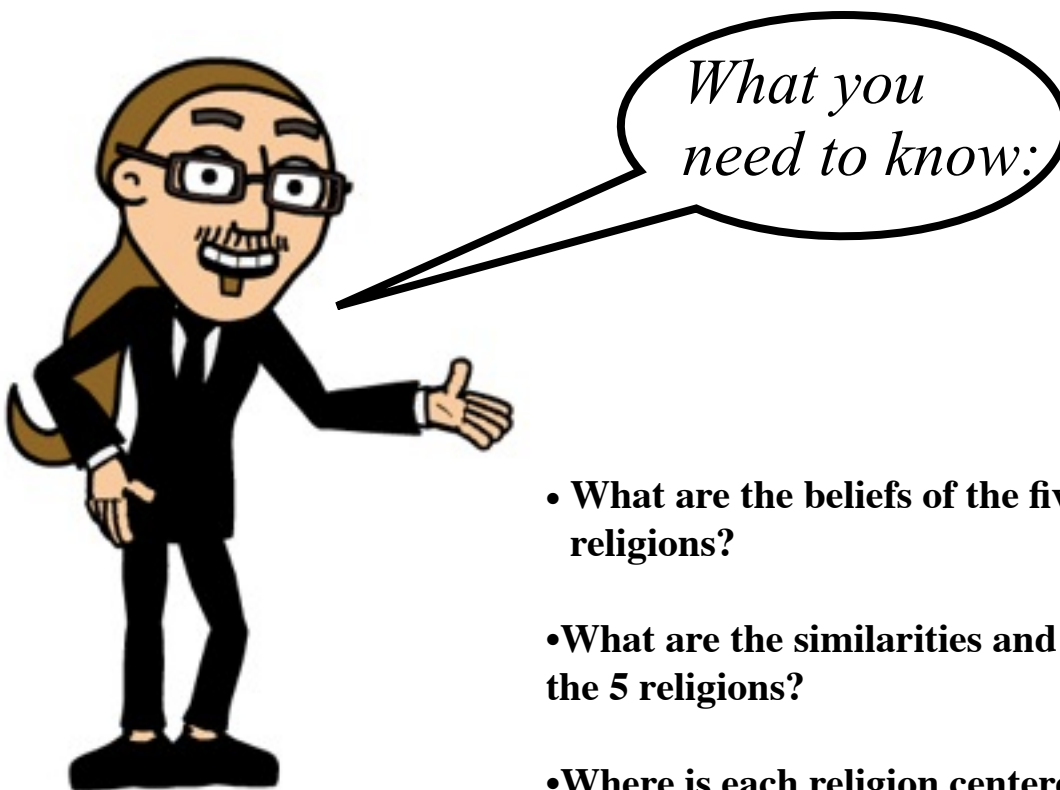


UNIT Six: Eastern Hemisphere Religions



- What are the beliefs of the five major world religions?
- What are the similarities and differences between the 5 religions?
- Where is each religion centered?
- Where are their members located?

Section one - Hinduism

Section two - Judaism

Section three- Buddhism

Section four- Christianity

Section five- Islam

Religion Chart

Fill out the chart as you complete the unit.

Use internet and

http://www.religionfacts.com/big_religion_chart.htm

to complete.

You may use this on your BIG RELIGION TEST

	Hinduism	Judaism	Buddhism	Christianity	Islam
Year founded					
Number of Members					
Holy book					
Year canonized					
Place of Origin					
Important People					
Holy leader					
Place of worship					
Creation Story					
Main Holidays					



Section one

Hinduism



When did and **where** did Hinduism begin?

What are the Vedas? What language are they written in?

What do the Hindu gods look like (the web for help)?

According to Hindus how was the world created?

What do the Hindus believe about Reincarnation?

Why is Karma important to Hindus?

USE THE WEB to find out more about the following Hindu gods:

- Brahma
- Shiva
- Vishnu
- Ganesha
- Krishna



answer online

HINDU RELIGION

Hindus believe in a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth governed by karma (the good and bad deeds a person performed in past lives). Many devas (gods) and devis (goddesses) are worshiped, with each person praying to the deity they find most useful. A farmer, for example, might pray to Shiva, lord of the beasts. These deities include Brahma (top left), Shiva (top right), Vishnu (center), Krishna (bottom left), and Rama (bottom right).

1 ARYANS INVADE

The Aryans came from the steppes (grassy plains) of central Asia. They invaded Persia and then pushed on to settle in the Indus Valley. Their religious texts, the Vedas, are the earliest basis of Hinduism, and the warlike gods they tell of reflect the Aryans' warrior culture.

2 WARRIOR TRIBES

The earliest period of Aryan settlement in India (1500–1000 BCE) is named after the Rig Veda, the holiest Vedic text. In this period, society was organized into small tribes called jana, each headed by a warrior chief, and Vedic civilization completely replaced the earlier culture of the Indus Valley.

3 HOLY RIVER

Hindus worshiped in temples, but also believed other places were sacred. The Ganges River is very important in the Hindu religion. Believers worship it as a goddess and bathe in it to cleanse themselves of sin. The Kumbh Mela festival, when millions go to bathe there, has its roots in Vedic legend.

4 SACRED WRITING

The Vedas are the earliest Hindu texts. Hindus believe they were dictated to scribes by the gods. For many generations, the Vedas were passed down through Hindu families as stories. The most ancient Veda, the Rig Veda, dates back to 1200 BCE and contains 1,028 hymns.



