

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).**



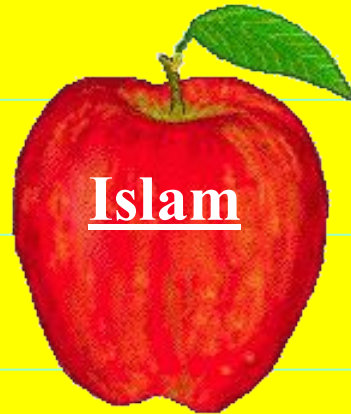
Main Menu



Christianity



Buddhism



Islam



Hinduism



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



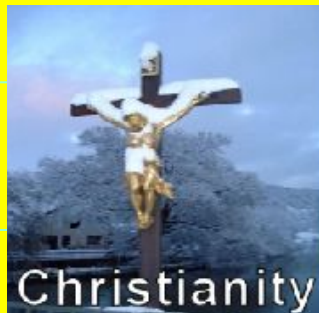
- **Christianity started about 2000 years ago about the same time of Jesus.**
- **The central point of Christian belief is that God, the Father, entered into human history as the Son, Jesus of Nazareth, and arose as the Holy Spirit.**



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



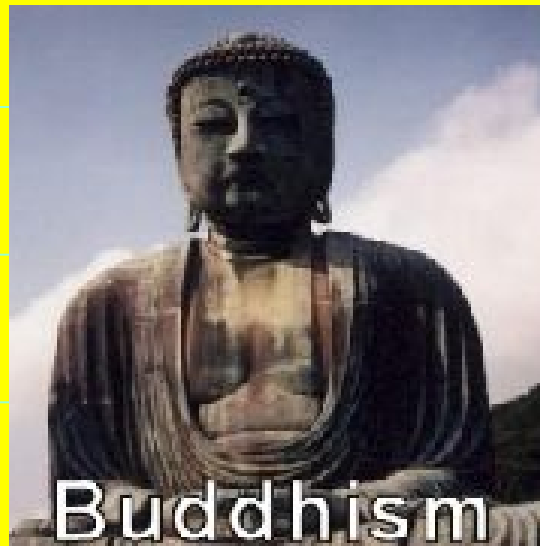
- **Buddhism states that existence is a continuing cycle of death and rebirth called reincarnation.**
- **Each person's position in life is determined by his or her behavior in the previous life. This is known as their "karma" (also a Hindu belief).**



Buddhism



- **Buddhism is the world's oldest universal religion and it is the second fastest growing religion.**



BACK



NEXT



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.



BACK



NEXT

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.**



BACK



NEXT

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



- **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.")**



BACK



NEXT

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

- **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

