

WORLD RELIGIONS

Fill in the blanks below with the correct word or name.

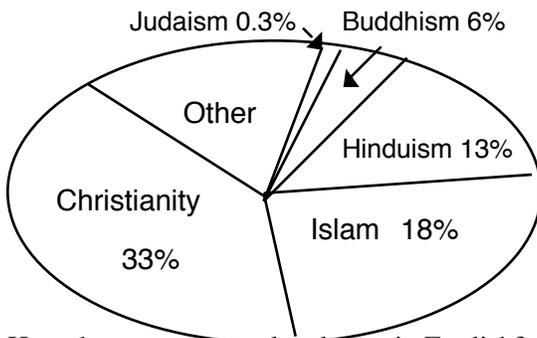
RELIGION	BELIEVER ADJECTIVE	FOUNDER	NAME OF GOD	HOLY BOOK	BUILDING	HOLY PLACE	HOLY DAY	HOLIDAY	CUSTOM TABOO
Christianity	a -----								
Islam	a -----								
Judaism	a -----								
Buddhism	a -----								
Hinduism	a -----								

WORLD RELIGIONS CHART

(sample answers)

RELIGION	BELIEVER ADJECTIVE	FOUNDER	NAME OF GOD	HOLY BOOK	BUILDING	HOLY PLACE	HOLY DAY	HOLIDAY	CUSTOM TABOO
Christianity	a Christian ----- Christian	Jesus Christ	God	the Bible	a church	Rome Bethlehem Jerusalem	Sunday	Christmas Easter	Some Christians wear a cross
Islam	a Moslem ----- Moslem Islamic	Mohammad	Allah	the Koran	a mosque	Mecca Medina Jerusalem	Friday	Ramadan the Hajj	They pray 5 times a day. ----- They don't eat pork or drink alcohol
Judaism	a Jew ----- Jewish	Abraham	Jehovah	the Torah	a synagogue	Jerusalem	Saturday	Hanukka Passover Yom Kippur	Jewish food must be prepared in <i>kosher</i> style
Buddhism	a Buddhist ----- Buddhist	Buddha	-	the sutras	a temple	Bodh Gaya	-	Buddha's birthday	Buddhist monks wear orange robes
Hinduism	a Hindu ----- Hindu	the Aryans	Shiva Vishnu Brahma Ram Krishna...	the Vedas Bhagavad Gita	a temple	the Ganges River	-	Diwali	Hindus don't eat beef and don't kill cows

WORLD RELIGIONS



- How do you say yudayakyo in English?
 When was Buddhism founded?
 Where was Hinduism founded?
 Who founded Christianity ?
 What do you call people who believe in Islam ?
 What percent of the world's people are Hindus ?
 Where do most Jews live?
 What is the holiest day for Moslems ?
 What holidays do Christians celebrate?
 Where do Buddhists worship?
 What's the Jewish holy book called?
 What are the most important Hindu holy places?
 Is Buddhism monotheistic or polytheistic?
 According to Islam, what happens after death?
 What are the main sects of Christianity ?

CHRISTIANITY

Christian cross



The Bible

Christianity was founded in the 1st century A.D. by Jesus Christ. Believers in Christianity are called Christians. There are now about 2 billion Christians, about 33% of the world's people, living all over the globe (mainly in North America, Latin America and Europe).

Sunday is the Christian holy day. Christmas and Easter are two major holidays. Christians worship in a church and believe in a book called the *Bible*. The most important Christian holy places are Rome, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Christianity has only one god, called God. Christians believe that after death people go to heaven or hell. The main sects of Christianity are Catholic (southern Europe, Latin America), Eastern Orthodox (Greece, Russia) and Protestant (northern Europe). Christians have a number of special customs. Catholics pray to Mary, Jesus' mother, and confess their sins to a priest. Christians often wear crosses, make the sign of the cross and baptize babies with holy water. In church, they take communion - drinking wine (Christ's blood) and eating bread (Christ's body).

JUDAISM

star of David



menorah candle stick

Judaism developed in the Middle East about 1500 B.C. Abraham is considered to be the founder. Believers in Judaism are called Jews (or Jewish people). Less than 1% of the world's population (0.3%) are Jewish - about 17 million people. They live in the United States (40%), Israel (23%), Russia (14%) and Europe (10%).

The holiest day of the week for Jewish people is Saturday. Major holidays include the Jewish New Year *Rosh Ha-Shanah* (September), *Yom Kippur* (October), *Hanukah* (December) and *Passover* (March). Jews worship in a synagogue and study the *Torah*, the Jewish holy book. Jerusalem is the holiest place in Judaism.

