

Essential Question:

How do ethnic and religious groups explain the diverse cultures of the Middle East (Southwest Asia)?

Standards:

- ❑ SS7G8a. Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group.
- ❑ SS7G8b. Explain the diversity of religions within the Arabs, Persians, and Kurds.
- ❑ SS7G8c. Compare and contrast the prominent religions in Southwest Asia (Middle East): Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.
- ❑ SS7G8d. Explain the reason for the division between Sunni and Shia Muslims.

Ethnic Group vs. Religious Group

- ❑ Ethnic groups share many common characteristics, such as language, physical appearance, customs, and traditions.
- ❑ Religious groups share a common belief system, but are not necessarily composed of a single ethnic group.

There are 3 main ethnic groups in the Middle East:

Arabs

Persians

Kurds

Arabs



- ❑ The majority of people in the Middle East are Arabs
- ❑ Arabs are an ethnic group who speak Arabic as a native language
- ❑ The majority of Arabs in the Middle East are Muslim (followers of Islam). However, not all Arabs are Muslims, and not all Muslims are Arab



Persians

- ❑ Persians live in Iran and are sometimes also known as Iranians
- ❑ They speak Farsi
- ❑ Most Persians are Muslim, with a small minority following other religions (Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, and Baha'i).
 - ❑ So...not ALL Persians are Muslim



Kurds

- ❑ Kurds are an ethnic group that originated as a semi-nomadic, tribal people
- ❑ Now they mostly live in the mountains
- ❑ About 60% of Kurds are Muslim
 - ❑ There are also substantial numbers of Christians and Jews
 - ❑ One group is the Babis who believe that when a person dies, his or her soul enters that of another, usually a newborn baby

There are 3 main religious groups in the Middle East:

Judaism

Islam

Christianity

Complete the “What I Think I Know” section at the top of your Religions of the Middle East Chart.



Religions of the Middle East Name _____ Date _____ Period ____

What I think I know: _____

Religion	Believers	# of Gods	Patriarch (father)	Holy Book	Place of Worship	View about Jesus Christ	Holy Site	Other
Judaism								
Christianity								
Islam								
	<u>Sunni Muslims:</u>			<u>Shia Muslims:</u>				

Corrections or New Information: _____

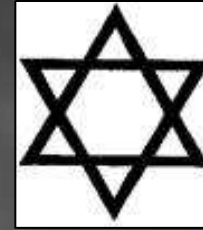
Pair and Share when instructed

Religions of the Middle East:

- All three are monotheistic (believe in one God)
- All three acknowledge Abraham as the patriarch (father) of their faith
- Each has a holy book and a specific place of worship
- Each has a different view about Jesus Christ
- Some of these religions share common holy sites in the region but also have their own unique holy sites



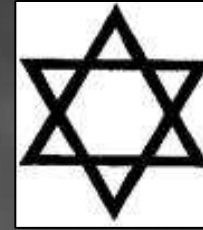
Judaism



- ❑ Believers are called Jews
- ❑ Monotheistic (believe in one God)
- ❑ Patriarch (father) of the faith is Abraham
- ❑ Holy Books: Torah (parts of the Old Testament) and the Talmud



Judaism



- ❑ Place of worship is a Synagogue
- ❑ View of Jesus Christ: He was an ordinary Jew, not the Messiah.

Jews

are still waiting on the Messiah

What does Messiah mean? Savior or divine person

- ❑ Holy Sites: Jerusalem, Wailing Wall

Synagogue



Wailing Wall in Jerusalem



Symbols of Judaism



Star of David



Menorah

Traditions of Judaism



Bar/Bat Mitzvah



Hanukkah



Christianity



- ❑ Believers are called Christians
- ❑ Monotheistic (believe in one God)
- ❑ Patriarch (father) of the faith is Abraham
- ❑ Holy Books: Bible



Christianity



- ❑ Place of worship is a Church,
Chapel,
or Cathedral
- ❑ View of Jesus Christ: He was the
son
of God and the Messiah (savior)
- ❑ Holy Sites: Jerusalem, Bethlehem,

