

World Religion Basics

*A study guide for the basic information you need to know about
World Religions!*



Foreword

This document outlines the “basics” of **World Religion** in a way that is easy to understand.

The “basics” are the topics, events, and definitions that form a basic foundation of knowledge about **World Religions**. The “basics” are explained simply and accurately, without opinion or bias. The content is intended to be neutral and non-controversial.

The document uses a study guide format, which facilitates:

- **Quick Review** All of the content in this document can be reviewed in one sitting. Start with the **Overview** and the **Appendices**.
- **Additional Study** The terms identified in [blue font](#) can also be found in [Wikipedia](#). Items can be committed to memory by looking at a term on the left-side and trying to recall the information from the right-side
- **Future Reference** The document serves as a ready reference for future questions

To get more information or to send comments/corrections, please visit [BasicStudyGuides.com](#).

If you were shopping for a religion, which one would you pick?

World Religion Overview

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6dCxo7t_aE (11:09 minutes)

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MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS


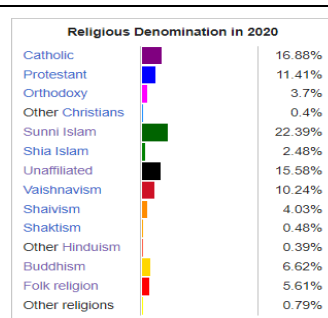
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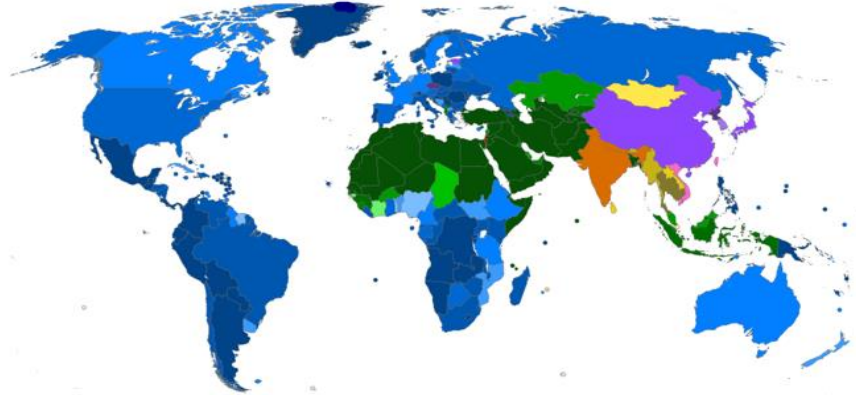
OVERVIEW