3 FARMING THE LAND

From 1000 to 500 BCE, the Vedic civilization spread across northern India to the fertile lands by the Ganges River.

The nomads turned to farming and the nature of their religion began to change. Priests came to dominate society and rituals were introduced that controlled all aspects of people's lives.

4 CLASS SYSTEM

By 1000 BCE, a rigid class system had formed, with four "varnas" (castes). Most important were the Brahmins (priests), followed by Kshatriyas (warriors and nobles), Vaishyas (farmers and merchants), and Shudras (servants). Outside the system were social outcasts called untouchables.



7 THE EPICS

As well as the sacred Vedas, moral tales are important to Hindus.

Written between 500 BCE and 100 BCE, the Mahabharata and the Ramayana are stories that praise the gods as central to human life, and remind worshippers that good ultimately triumphs over evil.

8 SANSKRIT

The language of the Hindu religion, Sanskrit, is one of the oldest languages still in use today. It dates back to around 1500 BCE, and the Vedas were written in an ancient form of the sacred script. Although Sanskrit is one of India's 23 official languages, it is no longer spoken.



HINDU INDIA

Hinduism is the world's oldest religion. It developed from about 1500 BCE by the Indus River in what is now Pakistan, when a group of nomadic warriors from central Asia settled in the Indus Valley. These warlike people called themselves *Aryans*, meaning "nobles." They brought with them a belief in many gods, ruled over by supreme god Indra, and are referred to as the Vedic civilization after their sacred literature, the *Vedas*.

Over the centuries their religion evolved into the Hindu faith.

Creation Story

http://www.innovationslearning.co.uk/subjects/re/information/creation/hindu_creation.htm

This is not the first world, nor is it the first universe. There have been and will be many more worlds and universes than there are drops of water in the holy river Ganges. The universes are made by Lord Brahma the Creator, maintained by Lord Vishnu the Preserver and destroyed by Lord Shiva. Since the universes must be destroyed before they can be recreated, Lord Shiva is called the Destroyer and Re-creator. These three gods are all forms of Supreme One and part of the Supreme One. The Supreme One is behind and beyond all.

After each old universe is destroyed nothing is left but a vast ocean. Floating on this ocean, resting on the great snake Ananta, is Lord Vishnu. Some say that a lotus flower springs from his navel and from this comes Lord Brahma. And it is from Lord Brahma that all creation comes.

How does Lord Brahma create? Some tell of how he grows lonely and splits himself in two to create male and female. Then he becomes one again and human beings are created. In the same way he creates all the other living things, from the great animals to the tiniest insects. Others say that everything comes from different parts of Lord Brahma's body. All the different animals and all the people come from his mouth, arms, thighs and feet. Everything comes from one - Lord Brahma, who is part of the Supreme One - so everything is part of the Supreme One. For this universe, this world and this Lord Brahma, like all those before and all those to come, will be destroyed by Lord Shiva.

How long is the life of a universe? Its length is beyond imagination. One day to Lord Brahma is longer than four thousand million of the years that we know. Every night when Lord Brahma sleeps the world is destroyed. Every morning

when he awakes it is created again. When the Lord Brahma of this universe has lived a lifetime of such days the universe is completely destroyed by Lord Shiva.

Everything disappears into the Supreme One. For an unimaginable period of time chaos and water alone exist. Then once again Lord Vishnu appears, floating on the vast ocean. From Lord Vishnu comes forth Lord Brahma of the new universe and the cycle continues for ever.

History

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/india/religion/hinduism.htm>

The word Hindu comes from the river Indus, and it just means the people who live near the [Indus river](#) (actually in modern Pakistan).

The [Harappa people](#) who lived near that river about 2500 [BC](#) carved images of several different gods on their [clay seals](#). We can't read Harappan [writing](#), so we don't know what the Harappan people called their gods. But some of these gods look a lot like the later Hindu gods [Shiva](#) and [Vishnu](#), so this may be the earliest part of Hinduism.

About 1500 BC, when the Indo-Europeans invaded India, they brought with them their [Indo-European](#) sky gods. As the two cultures mixed, and people in India began speaking Hindi, an Indo-European language, it seems that their gods mixed too. So Hinduism got some new gods, and also some new ideas.

The first written evidence of Hinduism that we can read is the [Rig Veda](#), a long poem in [Sanskrit](#) probably composed about 1000 BC. People sang or recited the Rig Veda for hundreds of years before it was written down around 300 BC. The

Rig Veda is a bunch of hymns . (songs for the gods), magic spells, and instructions for what to say when you are [sacrificing animals](#).

The Rig Veda mentions many different gods ([polytheism](#)). Most of the gods are male, and many of them are sky gods or weather gods like a god of rain, [Indra](#), or like [Varuna](#), the god of the sea. People sacrificed animals to their gods. The Rig Veda also tells us that people sometimes got in touch gods talking to them. (We don't know now what soma was made of). Both Soma and the fire of sacrifice (Agni) were thought of as gods themselves, too.

About 600 BC, the idea of reincarnation became more and more common among Hindus. Most people began to think that after you died you would be reborn into another body. If you had been good, and lived in accordance with [dharma](#), you would get a good body, like a princess. If you had been bad, you would come back as a cockroach or a rat.

Gradually people began to hate the idea that you had to be endlessly reborn in different forms. They wanted to get free of the wheel of rebirth, and just be left alone. People began to think that sacrificing animals was a burden on your [karma](#), or fate, that prevented you from getting free of reincarnation. So animal sacrifice became less popular.

