

Unit 6: Forms of Expression



Lesson title: How do sculptures inform worship?

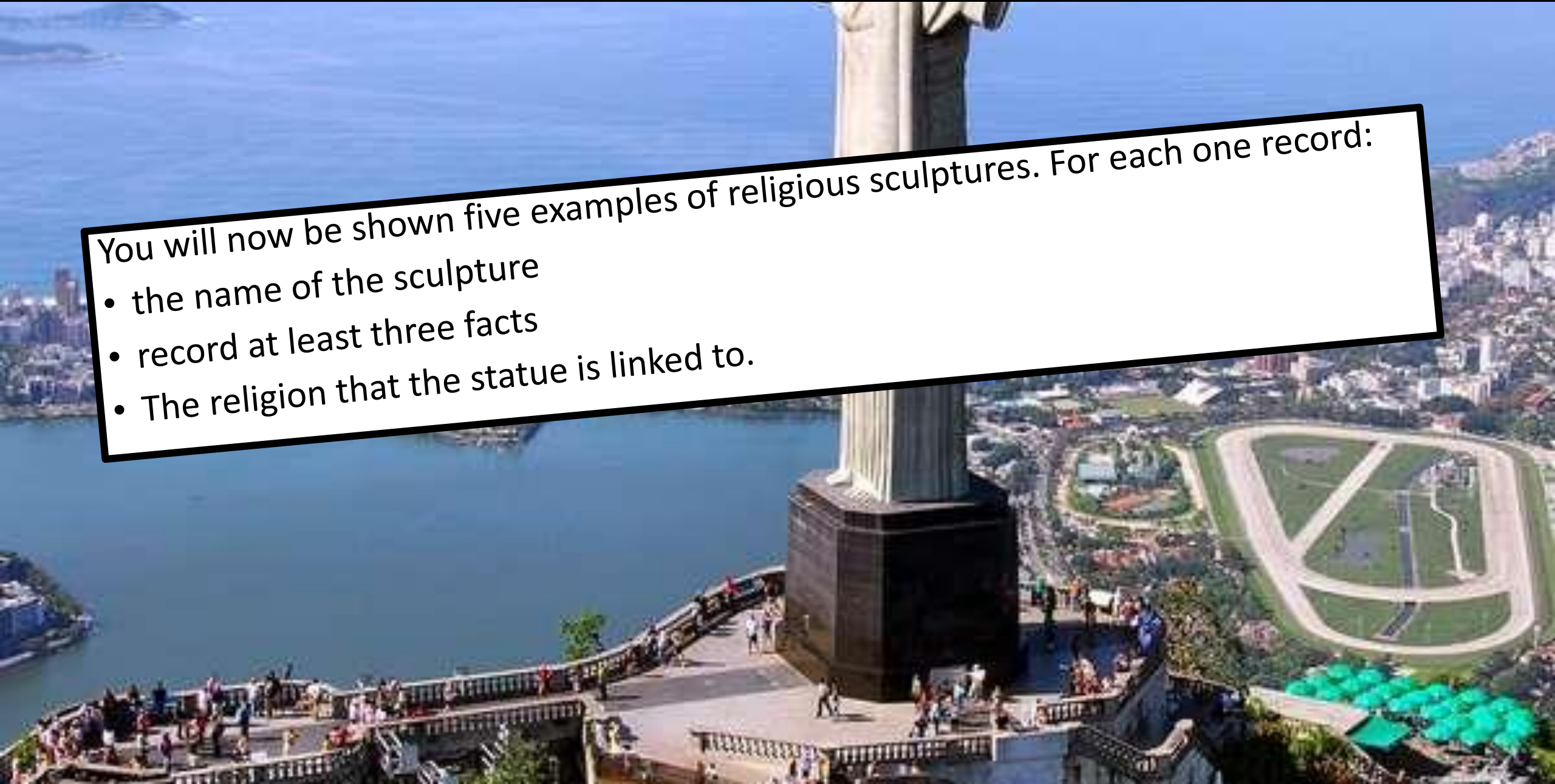
Lesson Objectives

- To know examples of religious sculpture.
- To explain the effects that religious sculpture can have on faith.
- To explore the different religious attitudes towards religious sculpture.

Main Activity 1: What are the famous religious sculptures around the world?

You will now be shown five examples of religious sculptures. For each one record:

- the name of the sculpture
- record at least three facts
- The religion that the statue is linked to.





Monywa, Myanmar's Laykyun Setkyar

- The second tallest standing Buddha statue in the world.
- There are 32 stories within the Buddha.
- 12 of which feature frighteningly detailed depictions of hell.



Christ the Redeemer (Rio de Janeiro)

- This 30-metre (98 feet) Brazil icon weighs 635 tons and was constructed between 1922 and 1931, although the concept for such a statue was first brought up in the 1850s.
- However, in 1889 the country became a republic and, with the separation of church and state, the idea was dismissed.
- In 1920 the Catholic Circle of Rio started collecting donations from Brazilian Catholics to fund the construction of the statue, commissioning local engineer Heitor da Silva Costa to design it.
- It has lightning rods on the arms, head and hands -- on average, it's hit by lightning 12 times every summer.