World Religions																																																																									
<p>Religion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religion – A system of beliefs and practices that are related to the supernatural <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically includes matters of faith and worship with respect to a deity (god/goddess) Often addresses: 1) Why humans exist (creationism), 2) What happens after we die (afterlife) 																																																																								
<p>Major World Religions</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major World Religions– The largest and/or most significant major religious groups in the world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven (7) major world religion groups are commonly identified (see below) These major world religions can be further sub-divided into religious denominations <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">✡️ Judaism</th> <th style="text-align: center;">✝️ Christianity</th> <th style="text-align: center;">☾ Islam</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ॐ Hinduism</th> <th style="text-align: center;">☸️ Buddhism</th> <th style="text-align: center;">☸️ ☯️ ☸️ Other Religions</th> <th style="text-align: center;">⚛️ Irreligion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Followers <small>(2020 estimate)</small></td> <td>Jews ~15 million ~0.2% of world</td> <td>Christians ~2.4 billion ~31% of world</td> <td>Muslims ~1.9 billion ~25% of world</td> <td>Hindus ~1.2 billion ~16% of world</td> <td>Buddhists ~0.5 billion ~7% of world</td> <td>Various ~0.4 billion ~5% of world</td> <td>Various ~1.3 billion ~16% of world</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Start</td> <td>~600 BCE</td> <td>~70 CE</td> <td>~622 CE</td> <td>~2000 BCE</td> <td>~500 BCE</td> <td>Various</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Prophet</td> <td>Abraham</td> <td>Jesus</td> <td>Muhammad</td> <td>None</td> <td>Buddha</td> <td>Various</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holy Books</td> <td>Torah, Tanakh, Talmud</td> <td>Bible (Old & New Testament)</td> <td>Quran</td> <td>Vedas, Bhagavat Gita</td> <td>Tripitaka</td> <td>Various or N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Place of Worship</td> <td>Synagogue (Jewish Temple)</td> <td>Church</td> <td>Mosque</td> <td>Mandir, Koil (Hindu Temple)</td> <td>Pagoda, Stupa (Buddhist Temple)</td> <td>Various or N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holy Days</td> <td>Rosh Hashana, Passover, Yom Kippur</td> <td>Easter, Christmas</td> <td>Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha</td> <td>Diwali, Navaratri</td> <td>Vesak, Buddhist New Year, Parinirvana Day</td> <td>Various or N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holy Places</td> <td>Jerusalem, Israel</td> <td>Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth</td> <td>Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem</td> <td>Varanasi, Ganges River</td> <td>Lumbini</td> <td>Various or N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Also Known As</td> <td colspan="4">Abrahamic Religions</td> <td colspan="2">Folk Religions</td> <td>Unaffiliated</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Also see Appendix A: Beliefs of World Religions</i></p>		✡️ Judaism	✝️ Christianity	☾ Islam	ॐ Hinduism	☸️ Buddhism	☸️ ☯️ ☸️ Other Religions	⚛️ Irreligion	Followers <small>(2020 estimate)</small>	Jews ~15 million ~0.2% of world	Christians ~2.4 billion ~31% of world	Muslims ~1.9 billion ~25% of world	Hindus ~1.2 billion ~16% of world	Buddhists ~0.5 billion ~7% of world	Various ~0.4 billion ~5% of world	Various ~1.3 billion ~16% of world	Start	~600 BCE	~70 CE	~622 CE	~2000 BCE	~500 BCE	Various	N/A	Key Prophet	Abraham	Jesus	Muhammad	None	Buddha	Various	N/A	Holy Books	Torah, Tanakh, Talmud	Bible (Old & New Testament)	Quran	Vedas, Bhagavat Gita	Tripitaka	Various or N/A	N/A	Place of Worship	Synagogue (Jewish Temple)	Church	Mosque	Mandir, Koil (Hindu Temple)	Pagoda, Stupa (Buddhist Temple)	Various or N/A	N/A	Holy Days	Rosh Hashana, Passover, Yom Kippur	Easter, Christmas	Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha	Diwali, Navaratri	Vesak, Buddhist New Year, Parinirvana Day	Various or N/A	N/A	Holy Places	Jerusalem, Israel	Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth	Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem	Varanasi, Ganges River	Lumbini	Various or N/A	N/A	Also Known As	Abrahamic Religions				Folk Religions		Unaffiliated
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<p>Abrahamic Religions</p> <p>Abraham (Abram) (Ibrahim)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abrahamic Religions – 3 major religions based on the deity worshiped by the prophet Abraham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abrahamic religions believe in one deity (Yahweh = God = Allah) Abrahamic religions include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam Abraham is the patriarch of the Hebrews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God made the ‘covenant of the pieces’ with Abraham and told him to move to Canaan (Israel), where Abraham’s family tree would thrive Abraham had sons who were born to different women: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ishmael (son of Hagar) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is an ancestor of Muhammad and is buried in Mecca; Islam traces to Ishmael Isaac (son of Sarah) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inherited the ‘covenant’ from Abraham; Judaism & Christianity trace to Isaac <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Also see Appendix B: Map of Abrahamic Religions</i></p>																																																																								
<p>Religious Denomination (Movement) (Sect) (Tradition) (School of Thought)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious Denomination – A subgroup that shares many of the primary beliefs of a major religious group, but has unique: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Organization, 2) Beliefs & Practices, and 3) Source Doctrine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunni Islam is the world’s largest religious denomination The primary denominations of each major religion are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judaism –Orthodox, Reform and Conservative Christianity –Catholic, Protestant and Orthodoxy Islam –Sunni and Shia Hinduism –Vaishnavism, Shaivism, and Shaktism Buddhism –Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Also see Appendix C: Beliefs & Practices Protestant Denominations</i></p>																																																																								
<p>The Golden Rule (Ethic of Reciprocity)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden Rule – A principle found in all major religions; ‘Treat others the way you want to be treated’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judaism – “That which is hateful to you do not do to another; that is the entire Torah, and the rest is its interpretation.” Talmud, Shabbat 31a Christianity – “In everything, do to others as you would have them do unto you; for this is the law and the Prophets.” New Testament, Matthew 7:12 Islam – “None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.” 40 Hadith 13 Hinduism – “One should never do that to another which one regards as injurious to one’s oneself. This in brief, is the rule of dharma.” Brihaspati, Mahabharata 13.113.8 Buddhism – “Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.” Udana Varga 5:18 																																																																								

