The Five Major Religions

Social Studies Online
BluePrint Skill: Grade 7 History

• Compare and contrast the tenets of the five major world religions (i.e., Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism).
Christianity

• The early Hebrews who eventually developed into the Jewish religion became the foundation of Christianity.

• Jesus, or the Messiah, was a Jewish boy who disagreed with some of the Jewish principles of his day began to profess a new way of thinking.

• This eventually led to the beginning of the Christian religion.
Christianity

- Christianity started about 2000 years ago about the same time of Jesus.
- The central point of Christian belief is that God, the Father, entered into human history as the Son, Jesus of Nazareth, and arose as the Holy Spirit.
Christian Philosophy

- God is the Creator of the universe. There is one God, Who is Three Persons-
  Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is both fully man and fully God. He was born of the Virgin Mary
  Crucified, resurrected from the dead, and ascended to the Father.
Christian Philosophy

• Sin and Evil are realities in our existence.
• The Bible is the Holy Book that records God's revelation.
• All believers are promised life everlasting.
• The leader of Christianity was Jesus, and the followers was his 12 disciples.
Buddhism

• Founding person of Buddhism is Guatama, the Buddha
• The Dalai Lama is a Buddhist monk who remains the leader of the Tibetans.
• Buddhism is a major religion in China, Japan, India, and Tibet.
The Major Philosophy of Buddhism

- Love: without conditions
- Compassion: or feeling at one with the person who is suffering
- Sympathetic Joy: Celebrate the happiness of others, and do not resent their good fortune.
- Impartiality: Treat everyone equally, and do not use others for personal gain or to win approval.
The Major Philosophy of Buddhism

• Buddhism states that existence is a continuing cycle of death and rebirth called reincarnation.
• Each person's position in life is determined by his or her behavior in the previous life. This is known as their "karma" (also a Hindu belief).
Buddhism

• Buddhism is the world's oldest universal religion and it is the second fastest growing religion.
Islam

• ISLAM is the name given to the religion preached by the prophet Muhammad in the 600s A.D.

• The Islamic religion started in the area known as Palestine in the year 600AD.

• It has about 850 million followers, most of them in the region north and east of the Mediterranean Sea.
Islam

- The holy book of Islam is the "Koran." Muslims believe its words to be those of Allah himself, spoken to Muhammad by an angel.
- Allah, is the Islamic God.
- People who believe these ideas are called Muslims.
Islamic Philosophy

- Muslims learn that life on earth is a period of testing and preparation for the life to come.
- Angels record good and bad deeds.
- People should behave themselves and help others, trusting in Allah's justice and mercy for their reward.
Islam

• Muslims pray five times daily in their mosques (churches).
• While praying, they face the holy city of Mecca (in Saudi-Arabia) and sometimes kneel with faces to the ground.
• All Muslims are required to make a pilgrimage (trip to a sacred place) to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.
HINDUISM is one of the world's oldest religions.

Over 2/3's of the world's Hindus live in India; large numbers reside in Africa also.

Hindus believe in many gods, numbering into the thousands. They recognize one supreme spirit called Brahman ("the Absolute.")
Hindu Philosophy

- Hindus believe in many gods, numbering into the thousands.
- They recognize one supreme spirit called Brahman (the Absolute).
- The goal of Hindus is to someday join with Brahman.
- Until that union takes place, believers are in a continuous process of rebirth called "reincarnation."
Hindu Philosophy

• At death, the Hindu's deeds (karma) determine what the next life will be.
• Followers work to break this cycle--birth, death, re-birth-- (referred to by writers as the "Wheel of Life") and gain release.
• The Hindu's soul then merges with Brahman in a condition of spiritual perfection (moksha).
Hinduism

• Hinduism has many sacred books, the oldest being a series called the "Vedas."

• Traditional Hindu society was divided into groups of four classes (or varnas). This was known as the "caste system."

• What you do in this life affects which caste you will be born into in the next life.
JUDAISM is a religion of just one people: the Jews.

JUDAISM was the first to teach belief in only one God. Two other important religions developed from Judaism: Christianity and Islam.
Judaism

• Jews think that God will send a Messiah (a deliverer) to unite them and lead them in His way.

• Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah. The Jewish people do not agree; they anticipate His arrival in the future.

• Judaism teaches that death is not the end and that there is a world to come.
Judaism

• The "Torah," the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, is the most important Jewish scripture.
• It contains the basic laws of Judaism.
• Another important book is the "Talmud," serving primarily as a guide to the civil and religious laws of Judaism.
Judaism

• The Jewish house of worship is called a synagogue.
• Rabbis (spiritual leaders) conduct services, act as interpreters of Jewish laws, and deliver sermons.
• Today there are over 18 million followers of Judaism scattered throughout the world. A large number of those people live in the Jewish nation of Israel. Over six million live in the United States.
Jewish Philosophy

- God is one and unique
- God is the creator
- God is transcendent
- God is immanent.
- God is lawgiver
- God is personal
- We have the obligation to worship
- The Torah is God's law
- God is judge
- The Messiah will come.
How much have you learned?

• Let’s take a Chalkboard Challenge