Around 300 BC, people began to worship new gods, who didn't need animal sacrifices. These new gods were [Vishnu](#) and [Shiva](#). Generally people gave Vishnu and Shiva flowers, incense, prayers, fruit, or music, but they didn't kill animals for

them. They began to worship Vishnu and Shiva more, and paid less attention to their old gods [Indra](#) and [Varuna](#) and the others. One example where they're sacrificing fruit is the story of [how Ganesh cursed the moon](#).

Much later, between 400 and 650 [AD](#), at the end of the [Gupta](#) period, another new god came into Hinduism. This new god was a Mother Goddess. [Cows](#) were sacred to this Mother Goddess, and so Hindus gradually stopped eating beef. Like [Vishnu](#) and [Shiva](#), the Mother Goddess had many incarnations and many names. Parvati, Uma, and Annapurna were beautiful goddesses, who brought blessings to people. But other incarnations were called Kali, Chandi, Durga or Chamunda, and these goddesses were terrible giants with black skin, huge red tongues that stick out, and fierce tusks. These had many arms and each arm held a weapon, and they wore necklaces of skulls or human heads.

Holy Books

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/hinduism.htm>

The Vedas are the oldest religious texts in Hinduism. The word Veda means knowledge. It is believed that the Vedas were orally revealed by Brahma to certain sages, who heard them and passed them down in an oral tradition. They were not written down; in fact this was prohibited. Because of this earliest oral tradition continuing even now when the Vedas are available in the written form, the Vedas are still known to be Sruti or shruti - 'that which is heard'.

The Vedas are mainly comprised of hymns or mantras written in the Sanskrit language. They cover various subjects, from nature to everyday life and behavior, and form the basis of all other religious writings. The books are so special that they are often kept in glass cases.

The four Vedas are:

- Rg-Veda (Rigveda) - The oldest and holiest Veda.
- Yajur-Veda
- Sama-Veda
- Atharva-Veda

Each Veda is divided into four sections:

- The Samhitas - The oldest portion - Contains the mantras and hymns
The Brahmanas - The ritualistic teachings - They are written in prose and explain the hymns.
The Aranyakas - The meditational section
- The Upanishads - The mystic and philosophical. They consider the nature of the individual soul (Atman) and the universal soul (Brahman.) One of the Upanishads contains the earliest reference to the reincarnation of the soul in different bodies (transmigration) of the soul.

Basic Beliefs

<http://www.arcworld.org/faiths.asp?pageID=42>

The eternal soul

Hindus believe in an eternal spiritual truth, called Brahman, from whom all existence comes. The purpose of life is to understand this truth and to understand one's eternal identity as the atma, or soul. The soul passes through many kinds of life, but only human life offers the chance of learning this truth. Therefore Hindus

believe it is important to use the opportunity a human birth to understand who oneself and God.

Reincarnation

Reincarnation is the belief that the soul is eternal and lives many lifetimes, in one body after another. The soul is sometimes born in a human body, sometimes in an animal body and sometimes in a plant body, such as that of a tree. All forms of life contain a soul, and all souls have the chance to experience life in different forms. The cycle of rebirth is called samsara, and under the influence of karma, the soul moves upwards and downwards on the wheel of rebirth. Hinduism teaches that the ultimate solution to life's basic problems is to be released from karma and gain freedom from this cycle of rebirth.

Karma

Karma is the Sanskrit word for action. Actions are important because they bring reactions. Hindus believe every experience, pleasant or unpleasant, is linked to past actions, in this lifetime or in some previous lifetime. This does not rule out free choice, because by practicing yoga, or spiritual discipline, one can change one's actions and so change one's future. Belief in karma teaches people to accept responsibility for their behavior, and learn from their mistakes.



Section two **Judaism**



When did and **where** did Judaism begin?

According to the story what different groups did the Jews fight with?

According to the Jews how was the earth made? Is this story familiar to you?

How is this similar to Hindu creation story? How is it different?

Who wrote the “Old Testament”?

What is the "Oral Torah,”? When was it written down?

What are some of the beliefs in Judaism?

What do they have in common with each other?

USE THE WEB to find out more about the following Jewish traditions:

- *keeping kosher*
- *observing yom kippur*



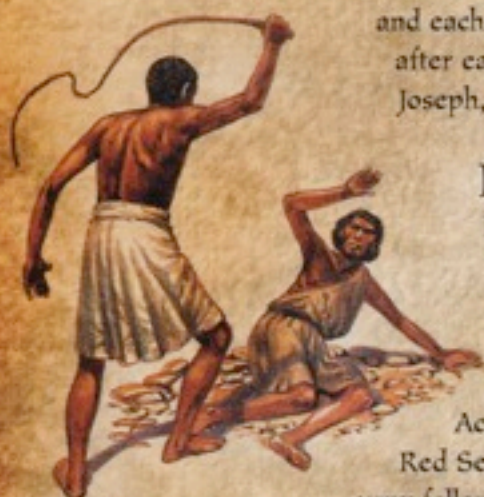
answer online

The story of the Jews

In Mesopotamia, in about 1900 BCE, a man named Abraham sowed the seeds of the Jewish faith when he began a religion that followed just one god.

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

In the Hebrew Bible, or Old Testament, it is said that God promised Abraham that all the nations of the world would be blessed through his children. So Abraham took his followers, known as the Israelites, from Mesopotamia to found a new civilization in Canaan, the lush area between the Jordan River and Mediterranean Sea. Abraham had 12 great-grandsons and each formed his own tribe. These were the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and each one ruled over a separate territory. The tribes were named after each great-grandson: Asher, Benjamin, Dan, Gad, Issachar, Joseph, Judah, Levi, Naphtali, Reuben, Simon, and Zebulun.



