

## Global Reflections Answer Key

(Answers may vary, but examples include:)

1. All three countries use ashes as a symbol of repentance and renewal.
2. The Philippines sometimes sprinkles ashes instead of drawing a cross; Italy transitions from Carnival celebrations, while Mexico emphasizes family reflection.
3. Ashes remind people of humility and starting fresh.
4. Student-specific; may relate to family, food, or faith customs.
5. It shows that faith can look different but still share common meaning and purpose.

### Teacher's Guide

- **Purpose:** Helps students understand **cultural diversity and shared meaning** in global religious traditions through comparison and reflection.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
  - For **Grades 5-6**, provide a word bank of key terms (repentance, reflection, humility, tradition).
  - For **Grades 7-8**, have students write paragraph-length answers that compare two or more traditions directly.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
  - Show a world map and mark each country discussed.
  - Invite students to share how their families or communities observe Lent or similar traditions.
- **Extension Activities:**
  - Have students research and add one more country's Ash Wednesday practice.
  - Encourage a creative writing task: "A Day of Ashes Around the World" - a short story written from a traveler's point of view.