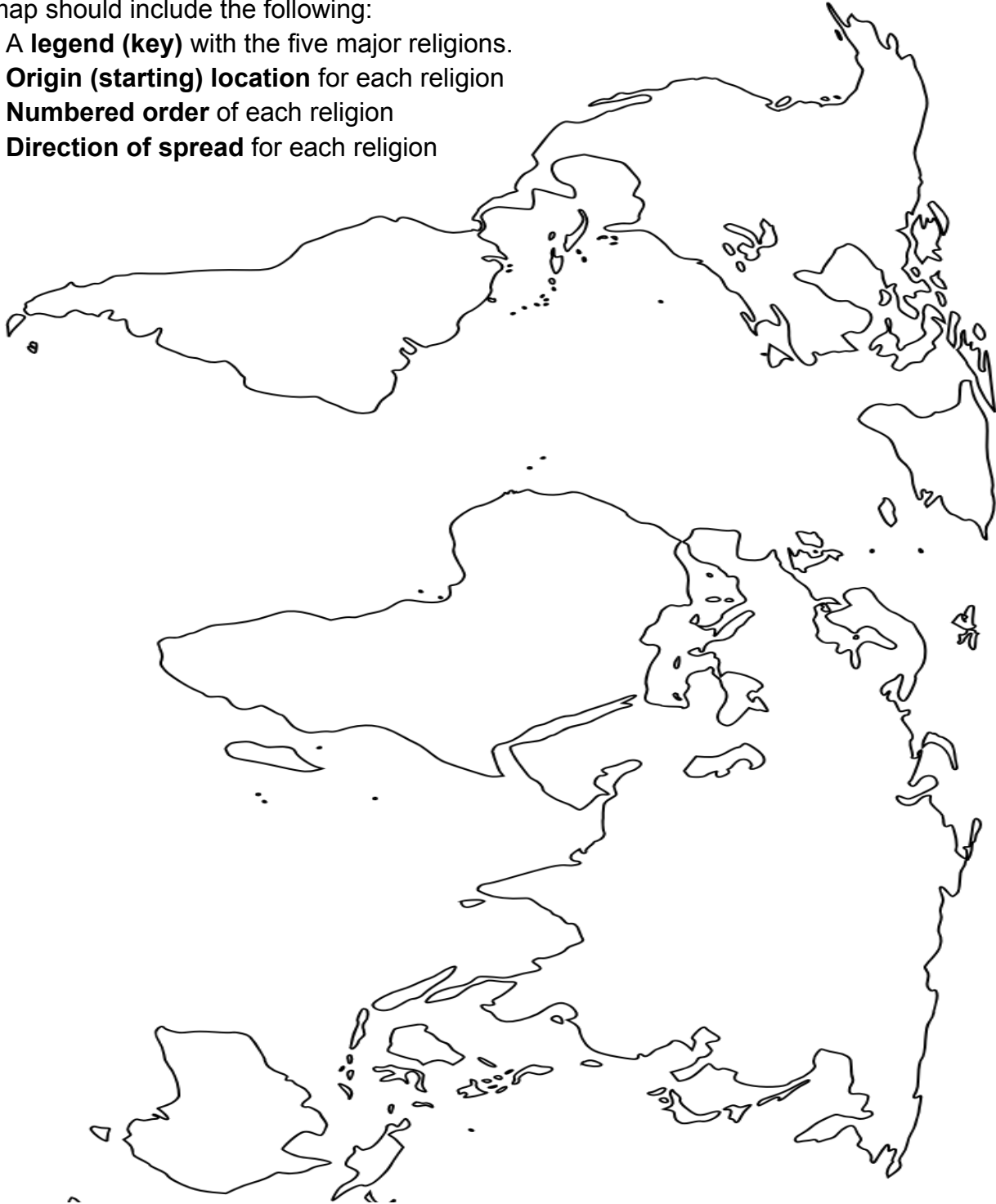


WORLD RELIGIONS

We are going to watch a [short video](#) three times on the five major religions: **JUDAISM, HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, CHRISTIANITY** and **ISLAM**.

