

# Religions of the World





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Clip Art  
and Fonts





# Directions

1. This lesson is designed for your students to learn about the different religions of the World. Please approach this topic with sensitivity.
2. Use the **Word Wall Images** to teach the vocabulary. Be sure to pronounce the terms for the students and show them the images before you assign the vocabulary activity.
3. Introduce the lesson using preview activity.
4. This activity can be used in a variety of ways.
  - If you would like to use the **expert groups** strategy with the readings and Doodle Notes, I have added those directions on the next page.
  - You can also hang the readings on your wall for a **Gallery Walk**. I have provided different sets of readings without page numbers or discussion questions for this strategy.
  - Another strategy you can use, is a **Skill Builder**. For this strategy, place your student with a partner and give them one of the Image Handouts (A, B, C...). The students will need to discuss what they see in the image, and then skim the different readings to identify the religion the image matches using the image analysis handouts. Once they check their answer with you, they would take notes on that religion. When they are finished, they get a new image and repeat the process.
5. The Doodle Notes are designed for notetaking with the readings. After they read each page, students will need to complete their **Doodle Notes**. I would recommend allowing students to read the information with a partner and highlight key information. Once they finish each topic, they will complete corresponding notes on the Doodle Notes.
6. Check for understanding after they have finished each section with the discussion questions.
7. You will also receive several different **formative assessments** with this activity. The first is a simple **T/F checklist**. I have also provided you **scenario cards** that can be printed, cut out and matched. The scenarios are also present in a longer formative assessment with **Boom Cards™**. The link is with the other formative assessments at the end along with directions for accessing your Boom Cards™. The final assessment is a **mosaic** – this is designed to tie in the strand on artwork and architecture.



This resource has been reviewed by these scholars and teachers prior to publication.

- Dr. Michael Thorson, AP Geography and Euro Teacher
- Tom Tanner, AP World History Teacher
- Lisa Sutterer, World History, IB European History Teacher
- Laurie Patterson, University Professor
- David M. Scott, RJE, Miriam Browning Jewish Learning Center





# Expert Groups

## Steps:

Expert groups is a jigsaw activity that increases discussion. This strategy is best used when you have an equal amount of content on a topic.

1. Prepare your resources - Place the research materials in a folder or file to give to each expert group. Use the religion title pages to identify each of the groups..
2. Place your students into groups of 7. This will be their **home base group**. Assign each person in the group a religion.
3. Send the students to their **expert group** and give them time to research their religion. They will be sharing their answers with their home base, so stress accuracy.
4. Have your students check the discussion questions and Doodle Notes with you.
5. Allow your students to return to their home base and share the information they researched with the entire group.







# Tips

Start off with an original home base group. I recommend groups of 3-4 students - you will need one student to research each topic. Have your home base group answer a few questions together to build a basic understanding of the topic.

## Home Base Group



Assign each member of the group a different topic and send them to their expert group. Each expert group will research their topic and be prepared to share with their home base group.

## Expert Group



Provide your students highlighters and allow them to highlight and annotate key evidence to answer questions and support their point of view. Give them a designated amount of time to read their documents and discuss the answers. Check their work and help students during this step if necessary.



It is important that you check the expert groups' research before you allow them to share in their home base group. You want to ensure accuracy and raise their level of concern during this step. Either monitor the groups during the research or have them formally check in with you.

## Home Base Group

Move students back to home base groups.

Give students time to share their information from their expert groups. You can also debrief the class by creating an anchor chart based on their research. Debrief the activity by asking questions about the topic.





# Directions

Be sure to follow these important directions if you want to allow your students to complete this activity using Google Slides™.

Click on this link below from your Google Drive™ –

[Word Wall Terms](#)

[Readings](#)

[Doodle Notes](#)

You will be directed to a page in your Google™ account that will ask if you would like to copy the document. Once you make a copy, you will be able to manipulate parts of the activity before you assign it to your students. The individual pages are locked images, but you will be able to delete or add any slides you wish. Once you are ready to go, assign the activity to your students. When assigning in Google Classroom™, be sure to select "Make a Copy for Each Student" to ensure that each student has their own assignment to work on individually.

Enjoy!

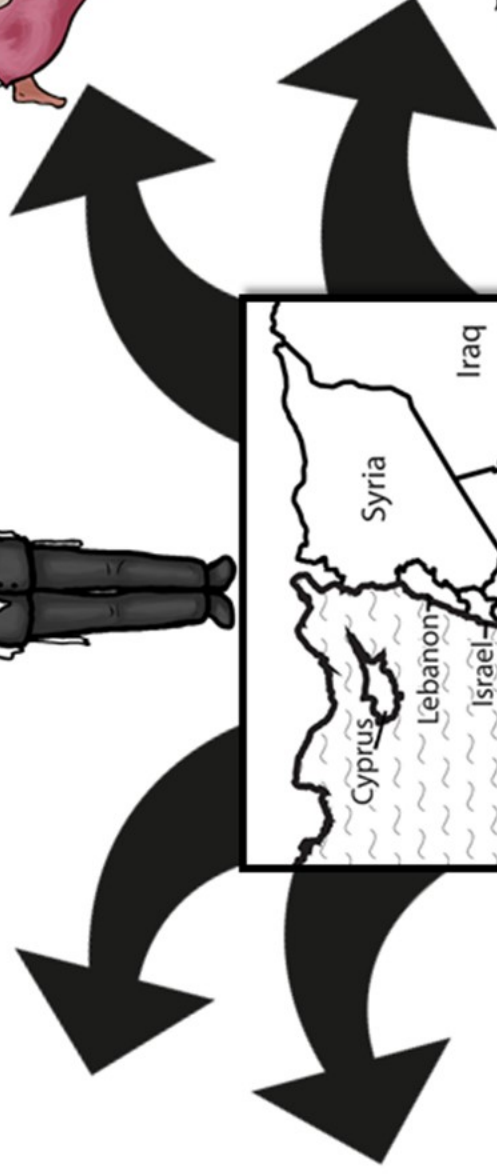
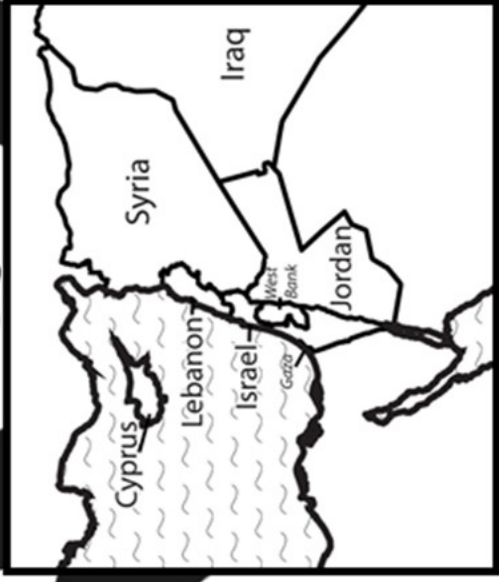
Dawn



Word Wall  
Terms  
and  
Vocabulary  
Activity



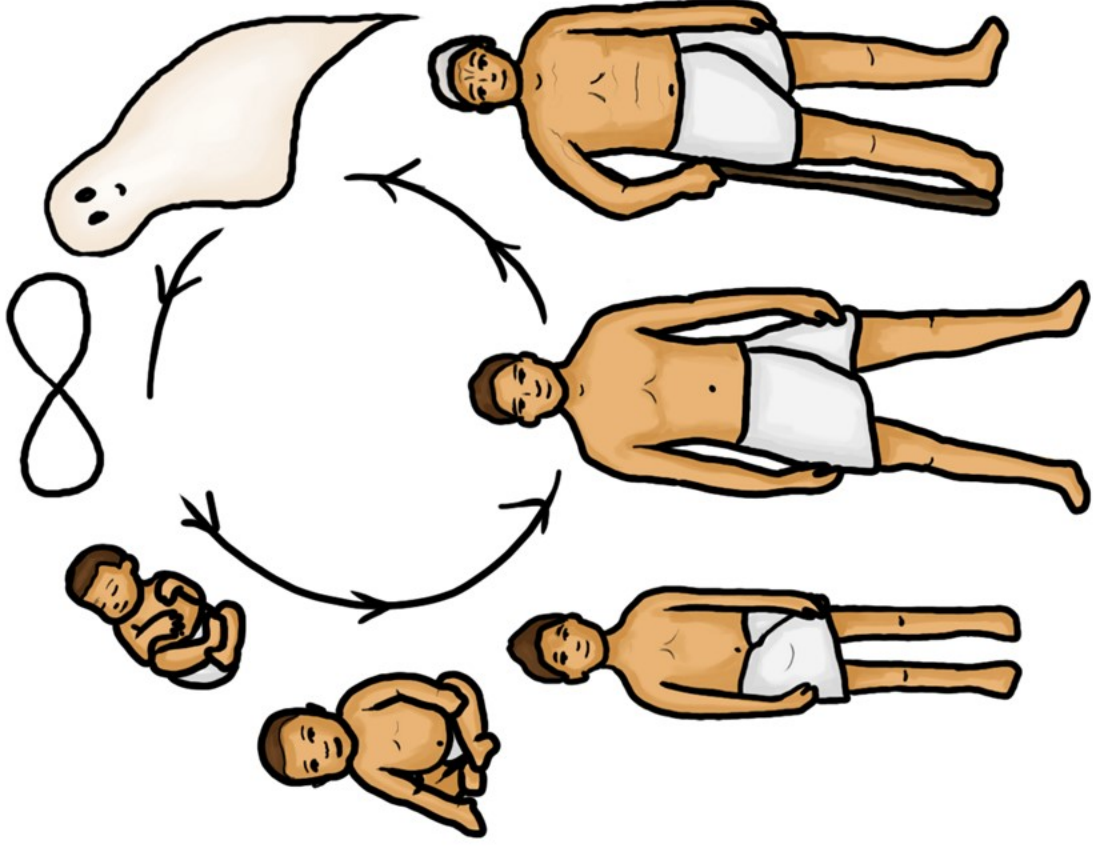
# diaspora



# Muslim

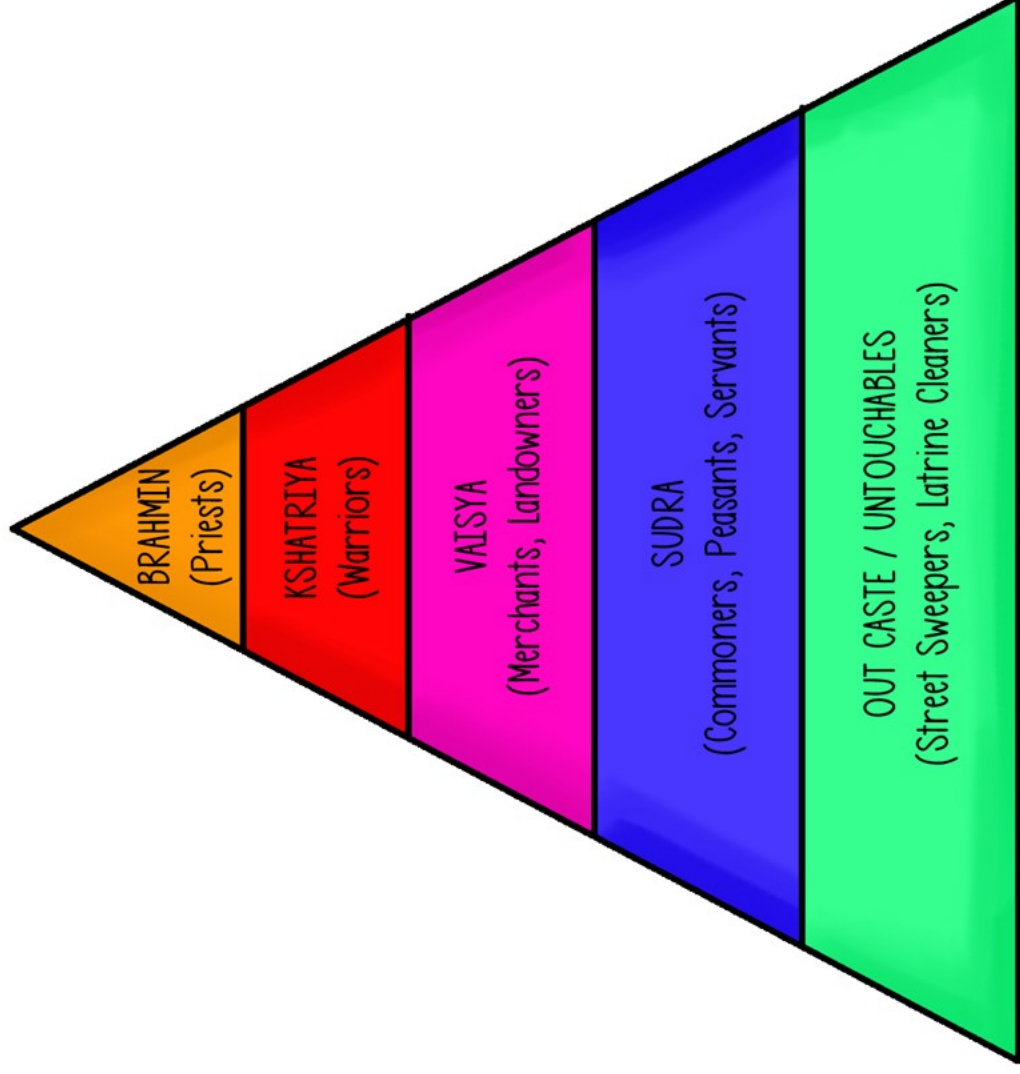


# reincarnation





# caste

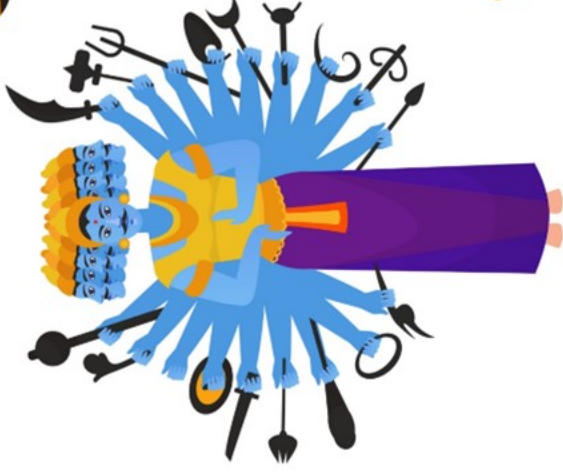
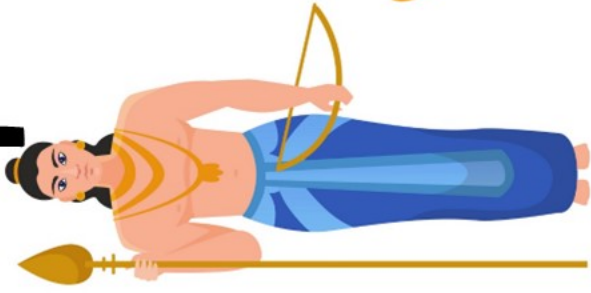