The Israelites were cruelly treated by the Egyptian slave masters

Forced to flee

Drought forced the Israelites to leave Canaan for Egypt. The Egyptians were suspicious of this new religious group, and the Israelites were condemned to suffer years of slavery.

Then, in 1200 BCE, an Israelite leader named Moses led his people back to Canaan, known as the "Promised Land."

According to the Bible, on the way, he raised his staff and the Red Sea parted, allowing the Israelites to cross. When the Egyptian army followed, Moses raised his staff again, and the sea crashed down, drowning them. After a 200-year struggle, the Twelve Tribes were reunited under Saul, the first Israelite king, and then David, a young Judean warrior.

After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea safely, the sea crashed down on the Egyptian army



The First Temple

It was David's son, Solomon, who captured Jerusalem and reunited the Hebrew nation in 990 BCE. There, he built the magnificent First Temple, the first place of worship for the Hebrew God. The Twelve Tribes of Israel split—the two southern tribes formed Judah and 10 northern tribes formed Israel. The people of the tribe of Judah became known as the Jews.

Jewish exile

By 722 BCE, the Assyrian army from the north of Mesopotamia had conquered the northern kingdom of Israel. Then, in 586 BCE, the Babylonians destroyed the First Temple and killed the Jewish leadership. The

King Solomon ordered the construction of a temple in Jerusalem

surviving Jews were forced into exile in Babylon, starting what is known as the "diaspora"—the scattering of Jewish communities outside of the Promised Land. When the Persians conquered Babylon in 539 BCE, some Jews returned to Jerusalem, while others remained in exile.

The Second Temple

The King of Syria outlawed Judaism in 168 BCE. For years, a revolutionary Jewish movement called the Maccabees staged a rebellion, eventually rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. Today, their 164 BCE revolt is celebrated as the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. The Maccabees soon founded the Hasmonean Dynasty, where they ruled as high priests and kings. In 37 BCE, the Romans captured Jerusalem and installed Herod as king. By 20 BCE, Herod had built Jerusalem's Second Temple, using 1,000 priests as laborers. In 6 BCE Judea became a Roman province.

The Assyrian army attacked the cities of Judah

The Romans took over the city of Jerusalem in 37 BCE



Origin Story

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/genesis/chapter1-cv.htm>

In the beginning there was no earth or sky or sea or animals. And then God spoke in the darkness: “Let there be light!” And right away there was light, scattering the darkness and showing the infinite space. “That’s good!” said God. “From now on, when it’s dark it will be ‘night’ and when it’s light, it will be ‘day’.”

The evening came and the night passed and then the light returned. That was the first day. On the second day, God made the earth and over it He carefully hung a vast blue sky. He stood back and admired His creation. “That’s good too!” said God and the second day was over.

The next morning God looked around and thought, “the earth needs to be a bit more organized.” So, He put all the water in one place and all the dry land in another. When He had finished that, God made plants to cover the land. Dandelions and daffodils appeared. All sorts of trees and grasses began to grow. “It’s looking great”, said God and that was the end of the third day.

On the fourth day, God looked around and though, “the daylight still needs a bit more work and the night is just too dark.” So, He made the sun to light the sky during the day and the moon and stars to add a bit of sparkle to the night. He hung them in the sky and stepped back to look at his work. “This is coming along very well,” said God.

The next day, God turned his attention to the water he had collected in the oceans. “I want these waters teeming with life!” As soon as He said it, it was so. In no time, there were millions of small fish darting through the shallow water and huge fish swimming in the ocean. God made birds, too. He sent them soaring through the air. “Ahh, that IS good!,” said God. The dusk fell over the water and the sky grew dark and that was the end of the fifth day.

On the sixth day, God added creatures to the land. He made lions and tigers and bears. He made rabbits and sheep and cows. He added everything from ants to zebras to the land. But He still felt something was missing. So God added Mankind to enjoy and take care of all that He had created. God looked around and was happy with all He had made. After six days, the whole universe was completed. On the seventh day God had a nice long rest and enjoyed looking at all He had made

History

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/oldtestament/summary.html>

The Old Testament is a collection of thirty-nine books about the history and religion of the people of Israel. The authors of these books are unknown, and each book possesses a unique tone, style, and message. Individually, they include stories, laws, and sayings that are intended to function as models of religious and ethical conduct. Together—through hundreds of characters and detailed events—they represent a unified narrative about God and his attempt to relate to humankind by relating to a specific group of people.

Holy Books

<http://www.jewfaq.org/torah.htm>

To Jews, there is no "Old Testament." The books that Christians call the New Testament are not part of Jewish scripture. The so-called Old Testament is known to us as Written Torah or the Tanakh.

This is a list of the books of Written Torah, in the order in which they appear in Jewish translations. The Hebrew names of the first five books are derived from the first few words of the book. The text of each book is more or less the same in Jewish translations as what you see in Christian bibles, although there are some occasional, slight differences in the numbering of verses and there are some significant differences in the translations.