Your map should include the following:

- A **legend (key)** with the five major religions.
- **Origin (starting) location** for each religion
- **Numbered order** of each religion
- **Direction of spread** for each religion

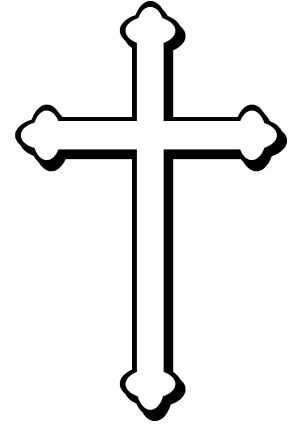


VIDEO NOTES: We are going to watch several short videos about each of the five major world religions. While watching the video, record as many facts as you can about each religion.

<u>CHRISTIANITY</u>	<u>HINDUISM</u>	<u>ISLAM</u>	<u>JUDAISM</u>	<u>BUDDHISM</u>

Christianity

Christianity is the largest of the five major religions, with approximately 2.2 billion followers. The word "Christianity" comes from "Christos," a Greek translation of the Hebrew word "messiah."



On the night of Jesus' birth, a star appeared in the sky, leading three wise men to him. He was regarded as the "King of the Jews." At the age of 30, he embarked on his ministry to spread Christian beliefs. One day, he proclaimed himself as the son of God and was crucified for it. He was later laid to rest and ascended to heaven. Christianity spread, in contrast to the Roman Empire's influence in the region.

BELIEFS

Christians believe that these events occurred to save those who believe in Jesus Christ and to show the promise of eternal life after death. The twelve disciples carried on his teachings after his resurrection. Christianity is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, a Jewish preacher and healer who lived in the Middle East 2,000 years ago. Christians hope to achieve a spiritual goal of salvation, a state of redemption, and reconciliation with God. Christians believe humans have immortal souls, and there is eternal life after death.

HOLY BOOK

The Holy Bible is the sacred text of the Christian faith. It covers the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in four different gospels. Jesus Christ also urged his followers to follow God's commandments, which were part of the Jewish faith. These commandments refer to one's relationship with God, parents, spouse, and community.

DEITIES (GODS)

Christians believe in the Holy Trinity, in that they see God as the eternal creator. The Holy Trinity is the idea that there is one God, but He can exist in three forms: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are each one, but with different roles.

WORSHIP

While prayer can occur in private, most worship takes place in churches, which is considered an important element of the faith. Christians often attend church services weekly. Two major holidays celebrated by Christians include Christmas, the birth of Christ, and Easter, the day of the resurrection of Christ.

Hinduism

Hinduism is the oldest of the five major religions. It dates back to around 1700 BCE. Today, there are about 1 billion Hindus around the world, which is approximately 15% of the world's population. The majority of people who practice Hinduism live in the South Asian region, primarily in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.



BELIEFS

One of the main tenets of Hinduism is the belief in **samsara**. Hindus believe that each person has an eternal soul. Essentially, a person is reborn over and over again (reincarnation). Karma exists in a person's current lifetime and also across several lifetimes. A person's next rebirth depends on how he or she lived in previous lives. The cycle of samsara continues until a person achieves **moksha**.

In most Hindu traditions, **Brahman** is a power without form and without limit that exists beyond the universe. In other words, Hinduism is a pantheistic religion (toleration of all gods) because it equates God and the universe.

HOLY BOOK

Most Hindu traditions believe in a supreme being and in the concept of **dharma** (truth). They also believe in the authority of the **Vedas**, the sacred scriptures of Hinduism.

DEITIES (GODS)

Three Hindu deities (gods) have emerged across different Hindu traditions as a ruling trio:

BRAHMA, VISHNU, and SHIVA. Together, they are responsible for the creation, maintenance, and destruction of the world.

WORSHIP

Unlike many religions, worship in Hinduism is often an individual act. Many Hindus have a shrine at home, which can be a room, a small altar, or a simple picture or statue of a deity. Temples are also used as places of worship.

VOCABULARY

- **DHARMA:** driving to do the right thing in accordance with duty and abilities at all times.
- **KARMA:** Good actions lead to good reactions while bad actions lead to bad reactions.
- **FOUR VEDAS:** These are sacred texts that include hymns, incarnations, and rituals from Hindu traditions.
- **SAMSARA:** the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.
- **MOKSHA:** a soul that is free from the cycle of rebirth (reincarnation) and the suffering that comes from living and dying.
- **BRAHMA:** The four heads of Brahma represent the four classes of Hindu society.
- **VISHNU:** This god protects and preserves humanity.
- **SHIVA:** This god is the destroyer. His role is to destroy the universe so it can be recreated.