# monotheism





# polytheism





# meditate

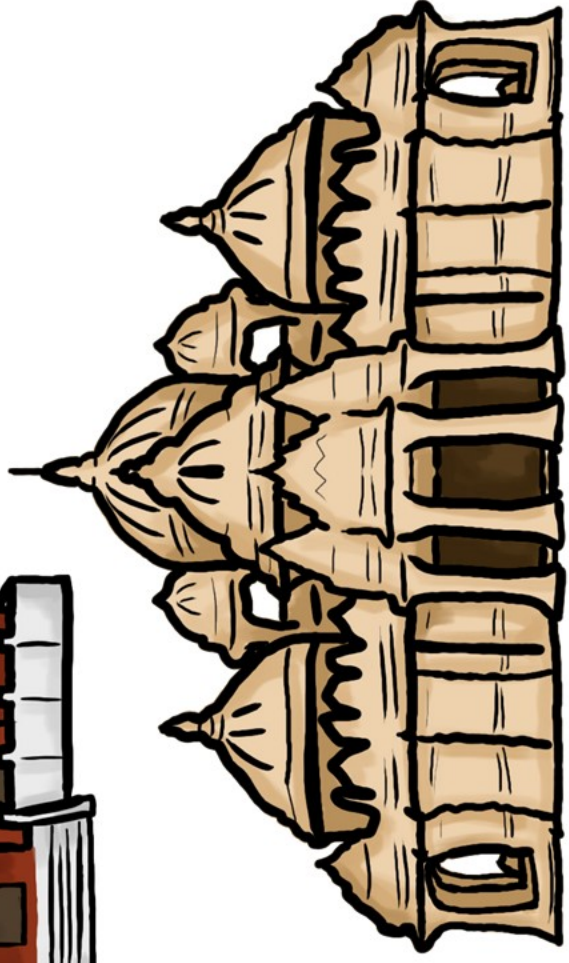
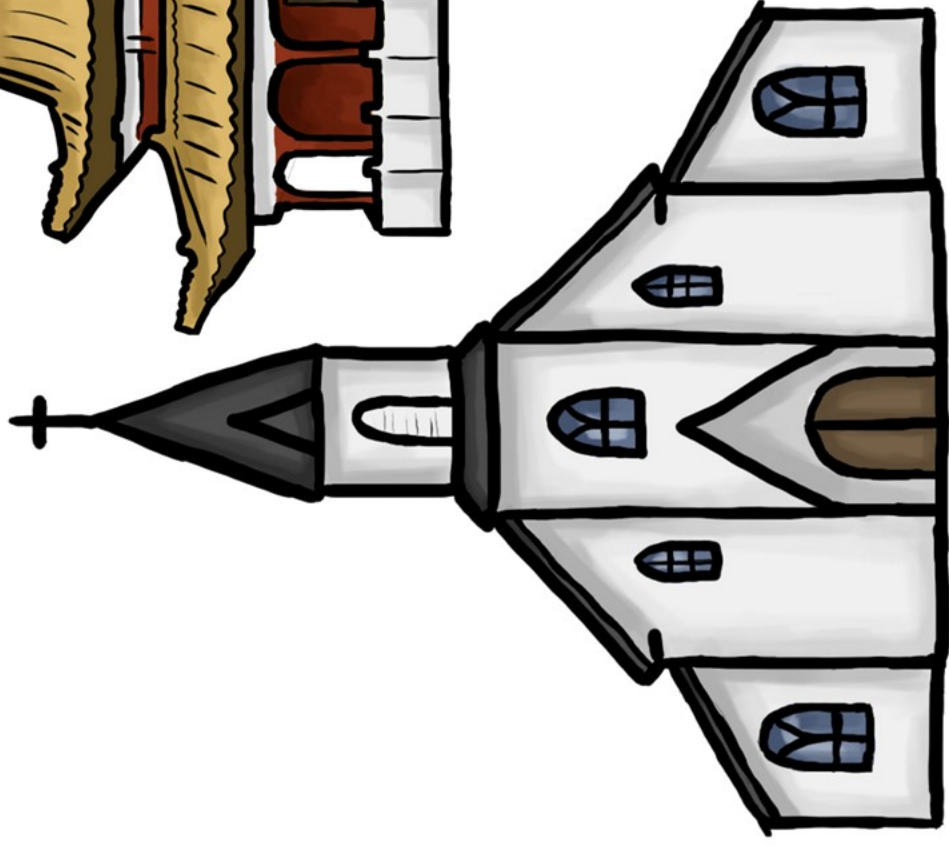


# mosque





# temple





# Judaism



# Confucianism



# Buddhism

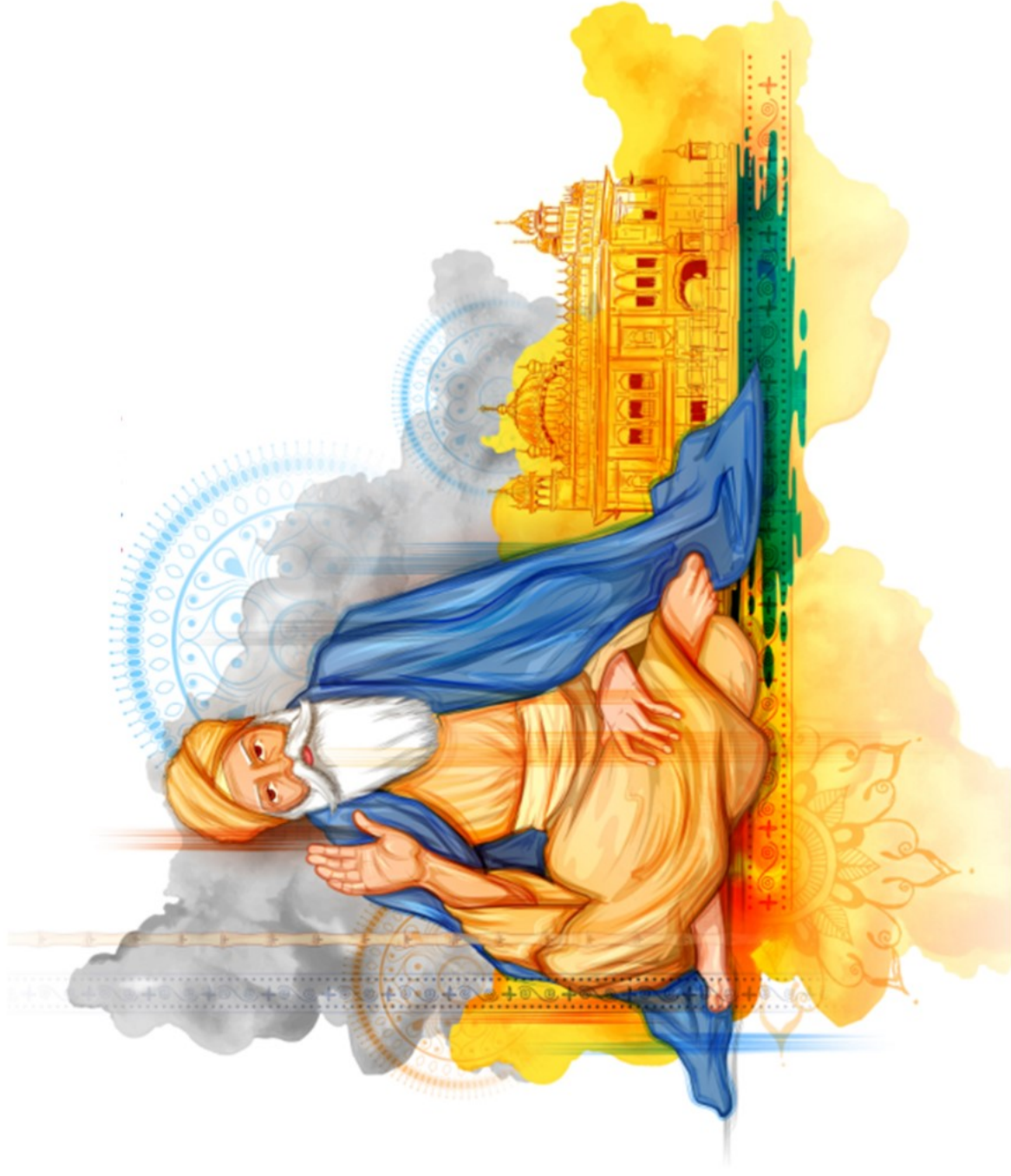




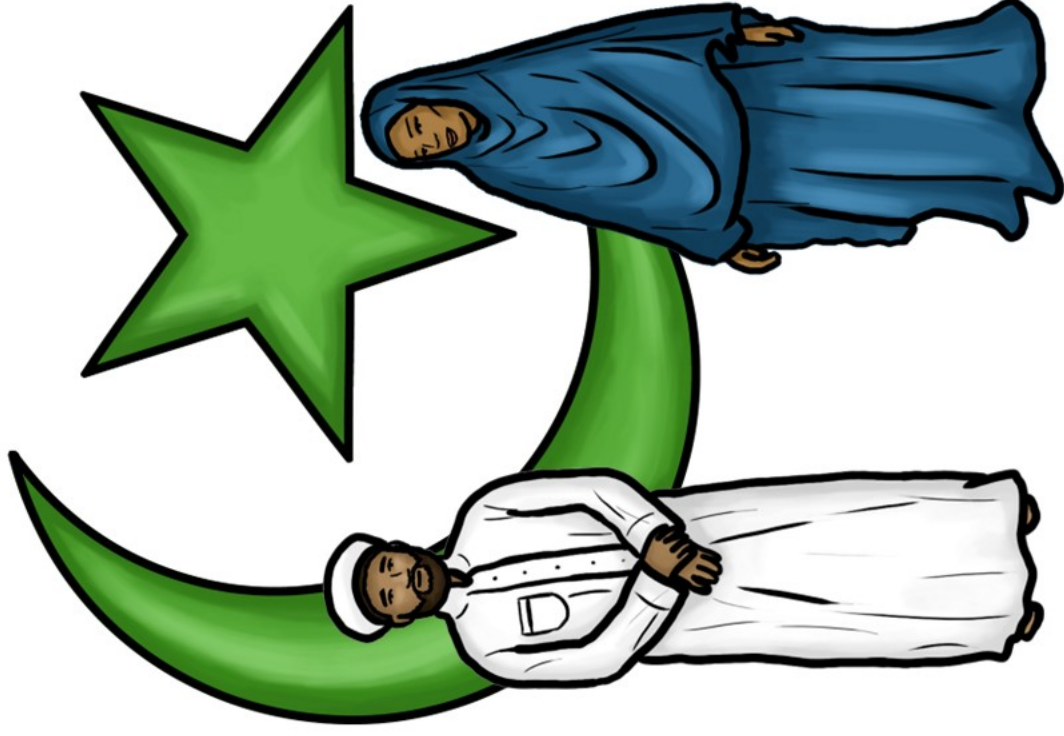
# christianity



# Sikhism



# Islam





# Hinduism



## Vocabulary Activity

What do you think are the definitions of each of these terms based on the picture?

Term

Your Definition

Actual Definition

caste



diaspora



meditate



monotheism



mosque



## Vocabulary Activity

What do you think are the definitions of each of these terms based on the picture?

Term

Your Definition

Actual Definition

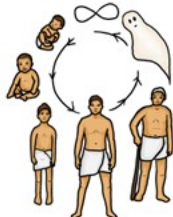
Muslim



polytheism



reincarnation



temple





# Student Handouts

## Directions

Answer the following questions after analyzing the photograph.

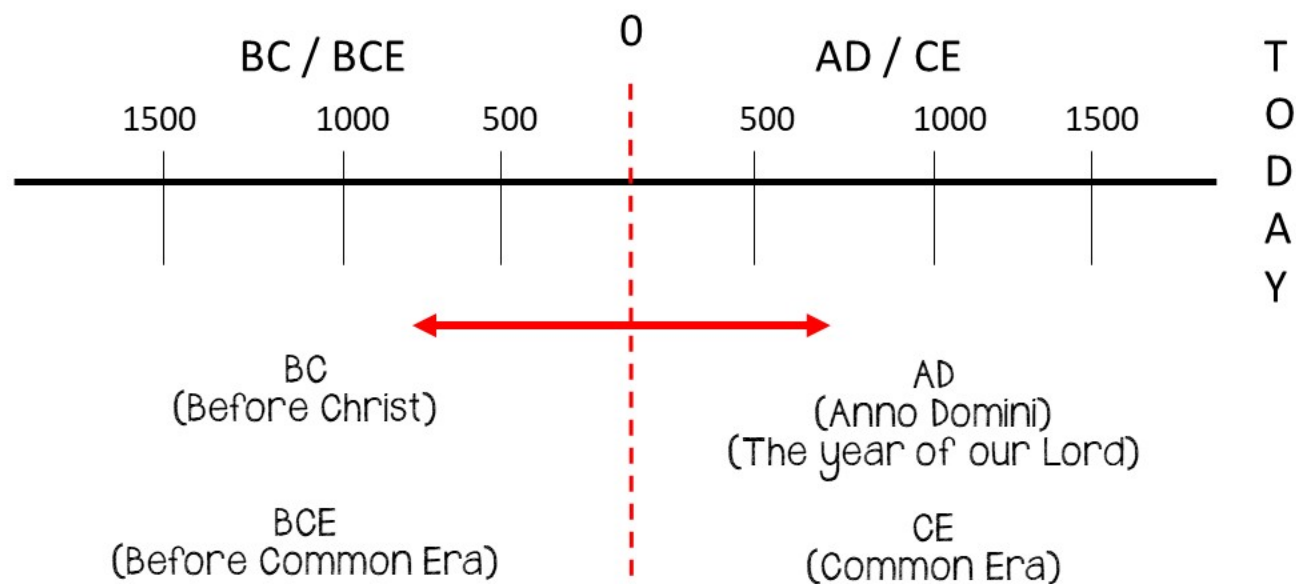
1. List 5 details you see in the image.



2. This image shows Saraswati, the goddess of knowledge, music, art, wisdom, and nature. How is that represented in the image?
3. How do you think the religion of the area influenced this piece of art?

# Timelines and Dates

To understand when things happened in relation to other events, timelines are used by historians. There are two different ways you may see these dates show up. A Christian monk developed the time system of BC/AD which used the birth of Christ as its reference point. BC meant before the birth of Christ with AD referring to the Latin phrase "the year of our Lord" or Anno Domini. Many historians use terms that refer to similar times but use the terms Before Common Era/Common Era. Also note how the centuries are counted backward for BC/BCE and then go forward in AD/CE. The midpoint would be point 0 on a regular number line and the BC/BCE would be similar to negative numbers on a timeline.





# Hinduism

According to scholars, there is evidence **Hinduism** developed as early as 2300 BCE in the area of present-day Pakistan in the Indus Valley. However, many Hindus believe their religion has existed forever. One of the more unusual aspects of this religion is that there is no one founder of this religion. Hinduism contains the beliefs of ancient groups merged together. This religion is the third-largest in the world, with over 1.1 billion followers. Hinduism has also inspired the development of other religions.



Indian sadhu (saint) sitting with his sacred texts.

There are a few main beliefs in Hinduism:

- 1) There is one truth. That truth is right and goodness and all should attempt to follow this truth. Light is a symbol of this truth while darkness represents evil.
- 2) Brahman is the god of the Hindus and Brahman is limitless. Hindus believe in many gods, but believe all these gods are part of Brahman, who is goodness and truth.
- 3) The Vedas are the Hindu holy scriptures that explain the truth for all Hindus and how they should behave.
- 4) Dharma is the goal for all people. Dharma is living in a moral and right way. All people must do their duty and live up to their abilities to reach Dharma.
- 5) Hindus believe in an immortal soul. Karma (the actions the soul took in one life) determines what life the soul will have in the next life. This is often referred to as **reincarnation**.
- 6) The goal of all Hindus is to reunite with Brahman and escape the cycle of death and rebirth. One can only achieve this goal with total truth and goodness.

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

Where did Hinduism originate? How many people in the world believe in Hinduism? What is the holy book of Hinduism? What are the basic concepts of the Hindu religion? What is a unique fact you have learned so far about Hinduism?





# Hinduism



A family in India celebrates Diwali with fire crackers.

