

Europe's Monotheistic Religions

Judaism, Christianity, &
Islam



SS6G11 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe.

b. Describe the major religions in Europe –
include
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

- While Europe is home to many religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the major religions practiced there.
- These religions have some similarities and a common history.

Similarities

- All three are monotheistic, which is the believe in one God. Polytheism is the belief in many gods.
- They all started in Southwest Asia.
- They can trace their roots to Abraham, the patriarch, or father, of their faith. The Western religions are often called the Abrahamic religions because of this.
- Jerusalem in Israel is the holiest city in the world for Jews and Christians, and the third holiest city for Muslims.
- All three have an important messenger and book of teachings.

Jerusalem, Israel



Judaism



Star of David

Judaism

- Followers of Judaism are called Jews.
- Judaism was founded by Abraham around 2000 BCE*.
- Jews believe that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
- The Jewish holy book is the Torah, which is the oral and written laws of the Jews.

Moses



The Torah

Judaism

- Jews believe that they are descended from Abraham and Sarah, the first people to worship Yahweh (God).
- Abraham lived at least 3,700 years ago in what is now Iraq.



Judaism

- Jews worship in synagogues and temples.
- They believe that a messiah (savior) will lead them to the Promised Land. The messiah has not come yet.

- Largest synagogue in Europe



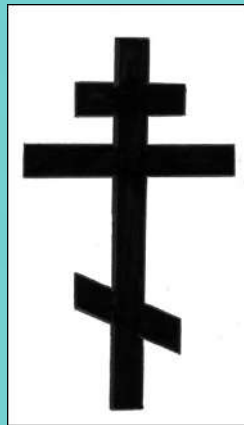
Judaism

- Small populations of Jews have lived in Europe for centuries.
- Today, most European Jews live in the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and other former-Soviet Union countries.
- There are about 15 million followers of Judaism today.

Christianity



Cross



**Greek
Orthodox
Cross**

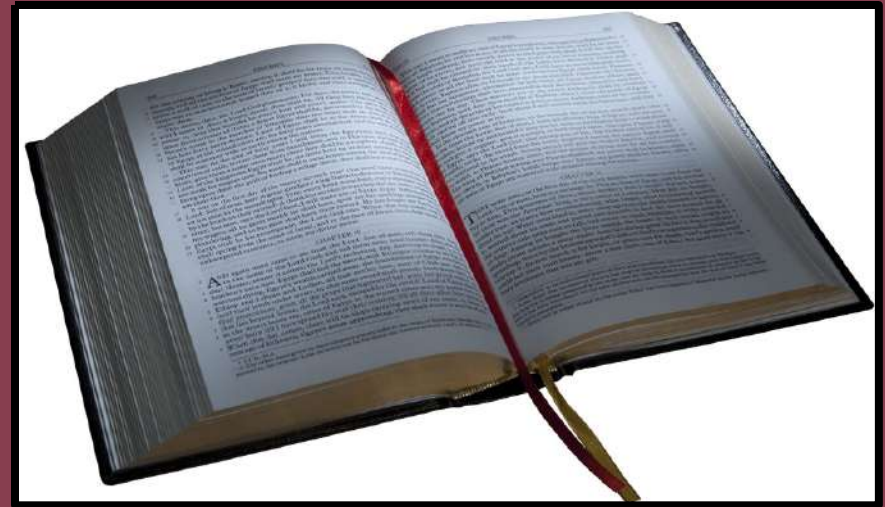
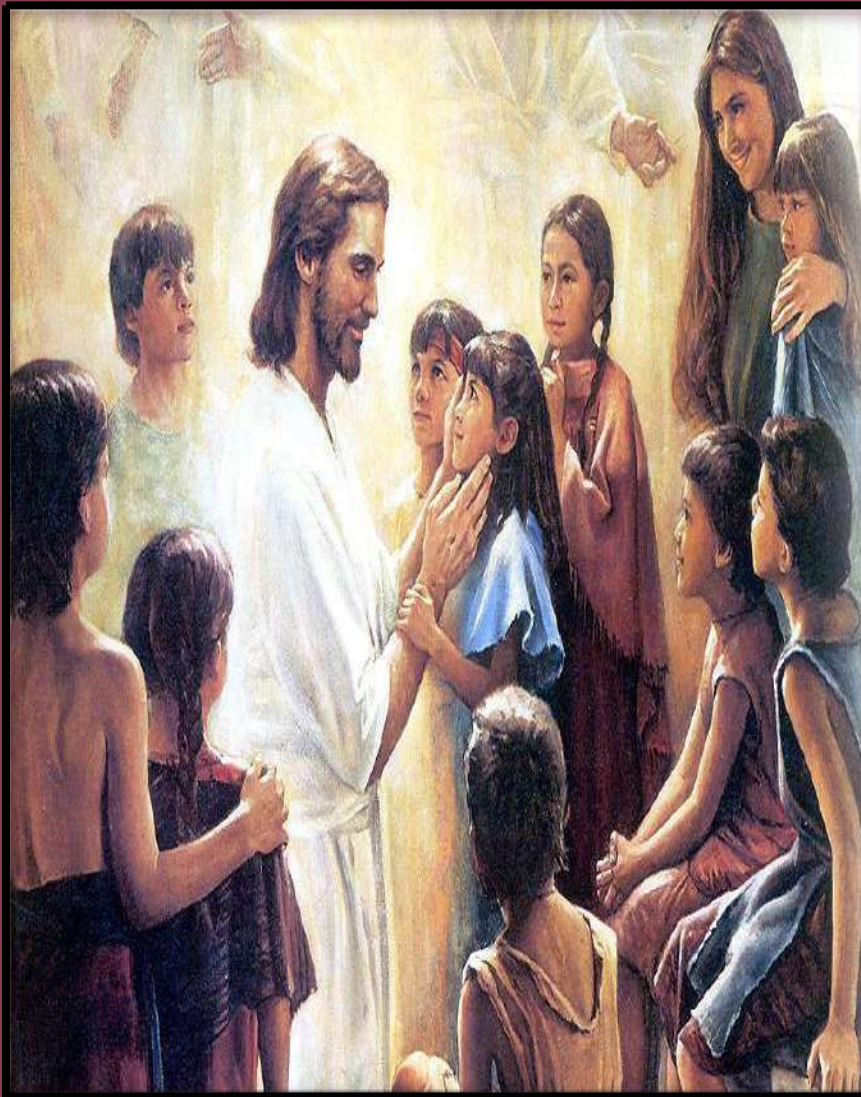
Christianity