Islam

Islam is the youngest of the five major religions. It originated in Mecca, a town in Saudi Arabia. Today, there are about 1.6 billion Muslims around the world, which is about 23% of the world's population. 62% of this population lives in the Asia-Pacific Region, while 20% live in North Africa and parts of the Middle East.



Beliefs

Islam means "submission to the will of God" in Arabic. In order to achieve true peace, followers must submit to God according to His laws. Mohammed is considered the holy prophet of Islam. He is not considered the founder but rather the final prophet. By speaking to Abraham, Allah (God) fulfilled the covenant that He made centuries earlier with Abraham. Muslims believe Allah is the creator of the world.

The Five Pillars of Islam reflect the principles of Islam. Following these principles leads to a good life for Muslims. Each includes performing rituals, giving charity, fasting during the month of Ramadan, and even making a pilgrimage to Mecca. The month of Ramadan is a special time of prayer and fasting. Muslims believe that this month has been blessed by Allah and therefore, good actions and prayer bring a greater reward.

Holy Book

At first, Mohammed memorized the teachings of Allah, but eventually, they were written down in the Islamic holy book referred to as the Quran (Koran), the sacred text of Islam.

Deities (Gods)

Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam is a monotheistic religion in that followers only believe in one god. Muslims, people of the Islamic faith, refer to this god by the name Allah, which is the same god as the people of the Christian and Jewish faith.

Worship

Prayer is an important part of Islamic worship. Muslims pray five times during the day. Prayer is meant to unite the mind, body, and soul. Muslims face in the direction of Mecca when praying. Mosques are used as a public place of worship.

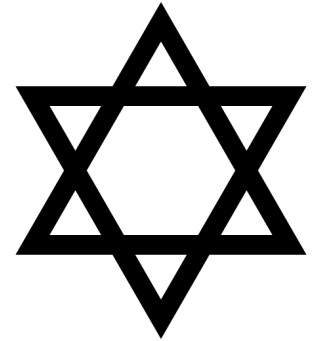
Vocabulary

- Arabic: the written and spoken language of Muslims.
- Allah: The name of the Islamic God.
- Mohammed: The final prophet and messenger of Allah.
- Quran (Koran): The holy text of the Islamic faith.

- Mosque: A house of worship for the Islamic religion.
- Mecca: A town in Saudi Arabia that is the birthplace of Islam.
- Muslim: A follower of the Islamic faith.

Judaism

Judaism is one of the oldest of the five major religions. It was founded more than 3500 years ago. Today, there are about 14 million people of the Jewish faith around the world, making it the smallest of the five major religions.



BELIEFS

The majority of people who practice the Jewish faith live in the United States (41%) and Israel (41%). Canada, France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, and Argentina house the next highest levels.

Followers of Judaism believe that God has appointed them as the chosen people in order to set an example of holiness and a standard of ethics for the world.

Judaism looks to Abraham as one of the patriarchs (fatherly leaders) of the Jewish faith. The followers of Abraham were known as Israelites.

Moses, another patriarch of Judaism, led the enslaved Israelites out of Egypt around 1300 BCE. Moses was presented with the Ten Commandments by God on Mount Sinai. The commandments were the fundamental rules of the Israelites' covenant with God.

HOLY BOOKS

Moses was also entrusted with the Torah, the sacred text of Judaism. It is a combination of five books that explore the Jewish faith. Oral Law helped people to understand the teachings of the Torah. Later, the heads of the faith, rabbis, recorded the Oral Law in written form.

DEITIES (GOD)

Many Jewish people believe that the coming of the Messiah (God) will bring about the golden Messianic Age. The people would be allowed to return to Israel, bringing about a period of peace on Earth.