Hinduism is still dominant in India. The relationship between Indian culture and Hinduism is evident in the beliefs and philosophy of the Hindu culture. **Diwali** is an important religious festival for Hindus. The "*Festival of Lights*" or Diwali represents the defeat of evil by the righteous. Diwali is celebrated over five days. People buy gifts for their friends and relatives as the new year also coincides with this festival. Lamps are lit to represent the inner light that leads all souls away from darkness or evil.

Long ago, Hinduism believed that people were born into different **castes** (levels) due to their **Karma**. If someone had been very good in their previous life, they would return as the Brahmins - priests, scholars, or teachers. The next level was the Kshatriyas who were not quite on the level of the priests but were political leaders or warriors. Below them were the Vaishyas - merchants and farmers. The next level were the Shudras - laborers or people who provided services. If someone had been very evil in their previous life, they would not be part of the castes at all but would be part of the Untouchables. These people had the jobs of cleaning the streets and sewers. This type of discrimination for jobs was outlawed in India in the 1980s, but parts of it still exist because it is very difficult to change a belief system quickly.



This is an illustration of the Hindu lord Ganesha.

Much of Hindu art is related to the ancient stories of the gods and the fight between good and evil, light and darkness. The lotus flower is often in Indian art to represent purity. The lotus is a perfect symbol the Hindu philosophy. The lotus must grow out of the mud to become a thing of beauty just as people must endure difficult things to finally reach the level of perfect goodness.

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

What is Diwali and how is it celebrated? How does Hinduism impact the caste system in India? How is Hinduism reflected in the art of India?





# Judaism

Judaism is the religious faith of the Jewish people. Over 10 million people practice this faith today. This ancient religion is believed to have begun around 1800-1500 BCE when Abraham, a member of a Hebrew tribe in the area of modern day Israel, said God spoke directly to him. This was a new type of God since at the time most people worshipped many gods using idols or statues. This God spoke to Abraham to tell him He was the only one true God and that as God, he could not be seen. God told Abraham his descendants would be His chosen people and that Abraham should lead them to the Holy Land to build a great nation. In addition to being a religion, being Jewish is part of a larger Jewish culture focused on living a Jewish life. There are Jews from every race, background, ethnicity, and country from all over the world!



Jewish children learn about their religion by reading the Torah.

1. A basic belief of the Jewish faith is **monotheism** which is the belief in only one God. The Jewish people developed the concept of "ethical monotheism." The treatment of others and maintaining Jewish values consistent with equality, compassion, and justice.
2. The Jewish people also believe they are God's chosen people, and that they chose to accept the laws and beliefs that are in the Torah when others would not.
3. The Jewish God rewards those who follow the laws and do good deeds while using prophets to prepare followers.
4. The sacred scriptures of Judaism is the Torah which gives the laws Jews must follow.

The beliefs of the followers of Judaism are evident in the traditions and celebrations in their daily life. **Rosh Hashanah** is the beginning of the Jewish New Year but it is a very solemn day as it is a day to reflect on your behavior on the past year. The Day of Atonement, **Yom Kippur**, is ten days later when God determines if you are forgiven. The ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the holy days in the Jewish calendar when Jews try to truly repent and plan to be a better person in the upcoming year.

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

Where did Judaism originate? What is the holy book of Judaism? What are the basic concepts of the Jewish religion? How many people in the world believe in Judaism? What is a unique fact you have learned so far about Judaism?





# Judaism



Men are praying at the holy Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Hanukkah is a celebration of God protecting his people when they follow his laws. **Hanukkah**, or Festival of Lights, is a Jewish celebration that honors an ancient miracle in Israel. The **temple**, or the religious meeting place, of Israel was dishonored by Greeks using it as a shrine for their own gods. The Jewish priests reclaimed the temple and wanted to re-dedicate it to God. The oil for lighting the lamps had been used, but

there was just enough for one day. The miracle is that this small amount of oil lasted for eight days and that is why Hanukkah is celebrated for eight nights. A **menorah**, an important part of the Hanukkah celebration, is a candle holder with eight branches, one for each night of Hanukkah. Special foods such as latkes (potato pancakes) and jelly donuts are fried in oil to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

A ceremony to become adults in the eyes of the Jewish community is held for boys, a **bar mitzvah**, and for girls, a **bat mitzvah**, to indicate they are old enough to understand and practice the commandments of God. A kippah is worn by many devout Jewish men to remind them that they must follow the laws of God at all times and in all places. Many of the celebrations and cultural items of Judaism reinforce the requirement follow the laws set down in the **Torah**.

The Star of David is a symbol used by the Jewish people to honor David, a descendant of Abraham, who became their king. David as a boy, killed Goliath, a giant, to protect the Jewish people. This Star of David is a symbol of the promise God made to protect his chosen people if they follow the laws.

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

What are some Jewish traditions and how are they celebrated? What symbol is used to represent Judaism? Why?





# Confucianism

Confucianism is considered to be more of a philosophy than a traditional religion. Some people may indicate that they are a follower of a particular religion, but also follow the tradition of Confucianism. Confucianism has about 6 million followers across the world, but most are located in China where the philosophy began.

This philosophy began in China around 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Confucius believed that many of the traditions of China had been lost and the people needed to focus on social order to improve society. Confucius wanted to make sure the cultural values and norms of his civilization continued and added value to the lives of the people. After studying traditions of ancient China, Confucius designed a philosophy that supported order and ethical behavior in Chinese society. His goal was to achieve harmony between the members of society. Confucianism has no church organization or priests, but the sayings of Confucius stress what is expected of individuals:

1. Always be considerate of others.
2. Respect your ancestors.
3. Always be in balance and harmony.
4. Avoid extreme emotion and behavior.
5. Stay in touch with the spiritual forces in nature.

Confucius believed family was more important than an individual and that society could be perfect if people behaved correctly with each other. This belief system heavily influenced cultural beliefs and traditions in China and throughout east Asia.



This Japanese artwork figures Confucius, Lao Tzu and Buddha meeting, symbolizing the harmony between the three philosophers and their teachings.

Statues and art of Confucianism often show an older man representing Confucius in prayer. Confucian art is often allegorical, sharing the belief systems of Confucius. Scenes representing virtuous people and their evil opposites are used as examples. Plants and animals are used as symbols as well. The orchid would be used to represent purity and loyalty.

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

Where did Confucianism originate? What do Confucians value? What is a unique fact you have learned so far about Confucianism?





# Sikhism

**Sikhism** is another religion that developed in India. This religion developed around 1500 CE, about the same time as Europeans began to explore North America. Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with about 25 million followers.

Nanak was born into a Hindu family and practiced their beliefs. He was also influenced by the Muslim belief system. Later in his life, he contemplated his religious beliefs and God. One day Nanak wandered off to meditate and when he returned, he told his friends and family, *"There is no Hindu. There is no Muslim."* Nanak believed that all men and women were equal and could find God through **meditation**, helping others and being truthful. Nanak took the title **"guru"** which means teacher and began to teach others of his faith which is called Sikhism.

Sikhs have a few basic beliefs.

1. There is only one God who is timeless, everywhere and incomprehensible.
2. All people, both men and women, are equal before God and have the same rights and duties.
3. You must always focus on God.
4. You must always be honest and work hard.
5. You must give to the needy.

Sikhs do not believe in the caste system and do not believe in fasting. The Sikh holy text, the Guru Granth Sahib, is the only religious text that has writings of teachers from various religions because Sikhs believe there are many ways to find a connection to God. They celebrate **Vaisakhi**, their new year festival, to commemorate the year 1699, the year Sikhism began.



Sikh man standing by the Golden Temple in India.

The turban is an easily recognizable characteristic of Sikh men. Sikhs do not cut their hair as sign of their faith. The turban is to keep their hair neat and tidy. They will also wear a steel bracelet to remind them that like the bracelet, God has no beginning and no end. A kirpan, or short sword, is worn by Sikhs as a symbol that you must always help the weak. The sword is an important symbol in Sikhism as it reminds Sikhs that they must always help anyone in need.



## STOP AND DISCUSS:

Where did Sikhism originate? How did the Sikh religion develop? What are the basic concepts of the Sikh religion? How many people in the world believe in Sikhism? What is Vaisakhi? What is a unique fact you have learned so far about Sikhism?



# Buddhism

Buddhism began on the Indian subcontinent in the late 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E (500 B.C.E) with Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha was a wealthy prince who eventually gave up all his worldly goods as he saw the suffering of others. Siddhartha sat down to **meditate** (or think quietly) under a tree and wonder about life and why people were suffering. He reached "**nirvana**" or enlightenment about what causes suffering and how to be released from it. From then on, he was known as Buddha, which means the Enlightened One.

The Four Noble Truths are the basic beliefs of Buddhism.

1. Human life contains a great deal of suffering.
2. Suffering is caused by greed.
3. Suffering can end.
4. Moderation in all things is the path to enlightenment. To reach enlightenment, you must follow the Eightfold path: be right in understanding, care for others, speak the truth, help others and bring no harm, be useful, be positive, be aware of yourself, and always be calm in your mind.

Buddhism is practiced in many parts of the world today including China, East Asia and South East Asia. With over 500 million believers, it is one of the top 5 largest religions with over 8% of the world's population believing in the teachings of Buddha.



A Buddhist monk meditates in Thailand.

**Meditation** is important in Buddhism as it requires the person to focus on their inner self and to be still quiet and reflective. It was through meditation that Buddha achieved enlightenment and it is believed that meditation will bring enlightenment to the followers. Buddhism has spread throughout all of Asia, and many different types of Buddhism developed but all have the basic belief in meditation and being moderate in all things.

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

Where did Buddhism originate? What are the Noble Truths? Why is meditation important? How many people in the world believe in Buddhism? What is a unique fact you have learned so far about Buddhism?





# Buddhism

Buddha is not a god and Buddhism does not teach of one permanent God since all is ever-changing. The idea of **reincarnation** is present in Buddhism which means the ultimate goal of Buddhists is to reach the state of enlightenment or **nirvana**. Once nirvana is reached, the cycle of birth, death and re-birth ends and suffering will also end. Siddhartha would have been raised in Hindu beliefs and it is easy to see parts of Hindu tradition in Buddhism.

Buddhist art includes many symbols to remind its followers of the beliefs of Buddhism. The eight-spoked wheel represents the Eightfold Path to enlightenment. There are also statues of Buddha sitting in meditation, but as Buddhism spread across Asia, local people would create Buddhas that looked more consistent to their population. Many statues of Buddha show him with a large bump on the top of his head - this represents the knowledge he received during enlightenment. Buddha is also represented in statues reclining right before his death. The serene and smiling expression of the reclining Buddha statue shows the compassion and calmness that he felt with enlightenment. Sometimes the foot of a person on a journey represents the path that Buddhists must follow to achieve nirvana.



A golden Buddha statue in Thailand.

Buddhists celebrate Vesak which is the birthday of Buddha or some believe that date of his enlightenment. Families attend a temple, light candles and reflect on the Buddha's teachings and how they can continue to follow the path to enlightenment.



## STOP AND DISCUSS:

What is nirvana and why is it important in Buddhism? What symbolism is reflected in statues of Buddha?



# Christianity

Christianity is a religion that developed out of the Jewish faith in the modern day Israel. It began with the teachings of Jesus Christ around the first century A.D. or C.E. The teachings of Jesus encouraged not only Jewish people, but all people to join him in his belief system. Jesus' followers taught that he was the son of God that had come to earth, but that God is still **monotheistic**. This Monotheistic God of Christianity is divided into 3 different aspects, God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus sacrificed himself so all sin could be forgiven, and all people could be at one with God.

Basic beliefs in Christianity are

1. God is the only one true God, but the Trinity (the three natures of God) make up the one God.
2. Jesus, the son of God, came to earth, was sacrificed, and resurrected before he returned to heaven.
3. There is also a prophecy that Jesus will return to earth.

Christians' holy text is the Bible which consists of the Old and New Testament. The Old Testament tells the story of the Jewish people and is also part of the Torah, but Christians add the New Testament which are letters and instructions from the followers of Jesus teaching others how to live as a follower of Christ. These two parts make the Christian's Bible.

Christianity is based on the idea that a prophecy in the Old Testament was fulfilled by Jesus. To reinforce these beliefs, Christians celebrate the birth of Christ and his sacrifice as major religious celebrations. The birth of Christ is celebrated as **Christmas** Day and the death and resurrection is celebrated as **Easter**. Christmas is a time of gifts to represent the gift God provided to man.



This nativity painting celebrates the birth of Christ.

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

How did the Christian faith develop? How is Christianity similar to Judaism? What is the Christian holy book? Why is Christmas important to Christians?



# Christianity

Easter is a time to focus on the rebirth of Jesus. Easter occurs on a different day every year because it is based off of the lunar cycle. Tradition dictates that Easter should fall on the Sunday after the Passover full moon. Along with Easter, some Christians celebrate Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer. These holidays symbolize the most important parts of the Christian religion.



Pope Francis is the leader of the Catholic church.

Christianity has split into many different types of beliefs, but any religious group that follows the writings about Christ are considered to be of a Christian nature. The two main groups of Christians are Catholics and Protestants. These divisions developed as followers of Christianity disagreed on specific beliefs in the religion. Catholics believe that the Pope is the leader of the Catholic Church. Protestant Christians are people who follow the beliefs of Christ and are not Catholic. Many Christian religions fall under the term Protestant—Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and more.

Christian art often includes pictures of Mary, the mother of Christ, to honor his birth. The symbol of the cross is used often times for Christians as a reminder of the sacrifice of Christ. Christianity is the largest religion in the world now with 2.3 billion followers.



Michelangelo's Pietà in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

## STOP AND DISCUSS:

What is Easter and why does the date change every year? What are the two different groups of Christians? How is Christianity reflected in art?

# Islam



Muslims pray 5 times a day.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with about 1.8 billion followers. It is currently the fastest growing religion in the world. Islam began with the founder Mohammed around 600-650 C.E. in Mecca which is in Saudi Arabia. Mohammed, while meditating in a cave, received messages from God, or Allah as the Muslims refer to God, to restore the true faith of Abraham (of the Jewish faith) and of Jesus (of the Christian faith). Mohammad is believed the last true prophet of God by **Muslims**, or followers of Islam.

The basic beliefs of Islam are:

1. Allah is the one true God, but there is no division in God. Islam is a strict **monotheistic** religion.
2. All followers must submit to the will of Allah which is what "Islam" literally means.
3. There are Five Pillars of Islam to follow:
  - a. Faith in God and in Mohammed as God's prophet,
  - b. Prayer which should be done five times a day,
  - c. Giving to the poor,
  - d. Fasting to remind followers that all need Allah's assistance, and
  - e. Taking the Hajj, or a pilgrimage to Mecca
4. The Holy Book is the Quran which are the final revelations to Mohammad from Allah, but Muslims also believe in the Torah, and parts of the Bible.

Islam divided into two main groups or denominations, the Sunni and the Shia, when it could not be agreed upon who would lead after the death of Mohammed. Sunnis are a majority in most Muslim communities in Southeast Asia, China, South Asia, Africa, and a part of the Arab world. Shia mostly live in Iraq, Bahrain, Iran, and Azerbaijan.