The Leshan Giant Buddha in Mount Emei is part of a UNESCO world heritage site in China's Sichuan province.

- The 71-metre-high sitting Buddha was carved out of a hillside around 1,200 years ago.
- The statue took people more than 90 years to carve!
- A local Chinese monk called Haitong believed that the presence of a stone Buddha would calm the rivers it overlooked.
- There are 1,021 buns in the Buddha's coiled hair. These have been skillfully embedded in the head.





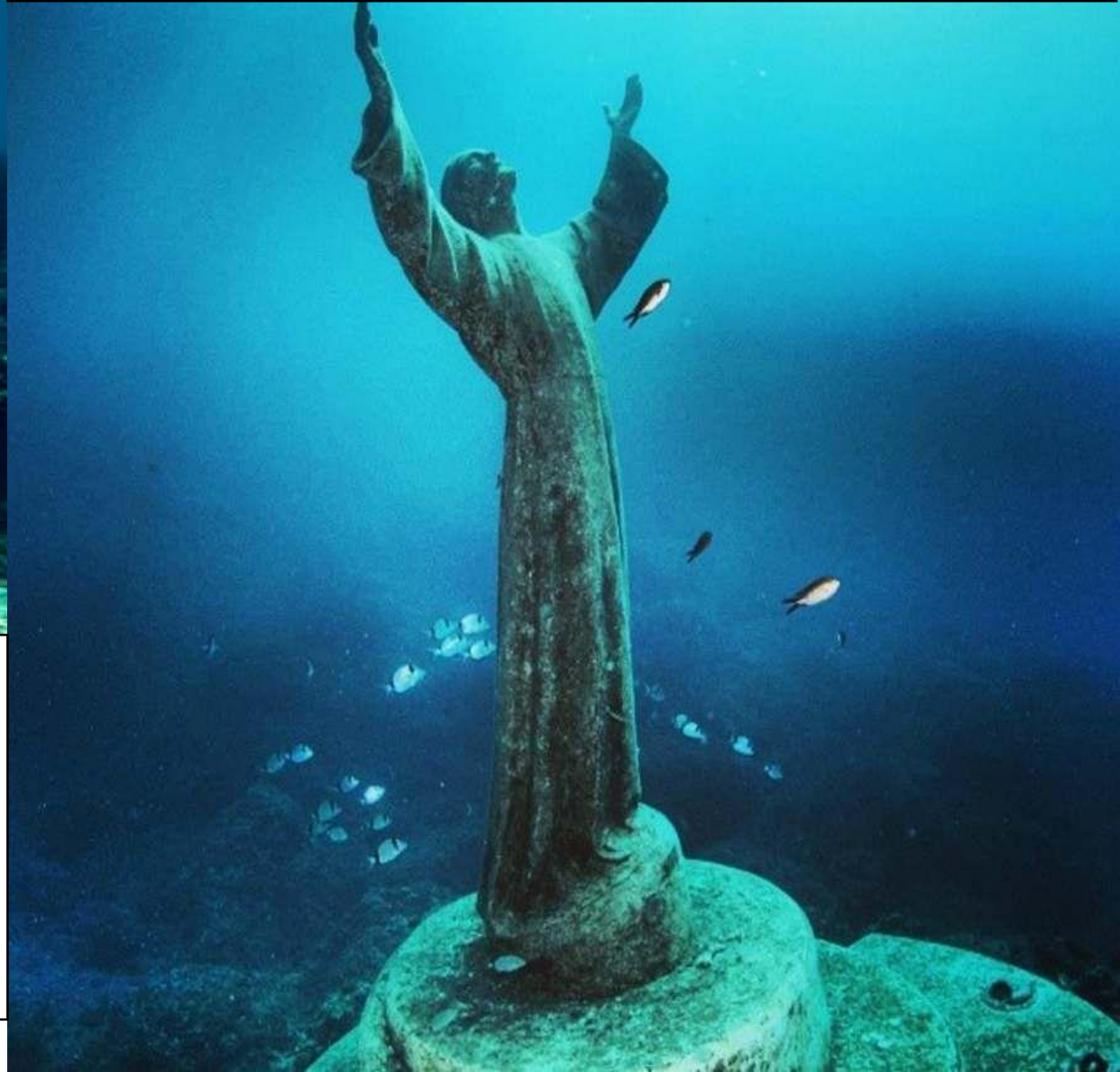
Lord Murugan Statue (Selangor, Malaysia)

- This statue, measuring 42 metres (137 feet) in height, is said to be the world's tallest depiction of a Hindu deity.
- Fifteen skilled sculptors from India carried out construction on the Lord Murugan Statue, found outside Malaysia's famed Batu Caves.
- The statue took three years to complete and the finished product -- made up of 250 tons of steel, 1,550 cubic meters of concrete and 300 litres of gold paint



Christ of the Abyss (Key Largo, Florida)

The statue weighs 260 kilograms and is held in place with a 9-ton concrete base.