Cathedral



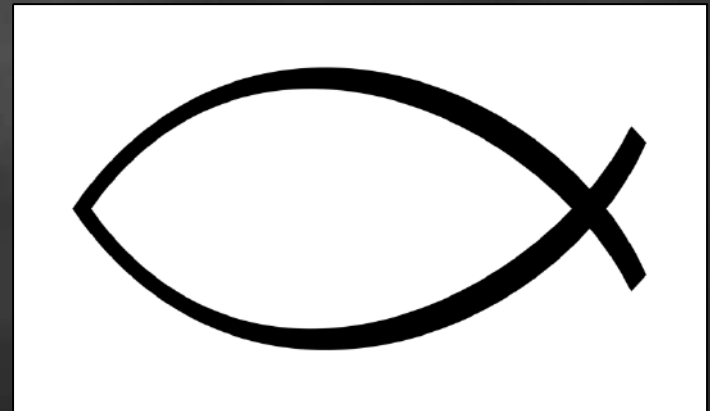
Vatican City



Symbols of Christianity



Cross



Fish

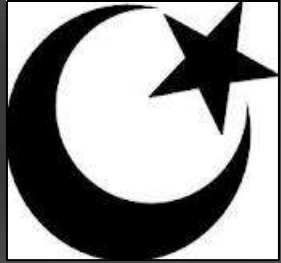
Traditions of Christianity



Christmas



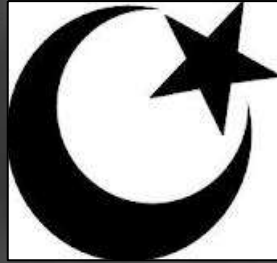
Easter



Islam



- ❑ Believers are called Muslims
- ❑ Monotheistic (believe in one God)
- ❑ Patriarch (father) of the faith is Abraham
- ❑ Holy Books: Qur'an or Koran



Islam

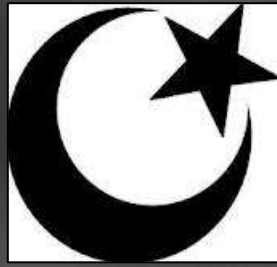


- ❑ Place of worship is a Mosque
- ❑ View of Jesus Christ: He was a prophet sent by Allah (God) but he was not a Messiah or the son of God.

What does Prophet mean?

Messenger of God

- ❑ Holy Sites: Jerusalem, Mecca.