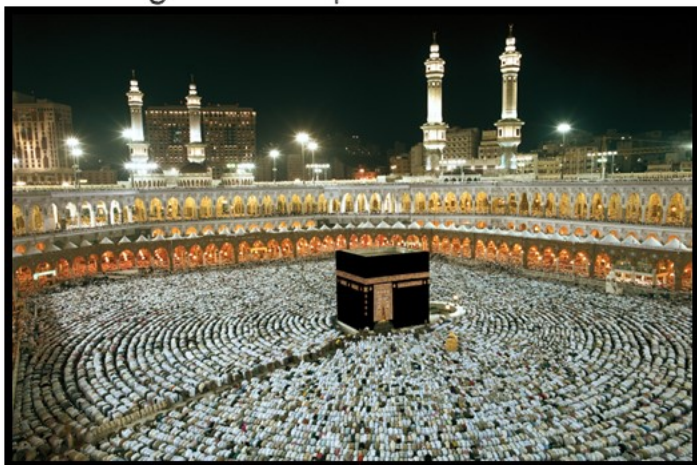
## STOP AND DISCUSS:

How did the Islamic faith develop? How is Islam similar to Judaism and Christianity? What is the Islamic holy book? What are the two divisions of Islam?



# Islam

**Ramadan**, one of the pillars of Islam, is a month of fasting during the day light hours. This fasting period is to help followers focus on how to be a better person. Fasting from food and water is to make clear the problems of the poor, but during Ramadan there should be an emphasis on self-reflection and becoming a better person.

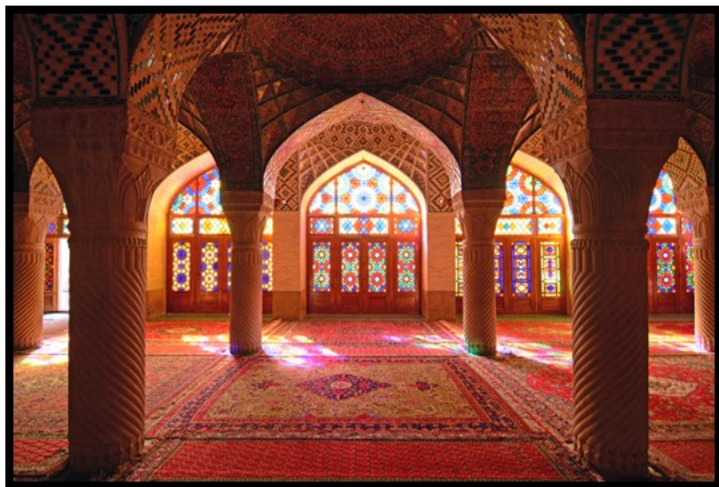


Men bow in prayer in Mecca during the Hajj.

symbolizes the unity of Islam. This journey is a very important part of the culture of Islamic society.

According to Islamic beliefs, representations of living beings are not allowed as this is disrespectful of the power of Allah as the one true creator. This guides the type of art seen in **mosques** or religious buildings to be geometric, abstract, or to emphasize calligraphy, a style of writing. Many of the religious houses as well as non-religious items are characterized by the repetition and patterns of geometric designs. The star and crescent is often used to represent Islam.

The **Hajj**, another pillar of Islam, requires that every able-bodied Muslim take a holy pilgrimage or trip to Mecca, the holiest city in Islam, at some point in their life. The pilgrimage takes place during the last month of the Islamic calendar. Thousands of Muslims travel to Mecca to perform rituals at the Kaaba or House of God. This journey not only symbolizes the journey of life, but also as the Muslims assemble together around the Kaaba, it



A mosque in Iran is decorated with mosaics.



## STOP AND DISCUSS:

What is Ramadan and how is it celebrated? What is a Hajj and why is it important to Muslims? How is art represented in Islam?

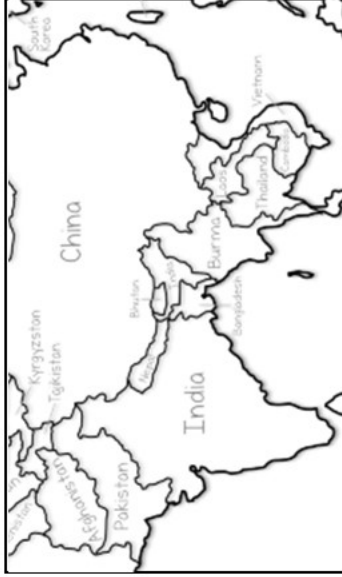


# Doodle Notes

# Hinduism

Summarize the main beliefs of Hinduism.

Color the area where Hinduism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Hindus next to the area.



How is Hinduism represented in art?

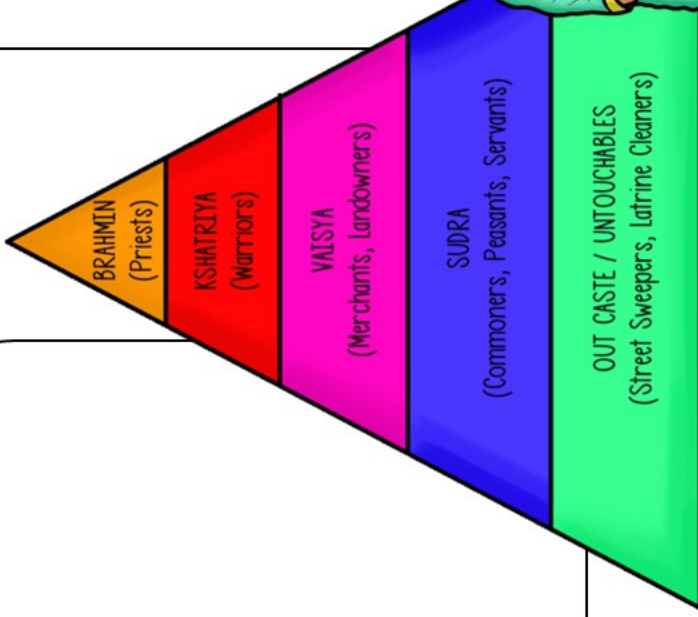
Explain the caste system.



What is Diwali?



Share one interesting fact about Hinduism.



# Judaism

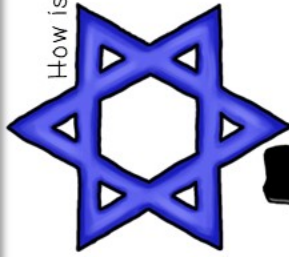


Color the area where Judaism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Jewish next to the area.

What is the story of Abraham?



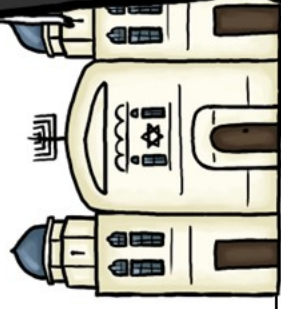
How is Judaism represented in art?



What are important Jewish holidays and how are they celebrated?



© 2011 by The Jewish Museum



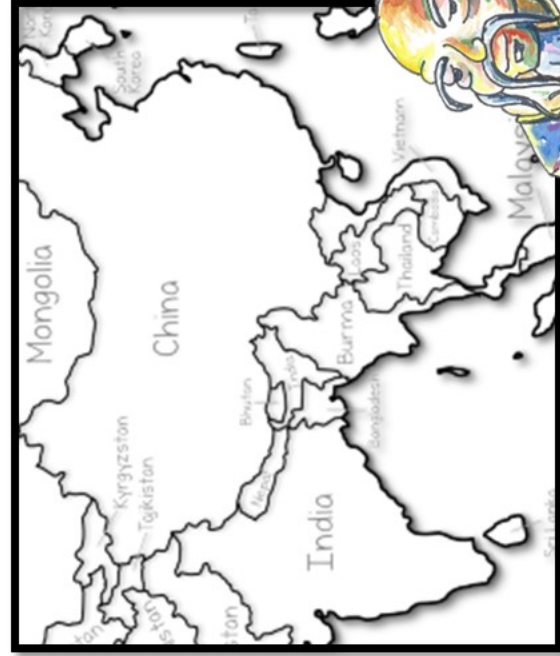
Share one interesting fact about Judaism.



Summarize the main beliefs of Judaism.

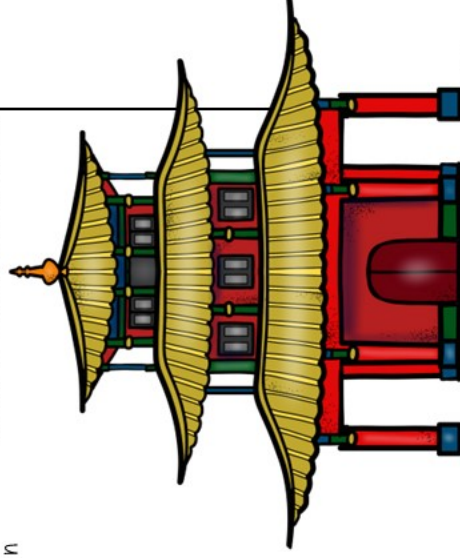


# Confucianism



Color the area where Confucianism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Confucian next to the area.

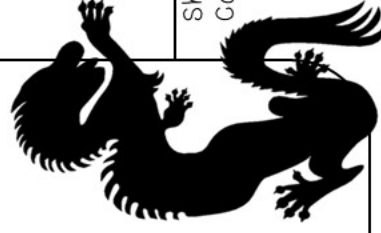
What do Confucians value?



Why did Confucianism begin?



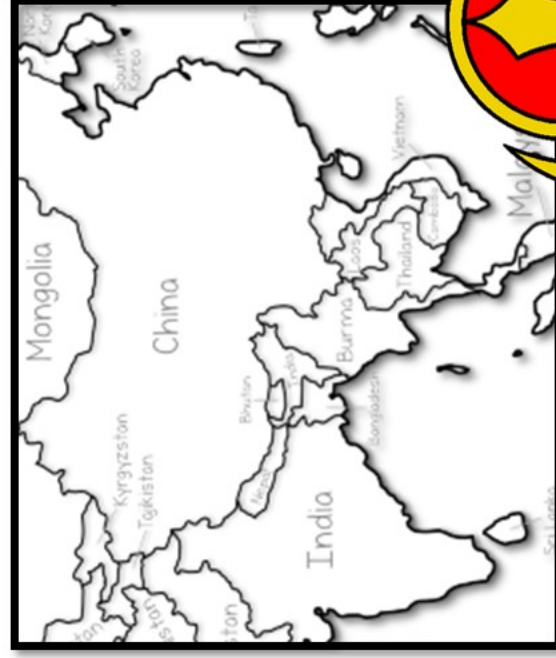
Share one interesting fact about Confucianism.



How is Confucianism represented in art?



# Sikhism



Color the area where Sikhism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Sikh next to the area.

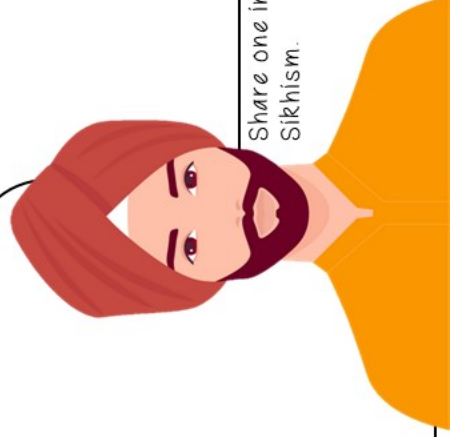
What symbols represent Sikhism?



What is Vaisakhi?



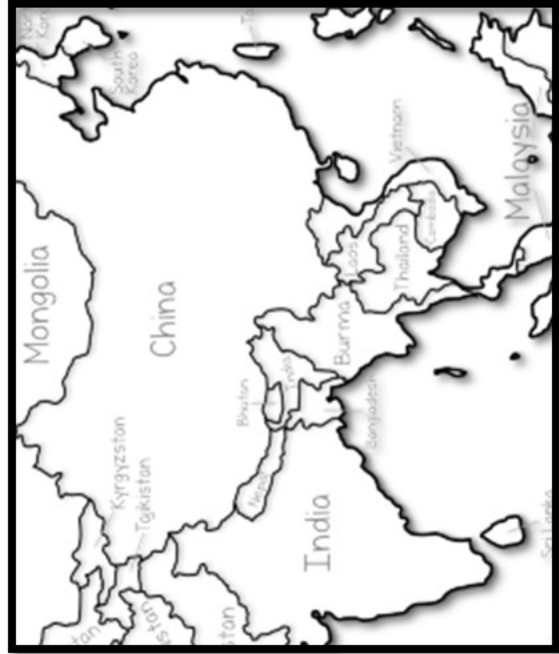
What is the story of Nanak?



Share one interesting fact about Sikhism.

Summarize the main beliefs of Sikhism.

# Buddhism



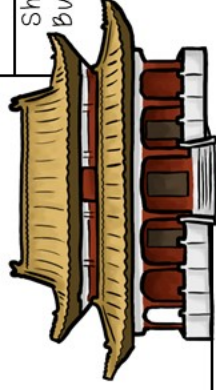
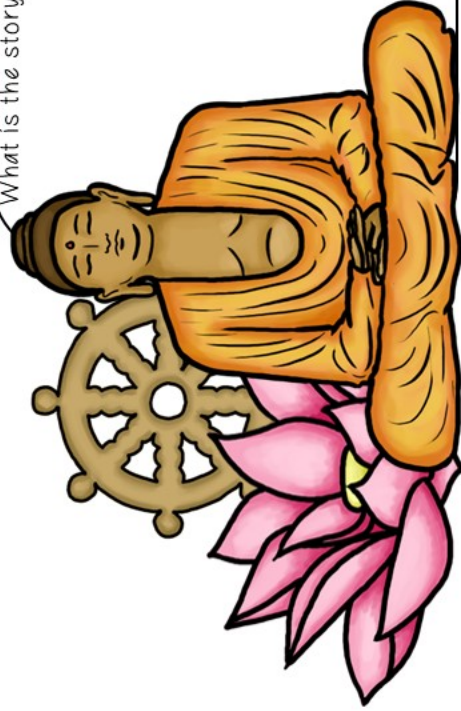
Color the area where Buddhism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Buddhist next to the area.

Why is meditation important in Buddhism?



What symbols represent Buddhism?

What is the story of Siddhartha Gautama?



Share one interesting fact about Buddhism.



Summarize the main beliefs of Buddhism.

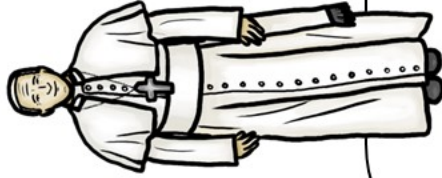


# Christianity

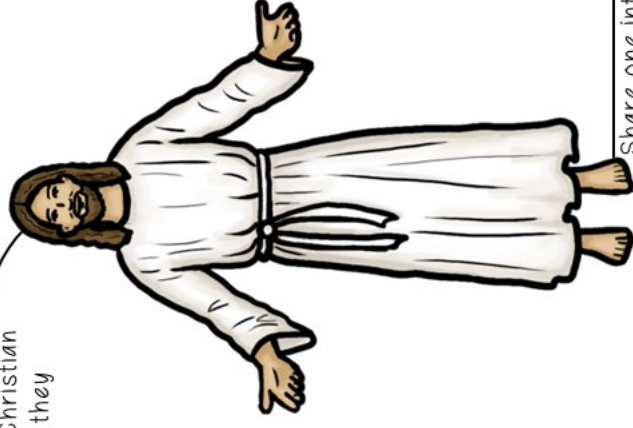
Summarize the main beliefs of Christianity.



Color the area where Christianity originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Christian next to the area.



What are the different groups in Christianity?  
What are important Christian holidays and how are they celebrated?



How is Christianity represented in art?



