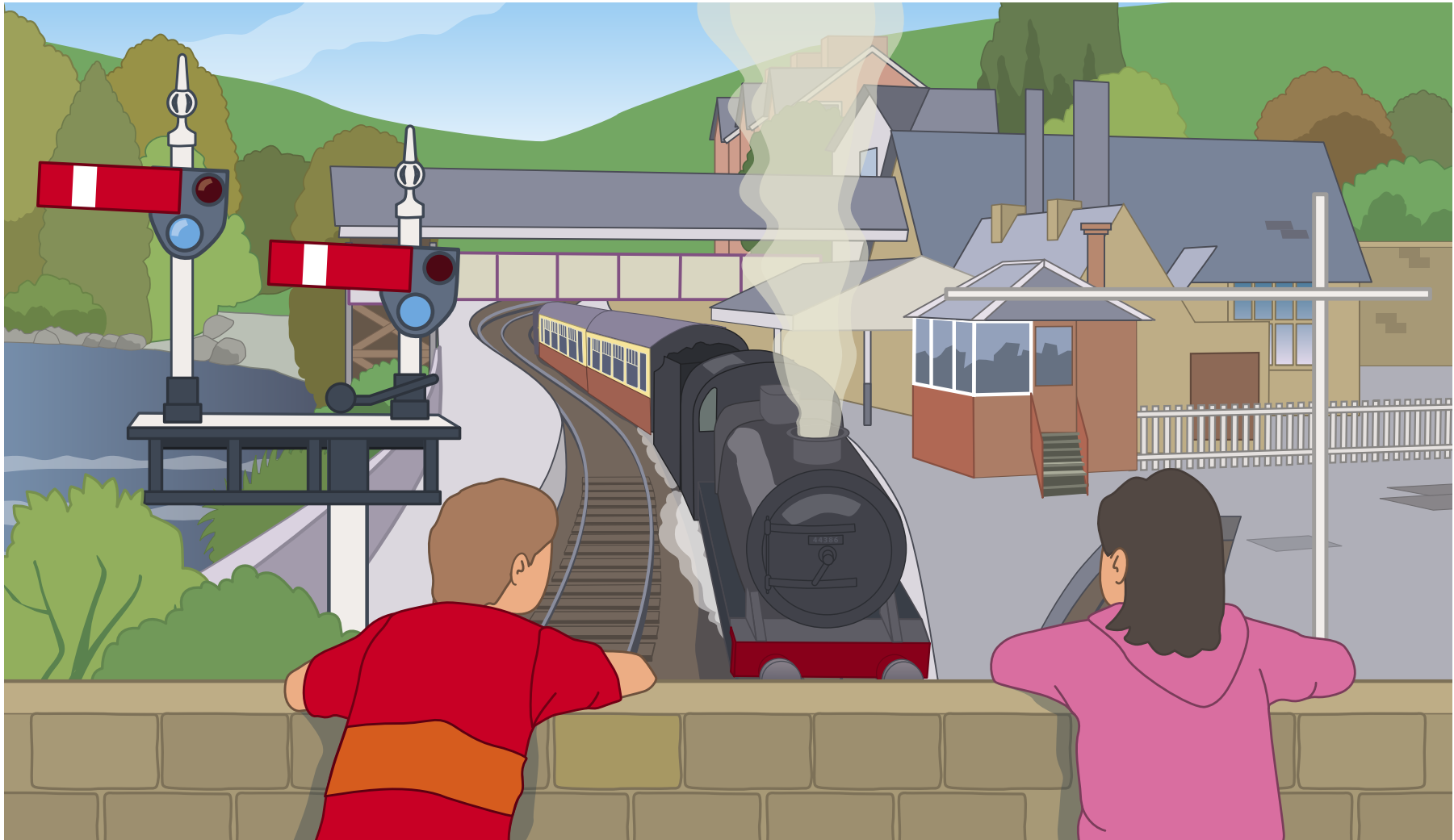
*5- to -7-year-olds*  
Journeys  
Special People  
Signs and Symbols





Aled and Siân love talking to their friends about all the special things they do and see. Today, Aled and Siân tell their friends about their trip to Llangollen in North Wales. They remember getting

ready for the trip before setting out. Aled made sandwiches and filled bottles with water. Siân found a book about steam engines and a map.