Jews have only one god, called Jehovah, and believe they are a "chosen" people. They believe in heaven and hell. Two main sects of Judaism are Reform and Orthodox. Strict Jews can't eat pork or shellfish and are only allowed to eat specially-prepared *kosher* food. Men often wear a small cap called a *kipah* or *yamulka*. Jews are not allowed to do any kind of work on Saturday.

BUDDHISM

Buddhist wheel of law



Buddha statue

Buddhism was founded in India in 525 B.C. by Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama). People who believe in Buddhism are known as Buddhists. 6% of the world's population are Buddhist, about 350 million. Almost all Buddhists live in Asia (mostly South-East Asia and East Asia).

There is no special holy day of the week in Buddhism. The major Buddhist holiday is Buddha's birthday. Buddhists worship at home or in a temple. The holy Buddhist writings are called *sutras*. Bodhi Gaya in India is a very holy place for Buddhists, since that is where Buddha attained enlightenment sitting under a tree.

Originally, there were no gods in Buddhism, but people later made Buddha a God. Buddhists believe that people who die are reborn. Two Buddhist sects are *Theravada* (Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia) and *Mahayana* (Tibet, China, Korea, Japan). Buddhists in different countries have special customs. In Thailand, for example, Buddhist priests wear orange robes and beg for food each morning.

I S L A M

Islamic
crescent
and star



There is
no God
but Allah

Islam was founded in the Middle East in 622 A.D. by Mohammad. Believers in Islam are called Moslems (or Muslims). There are about 1 billion Moslems in the world, about 18% of the world's population. They live mainly in North Africa, in Asia (e.g. China and Indonesia) and in the Arab countries of the Middle East.

Friday is the Moslem holy day. Major holidays are the *Hajj* (the pilgrimage to Mecca) and *Ramadan* (a special month of daily fasting). Moslems worship in a mosque and believe in a book called the *Koran* (also spelled *Quran*). The holiest places in Islam are the cities of Mecca and Medina (in Saudi Arabia) and Jerusalem.

Islam is a monotheistic religion. The Moslem god is called Allah. Moslems believe that people go to either heaven or hell after they die. Islam's main sects are *Sunni* (90%) and *Shi'ite* (Iran). Moslems have some special customs. They're not allowed to eat pork or drink alcohol, and only eat specially-prepared *halal* food. They pray 5 times a day, facing Mecca. Some Moslem women wear veils and cover their bodies in black robes.

H I N D U I S M

Aum
symbol



Hindu
swastika

Hinduism originated in India in 1500 B.C. after the arrival of a people known as the Aryans. There are more than 750 million Hindus in the world, or about 13% of all people. India is the home to almost all Hindus. Hindus also live in places such as Nepal and in Bali, Indonesia

Hindus have no one holy weekday. *Diwali* (November), a festival of lights, is one of the main Hindu holidays. Hindus can worship either at home or in a temple. Holy Hindu books include the *Vedas*, the *Ramayana* and the *Bhagavad Gita*. One of the most holy Hindu sites is the Ganges River in India.

Hinduism is polytheistic and has thousands of gods. Three main Hindu gods are Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Other gods include Ram, Kali and Krishna. Like Buddhists, Hindus believe in rebirth. There are many Hindu sects. Hindus have some special customs and taboos. They don't eat beef and never kill cows. Women put a red dot on their forehead called a *tilak*. People believe in karma (fate), astrology and the caste system.

Q U I Z

(1) What religion are these people? (matching)

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Albert Einstein
(German scientist) | Christian? |
| • Mohammad Ali
(American boxer) | Buddhist? |
| • Gandhi
(Indian leader) | Hindu? |
| • the Dalai Lama
(Tibetan leader) | Jewish? |
| • Mother Teresa
(Nobel Prize winner) | Moslem? |

(2) What job did they do before becoming religious leaders?

- | | |
|----------|----------------------------------|
| JESUS | butcher
shepherd
carpenter |
| BUDDHA | slave
prince
priest |
| MOHAMMAD | businessman
beggar
farmer |

(3) What religion is it?

- (a) Alcohol and pork are taboo.
- (b) They have an elephant god, Ganesh.
- (c) People don't do any work on Saturday.
- (d) Monks often wear orange robes.
- (e) They drink wine and eat bread in church.
- (f) They pray five times a day, facing Mecca.
- (g) They don't eat shellfish.
- (h) Women wear a red dot on the forehead.
- (i) They often wear a cross on a necklace.
- (j) They believe their religion is right.

RELIGION VOCABULARY

agnostic	karma/fate
atheist	monotheistic
baptize	pilgrimage
beggar	polytheistic
believer	to pray
butcher	priest
carpenter	Protestant
confess	sect
fasting	shepherd
founder	slave
holy	worship