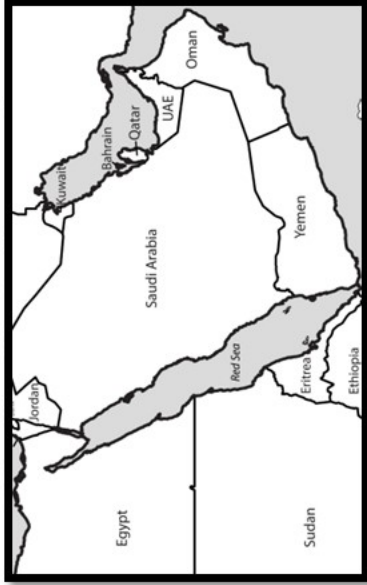
What makes up the Bible?



Share one interesting fact about Christianity.



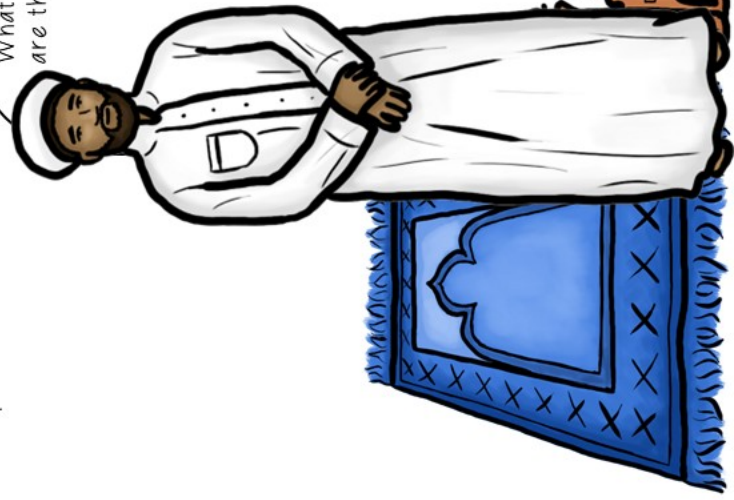
# Islam



Color the area where Islam originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Muslim next to the area.



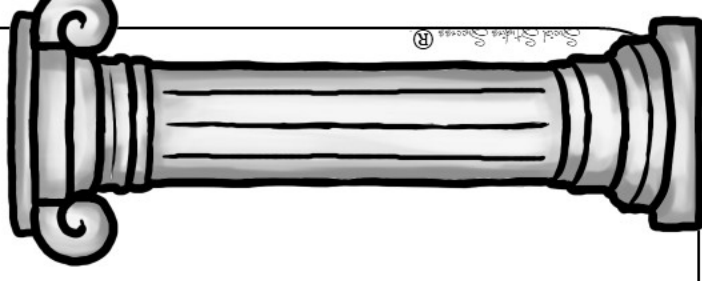
How is Islam represented in art?



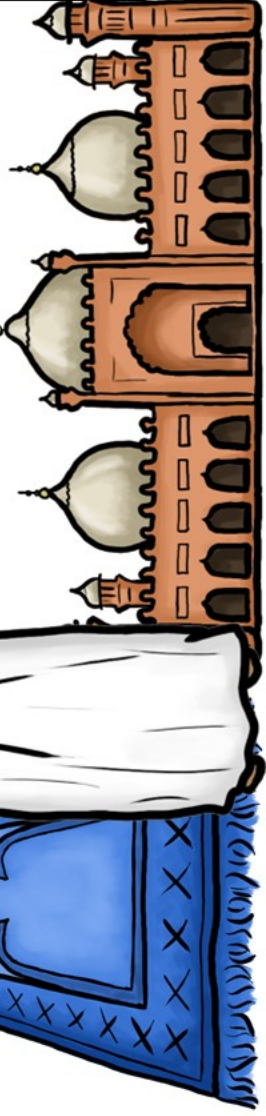
What are the different groups in Islam?  
What are important Islamic holidays and how are they celebrated?



Summarize the main beliefs of Islam.



Share one interesting fact about Islam.





# Images for Skill Builder

Image A



Illustration of Ganesha on decorative background in India.



Image B

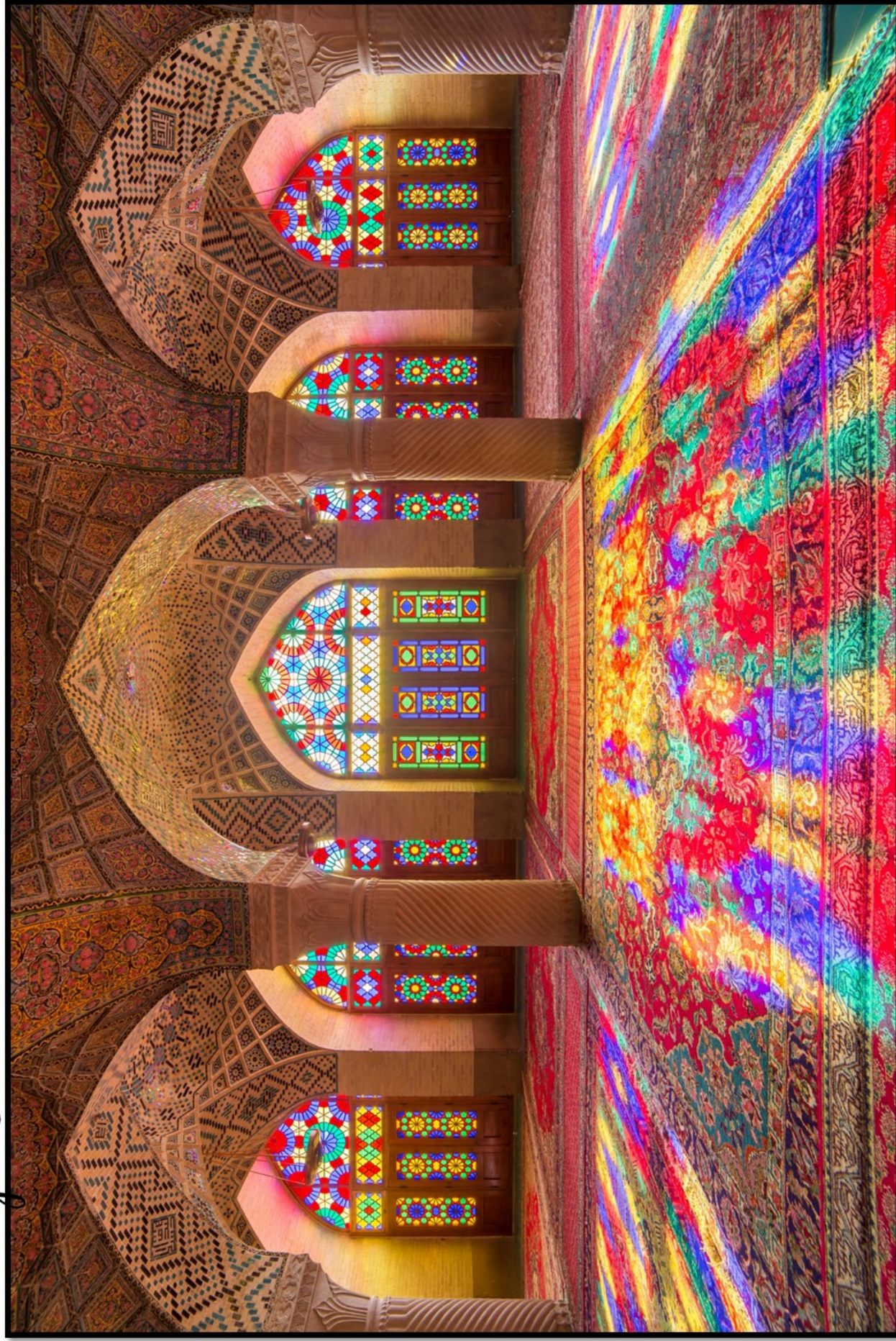


A Fresco from a tomb in China.



Golden statues in Thailand.





Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, Iran, also known as Pink Mosque.





Art interior in Moroccan synagogue of Casablanca.





The Golden Temple, Amritsar, India.



# Image F



A copy of the Madonnina statue of the Virgin Mary atop the Milan Cathedral in Italy.

# Image Analysis

**Directions:** Examine the image you have been given and discuss the following questions with your partner. Be prepared to share your answers with your teacher.

1. Look closely at the image – each person share at least 3 details they see.
2. What type of art is this? (Statue, painting, etc.)
3. What does the image show you about the specific religion?
4. Which religion does this image represent?

Social Studies Success®

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# Readings for Skill Builder

These readings do not have page numbers or  
discussion questions.



# Hinduism

According to scholars, there is evidence **Hinduism** developed as early as 2300 BCE in the area of present-day Pakistan in the Indus Valley. However, many Hindus believe their religion has existed forever. One of the more unusual aspects of this religion is that there is no one founder of this religion. Hinduism contains the beliefs of ancient groups merged together. This religion is the third-largest in the world, with over 1.1 billion followers. Hinduism has also inspired the development of other religions.



Indian sadhu (saint) sitting with his sacred texts.

There are a few main beliefs in Hinduism:

- 1) There is one truth. That truth is right and goodness and all should attempt to follow this truth. Light is a symbol of this truth while darkness represents evil.
- 2) Brahman is the god of the Hindus and Brahman is limitless. Hindus believe in many gods, but believe all these gods are part of Brahman, who is goodness and truth.
- 3) The Vedas are the Hindu holy scriptures that explain the truth for all Hindus and how they should behave.
- 4) Dharma is the goal for all people. Dharma is living in a moral and right way. All people must do their duty and live up to their abilities to reach Dharma.
- 5) Hindus believe in an immortal soul. Karma (the actions the soul took in one life) determines what life the soul will have in the next life. This is often referred to as **reincarnation**.
- 6) The goal of all Hindus is to reunite with Brahman and escape the cycle of death and rebirth. One can only achieve this goal with total truth and goodness.

# Hinduism



A family in India celebrates Diwali with fire crackers.

Hinduism is still dominant in India. The relationship between Indian culture and Hinduism is evident in the beliefs and philosophy of the Hindu culture. **Diwali** is an important religious festival for Hindus. The "*Festival of Lights*" or Diwali represents the defeat of evil by the righteous. Diwali is celebrated over five days. People buy gifts for their friends and relatives as the new year also coincides with this festival. Lamps are lit to represent the inner light that leads all souls away from darkness or evil.

Long ago, Hinduism believed that people were born into different **castes** (levels) due to their **Karma**. If someone had been very good in their previous life, they would return as the Brahmins - priests, scholars, or teachers. The next level was the Kshatriyas who were not quite on the level of the priests but were political leaders or warriors. Below them were the Vaishyas - merchants and farmers. The next level were the Shudras - laborers or people who provided services. If someone had been very evil in their previous life, they would not be part of the castes at all but would be part of the Untouchables. These people had the jobs of cleaning the streets and sewers. This type of discrimination for jobs was outlawed in India in the 1980s, but parts of it still exist because it is very difficult to change a belief system quickly.



This is an illustration of the Hindu lord Ganesha.

Much of Hindu art is related to the ancient stories of the gods and the fight between good and evil, light and darkness. The lotus flower is often in Indian art to represent purity. The lotus is a perfect symbol the Hindu philosophy. The lotus must grow out of the mud to become a thing of beauty just as people must endure difficult things to finally reach the level of perfect goodness.



# Judaism

Judaism is the religious faith of the Jewish people. Over 10 million people practice this faith today. This ancient religion is believed to have begun around 1800-1500 BCE when Abraham, a member of a Hebrew tribe in the area of modern day Israel, said God spoke directly to him. This was a new type of God since at the time most people worshipped many gods using idols or statues. This God spoke to Abraham to tell him He was the only one true God and that as God, he could not be seen. God told Abraham his descendants would be His chosen people and that Abraham should lead them to the Holy Land to build a great nation. In addition to being a religion, being Jewish is part of a larger Jewish culture focused on living a Jewish life. There are Jews from every race, background, ethnicity, and country from all over the world!

1. A basic belief of the Jewish faith is **monotheism** which is the belief in only one God. The Jewish people developed the concept of "ethical monotheism." The treatment of others and maintaining Jewish values consistent with equality, compassion, and justice.
2. The Jewish people also believe they are God's chosen people, and that they chose to accept the laws and beliefs that are in the Torah when others would not.
3. The Jewish God rewards those who follow the laws and do good deeds while using prophets to prepare followers.
4. The sacred scriptures of Judaism is the **Torah** which gives the laws Jews must follow.

The beliefs of the followers of Judaism are evident in the traditions and celebrations in their daily life. **Rosh Hashanah** is the beginning of the Jewish New Year but it is a very solemn day as it is a day to reflect on your behavior on the past year. The Day of Atonement, **Yom Kippur**, is ten days later when God determines if you are forgiven. The ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are the holy days in the Jewish calendar when Jews try to truly repent and plan to be a better person in the upcoming year.



Jewish children learn about their religion by reading the Torah.

# Judaism



Men are praying at the holy Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Hanukkah is a celebration of God protecting his people when they follow his laws. **Hanukkah**, or Festival of Lights, is a Jewish celebration that honors an ancient miracle in Israel. The **temple**, or the religious meeting place, of Israel was dishonored by Greeks using it as a shrine for their own gods. The Jewish priests reclaimed the temple and wanted to re-dedicate it to God. The oil for lighting the lamps had been used, but

there was just enough for one day. The miracle is that this small amount of oil lasted for eight days and that is why Hanukkah is celebrated for eight nights. A **menorah**, an important part of the Hanukkah celebration, is a candle holder with eight branches, one for each night of Hanukkah. Special foods such as latkes (potato pancakes) and jelly donuts are fried in oil to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

A ceremony to become adults in the eyes of the Jewish community is held for boys, a **bar mitzvah**, and for girls, a **bat mitzvah**, to indicate they are old enough to understand and practice the commandments of God. A kippah is worn by many devout Jewish men to remind them that they must follow the laws of God at all times and in all places. Many of the celebrations and cultural items of Judaism reinforce the requirement follow the laws set down in the Torah.

The Star of David is a symbol used by the Jewish people to honor David, a descendant of Abraham, who became their king. David as a boy, killed Goliath, a giant, to protect the Jewish people. This Star of David is a symbol of the promise God made to protect his chosen people if they follow the laws.



# Confucianism

Confucianism is considered to be more of a philosophy than a traditional religion. Some people may indicate that they are a follower of a particular religion, but also follow the tradition of Confucianism. Confucianism has about 6 million followers across the world, but most are located in China where the philosophy began.

This philosophy began in China around 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Confucius believed that many of the traditions of China had been lost and the people needed to focus on social order to improve society. Confucius wanted to make sure the cultural values and norms of his civilization continued and added value to the lives of the people. After studying traditions of ancient China, Confucius designed a philosophy that supported order and ethical behavior in Chinese society. His goal was to achieve harmony between the members of society. Confucianism has no church organization or priests, but the sayings of Confucius stress what is expected of individuals:

1. Always be considerate of others.
2. Respect your ancestors.
3. Always be in balance and harmony.
4. Avoid extreme emotion and behavior.
5. Stay in touch with the spiritual forces in nature.

Confucius believed family was more important than an individual and that society could be perfect if people behaved correctly with each other. This belief system heavily influenced cultural beliefs and traditions in China and throughout east Asia.



This Japanese artwork figures Confucius, Lao Tzu and Buddha meeting, symbolizing the harmony between the three philosophers and their teachings.

Statues and art of Confucianism often show an older man representing Confucius in prayer. Confucian art is often allegorical, sharing the belief systems of Confucius. Scenes representing virtuous people and their evil opposites are used as examples. Plants and animals are used as symbols as well. The orchid would be used to represent purity and loyalty.

# Sikhism

**Sikhism** is another religion that developed in India. This religion developed around 1500 CE, about the same time as Europeans began to explore North America. Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with about 25 million followers.