Aled and Siân were very excited when they walked across the bridge towards the old railway station. They saw the clouds of steam and smoke

billowing out of the steam engine as it puffed away from the station. They breathed in the sharp smell of burning coal left hanging in the air.



On the platform they spotted the stationmaster wearing his smart cap and jacket. He told Aled and Siân that the Llangollen railway closed in 1968 like many others at that time. They heard

how a group of supporters opened the railway again seven years later. They heard how many people now travel up and down the line.



Aled and Siân watched the Stanier Black 5 pull slowly into the station and stop. They clambered into one of the old carriages and pressed their faces against the window. They followed the path

of the river and clattered over the viaduct. They read station names called Berwyn, Glyndyfrdwy and Carrog.



Aled and Siân tell their friends everything about their special day out to the Llangollen railway. They decide to visit Llangollen again and learn

how to drive a steam engine. "Now tell us about your special day out!" said Aled and Siân to their friends.





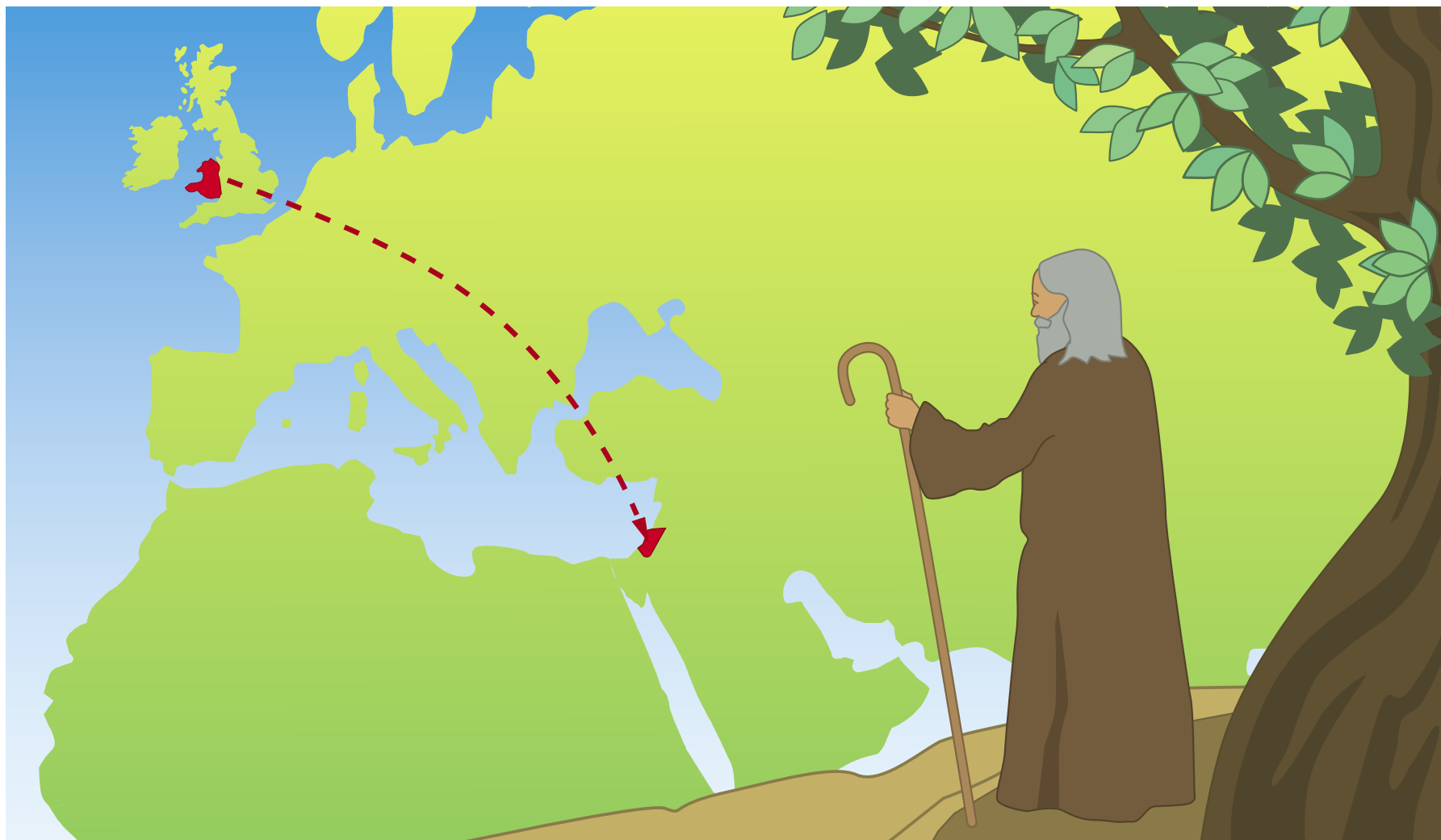
Peter and Mary tell Aled and Siân about their special day out one Sunday in late November to a cathedral. “The cathedral is a centre of Christian pilgrimage,” said Peter and Mary. They remember