- Christianity has its roots in Judaism.
- Christians believe in Jesus, who preached a new religion of love and kindness around 30 CE.
 - Christians believe that Jesus was the messiah (savior).

Christianity

- The Bible is the main holy book for Christians.
- It consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- The Ten Commandments state how Christians should live their lives.

Jesus



The Bible

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images.
3. Thou shalt not take the Lord's name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
5. Honor 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.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, wife or possessions.

Christianity

- Christians are grouped by many denominations.
 - Examples include Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.
- All denominations of Christians follow the teachings of Jesus.
- Christians worship in churches, cathedrals, and chapels.

Cathedral in Milan, Italy



Christianity

- Christianity is the dominant religion in Europe.
- The majority of Catholics live in the southern region in France, Spain, and Italy.
- Most Protestants live in the northern countries of Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Most Eastern Europeans (including Russians) practice Eastern Orthodox

Islam

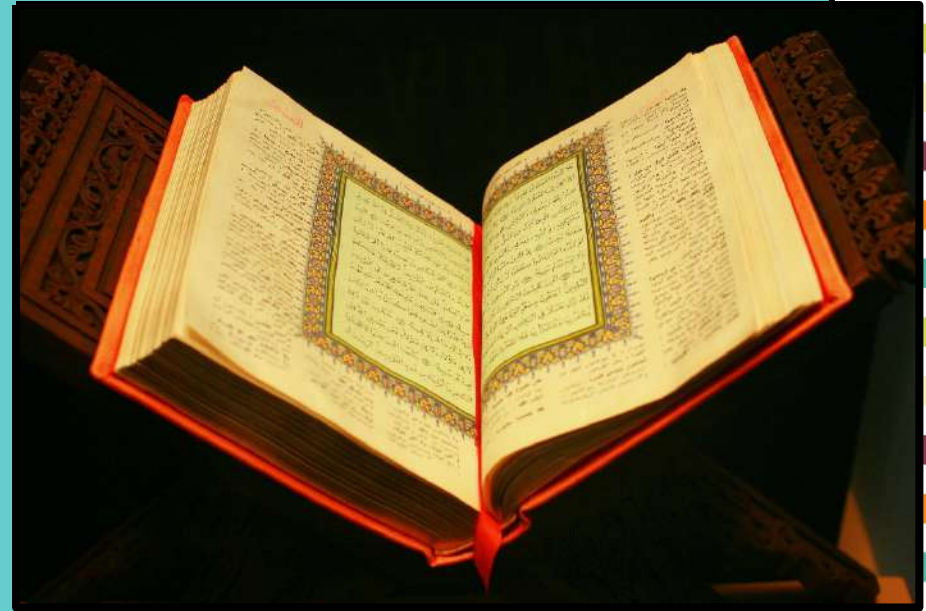
