E is for Edward the Confessor
Make your own pilgrim badge

A pilgrimage is a long, special journey, usually to a place of religious importance. There are many famous sites of pilgrimages for many different faiths around the world. A person who makes this special journey is called a pilgrim.

For hundreds of years, the shrine of St Edward has been a site of Christian pilgrimage. Upon visiting an important site of pilgrimage, many pilgrims would have collected a pilgrim badge as a souvenir of their trip. Some of these badges were symbols to represent a particular saint. Here at Westminster Abbey, pilgrims would have collected a badge in the shape of a crown, to remind them that St Edward the Confessor was a king.
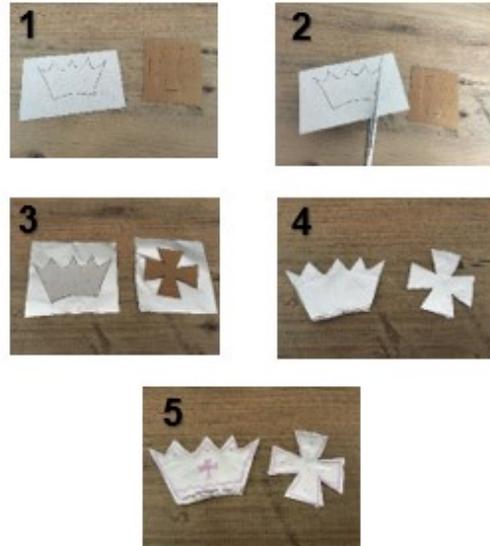
Have a go at making your own pilgrim badge

You will need:

- Any card – check your recycling box, you can use cereal boxes, food packets etc.
- A pencil
- Scissors
- Tin foil
- A Sharpie/permanent marker (not essential)
- A safety pin (not essential)
- Sellotape (not essential)

Instructions:

1) Draw the shape of your pilgrim badge onto a piece of card. You can choose whatever shape you want. The bigger it is, the easier it will be to cut out.
2) Cut out your shape with a pair of scissors.
3) Place your shape onto a piece of tin foil.
4) Wrap the tin foil round the edges of the shape.
5) If you want to, you can use Sharpies or permanent markers to decorate your badge. You could also attach a safety pin with some Sellotape.

Pilgrimages may not always faith-based. A pilgrimage can be a journey to a place that is important to you. Have you ever been on a special journey?

Talk to your family about journeys. Perhaps they've been on an important journey or they've travelled a long way. Maybe your family has made one journey many times that is important to them. How did they feel about their journey? How do you feel about it now?

"Lions are very strong walkers" said Livingstone the lion, "but no one has ever given me a badge. Well done!"

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