getting ready for the trip before setting out. Peter found the guidebook. Mary found her cross necklace.



There at the cathedral, they met the bishop wearing a purple shirt and a bright cross. He told Peter and Mary that the cathedral's story begins

long ago when St David brought Christianity to West Wales. He took them to see the shrine of St David, the Patron Saint of Wales.



There they heard about the life and teaching of St David. They heard about St David's simple way of living and his pilgrimage to the holy city of Jerusalem. They thought about St David's last

words to the people, "Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things that you have heard and see me do."



When the people had gathered, dusk fell and the ancient cathedral was flooded with candlelight. Peter and Mary listened to the choir leading the Advent carols on Advent Sunday and they sang

with them. “Our day out to the cathedral made us feel part of the larger Christian community in Wales,” said Peter and Mary.



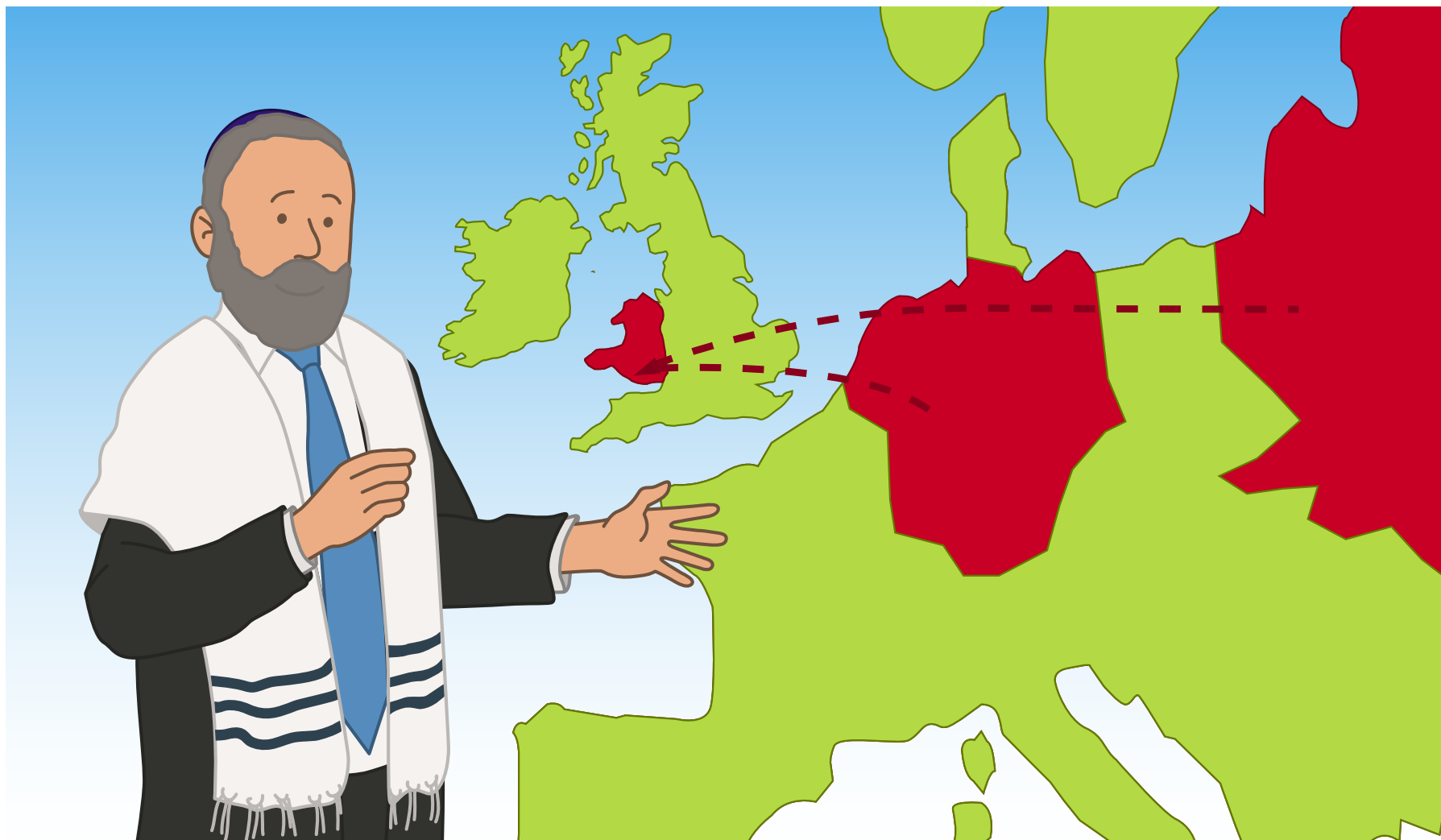
Nathan and Rachel tell Aled and Siân about their special day out one Saturday to a synagogue in South Wales. “The synagogue is a centre of Jewish worship,” said Nathan and Rachel. They