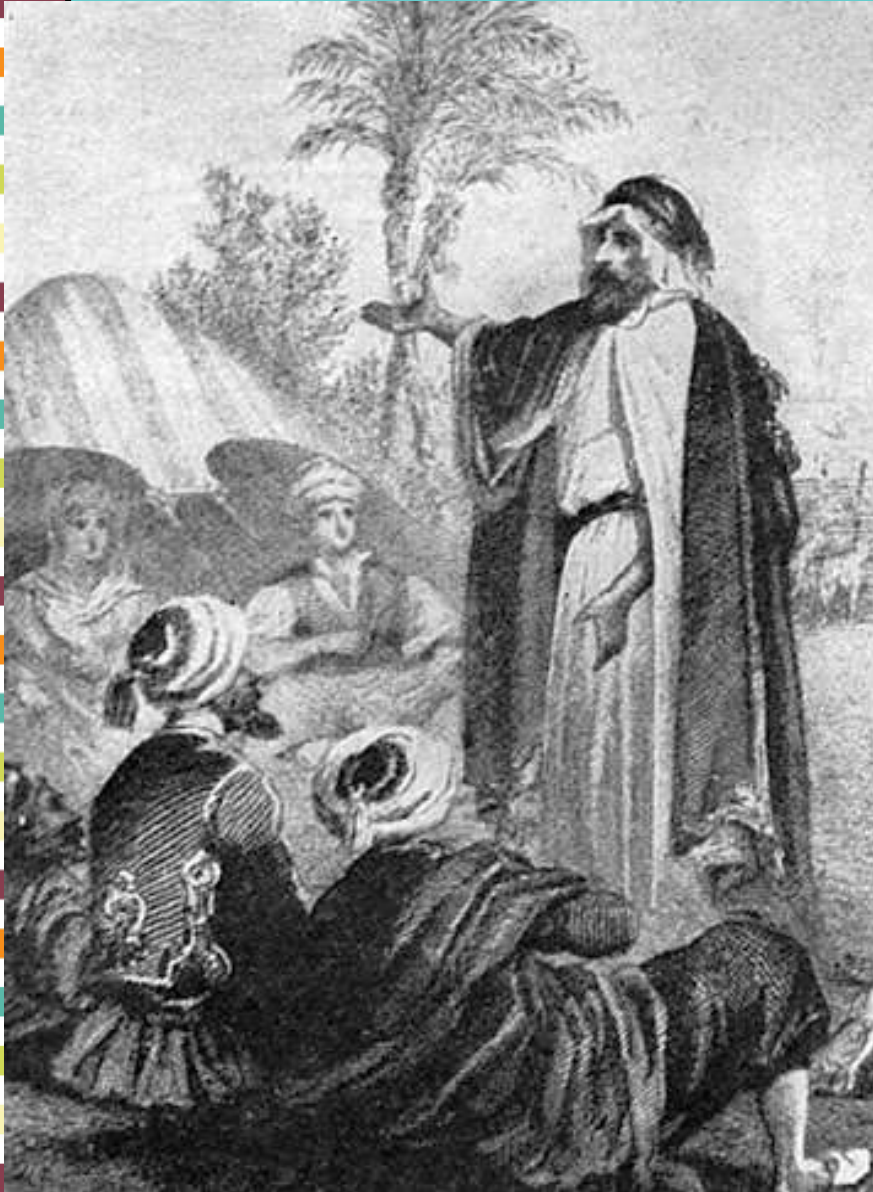


**Star and
Crescent**

Islam

- Islam began around 610 CE* in Southwest Asia.
- In Arabic, *Islam* means “surrender” to the will of Allah (God).
- Followers of Islam are called Muslims, and the founder is Muhammad.
- Muslims believe that Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet of Islam. Other prophets include Abraham, Moses, & Jesus.

Muhammad



The Koran (Qur'an)

Islam

- The Muslim holy book is the Qur'an (Koran).
- It states how people should live their lives.
- It describes the Five Pillars of Faith (obligations all Muslims must fulfill in their lifetime).
- Muslims worship in mosques.

Islam

Five Pillars of Faith
(the main duties of Muslims)

1. Prayer
2. Giving to charity
3. Belief in, and submission to, one God (Allah)
4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan
5. A trip (hajj) to Mecca once in a lifetime

The Grand Mosque in Mecca



Islam

- The two largest groups of Muslims are the Sunnis and the Shiites.
 - The Sunnis account for about 90% of the world's Muslims.
- Many Muslims are immigrating to Western Europe, making Islam the fastest growing religion in Europe.
- Muslim populations are highest in France, UK, and Germany, and in Eastern European countries like Bosnia and Albania.
- Today, there are about 1.3 billion followers of Islam.