- Bereishith (In the beginning...) (Genesis)
- Shemoth (The names...) (Exodus)
- Vayiqra (And He called...) (Leviticus)
- Bamidbar (In the wilderness...) (Numbers)
- Devarim (The words...) (Deuteronomy)

In addition to the written scriptures we have an "Oral Torah," a tradition explaining what the above scriptures mean and how to interpret them and apply the Laws. Orthodox Jews believe [G-d](#) taught the Oral Torah to [Moses](#), and he taught it to others, down to the present day. This tradition was maintained only in oral form until about the 2d century [C.E.](#), when the oral law was compiled and written down in a document called the Mishnah.

Over the next few centuries, additional commentaries elaborating on the Mishnah were written down in Jerusalem and Babylon. These additional

commentaries are known as the Gemara. The Gemara and the Mishnah together are known as the Talmud. This was completed in the 5th century [C.E.](#)

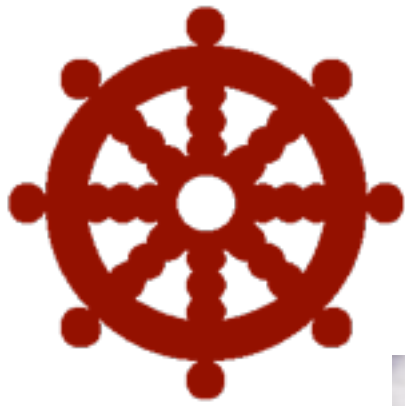
Basic Beliefs

<http://www.jewfaq.org/beliefs.htm>

Judaism does not have any formal mandatory beliefs. The most accepted summary of Jewish beliefs are Rambam's 13 principles of faith and Even these basic principles have been debated. Judaism focuses on the relationships between the Creator, mankind, and the land of Israel.

Rambam's 13 principles:

1. [G-d](#) exists
2. G-d is one and unique
3. G-d is incorporeal
4. G-d is eternal
5. [Prayer](#) is to be directed to G-d alone and to no other
6. The words of the [prophets](#) are true
7. [Moses'](#) prophecies are true, and Moses was the greatest of the prophets
8. The [Written Torah](#) (first 5 books of the Bible) and [Oral Torah](#) (teachings now contained in the [Talmud](#) and other writings) were given to Moses
9. There will be no other Torah
10. G-d knows the thoughts and deeds of men
11. G-d will reward the good and punish the wicked
12. The [Messiah](#) will come
13. The [dead](#) will be [resurrected](#)



Section three **Buddhism**



When did and **where** did Buddhism begin?

How is Buddhism different than Hinduism and Judaism?

What the Buddha's name? What were his goals?

How did Buddhism spread?

What were Buddha's followers like?

What are the four noble truths?

What is the eighth fold path the 5 precepts? Do you think they would be hard to follow? Why or why not?

USE THE WEB to find out more about the following Buddhists leaders:

- *Who is the Dalai Lama?*
- *What is life like for a Buddhist monk?*



answer online

Buddhism

Buddhism is one of the main belief systems in India and many eastern countries. It began with the life and teachings of Buddha, who lived in India sometime between 600 and 400 BCE. Buddhism is a religion, but it does not teach belief in a god. Instead, it teaches followers how to navigate a path through life so their soul can reach nirvana (perfect peace).

Buddha's life

Siddhartha Gautama was born to a wealthy family near the Ganges River in India, but gave up his comfortable life after witnessing hardship in the world. He wanted to find out how to escape the suffering caused by disease and death. After a period of meditation (focused thought) he received enlightenment and became a Buddha, or "awakened one."

Before Buddhism

In south Asia around 600 BCE, the main religion was Hinduism, which involved many different gods and goddesses, rituals, and sacrifices. Some people wanted a more personal and less elaborate approach. Buddhism arose in part as a response to these ideas, such as reincarnation, are similar to those found in Hindu holy texts.

The spread of Buddhism
In the 3rd century BCE, the Indian emperor Ashoka the Great encouraged the foundation of Buddhist monasteries and Buddhism began to spread throughout central Asia and China. Today, branches of the religion in different areas of the world have different beliefs.





Buddhist teaching

After he achieved enlightenment, Buddha began to teach others how they might do the same. He set out the Four Noble Truths, which recognize the suffering in the world, and an Eightfold Path, often represented by a wheel, by which people should live their lives in order to escape suffering.

Realms and reincarnation

Reincarnation is the idea that the soul moves from one being to another after death. There are six realms of being that a soul can inhabit—hell beings, ghosts, animals, humans, demigods, and gods—and a being's actions determine which realm it is born into in the next life. Gods and demigods have the most comfortable lives, but the human realm is considered the most fortunate because its inhabitants can break out of the cycle of reincarnation by reaching enlightenment and nirvana.

Early followers

After Buddha's death, his disciples gathered together to agree on the main points of his teaching. They spread his teachings and set up monasteries and temples. In the century following his death, Buddha's ideas spread throughout northern India.

Origin Story

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/buddhism/index.shtml>

Buddhism does not have “creation” story explaining how the world came to be. The closest thing they is the origin of the Buddha himself. Buddha means 'enlightened'. Siddhattha Gotama, later to become the Buddha, lived in the 5th century BC and was a prince born into a rich family. He had an easy life, living in what is now Nepal. However, when he saw the suffering of old age, sickness and death, he decided to renounce his life in the palace and live among the holy men of the day in search of truth and enlightenment. His search took him six years, but he became enlightened whilst meditating under a Bodhi tree. Following this he dedicated his life to spreading the teaching.