- This 2.6 metre (8.6 foot) submerged bronze statue of Jesus Christ in Key Largo, Florida is one of three created by Italian artist Guido Galletti.
- It was dropped into place in 1965 and its location, just seven meters below the surface of water, means that it's visible to swimmers as well as scuba divers
- Divers come to worship Christ from all around the world.

Review – A style question

Outline three examples of religious sculpture. (3)

Firstly...

Secondly...

Thirdly...

Main Activity 2: How do sculptures help inform worship?

Many people use sculpture to feel a closer connection to their God/Gods. An almighty statue like Christ the Redeemer helps Christians understand the awe and wonder of Jesus. Often religious statues are enormous and they can be seen from a very far distance and this reminds people of the presence of their God. God is everywhere. Sculpture is also a way in which humans can express their faith given their God given talents to create. Christians believe that humans are made in the image and likeness of God and therefore the ability to express through art demonstrates this special connection that humans have with God.



Main Activity 3: What are the different attitudes to using sculpture to worship?

There are many different ideas of whether or not it is disrespectful to make religious sculptures. Below are points for and against using religious sculptures to inform research. Read each one carefully and decide whether or not they are for and against and record them in a table in your exercise book.

Sculptures and statues can make people turn to God and realise their faith.

One of the 10 commandments states that we should not worship false idols. Praying to a statue is worshipping an idol and not God!

Through sculpture we can understand and learn more about our faith.

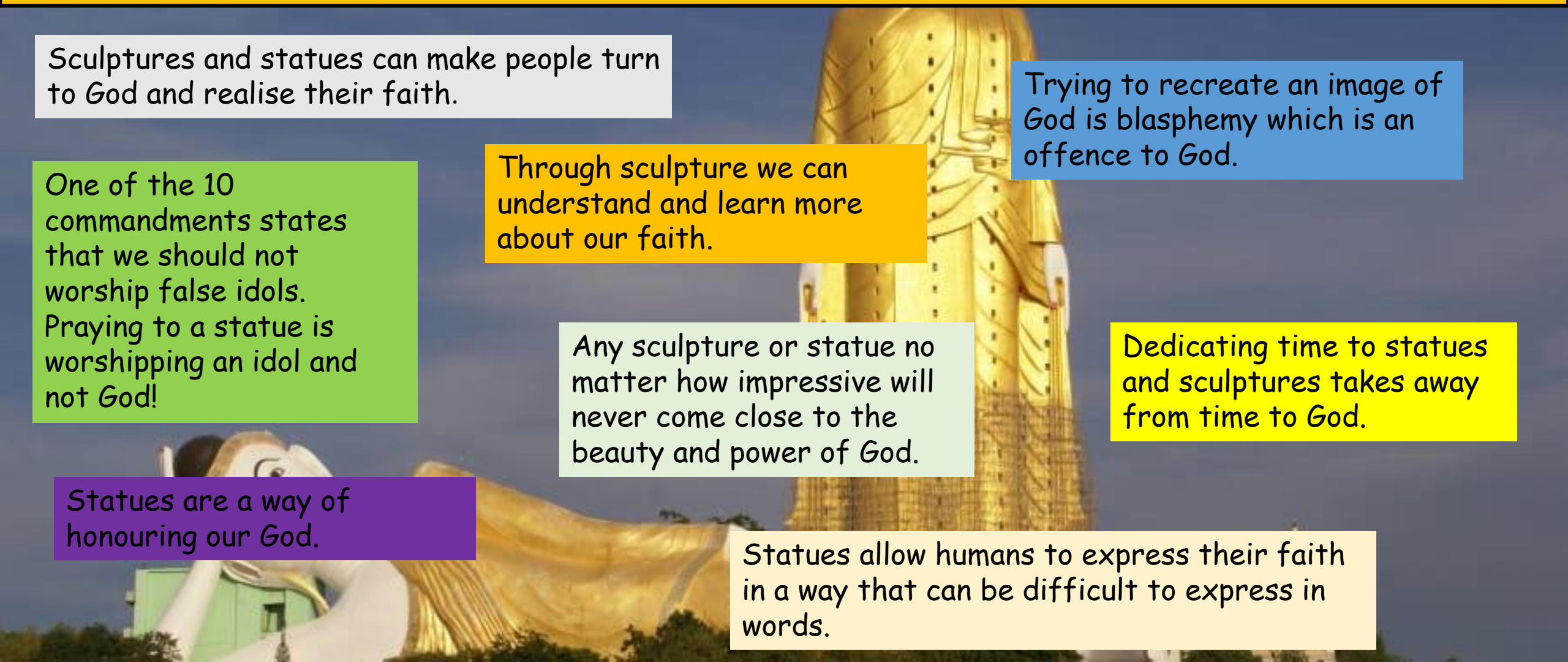
Trying to recreate an image of God is blasphemy which is an offence to God.

Any sculpture or statue no matter how impressive will never come close to the beauty and power of God.

Dedicating time to statues and sculptures takes away from time to God.

Statues are a way of honouring our God.

Statues allow humans to express their faith in a way that can be difficult to express in words.



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AGAINST SCULPTURES

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IN FAVOUR OF SCULPTURES

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PLENARY

“Religious sculptures are disrespectful to God.”

Do you agree? Provide two reasons for your view.