

World Religions and Ethical Systems

Purpose: Students will examine the major religions of the world; specifically the beliefs, cultures, and customs of each of the world's six major religions.

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- Hinduism
- Judaism
- Confucianism
- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Islam

Objectives: Upon completion of this lesson/activity, students will be able to discuss the foundations, beliefs, origin, diffusion, and customs of the major World Religions.

Guiding Questions

- What are some characteristics of the five major world religions?
- What are the major similarities and the major differences between the five major world religions?
- How does religion affect the world today?
- What major conflicts have been influenced or caused by religion?
- How has religion played a role in your culture or life?
- Where are the followers of the five major religions concentrated?

Tasking: You will be placed in small groups of 2 or 3 and assigned a specific religion. Using the Library Media Center (LMC), you will research the foundations, beliefs, origin, diffusion, and customs of an assigned religion. Each group will develop a PowerPoint presentation to teach the rest of the class about their topic. Each group will also create 5 quiz questions based off their presentation. I will create a world religions quiz using your questions after all groups have presented.

Questions for Review: Once you are finished presenting your religion to the rest of the class, I will ask your group the following questions. Be prepared to fully respond with a well developed, thoughtful response.

- What is something you learned about a religion that you did not know before?
- What factors are responsible for the spread of this particular religions?
- How is this religion like and dislike other various religions?

Class presentations will begin on Monday, 7 January and run until completion.

PowerPoint Outline (Pages to Build)

- Title Slide (1 slide)
 - Graphic symbol or representation of the religion (i.e., Christianity = Cross)
 - Name of the religion
 - Students names
 - My name
- Part I: About the Religion (5 - 7 slides to include at least 5 visuals)

- **Basic Belief System/Values** (explain the beliefs or what is important to its followers)
- **Leadership** (Who runs the religion? Clergy?)
- **Places of Worship** or buildings of religious importance (examples of architecture)
- **Sacred Text/Holy Book** (the religious books or examples of its writing)
- **Religious Practices or Rituals**
- **Name of the Deity** (who do they worship?)
- Part II: History and Culture (5 - 8 slides to include at least 5 visuals)
 - **Origin/Founder** (When did the religion start and its founder)
 - **Major Events** within the religion's development
 - **Sects or Groups:** Separate groups within the religion?
 - **Customs** (what do the people do when they meet or spend time together?)
 - special food
 - clothing
 - language
 - music
 - **Holidays/Celebrations/Significant Holy Days**
- Part III: Conclusion (2 - 4 slides to include at least 2 visuals)
 - **Its Growth** (how did it spread around the world, number of people practicing, where it is currently practiced, what time periods did it grow?)
 - Demographics/Geography/Charts/Tables
 - **Important Figures:** Include one or two contemporary people
- Part IV: Sources/Works Cited Slide using MLA formatting (1 slide)

Examples of Buildings & Places of Worship

Christianity

- National Cathedral, Washington D.C.
- Notre Dame, Paris, France
- Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem
- St. Peter's Basilica, Rome

Islam

- Blue Mosque, Istanbul
- The Kaaba, Mecca, Saudi Arabia
- The Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem
- Taj Mahal, Agra, India

Judiasm

- The Wailing Wall, Jerusalem
- Touro Synagogue, Rhode Island
- Beth Sholom Synagogue, Elkins Park, PA

Hinduism

- Angkor Wat, Cambodia
- Temple Complex, Kanchipuram, India

- Meenakshi Temple, Madurai, India

Buddhism

- The Potala, Lhasa, Tibet
- Dalada Maligawa, The Temple of the Tooth, Kandy, Sri Lanka
- Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Facts/Concepts

Christianity

Monotheism

Jesus as Son of God

Life after death

New Testament—Life and teachings of Jesus

Establishment of Christian doctrine by early church councils

Islam

Monotheism

Muhammad the Prophet

Koran

Five Pillars of Islam

Mecca and Medina

Budhism

Founder—Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

Four Noble Truths

Eightfold Path to Enlightenment

Spread of Buddhism from India to China and other parts of Asia, resulting from Asoka's missionaries and their writings

Hinduism

Many forms of its one deity

Caste system

Reincarnation

Karma—Future reincarnation based on present behavior

Judism

Monotheism

Various sects

Ten Commandments of moral and religious conduct

Torah—Written record and beliefs of Hebrews

Moses

Impact on Christianity

Confuciansim

Founder Confucius

Humanism

Six Books

The Five Bonds

Famous quotes from Confucius (*i.e.*, *Everything has its beauty but not everyone sees it.*)

Assessment:

- Create a Power Point Presentation and present the material to the class & quiz questions based on assigned religion [40 Points]

- World Religion Quiz [10 Points]