History

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/india/religion/buddhism.htm>

In the 500's BC, during the later part of the Aryan period in India, the idea of reincarnation became very strong among Hindus. Most people believed that after you died, you would be reborn in another form, and then reborn again, and again, forever. But then people started to not like this idea. They didn't want reincarnation to just go on and on forever. Wasn't there any way to stop this; to get off the wheel of reincarnation and just be?

A young Indian prince named Siddhartha Gautama Buddha had an idea. He thought that you could get off the wheel of reincarnation if you were good and pure enough. He refused to be a prince anymore, and tried to spend his life being good and pure so he could get off the wheel. Gautama Buddha had many followers during his lifetime, and after he died he had even more. Most of Buddha's

followers tried to be good while still living their normal lives - working in the fields or as soldiers, getting married, taking care of their parents and their children. But some of his followers adopted a [Jain](#) idea of getting away from the world so they could work full-time on being good and pure. These people were called [monks](#) or [nuns](#).

In the 300's BC, one of the great [Mauryan kings](#), Asoka, became a Buddhist, which helped Buddhism to succeed. Asoka convinced many other Indian people to become Buddhists.

At first, most Buddhists were in India. But by 500 AD Buddhism spread to [China](#) and other parts of East Asia. By the 600's [AD](#) most of the Buddhists in India had gone back to being Hindus again. They still remembered Buddha, but as one of many Hindu gods.

In China, on the other hand, Buddhism got stronger and stronger. Soon most of the Buddhists were in China and not India. In China, as in India, most Buddhist people continued to lead more or less ordinary lives, but some Buddhist men and women left their jobs and their families in order to live in Buddhist monasteries as [monks](#) or [nuns](#).

Holy Book

The sacred book of Buddhism is called the Tripitaka (called Tipitaka in Pali). It is also called the Pali Canon, after the language in which it was first written.

It is written in an ancient Indian language called Pali which is very close to the language that the Buddha himself spoke. The Tripitaka is a very large book. The English translation of it takes up nearly forty volumes.

Buddhism is based on Buddha's teachings. At first these were passed down by word of mouth and later were compiled into two sets of scripture. One set by Council of Monks of the Theravada school (the Tripitaka) the other by the Mahayana school (the Sutras). Both were similar. Both Theravada and Mahayana Buddhists generally accept the Tripitaka (called Tipitaka in Pali) as the Buddhist sacred writings. The three section of the Tripitaka (three baskets of Wisdom) are

1. Vinaya Pitaka (the Discipline Basket) - A rule book for monks and nuns
There are 227 rules for monks, and more for nuns.
2. Sutta Pitaka (the Teaching Basket)- The actual experiences of Buddha
3. Abhidhamma Pitaka (the Higher Doctrine Basket)- An explanation on the teaching of Buddha. Most of these are called Sutras

Parts of the Tripitaka such as the Dhamma-pada and the Sutta-Nipata are among the most expressive religious books in the world. Some of Buddha's parables are very similar to those used by Jesus.

Basic Beliefs

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/Homework/religion/buddhism.htm>

The Four Noble Truths

1. Dukkha: *Suffering exists:*

The first truth is that life is suffering i.e. life includes pain, getting old, disease, and ultimately death. We also endure psychological suffering like loneliness, frustration, boredom, fear, embarrassment, disappointment and anger.

2. Samudaya: *There is a cause for suffering.*

The second truth is that suffering is caused by craving and the needing to control things. It can take many forms: the desire for fame; the desire to avoid unpleasant sensations, like fear, anger or jealousy.

3. Nirodha: *There is an end to suffering.*

The third truth is that suffering can be overcome and happiness can be attained; that true happiness and contentment are possible. If let go of our craving and learn to live each day at a time (not dwelling in the past or the imagined future) then we can become happy and free. We then have more time and energy to help others. This is Nirvana.

4. Magga: *In order to end suffering, you must follow the Eightfold Path.*

The fourth truth is that the Noble 8-fold Path is the path which leads to the end of suffering.

The Noble Eight-Fold Path

The Noble Eight-fold Path focuses the mind on being fully aware of our thoughts and actions, and developing wisdom by understanding the Four Noble Truths. It is the way Buddhists should live their lives. The Buddha said that people should avoid extremes. They should not have or do too much, but neither should they have or do too little. The 'Middle Way' is the best. The path to Enlightenment (nirvana) is through the practice and development of wisdom, morality and meditation.

Eightfold Path

Wisdom (*panna*)

- 1.Right View (understanding)
- 2.Right Thought

Morality (*sila*)

- 3.Right Speech
- 4.Right Action
- 5.Right Livelihood

Meditation (*samadhi*)

- 6.Right Effort
- 7.Right Mindfulness
- 8.Right Contemplation (concentration)

5 Precepts (morals) These are rules to live by. The main five are:

1. Do not take the life of anything living. (Do not kill)
2. Do not take anything not freely given. (Do not steal)
3. Abstain from sexual misconduct and sensual overindulgence.
4. Refrain from untrue speech, (Do not lie)
5. Do not consume alcohol or other drugs. The main concern here is that intoxicants cloud the mind.

Section four Christianity



When did and **where** did Christianity begin?

How did Jesus teach people?

Why was Jesus executed?

How did Christianity spread after his death?

How did Rome help spread the religion?

What are some of the different Christian groups that religion split into?

Summarize the writing of the New testament after 40 AD/CE.