remember getting ready for the trip before setting out. Nathan found the kippah and the tallit. Rachel found the prayer books.



There at the synagogue they met the rabbi wearing his kippah and tallit. He told Nathan and Rachel about the teachings written on the Torah

scrolls and how God had given the teachings to Moses. He took them to see the synagogue's Torah scrolls, kept safely in the ark.



There they heard about the first Jewish families coming to live and work in Cardiff. They heard about the first synagogue opening in Cardiff in 1858 and

the story of the synagogue. They thought about the Jewish faith and traditions brought by these families to South Wales.



When the people had gathered, the Shabbat service began. Nathan and Rachel watched a man carry the Torah scroll to the reading desk and they listened to the rabbi read aloud for all to hear.

“Our day out to the synagogue made us feel part of the larger Jewish community in Wales,” said Nathan and Rachel.





Ahmed and Salma tell Aled and Siân about their special day out one Friday to a mosque in South Wales. “A mosque is a place of Muslim learning

and worship,” said Ahmed and Salma. They remember getting ready for the trip before setting out. Ahmed found his cap. Salma found her veil.



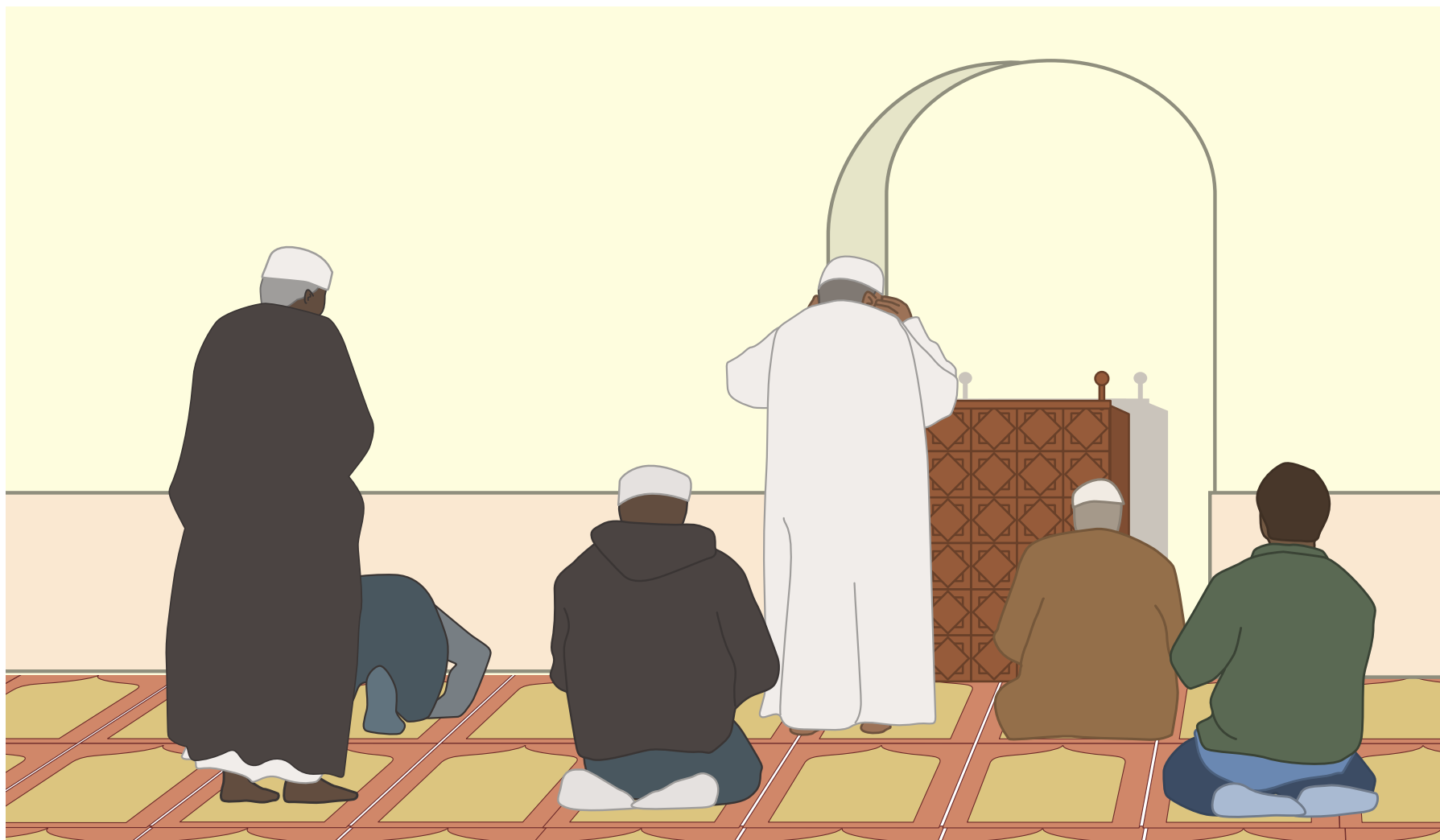
There at the mosque they met the imam wearing his light tunic and cap. He told Ahmed and Salma about why education and Friday noon prayer was

important in the mosque. He took them to see the library and the large hall, where Muslim men stand in rows to pray.



There they heard about the Muslim sailors who brought trade to Cardiff from far-away Yemen and Somalia. They heard about the mosque now standing in the place of the first mosque to open

in Cardiff in 1860. They thought about the Muslim faith and traditions brought by the first Muslims to South Wales.