WORSHIP

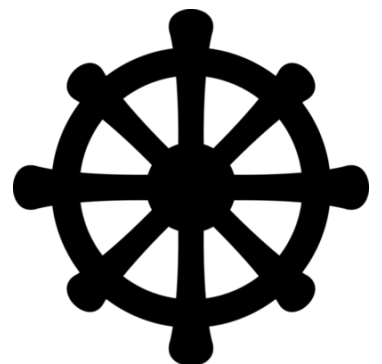
The synagogue has become the center for Jewish worship and study. Services are often spoken in Hebrew with unaccompanied singing and chanting. Men and women often do not sit together during the service. Everyone, except an unmarried woman, wears a head covering (yarmulke) to show respect for God. Others wear a prayer shawl called a tallit. Followers of the faith believe in the Sabbath, a time of rest. It begins on Friday night and ends on Saturday night. Jewish holidays include Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Rosh Hashanah is the celebration of the Jewish New Year. Hanukkah is celebrated in part by the lighting of a nine-branched menorah for eight days.

VOCABULARY

- TORAH: A collection of five holy books handwritten in Hebrew.
- HEBREW: The written and spoken language of the Jewish faith.
- SYNAGOGUE: A place of worship for the Jewish faith.
- MESSIAH: Another name for God.
- PATRIARCH: A male religious founder or head of the faith.
- RABBI: A religious leader of the faith.

Buddhism

Buddhism originated in India more than 2,500 years ago and is considered the fourth largest religion in the world behind Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism. Today, there are about 500 million Buddhists around the world.



The majority of people who practice Buddhism live in the Asia-Pacific Region, with 50% of Buddhists residing in China. However, Buddhism reaches as far east as Japan and as far south as Indonesia.

BELIEFS

Many people view Buddhism as more of a philosophy or a way of life. The universal goal of a Buddhist is to achieve a state of enlightenment and freedom from suffering, which comes about through acts of compassion for all living things. Buddhism's spiritual traditions can be traced back to Siddhartha Gautama, also known as the Buddha or the Awakened One, by his followers. Buddha teaches that the root of suffering is desire, which arises from greed, ignorance, and hatred. The Buddha reached enlightenment after meditating and reflecting on life under a tree called the Bodhi Tree or the Tree of Awakening. Similar to Hinduism, Buddhism accepts the idea of the cycle of rebirth.

To break the cycle of rebirth and attain true enlightenment, one must understand the Four Noble Truths: Dukka (the truth of suffering), Samudaya (the truth of the origin of suffering), Nirodha (the truth of the end of suffering), and Magga (the truth of the path to the end of suffering). The end of suffering can also be achieved through the Noble Eightfold Path, which consists of eight steps that lead to a life with reduced suffering. The Noble Eightfold Path is grouped into three basic themes: wisdom, virtue, and concentration. The Wheel of Life represents the endless cycle of death and rebirth from which one can only escape by following the path to enlightenment.

DEITIES (GODS?)

Buddhists do not believe in a creator or god. Instead, they believe in interconnectedness, the notion that everything depends on everything else. Buddhists emphasize questioning more than relying on priests or sacred texts, and they look to the teachings of the Buddha as a starting point.

HOLY BOOK

For over 4,000 years following the death of Buddha, his teachings were passed down orally. Eventually, texts known as the Pali Canon were written, followed by the Mahayana Sutras.

WORSHIP

Buddhism can be practiced both at home and in temples. Buddhist temples have a design that symbolizes the five elements: fire, air, earth, water, and wisdom. The stupa refers to a Buddhist shrine, and Buddhists make offerings with flowers, candles, incense, and similar items.

LEADERSHIP

The Dalai Lama (meaning "ocean" and "perfect teacher") is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, and Buddhists around the world follow his teachings. Each Dalai Lama is believed to be the reincarnation of the previous one.