Nanak was born into a Hindu family and practiced their beliefs. He was also influenced by the Muslim belief system. Later in his life, he contemplated his religious beliefs and God. One day Nanak wandered off to meditate and when he returned, he told his friends and family, *"There is no Hindu. There is no Muslim."* Nanak believed that all men and women were equal and could find God through **meditation**, helping others and being truthful. Nanak took the title **"guru"** which means teacher and began to teach others of his faith which is called Sikhism.

Sikhs have a few basic beliefs.

1. There is only one God who is timeless, everywhere and incomprehensible.
2. All people, both men and women, are equal before God and have the same rights and duties.
3. You must always focus on God.
4. You must always be honest and work hard.
5. You must give to the needy.

Sikhs do not believe in the caste system and do not believe in fasting. The Sikh holy text, the Guru Granth Sahib, is the only religious text that has writings of teachers from various religions because Sikhs believe there are many ways to find a connection to God. They celebrate **Vaisakhi**, their new year festival, to commemorate the year 1699, the year Sikhism began.



Sikh man standing by the  
Golden Temple in India.

The turban is an easily recognizable characteristic of Sikh men. Sikhs do not cut their hair as sign of their faith. The turban is to keep their hair neat and tidy. They will also wear a steel bracelet to remind them that like the bracelet, God has no beginning and no end. A kirpan, or short sword, is worn by Sikhs as a symbol that you must always help the weak. The sword is an important symbol in Sikhism as it reminds Sikhs that they must always help anyone in need.



# Buddhism

Buddhism began on the Indian subcontinent in the late 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E (500 B.C.E) with Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha was a wealthy prince who eventually gave up all his worldly goods as he saw the suffering of others. Siddhartha sat down to **meditate** (or think quietly) under a tree and wonder about life and why people were suffering. He reached "**nirvana**" or enlightenment about what causes suffering and how to be released from it. From then on, he was known as Buddha, which means the Enlightened One.

The Four Noble Truths are the basic beliefs of Buddhism.

1. Human life contains a great deal of suffering.
2. Suffering is caused by greed.
3. Suffering can end.
4. Moderation in all things is the path to enlightenment. To reach enlightenment, you must follow the Eightfold path: be right in understanding, care for others, speak the truth, help others and bring no harm, be useful, be positive, be aware of yourself, and always be calm in your mind.

Buddhism is practiced in many parts of the world today including China, East Asia and South East Asia. With over 500 million believers, it is one of the top 5 largest religions with over 8% of the world's population believing in the teachings of Buddha.



A Buddhist monk meditates in Thailand.

**Meditation** is important in Buddhism as it requires the person to focus on their inner self and to be still quiet and reflective. It was through meditation that Buddha achieved enlightenment and it is believed that meditation will bring enlightenment to the followers. Buddhism has spread throughout all of Asia, and many different types of Buddhism developed but all have the basic belief in meditation and being moderate in all things.

# Buddhism

Buddha is not a god and Buddhism does not teach of one permanent God since all is ever-changing. The idea of **reincarnation** is present in Buddhism which means the ultimate goal of Buddhists is to reach the state of enlightenment or **nirvana**. Once nirvana is reached, the cycle of birth, death and re-birth ends and suffering will also end. Siddhartha would have been raised in Hindu beliefs and it is easy to see parts of Hindu tradition in Buddhism.

Buddhist art includes many symbols to remind its followers of the beliefs of Buddhism. The eight-spoked wheel represents the Eightfold Path to enlightenment. There are also statues of Buddha sitting in meditation, but as Buddhism spread across Asia, local people would create Buddhas that looked more consistent to their population. Many statues of Buddha show him with a large bump on the top of his head - this represents the knowledge he received during enlightenment. Buddha is also represented in statues reclining right before his death. The serene and smiling expression of the reclining Buddha statue shows the compassion and calmness that he felt with enlightenment. Sometimes the foot of a person on a journey represents the path that Buddhists must follow to achieve nirvana.



A golden Buddha statue in Thailand.

Buddhists celebrate Vesak which is the birthday of Buddha or some believe that date of his enlightenment. Families attend a temple, light candles and reflect on the Buddha's teachings and how they can continue to follow the path to enlightenment.



# Christianity

Christianity is a religion that developed out of the Jewish faith in the modern day Israel. It began with the teachings of Jesus Christ around the first century A.D. or C.E. The teachings of Jesus encouraged not only Jewish people, but all people to join him in his belief system. Jesus' followers taught that he was the son of God that had come to earth, but that God is still **monotheistic**. This Monotheistic God of Christianity is divided into 3 different aspects, God, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus sacrificed himself so all sin could be forgiven, and all people could be at one with God.

Basic beliefs in Christianity are

1. God is the only one true God, but the Trinity (the three natures of God) make up the one God.
2. Jesus, the son of God, came to earth, was sacrificed, and resurrected before he returned to heaven.
3. There is also a prophecy that Jesus will return to earth.

Christians' holy text is the Bible which consists of the Old and New Testament. The Old Testament tells the story of the Jewish people and is also part of the Torah, but Christians add the New Testament which are letters and instructions from the followers of Jesus teaching others how to live as a follower of Christ. These two parts make the Christian's Bible.

Christianity is based on the idea that a prophecy in the Old Testament was fulfilled by Jesus. To reinforce these beliefs, Christians celebrate the birth of Christ and his sacrifice as major religious celebrations. The birth of Christ is celebrated as **Christmas** Day and the death and resurrection is celebrated as **Easter**. Christmas is a time of gifts to represent the gift God provided to man.



This nativity painting celebrates the birth of Christ.

# Christianity

Easter is a time to focus on the rebirth of Jesus. Easter occurs on a different day every year because it is based off of the lunar cycle. Tradition dictates that Easter should fall on the Sunday after the Passover full moon. Along with Easter, some Christians celebrate Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and prayer. These holidays symbolize the most important parts of the Christian religion.



Pope Francis is the leader of the Catholic church.

Christianity has split into many different types of beliefs, but any religious group that follows the writings about Christ are considered to be of a Christian nature. The two main groups of Christians are Catholics and Protestants. These divisions developed as followers of Christianity disagreed on specific beliefs in the religion. Catholics believe that the Pope is the leader of the Catholic Church. Protestant Christians are people who follow the beliefs of Christ and are not Catholic. Many Christian religions fall under the term Protestant—Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and more.

Christian art often includes pictures of Mary, the mother of Christ, to honor his birth. The symbol of the cross is used often times for Christians as a reminder of the sacrifice of Christ. Christianity is the largest religion in the world now with 2.3 billion followers.



Michelangelo's Pietà in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome



# Islam



Muslims pray 5 times a day.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with about 1.8 billion followers. It is currently the fastest growing religion in the world. Islam began with the founder Mohammed around 600-650 C.E. in Mecca which is in Saudi Arabia. Mohammed, while meditating in a cave, received messages from God, or Allah as the Muslims refer to God, to restore the true faith of Abraham (of the Jewish faith) and of Jesus (of the Christian faith). Mohammad is believed the last true prophet of God by **Muslims**, or followers of Islam.

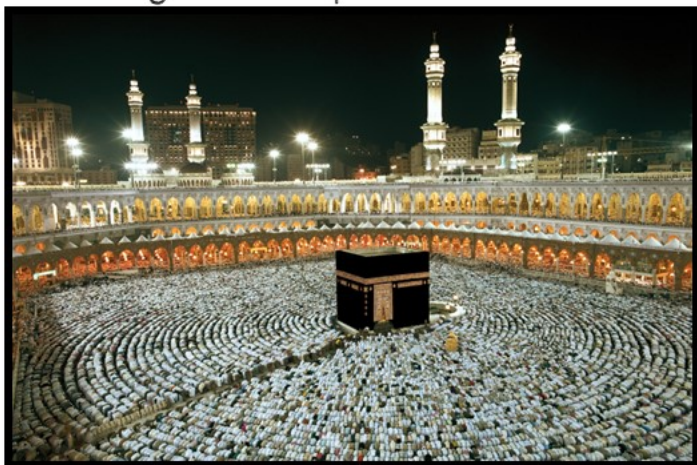
The basic beliefs of Islam are:

1. Allah is the one true God, but there is no division in God. Islam is a strict **monotheistic** religion.
2. All followers must submit to the will of Allah which is what "Islam" literally means.
3. There are Five Pillars of Islam to follow:
  - a. Faith in God and in Mohammed as God's prophet,
  - b. Prayer which should be done five times a day,
  - c. Giving to the poor,
  - d. Fasting to remind followers that all need Allah's assistance, and
  - e. Taking the Hajj, or a pilgrimage to Mecca
4. The Holy Book is the Quran which are the final revelations to Mohammad from Allah, but Muslims also believe in the Torah, and parts of the Bible.

Islam divided into two main groups or denominations, the Sunni and the Shia, when it could not be agreed upon who would lead after the death of Mohammed. Sunnis are a majority in most Muslim communities in Southeast Asia, China, South Asia, Africa, and a part of the Arab world. Shia mostly live in Iraq, Bahrain, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

# Islam

**Ramadan**, one of the pillars of Islam, is a month of fasting during the day light hours. This fasting period is to help followers focus on how to be a better person. Fasting from food and water is to make clear the problems of the poor, but during Ramadan there should be an emphasis on self-reflection and becoming a better person.

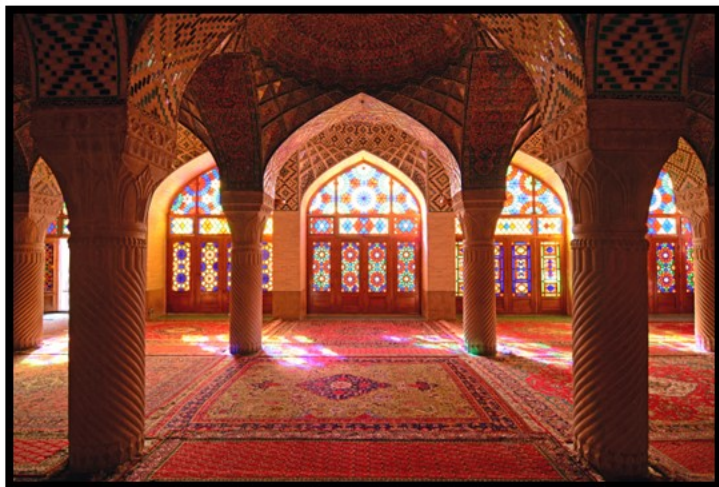


Men bow in prayer in Mecca during the Hajj.

symbolizes the unity of Islam. This journey is a very important part of the culture of Islamic society.

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A mosque in Iran is decorated with mosaics.



# Covers for Expert Groups

# Hinduism





# Confucianism



# Buddhism





# Christianity



# Sikhism





# Islam



# Judaism





# Formative Assessments

# Religions of the World

**Directions:** Check the statements that you think are true.

- ☐ The largest religion in the world is Christianity.
- ☐ The fastest growing religion in the world is Islam.
- ☐ In the Hindu religion, people believe in the rebirth of the soul.
- ☐ Christmas is an important holiday to the Jewish people.
- ☐ Meditation is practiced by many religions around the world.
- ☐ In Confucianism, people are required to give up all of their worldly possessions.
- ☐ Caring for the poor is important if you are a part of the Sikh religion.
- ☐ Reincarnation is believed by different religions.
- ☐ If you are a Buddhist, you believe suffering is caused by greed.
- ☐ Fasting is an important part of Islam.





# Scenarios

Characteristics	Religion
My religion is considered to be the oldest and one of the largest with over 1 billion followers. We study the Vedas looking for the one truth. Most followers are in India, but they can also be found around the world. I try to live a good and honorable life so my next life will get me closer to Brahman. What religion do I practice?	<b>HINDUISM</b>
I worship in a synagogue along with other members of my faith. We read the Torah and try to follow the laws of God. There are only about 14 million in our faith, but we are spread all over the world even though we consider Israel our home. My religion was the first to practice monotheism. What religion do I follow?	<b>JUDAISM</b>
I live in China and follow more of a philosophy than a religion. We believe in order and behaving in an honorable way. The goal of our belief system is to maintain harmony in our society. To do this, we try to follow the sayings left to us by our founder. What belief system am I a part of?	<b>CONFUCIANISM</b>
I meditate almost every day focusing on the Eightfold path that will lead me to nirvana. My goal is to achieve an end to my suffering which can be done if I am not greedy. I follow the Four Noble Truths left to us by the Enlightened One. What religion do I practice?	<b>BUDDHISM</b>
I am part of the largest religion in the world. I use the Bible as a way to follow my beliefs. I am Catholic, but many other followers who call themselves Protestants practice the same religion as I do. We all believe in the Trinity and that following the teachings of Jesus is most important to be forgiven of sins. What religion do I practice?	<b>CHRISTIANITY</b>

# Scenarios

Characteristics	Religion
<p>I pray 5 times a day and follow the Holy Quran. Ramadan is an important time for me because I must fast during the daylight hours and focus on becoming the kind of person Allah wants me to be. My religion is the second largest and started in Saudi Arabia. I believe Mohammad was the last true prophet from Allah. What religion do I follow?</p>	<b>ISLAM</b>
<p>My religion started in India around 1500. I wear a turban and believe that in any situation, I must help the needy. Guru Nanak taught us that all men and women are equal. I know if I am truthful in all things, perform my duties and meditate, that I will find God. What religion do I follow?</p>	<b>SIKHISM</b>





# About Boom Cards



*What are BOOM Cards and how do I use them?*

Are you wanting to use technology with task cards? Then BOOM Cards are your solution. Your students will log onto Boom Learning<sup>SM</sup> use their desktop computer, laptop, Chromebook, tablet, or cell phone.



*What are the benefits of BOOM Cards?*

No prep! It is all done for you! You do not have to print (although you have that option if you want), laminate, or cut out any cards.

BOOM Cards are self-grading! It's almost like magic!



*Is this rigorous enough for my students?  
Will it really help them prepare for tests?*

Yes! BOOM Cards provide a variety of questioning formats such as multiple choice, fill in the blank, and sorting. The images will allow your students to analyze color photos to increase their understanding of the content.

*Will my students like BOOM Cards?*

Yes! It is a super easy way to review in a game like format.





# About Boom Cards

Once I purchase, how do I access my BOOM Cards?



Go to <https://wow.boomlearning.com/> and create an account. To use Boom Cards, you must be connected to the Internet. Boom Cards play on modern browsers (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, and Edge). Apps are available for Android, iPads, iPhones, and Kindle Fires.

For security and privacy, adults must have a Boom Learning account to use and assign Boom Cards. You will be able to assign the Boom Cards you are buying with "Fast Pins," (play provides instant feedback for self-grading Boom Cards). Fast Play is always a free way for students to engage with Boom Cards decks. For additional assignment options you'll need a premium account. *If you are new to Boom Learning, you will be offered a free trial of our premium account.* Read here for details: <http://bit.ly/BoomTrial>. If you choose not to stay on a premium account after your free trial, you will still be able to assign all your Boom Cards to as many students as you see fit using Fast Play pins (which give instant feedback for decks that are self-grading).

What if I have a question?

You can find the answers to your questions with these helpful videos: <https://www.youtube.com/c/boomlearning>







# Game

Access your game on Boom Learning<sup>SM</sup> by clicking on the image below.

Drag and drop the symbols and terms that are associated with Judaism.

Judaism

monotheism

temple

diaspora

BOOM! CARDS

drag

clear up

submit

Religions of the World

Boom Cards

# Mosaic

## What is it?

This strategy can be used as an individual assignment or a small group project. If working in a group, each group would prepare a mosaic depicting key ideas and events from a topic or unit of study and present the mosaic to the class. This processing assignment is similar to the mini-mural, but simpler and smaller in scale. An alternative processing assignment includes creating a mosaic puzzle.