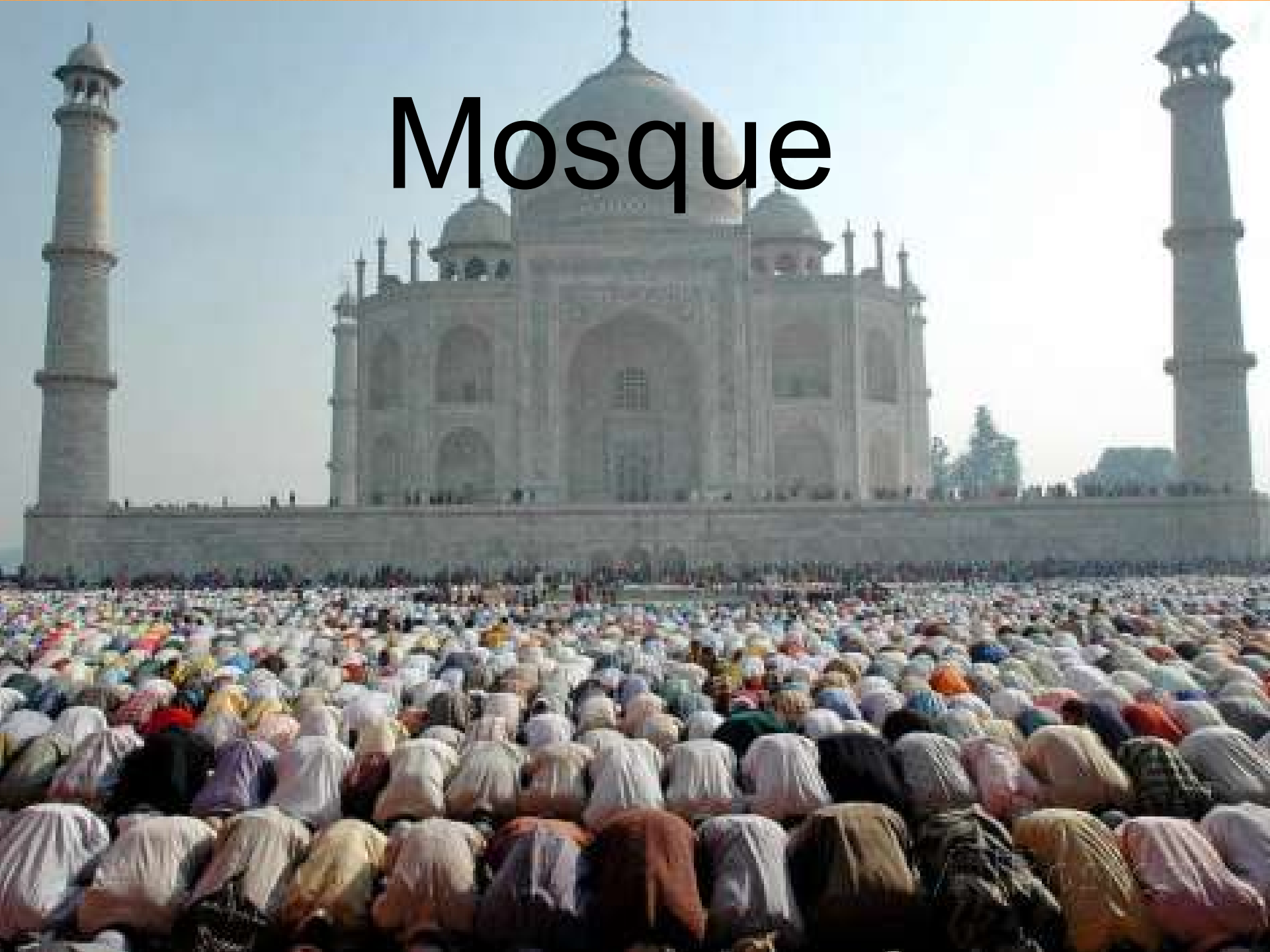
Islam



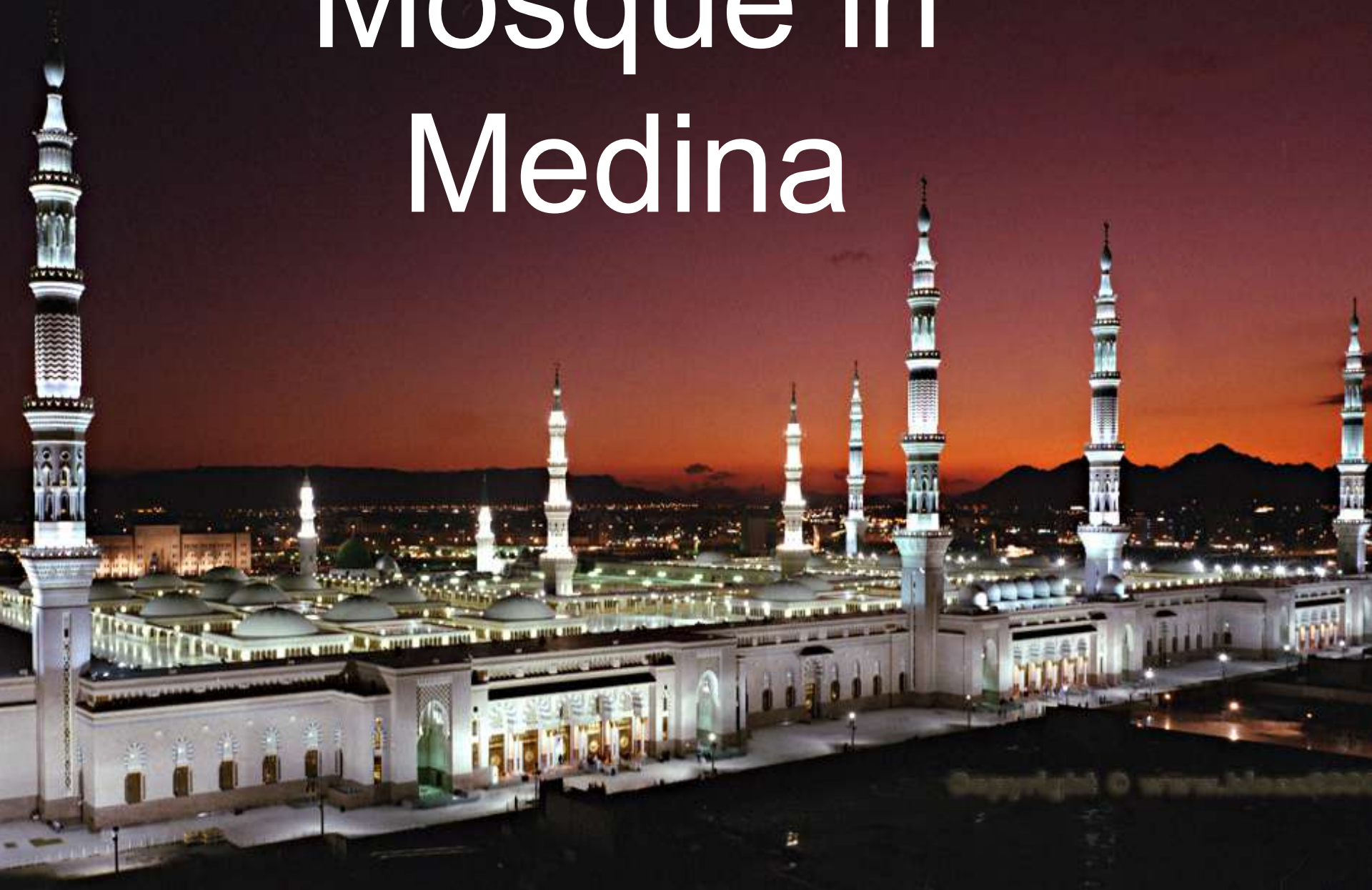
- ❑ Muslims believe that Abraham was the first prophet (messenger of Allah or God) and that Jesus Christ was a prophet that came after Abraham
- ❑ Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last prophet of Allah.

Muhammad started the religion of Islam

Mosque



Mosque in Medina



Symbols of Islam



Star and Crescent



“Allah” in Arabic

Traditions of Islam



Ramadan (holy month of fasting)



Pilgrimage to Mecca

Diversity of Religions within the Ethnic Groups

- ❑ There are various religious groups within the ethnic groups of Arabs, Persians, and Kurds
- ❑ The majority of Arabs in the Middle East are Muslims, a religious group who practice the religion of Islam. However, NOT ALL Arabs are Muslims, and NOT ALL Muslims are Arab.
- ❑ More than a billion people in the world are Muslims, but fewer than 15% of Muslims worldwide are Arab

What religion are the majority
of Americans?

Most Americans are Christians. Are
there different types of Christians?

There are Baptists, Catholics,
Methodists, Protestants, etc.

Just as there are different groups of Christians, there are also different groups of Muslims.

Two major groups are the Sunni Muslims and the Shia Muslims.