VOCABULARY

- Stupa: a Buddhist shrine used for worship at home
- Dalai Lama: the spiritual leader of the Buddhist people
- Pali Canon: texts of the Buddhist religion and teachings
- Buddha: the first spiritual leader of the Buddhist religion
- Wheel of Life: the endless cycle of death and rebirth
- Four Noble Truths: the path to enlightenment and the end of suffering

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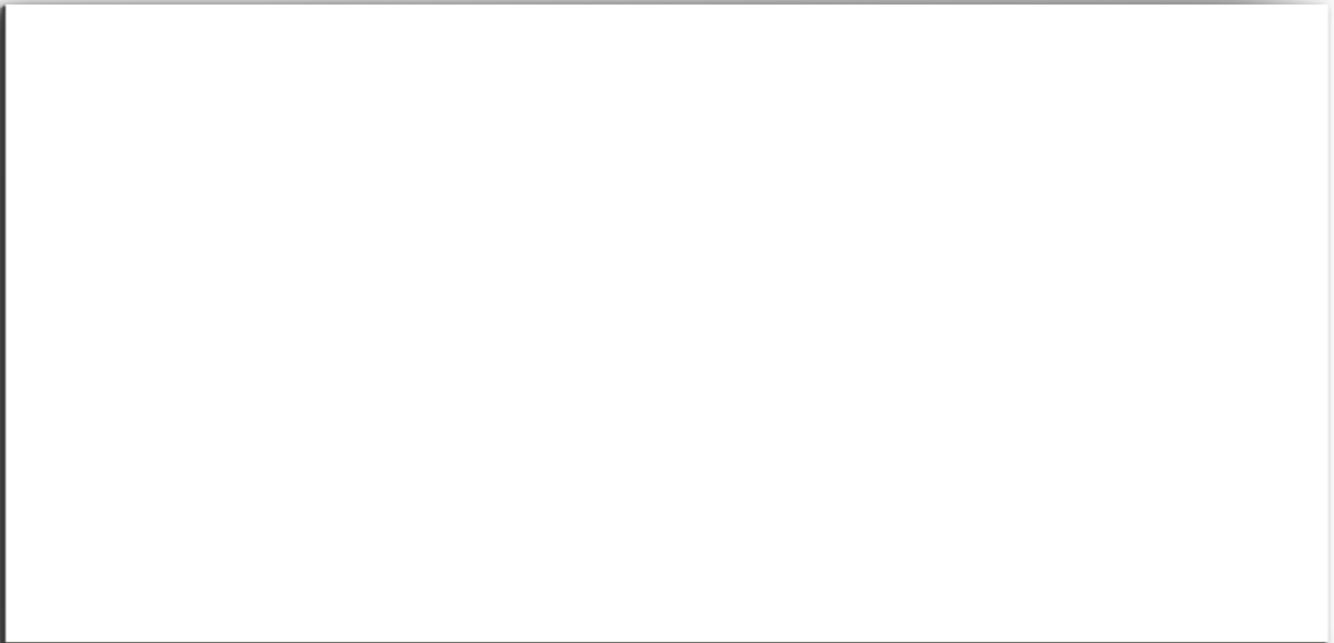
¹ Mooney, Carla. *Comparative Religion: Investigate the World Through Religious Tradition*. Nomad Press, 2015.

PROJECT: DESIGN A RELIGIOUS POSTER

I have five posters that were created by someone. Each of these posters summarizes the "basics" about each of the religions. You will be given time in class to design your own poster using Google Slides as a template.

If you have 25 ideas in your poster, you will easily earn 50/50 points on this task. You will even earn money for your country if your ideas match the poster.

Use the space provided to map out a rough plan for your poster.



DIRECTIONS: After reading through each religion, use information you highlighted (annotated) to fill out the table provided.

	HINDUISM	JUDAISM	BUDDHISM	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
SYMBOL					
NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS					
SIZE					
REGIONS OF THE WORLD					
TRANSCONTINENTAL	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
FOUNDER					
MONOTHEISTIC	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
PLACE OF WORSHIP					
DEITY (GOD(s))					
AGE					
RITUALS/ PRACTICES					
HOLY TEXT					
BELIEF (GOAL)					
HOLIDAYS					
LEADERSHIP					

VOCABULARY					
VOCABULARY					
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VOCABULARY					
ANYTHING ELSE					
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TEST IDEA “CHECKLIST”

- Where on a map do each of the religions start?
- Which religions are dominant in each continent?
- In what directions did religions spread once they started?
- What is the main symbol for each religion?
- What is the holy text (scripture) of each religion?
- How old is each religion compared to the other religions?
- What word seems to sum up the belief of each religion?
- Who were the founders of each religion?
- What is the house of worship for each religion?
- What are the names for each deity (god) for each religion?