

■ Essential Question:

- What are the differences among the major world religions/ethical systems: Judaism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam?

■ Warm-Up Question:

- ?

World Religions Group Challenge

- This activity is a group challenge to test your knowledge on world religions:
 - One member of each team will be assigned a major world religion
 - Jigsaw groups into expert teams to research their world religion
 - After rejoining groups, teams members will work together to answer a question
 - Groups will be awarded points in the order they turn them in (1 pt = 1st place, 2 pts = 2nd place, etc.); Low score wins

■ Question:

—What was the 1st monotheistic religion?

■ Answer:

—Judaism

■ Question:

- This is not a religion but an ethical system that is based upon respect & social order

■ Answer:

■ Confucianism

■ Question:

- Which world religion is based upon the caste system and enlightenment?

■ Answer:

- Hinduism

■ Question:

—Which world religion was founded by Siddhartha Gautama?

■ Answer:

—Buddhism

■ Question:

- Which world religion saw its earliest followers persecuted by Roman emperors, but was the official religion of Rome by the end of the empire?

■ Answer:

- Christianity

■ Question:

- Which world religion was founded in the Arabian city of Mecca around 610 A.D.?

■ Answer:

- Islam

■ Question:

- According to Hindu and Buddhist beliefs, the human soul is reborn into a series of cycles until achieving enlightenment. What is the cycle of rebirth called?

■ Answer:

- Reincarnation

■ Question:

- How did the Chinese government use Confucianism during the Han Dynasty?

■ Answer:

- Made it the focus of the Examination System for hiring gov't bureaucrats

■ Question:

—What is the holy book of Judaism called?

■ Answer:

—The Torah

■ Question:

- Buddhists believe all people can achieve enlightenment if they end their suffering. According to the Four Noble Truths, what causes suffering?

■ Answer:

- Unnecessary desires (wanting things)

■ Question:

- Which apostle was most responsible for the spread of Christianity after the death of Jesus?

■ Answer:

- Paul

■ Question:

—According to the Five Pillars of Islam, what is the “hajj”?

■ Answer:

—Pilgrimage to Mecca

■ Question:

—Which two world religions believe in reincarnation and enlightenment?

■ Answer:

—Hinduism and Buddhism

■ Question:

- Which three world religions are monotheistic & believe that God sends prophets to Earth to guide people?

■ Answer:

- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

■ Question:

—Name the major prophet of each monotheistic world religion:

- Judaism = ?
- Christianity = ?
- Islam = ?

■ Answer:

- Judaism = Abraham or Moses
- Christianity = Jesus
- Islam = Muhammad

■ Question:

—Name the holy books of each of these major world religions:

- Islam = ?
- Hinduism = ?
- Christianity = ?

■ Answer:

- Islam = Qur'an
- Hinduism = Vedas or Upanishads
- Christianity = Bible







■ Question:

– Name, in order, the three largest world religions today:

- 1st largest religion =
- 2nd largest religion =
- 3rd largest religion =

■ Answer:

- 1st largest religion = Christianity
- 2nd largest religion = Islam
- 3rd largest religion = Hinduism

	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism	Confucianism
						
Followers Worldwide (estimated 2001 figures)	362 million	2 billion	820 million	1.2 billion	14.5 million	6.3 million
Name of Deity	The Buddha did not teach a personal deity.	God	Three main gods: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva	God (Allah)	God (Yahweh)	Confucius (viewed by many as a god)
Founder	The Buddha	Jesus Christ	No one founder	Muhammad	Abraham	Confucius
Holy Book	No one book—sacred texts, including the <i>Dhammapada</i>	Bible	No one book—sacred texts, including the Vedas, the Puranas	Qur'an	Hebrew Bible, including the Torah	the <i>Analects</i> , the Five Classics
Leadership	Buddhist monks and nuns	Priests, ministers, monks, and nuns	Guru, holy man, Brahmin priest	No clergy but a scholar class called the ulama and the imam, who may lead prayers	Rabbis	No clergy
Basic Beliefs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons achieve complete peace and happiness (nirvana) by eliminating their attachment to worldly things. Nirvana is reached by following the Noble Eightfold Path: Right views; Right resolve; Right speech; Right conduct; Right livelihood; Right effort; Right mindfulness; Right concentration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. Jesus Christ was the son of God. He died to save humanity from sin. His death and resurrection made eternal life possible for others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The soul never dies, but is continually reborn. Persons achieve happiness and enlightenment after they free themselves from their earthly desires. Freedom from earthly desires comes from a lifetime of worship, knowledge, and virtuous acts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons achieve salvation by following the Five Pillars of Islam and living a just life. These pillars are: faith; prayer; almsgiving, or charity to the poor; fasting, which Muslims perform during Ramadan; pilgrimage to Mecca. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. God loves and protects his people, but also holds people accountable for their sins and shortcomings. Persons serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social order, harmony, and good government should be based on strong family relationships. Respect for parents and elders is important to a well-ordered society. Education is important both to the welfare of the individual and to society.