## How does it work?

Students convey the most important information about the topic including:

- o Topic
- o What is it?
- o Who is/was involved?
- o What are important dates related to the topic? (include timeline)
- o What are the important places involved?
- o Why is this important?
- o Summary sentence
- o Explanation of the impact (What does this topic have to do with change?)

### Why use it?

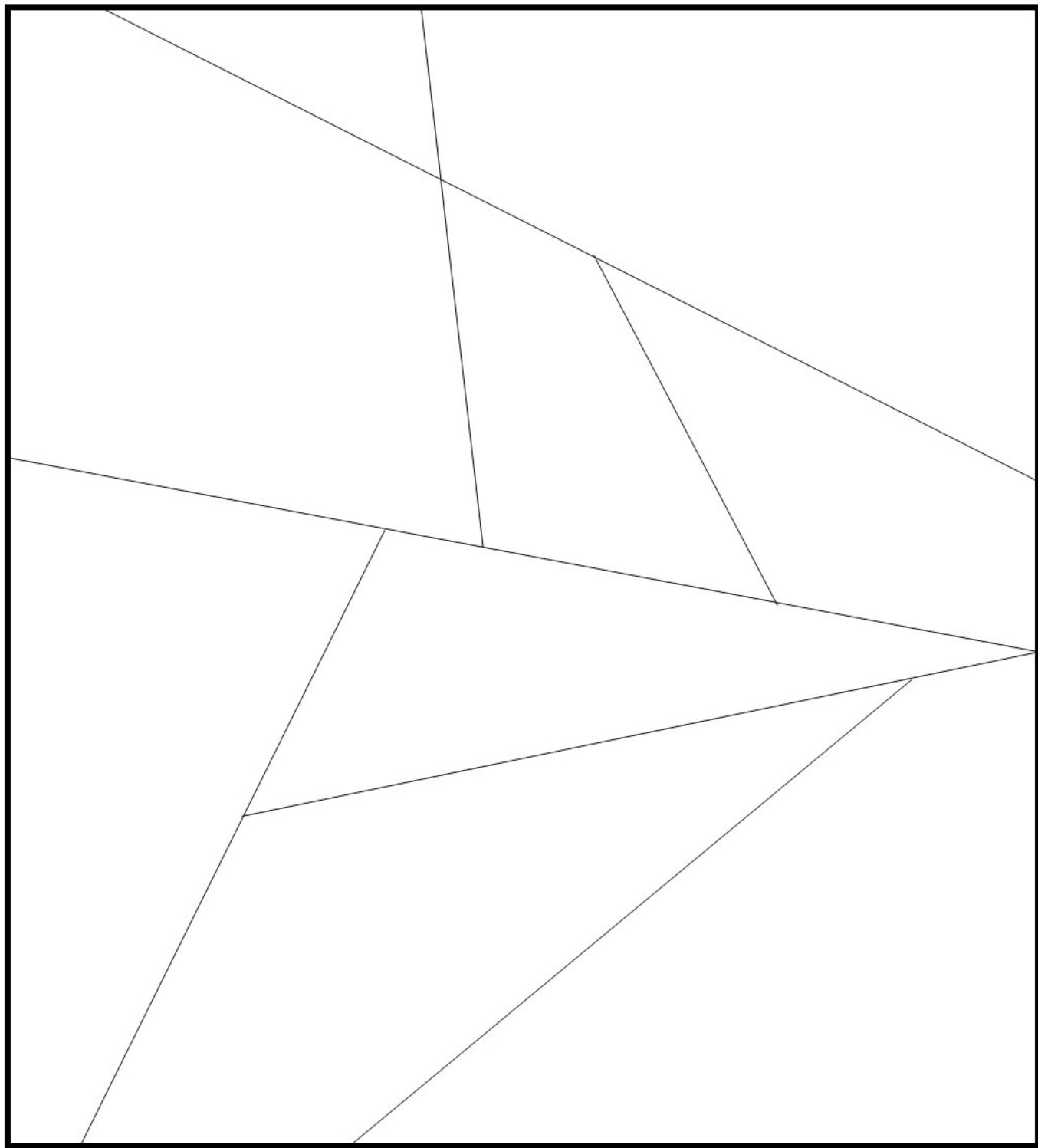
This is a graphic summary of information. it allows students to "chunk" information into smaller parts.





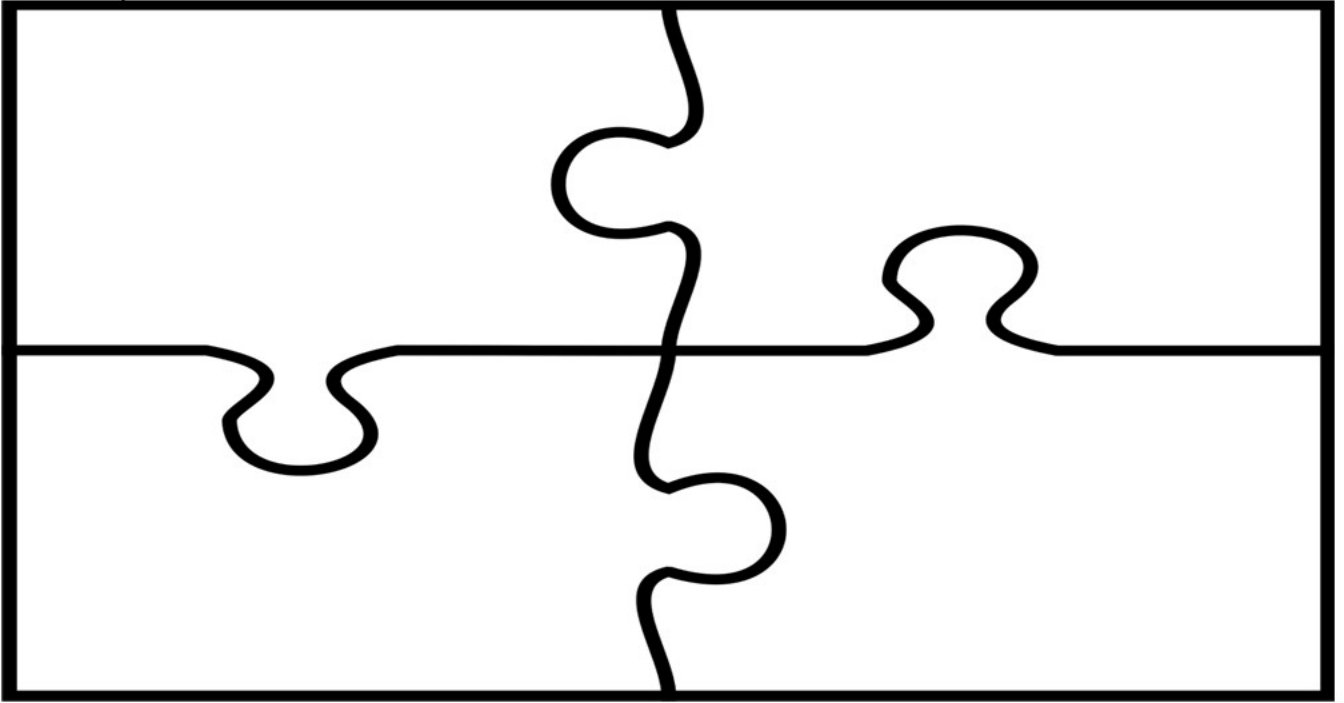
# Mosaic

**Directions:** create a mosaic to represent the key ideas of your topic. Each space should have a separate image with a summary sentence. Taken together, all of the spaces should represent the same theme.



# Mosaic Puzzle

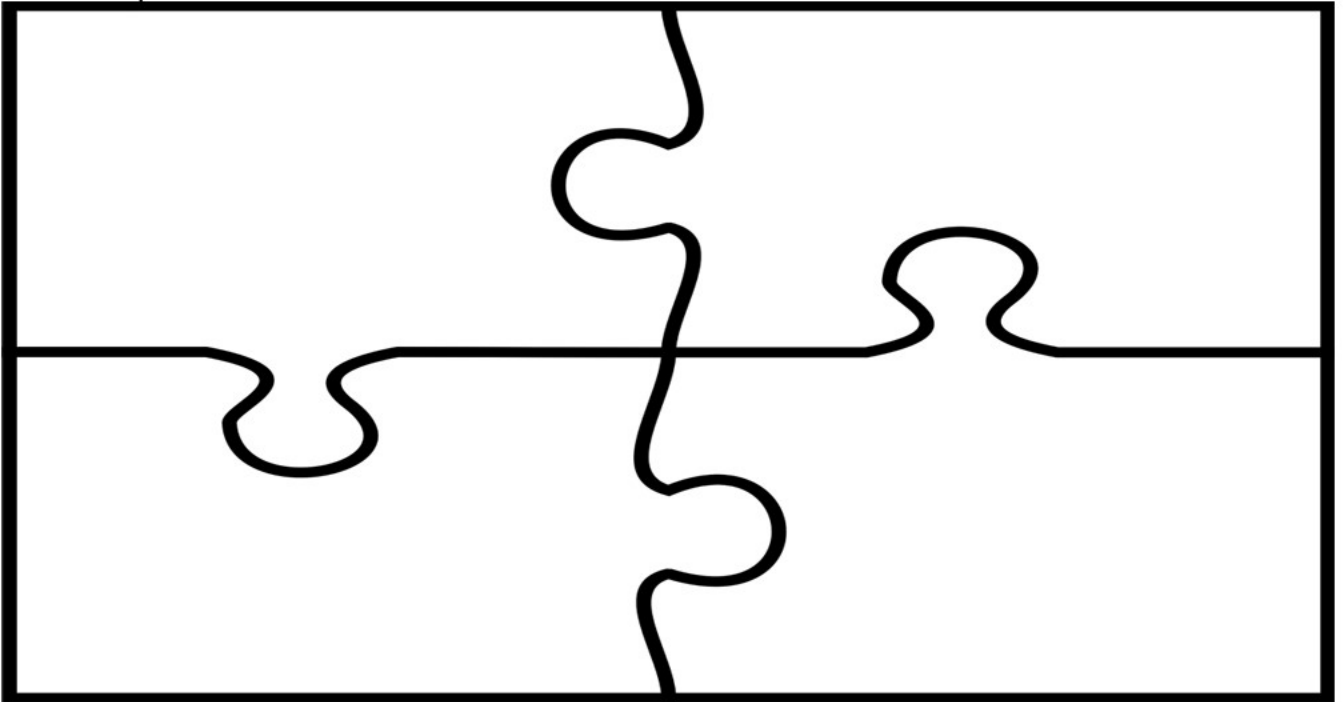
Create a puzzle that shows the key points of your topic. Each puzzle piece should have its own image, but all together it should make a picture. Label the images.



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# Mosaic Puzzle

Create a puzzle that shows the key points of your topic. Each puzzle piece should have its own image, but all together it should make a picture. Label the images.

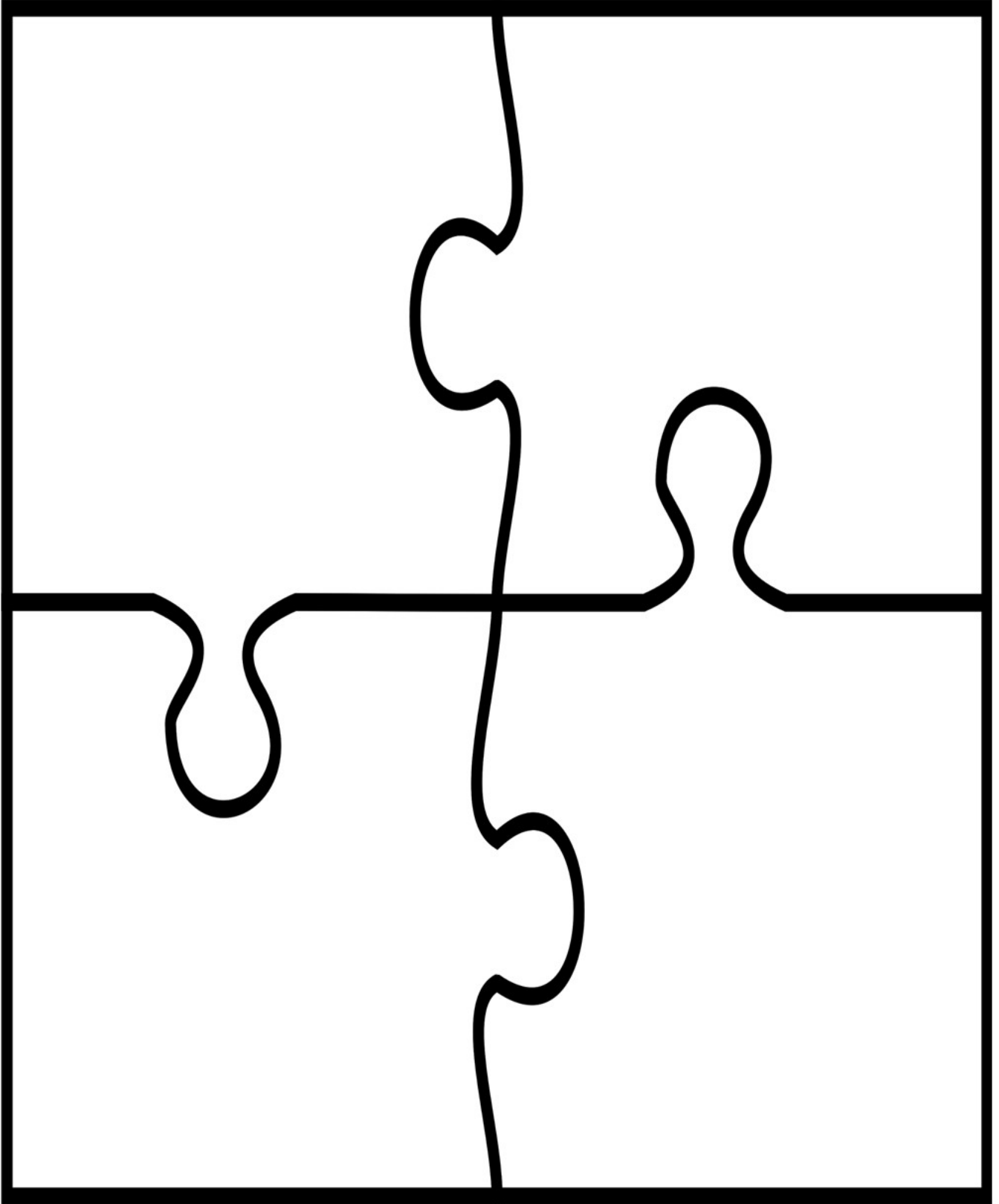


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# Mosaic Puzzle

Create a puzzle that shows the key points of your topic. Each puzzle piece should have it's own image, but all together it should make a picture. Label the images.








# Key






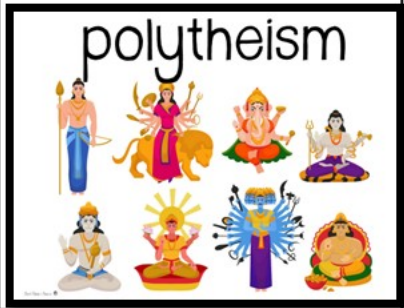
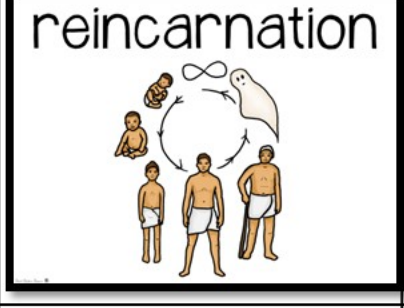
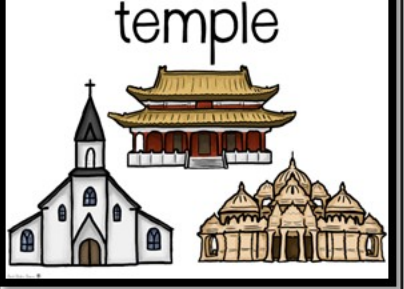
# Vocabulary Activity

What do you think are the definitions of each of these terms based on the picture?