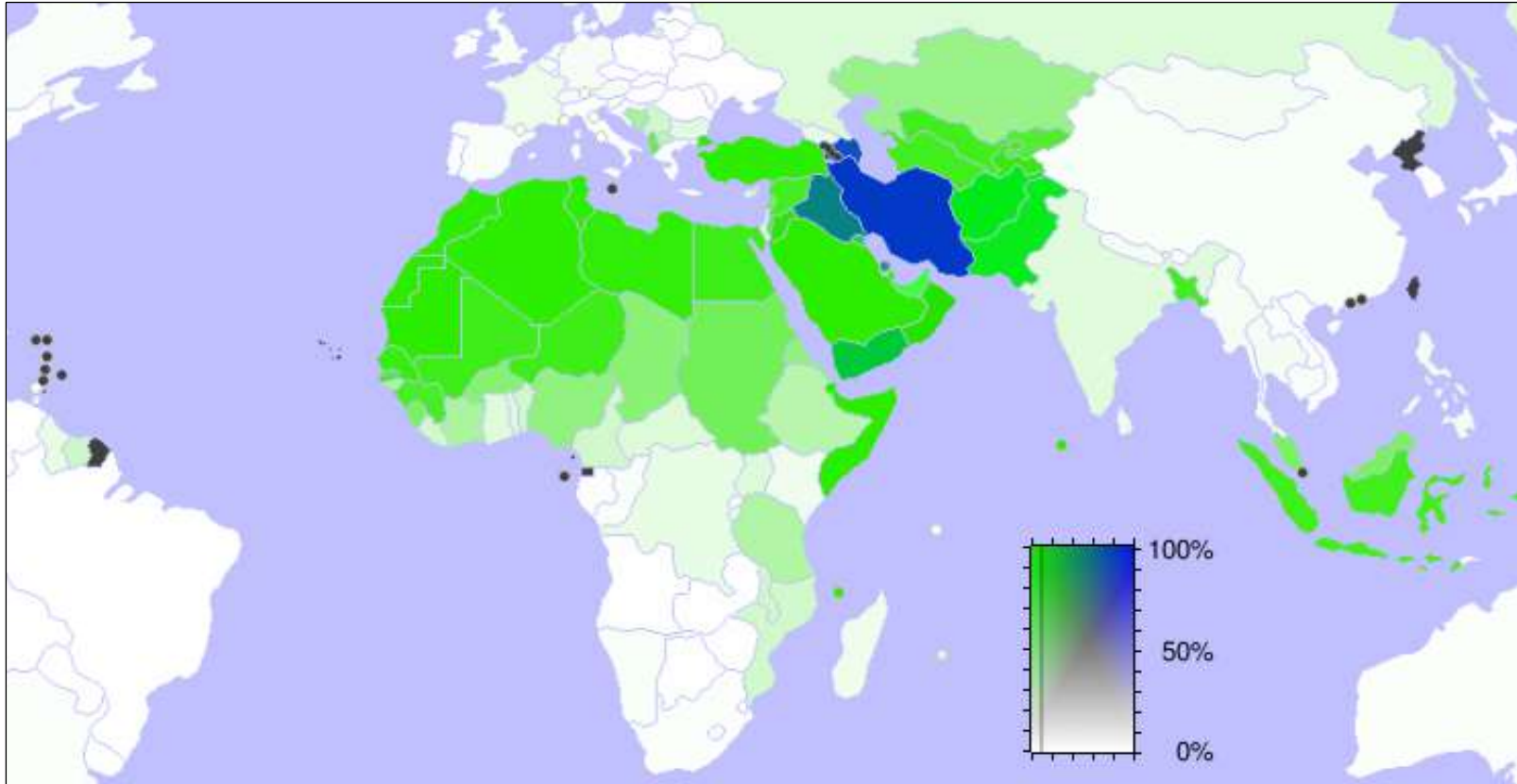
So What's The Difference?

- ❑ Sunnis follow the Sunnah, or custom of Muhammad (About 90% of Muslims are Sunnis)
- ❑ Shias are Muslims who follow Ali, Muhammad's closest relative

How They Disagree

- ❑ Ali was Muhammad's cousin and was married to his daughter. After Muhammad died, Muslims split over who would succeed Muhammad as leader of Islam
- ❑ The **Sunnis** wanted the community to choose the best leader to succeed Muhammad
- ❑ The **Shia** favored Ali, feeling that leadership should stay within the prophets family

Sunni and Shia Muslims



Blue: Shia

Green: Sunni

Complete the “Corrections or New Information” section of your Religions of the Middle East Chart.

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Pair and Share when instructed

Diverse Cultures of the Middle East Summarizer

Diverse Cultures of the Middle East Summarizer

Name _____ Date _____ Period ____

1. Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group. _____

2. Explain the diversity of religions within the Arabs, Persians, and Kurds. _____

3. Explain the reason for the division between Sunni and Shia Muslims. _____

4. Compare and contrast the prominent religions in Southwest Asia (Middle East): Judaism, Islam, and Christianity (number of Gods, Patriarch, Holy Book, Place of Worship, View about Jesus Christ, Holy Site, etc).
Make a table, triple Venn Diagram, or T-chart below to show your answers.