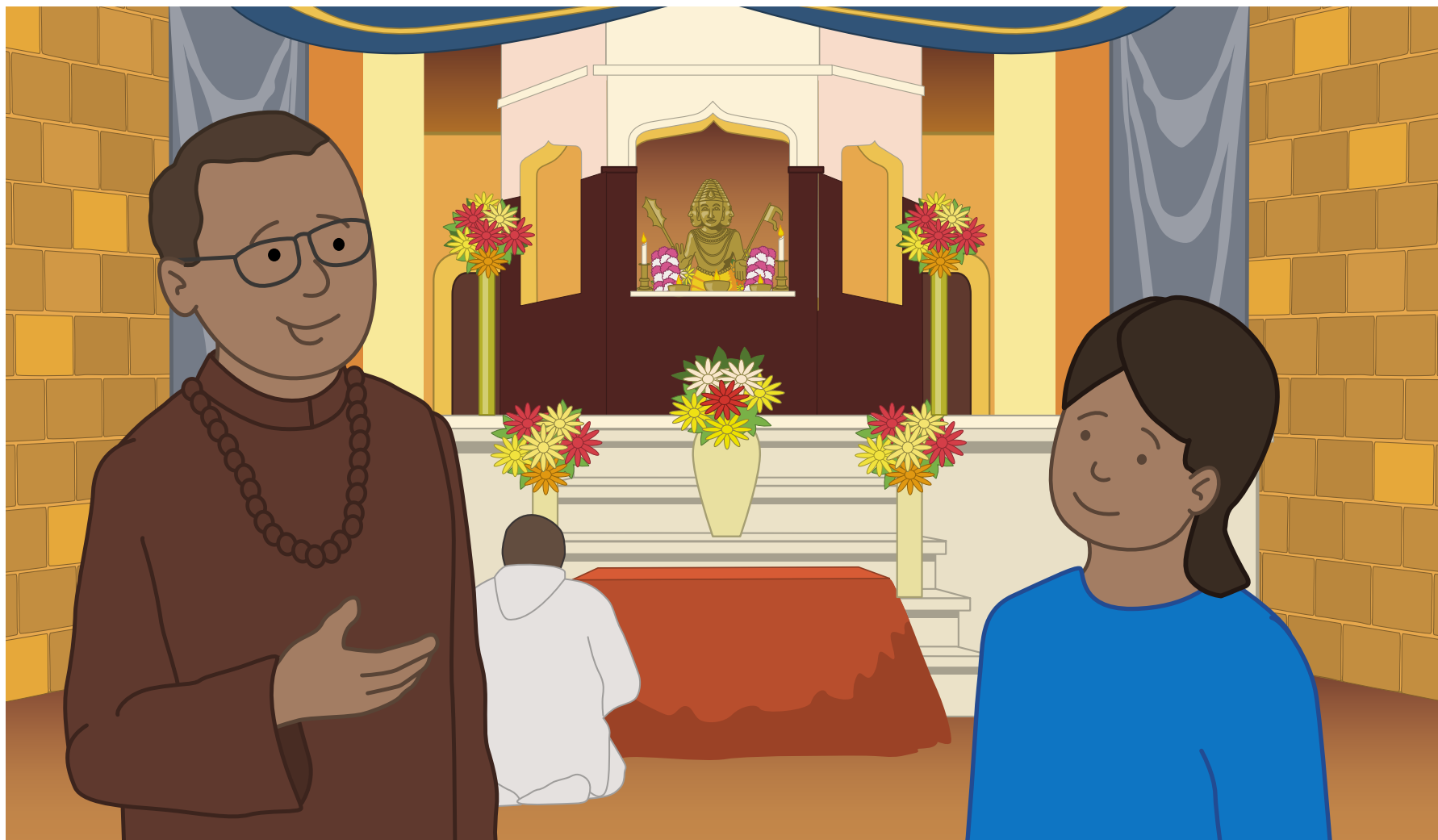
When the people had gathered, after they had heard the call, the Friday noon prayer began. Ahmed and Salma watched the imam lead them in praising and thanking God in prayer. “Our day

out to the mosque made us feel part of the larger Muslim community in Wales,” said Ahmed and Salma.



Rajeev and Meena tell Aled and Siân about their special day out to a temple in West Wales. “The temple is a Hindu centre of pilgrimage,” said Rajeev and Meena. They remember getting ready

for the trip before setting out. Rajeev found the rules about food and drink. Meena found some offerings for the puja service.



There at the temple, they met a monk wearing white and brown robes and a string of beads. He told Rajeev and Meena that the temple's story began in 1973 when Guru Sri Subramaniam

brought the Hindu faith to West Wales. He took them to see the Murugan Temple, before the puja service began.



There they heard about the life and teaching of Guru Sri Subramaniam. They heard about his life in far-away Sri Lanka and his teaching about

serving others and worshipping God. They thought about the Hindu faith and the tradition brought by the Guru Sri Subramaniam to West Wales.



When the people had gathered, a bell rang and incense burned as the evening puja service began. Rajeev and Meena watched the monks offering food, water and fire to Lord Murugan and they