USE THE WEB to find out more about the following ways Christianity spread:

- *Crusades*
- *Missionaries*

click

answer online

Origin Story

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/genesis/chapter1-cv.htm>

Same as Judaism

History

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/religion/christianity/history.html>

The history of Christianity goes back into Jewish ancestry and revolves around the 300 prophecies in the Old Testament which reveals the upcoming of a Jewish Messiah who would be a Savior of humanity. Around 2000 years ago this prophecy was fulfilled by the birth of Jesus from the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem in the land of Israel. He brought a hope of delight to the poor and rejected ones. The New Testament book of [Luke \(1:26-38\)](#) and [Matthew \(1:18-25\)](#) explains the virgin birth of Jesus. The birth of Jesus Christ also claimed a revolution and the revival of the teachings of Judaism. In the beginning Christianity was considered as a sect of Judaism. As Jesus said, "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*" (*Matthew 5:17*). But later on, the teachings of Jesus established the foundation of Christianity. The concept of salvation and eternal peace blessed the gloomy hearts.

Just as the message of Jesus started to spread among the people, he was betrayed by one of his disciples Judas Iscariot for 30 pieces of silver. He was held responsible for treason and blasphemy. He was viciously beaten up and crucified at Golgotha before suffering on the cross for about 6 hours.

In spite of the ban on Christianity in Rome during the second century, it kept on growing. In third century, the Emperor Constantine stopped the harassment and encouraged the growth of Christianity. The differences between the Greek East and

Latin West churches began to grow with time on the issues of use of icons, nature of Holy Spirit and day of Easter celebration. As time progressed, Christianity divided into three major branches. The [Roman Catholic](#) branch of Christianity is the successor of the church established in Rome soon after Christ's death. It traces its spiritual history to the early disciples of Jesus. The [Pope](#), or spiritual leader, traces his office's lineage back to St. Peter, the first Pope, one of Jesus' disciples. Roman Catholicism was originally predominately practiced in Ireland, Poland, France and Spain.

During the fourth century, the Roman Catholic church split and the [Eastern Orthodox](#) branch was formed. The split was primarily a political one due to the division of the Roman Empire into western and eastern components. The two churches became officially separate in 1054. Orthodox churches are largely national, each associated with a particular country. Orthodoxy is common in Russia, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, the Ukraine, and Armenia.

The [Protestant](#) branch split from Roman Catholicism during the [Reformation](#), a sixteenth and seventeenth century series of church reforms in doctrine and practice. This movement challenged the authority of the Pope, and became popular in Scandinavia, England, and the Netherlands. Protestantism eventually divided into many denominations which arose in response to disputes over doctrine, theology, or religious practice. Some of the large denominations today are Lutherans, Methodists and Baptists.

Holy Book

<http://www.allaboutthejourney.org/history-of-the-bible.htm>

The Christian Bible is an ancient collection of writings, comprised of 66 separate books, written over approximately 1,600 years, by at least 40 distinct authors. The Old Testament contains 39 books written from approximately 1500 to 400 BC, and the New Testament contains 27 books written from approximately 40 to 90 AD. The Jewish Bible (Tanakh) is the same as the Christian Old Testament, except for its book arrangement. The original Old Testament was written mainly in Hebrew, with some Aramaic, while the original New Testament was written in common Greek.

Starting in about 40 AD, and continuing to about 90 AD, the eye-witnesses to the life of Jesus, including Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude, wrote the Gospels, letters and books that became the Bible's New Testament. These authors quote from 31 books of the Old Testament, and widely circulate their material so that by about 150 AD, early Christians were referring to the entire set of writings as the "New Covenant." During the 200s AD, the original writings were translated from Greek into Latin, Coptic (Egypt) and Syriac (Syria), and widely disseminated as "inspired scripture" throughout the Roman Empire (and beyond). ⁵ In 397 AD, in an effort to protect the scriptures from various heresies and offshoot religious movements, the current 27 books of the New Testament were formally and finally confirmed and "canonized" in the Synod of Carthage.

Basic Beliefs

Old testament Bible: Exodus 20:3-18 Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain
4. Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy
5. Honour thy father and thy mother
6. Thou shalt not kill
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour
10. Thou shalt not covet any thing that is thy neighbour's

New testament Bible: John 13:34-35

1. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
2. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16



Section five **Islam**



When did and **where** did Islam begin?

According to Muslims how did Muhammad become a prophet?

What is the difference between Sunni and Shia Muslims?

How is the creation story in Islam similar to the that of Judaism and Christianity?

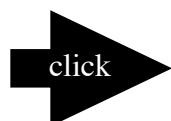
How do Muslims feel about Moses and Jesus?

How is the Qur'an similar to the Bible?

What are the 5 things that every Muslim must do? (put them in your own words)

USE THE WEB to find out more about the following Muslim practices:

- *Hajj to Mecca*
- *Ramadan*



answer online

Origin Story

http://muslim-canada.org/islam_christianity.html#creation

Islam	Judiasm & Christianity
<p>Qur'an 35:13 He merges Night into Day, and he merges Day into Night, and he has subjected the sun and the moon (to his Law): each one runs its course for a term appointed. Such is Allah your Lord: to Him belongs all Dominion. And those whom ye invoke besides Him have not the least power.</p>	<p>Genesis 1:14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;</p>
<p>Qur'an 13:2 Allah is He Who raised the heavens without any pillars that ye can see is firmly established on the throne (of authority). He has subjected the sun and the moon (to his Law)! Each one runs (its course) for a term appointed. He doth regulate all affairs, explaining the signs in detail, that ye may believe with certainty in the meeting with your Lord.</p>	<p>Genesis 1:1,2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters</p>
<p>Qur'an 13:3,4 And it is He who spread out the earth, and set thereon mountains standing firm and (flowing) rivers: and fruit of every kind He made in pairs, two and two: He draweth the night as a veil o'er the Day. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who consider! And in the earth are tracts (diverse though) neighbouring, and gardens of vines and fields sown with corn, and palm trees - growing out of single roots or otherwise: watered with the same water, yet some of them We make more excellent than others to eat. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who understand!</p>	<p>Qur'an 13:3,4 And it is He who spread out the earth, and set thereon mountains standing firm and (flowing) rivers: and fruit of every kind He made in pairs, two and two: He draweth the night as a veil o'er the Day. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who consider! And in the earth are tracts (diverse though) neighbouring, and gardens of vines and fields sown with corn, and palm trees - growing out of single roots or otherwise: watered with the same water, yet some of them We make more excellent than others to eat. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who understand!</p>
<p>Qur'an 50:38 We created the heavens and the earth and all between them in Six Days, nor did any sense of weariness touch Us.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.</p>
<p>Qur'an 15:28,29 Behold! thy Lord said to the angels: "I am about to create man from sounding clay from mud molded into shape; when I have fashioned him (in due proportion) and breathed into him of My spirit fall ye down in obeisance unto him.</p>	<p>Genesis 2:7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.</p>

History

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/islam/religion/>

The religious faith of Islam, as it was practiced between about 650 and 1500 [AD](#), was closely related to [Judaism](#) and [Christianity](#). Like Jews and Christians, Muslims believed that there was only one God, whom they called 'Allah'. Muslims believed that [Moses](#) and [Jesus](#) had both existed, and that they were important holy men, and that [Mohammed](#) was another in the same line, also holy. Many of the stories in the [Koran](#) are the same as the stories in the Judeo-Christian Bible. After the [Islamic Empire](#) was founded, many Muslims lived in the old [Sassanian Empire](#), and a lot of old [Zoroastrian](#) beliefs also became common among Muslims.

Muslims believed that if you did things which pleased Allah, you would have a good life on earth, and also a good life after you died. There were five main things Allah liked (the five pillars of Islam):

- Allah wanted you to have no other gods but Allah.
- Allah liked you to pray to him five times a day, facing toward his most holy place at [Mecca](#), in the Arabian peninsula.
- Allah liked you to give charity to the poor.
- Allah liked you to make a [trip to Mecca](#) sometime in your lifetime (the Hajj).
- Allah liked you to fast (not eat during the daytime) during Ramadan, the holy month.

Also, Allah totally forbade men or women to eat [pork](#), or drink [alcohol](#), or to make [pictures of people](#). But the most important thing was that a good Muslim should worship only Allah, and no other gods. "There is no god but God," the Muslims said, "and [Mohammed](#) is His prophet."

Like [Christianity](#), and [medieval Judaism](#), but unlike ancient [Zoroastrianism](#) or [Judaism](#), Islam generally did not have [animal sacrifices](#), and relied on prayer. The only exception was the Eid al-Adha, the festival at the end of the Haj or trip to Mecca, when people sacrificed a [sheep](#).

By 650 [AD](#), Islam had already divided into two main kinds - most Muslims were Sunnis, but there were also a lot who were [Shiites](#). The Shiites believed that their religious leaders were going to come save them like the Messiah. Another important part of early Islam was [Sufism](#), which was a belief in a direct relationship between people and God shared by many Sunnis and Shiites.

Holy Book

The Koran is the holy book of the religion of [Islam](#), as the Bible is for [Christians](#) and the Torah is for [Jews](#). It was written in [Arabic](#), a little bit after the death of [Mohammed](#) in 632 [AD](#). Indeed, all three of these books tell a lot of the same stories, though the Koran tells the stories in somewhat different words. For Islamic believers, memorizing many verses from the Koran is a way of honoring God, or Allah. According to believers, the Koran is the words of God, passed by the angel Gabriel to the Prophet Mohammed, written down so they will not be forgotten.

Like the Torah and the Bible, the Koran told believers how to be good. The Koran says that people should not drink [wine](#) or [beer](#), for instance. Like the Torah, the Koran said that people should not eat meat from [pigs](#). Also, the Koran gave many rights to women that women had not had before. Women [inherited](#) money from their parents, and kept control of their own money when they were married, and they could get a divorce if their husband beat them.

Basic Beliefs

These are five duties that every Muslim is obliged to perform. The five pillars of Islam help Muslims put their faith into action.

- Shahadah: declaration of faith
"I bear witness that there is no god, but God; I bear witness that Muhammad is the prophet of God." By reciting this, one enters Islamic faith.
- Salah: prayer
Muslims are required to pray five times a day, washing themselves before prayer and facing in the direction of Mecca while praying.
- Zakat: giving a fixed proportion to charity
Muslims are required to give away a percentage of their earnings to those less fortunate, regardless of their religion.
- Saum: fasting during the month of [Ramadan](#)
Muslims fast for one lunar month each year, a period called Ramadan. During this time, Muslims reflect on their behaviour and strive to purify their thoughts.
- Hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca
If it is financially possible, Muslims are required to travel to Mecca once in their lifetime.



Prove you learned it!

BIG RELIGION TEST!

To help prepare for the BIG RELIGION TEST:

- **Fill out the Chart at the beginning of the Unit Pack**
- **Re-read the Unit**
- **Re-watch the videos**
- **Review lecture notes**
- **Make flash cards: <http://www.flashcardmachine.com>**
- **ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS!!!**