Term	Your Definition	Actual Definition
<p>caste</p> 		one of the hereditary social classes in Hinduism that restrict the occupation of their members
<p>diaspora</p> 		the movement, migration, or scattering of a people away from an established or ancestral homeland
<p>meditate</p> 		to engage in mental exercise (such as concentration on one's breathing or repetition of a mantra) for the purpose of reaching a heightened level of spiritual awareness
<p>monotheism</p> 		the doctrine or belief that there is but one God
<p>mosque</p> 		a building used for public worship by people of the Islamic religion

## Vocabulary Activity

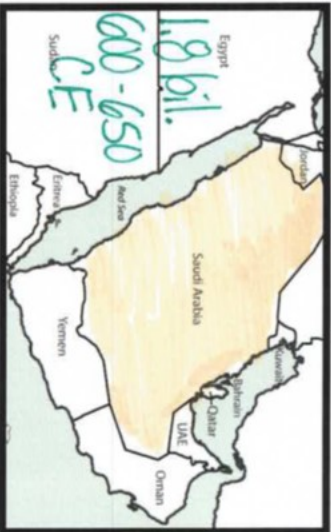
What do you think are the definitions of each of these terms based on the picture?

Term	Your Definition	Actual Definition
 <p>Muslim</p>		A person who is a part of the Islamic religion
 <p>polytheism</p>		belief in or worship of more than one god
 <p>reincarnation</p>		rebirth of a soul in new bodies or forms of life
 <p>temple</p>		a building for religious worship



# Islam

Key



Color the area where Islam originated and the number of people who are Muslim next to the area

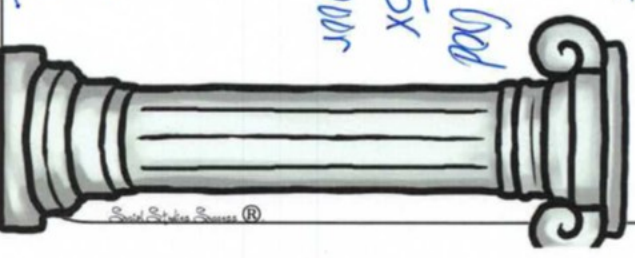
What are the different groups in Islam?

Sunni + Shia



Summarize the main beliefs of Islam.

1. Monotheistic religion
2. Submit to the will of God.
3. Follow the 5 Pillars of Faith.



- believe God
- prayer 5x
- give to poor
- fasting
- Hajj
- 4. Quran - holy book

Share one interesting fact about Islam.

Answers vary

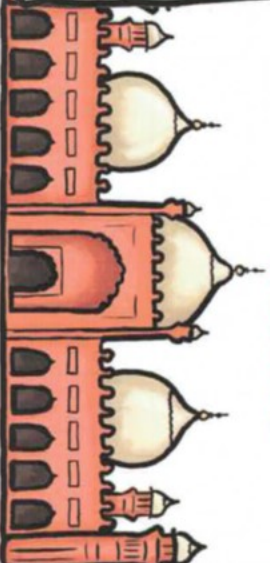
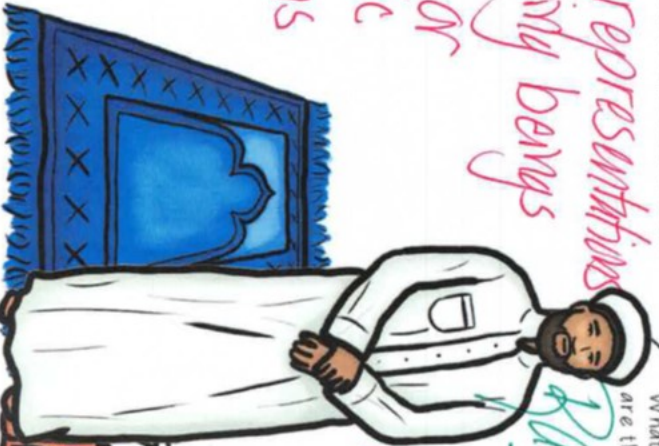


How is Islam represented in art?

-mosaics or geometric patterns

What are important Islamic holidays and how are they celebrated?

Ramadan - a month of fasting  
Hajj - pilgrimage to Mecca



# Christianity



Color the area where Christianity originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Christian next to the area.



*Catholic*  
+ *Protestants*  
What are the different groups in Christianity?

What are important Christian holidays and how are they celebrated?



1. God is the only god-montheistic  
2. Jesus died and was resurrected



How is Christianity represented in art?



*Focuses on Mary, the mother of Jesus. Also use the cross.*

What makes up the Bible?



*Old and New Testament*



*Christmas - celebration of Jesus' birth*  
*Easter - celebration of the resurrection of Jesus*



*3. Jesus will return*

Share one interesting fact about Christianity

*Answers vary*



Summarize the main beliefs of Christianity



# Buddhism



Color the area where Buddhism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Buddhist next to the area.

Meditation is important because it focuses on self-reflection.

Why is meditation important in Buddhism?



What is the story of Siddhartha Gautama?

Eight spoke wheel to represent enlightenment  
Buddha is often represented in staves.



Siddhartha was a prince who was concerned about the suffering of others. He meditated and became Buddha.



Summarize the main beliefs of Buddhism.

1. Humans suffer.
2. Suffering is caused by greed.
3. Suffering can end.
4. Moderation must be in all things.



Share one interesting fact about Buddhism.

Answers vary



# Sikhism

Kelly



What symbols represent Sikhism?

- A turban to cover long hair and keep it neat
- Steel bracelet to remind them of God.
- A sword to remind them to help people in need.



Color the area where Sikhism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Sikh next to the area.

A New Year Celebration

marking the beginning of Sikhism in 1699.

What is the story of Nanak?

Nanak mediated and created Sikhism after rejecting parts of Hinduism + Islam. He became a guru.

What is Vaisakhi?



Summarize the main beliefs of Sikhism.

1. There is only one God who is formless.
2. All people are equal and have the same rights + duties.
3. You must always treat on God.
4. You must always be honest and work hard.
5. You must give to the needy.

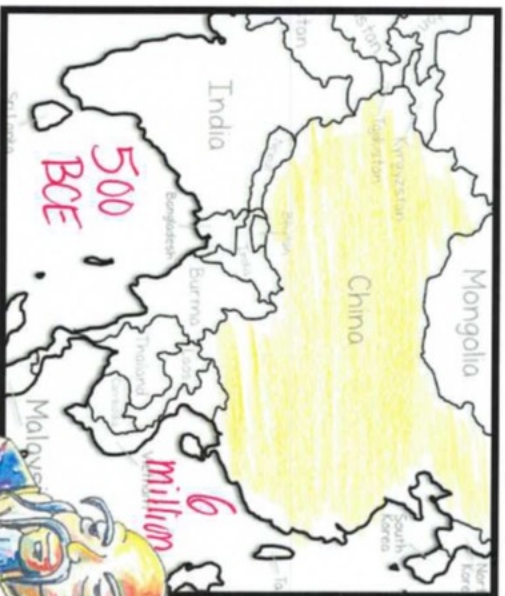
Share one interesting fact about Sikhism

Answers vary



# Confucianism

Kelly



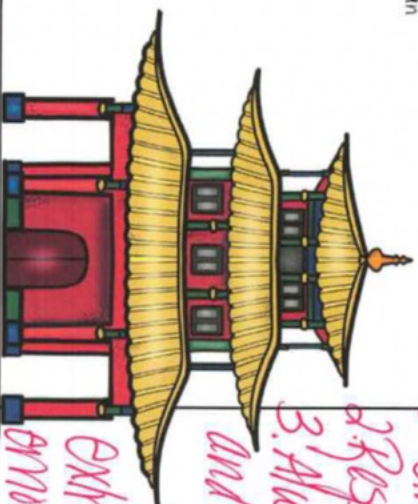
Color the area where Confucianism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Confucian next to the area.

Family and behaviors

What do Confucians value?

Summarize the main beliefs of Confucianism.

1. Always be considerate of others.
2. Respect your ancestors.
3. Always be in balance and harmony.
4. Avoid extreme emotion and behavior.
5. Stay in touch w/ nature



Why did Confucianism begin?



Confucius was concerned that many Chinese traditions and values are being lost.



Share one interesting fact about Confucianism.



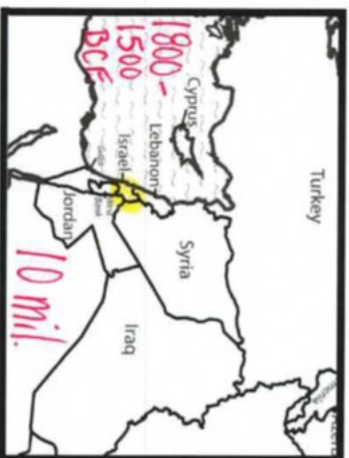
ANSWERS Kelly

How is Confucianism represented in art? Many show Confucius in prayer. Allegorical paintings are also used.



# Judaism

Key



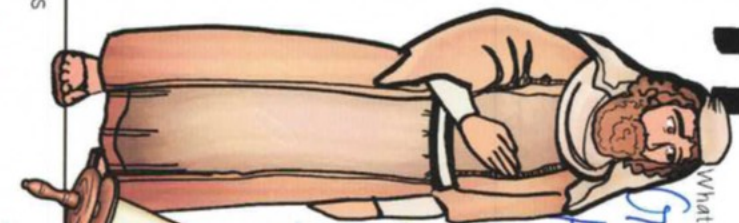
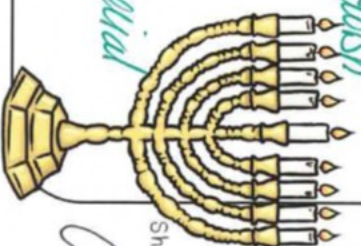
Color the area where Judaism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Jewish next to the area.



How is Judaism represented in art?  
Star of David

What are important Jewish holidays and how are they celebrated?

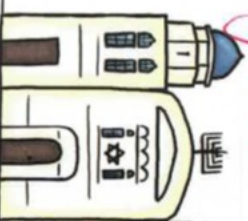
Rosh Hashanah - beginning of Jewish New Year, celebrated on the year  
Yom Kippur - day of Atonement  
Hanukkah - Festival of lights, eat special food + light menorahs



What is the story of Abraham?  
God spoke to Abraham and told him to lead his chosen people to the holy land.

Summarize the main beliefs of Judaism.

1. Created the idea of monotheism - the belief in 1 god.
2. They are God's chosen people.
3. People who do good will be rewarded.
4. The Torah is their holy book.

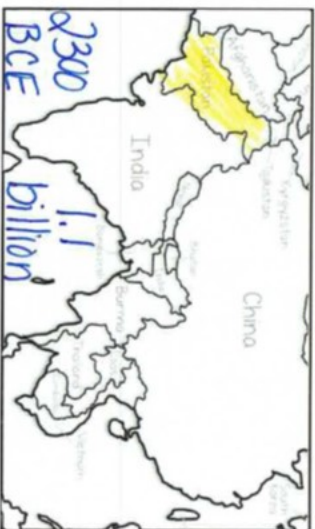


Share one interesting fact about Judaism

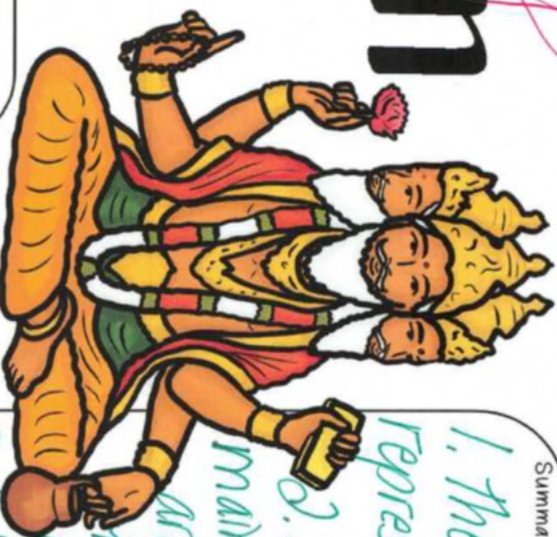
Answers vary



# Hinduism



Color the area where Hinduism originated. Write the date and the number of people who are Hindus next to the area.



Summarize the main beliefs of Hinduism.

1. There is 1 truth represented by light.
2. Brahman is the main god but there are many other gods that are a part of him.

3. Vedas = holy book

4. Dharma is the good

5. Karma determines your life after reincarnation.

6. Good is to reunite w/ Brahman



Share one interesting fact about Hinduism.

Answers vary

Explain the caste system.



People are born into different castes based on their behaviors in their previous lives.



How is Hinduism represented in art?

Shows stories of the right and evil. Many gods flowers

What is Diwali?

Represents the defeat of evil.

It is celebrated over 5 days.





# Religions of the World

**Directions:** Check the statements that you think are true.

Key – True  
statements  
are in bold.

- ☐ The largest religion in the world is Christianity.
- ☐ The fastest growing religion in the world is Islam.
- ☐ In the Hindu religion, people believe in the rebirth of the soul.
- ☐ Christmas is an important holiday to the Jewish people.
- ☐ Meditation is practiced by many religions around the world.
- ☐ In Confucianism, people are required to give up all of their worldly possessions.
- ☐ Caring for the poor is important if you are a part of the Sikh religion.
- ☐ Reincarnation is believed by different religions.
- ☐ If you are a Buddhist, you believe suffering is caused by greed.
- ☐ Fasting is an important part of Islam.



# Image Key

Image Letter	Description	Religion
A	Illustration of colorful Hindu lord Ganesha on decorative background	Hinduism
B	Confucius in a fresco from a Western Han tomb in Dongping, Shandong.	Confucianism
C	Golden Buddha statues in Thailand.	Buddhism
D	Nasir Al-Mulk Mosque in Shiraz, Iran, also known as Pink Mosque	Islam
E	Art interior in Moroccan synagogue of Casablanca.	Judaism
F	The Golden Temple, Amritsar, India.	Sikhism
G	A copy of the Madonnina statue of the Virgin Mary atop the Milan Cathedral in Italy.	Christianity





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Click on a link below to explore more exciting lessons for







# About the Author

For more than 25 years, I have brought my love of Social Studies to teachers and students. My journey includes a variety of roles - classroom teacher, instructional coach, curriculum coordinator, university professor, and professional development trainer. Working with middle school students has been one of the highlights of my career.

After thirteen years in the classroom teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade history, I transitioned into the role of an instructional coach at a high school campus. This window into other teachers' classrooms motivated my inner calling to improve social studies instruction. I realized how important quality teachers are in changing the way students learn history.



My next step was to central office. I served a district of over 55,000 students as a Social Studies Coordinator. My goal of improving Social Studies instruction continued as I worked with over 600 K-12 Social Studies teachers to implement transformative Social Studies education.

In my current role, I provide professional development, consulting services and resources to Social Studies teachers. Research into best practices is embedded into all of my resources. I want every child to understand the importance of Social Studies in their life - and every teacher to have the tools to reach them.

You can reach me at

[www.SocialStudiesSuccess1@gmail.com](mailto:www.SocialStudiesSuccess1@gmail.com)

*Dawn*