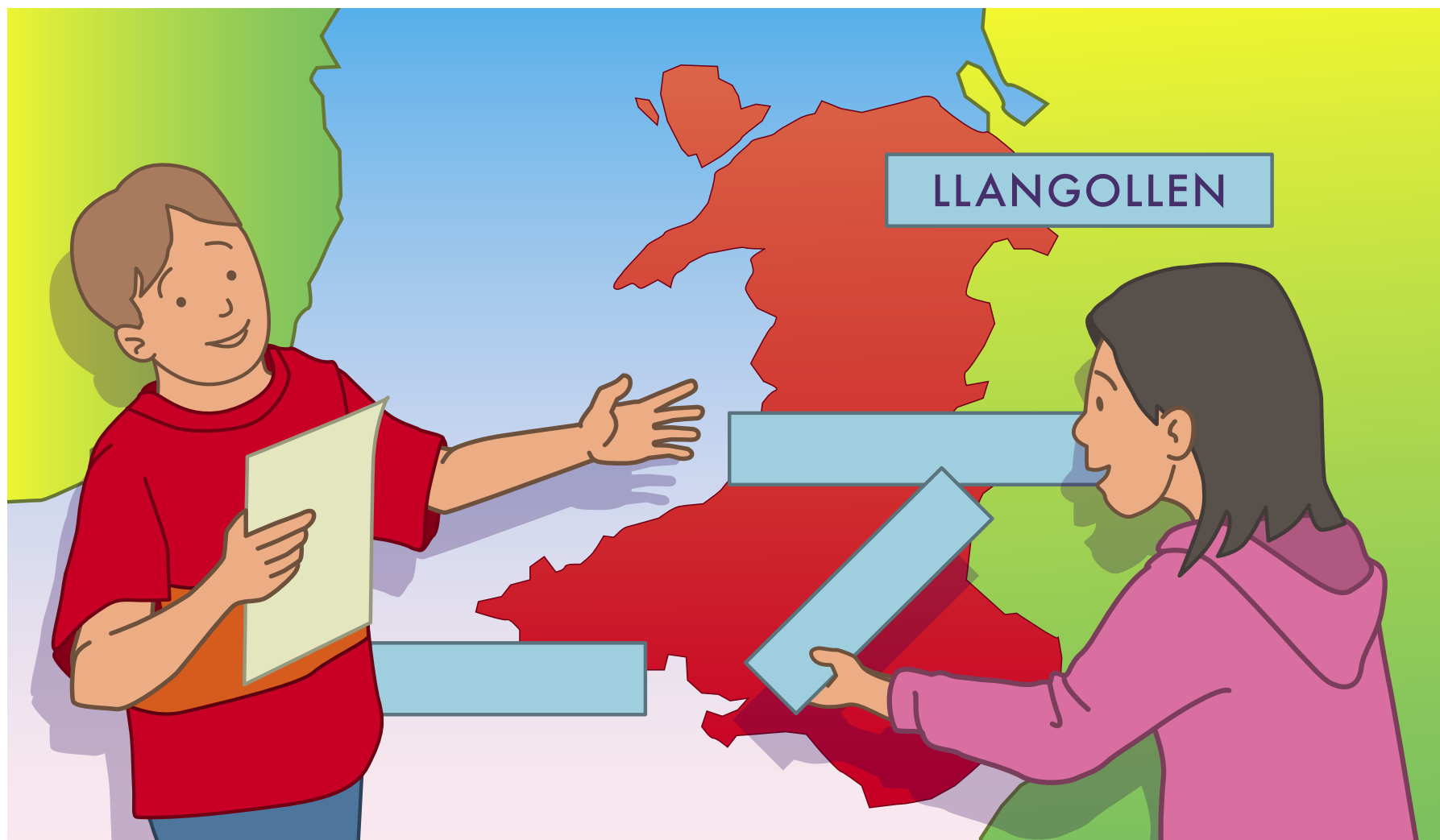
shared the prashad. "Our day out to the temple made us feel part of the larger Hindu community in Wales," said Rajeev and Meena.





Aled and Siân enjoy listening to their friends Peter and Mary, Nathan and Rachel, Ahmed and Salma, Rajeev and Meena. They enjoy asking questions

about the places their friends visit. They are happy to have friends who are Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu, with such interesting stories to tell.



They imagine journeys to the cathedral, the synagogue, the mosque and the temple. They see the bishop standing in the shrine of St David, the

rabbi reading the Torah scrolls, the people praying in the large prayer hall, and the puja service in the Murugan Temple.



Aled and Siân think about how the religions of the world came to Wales. They remember St David, Guru Sri Subramaniam, the first synagogue and

the first mosque. They begin to see how the religions of the world influence the lives of their Welsh friends today.

Aled and Siân are exploring special journeys and they visit an old railway station. When they return, Aled and Siân tell their friends all about their day out and they listen to their friends' stories too. As the stories unfold, Aled and Siân begin to see how the religions of the world affect their friends' lives.



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