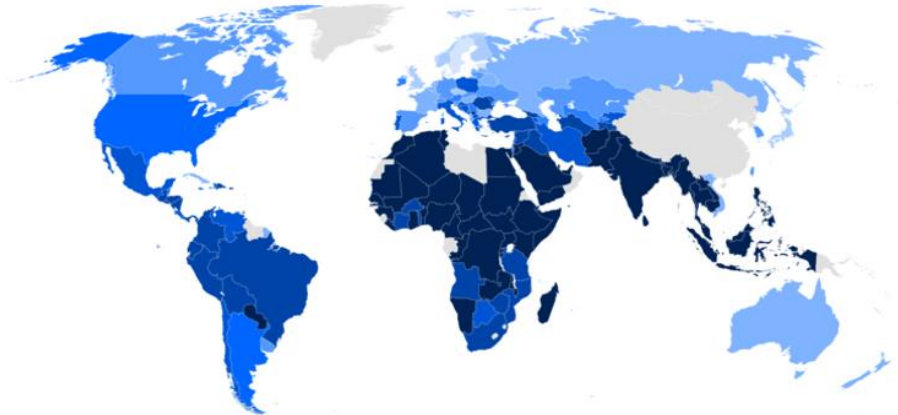
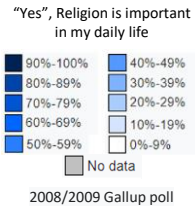
World Religion Basics

Maps of Major World Religions

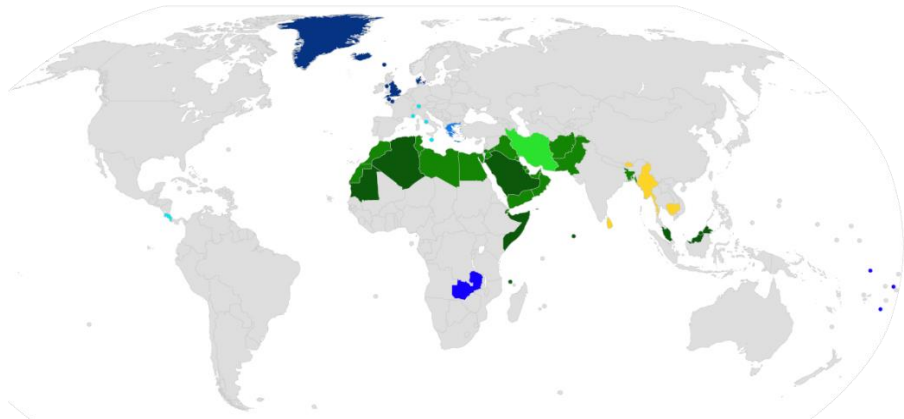
Major Religion by Country



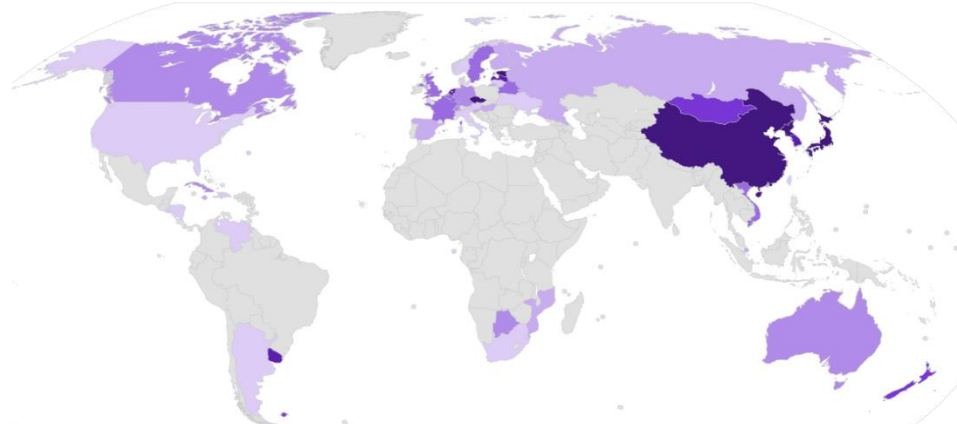
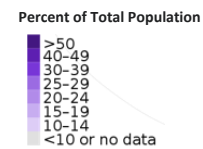
Importance of Religion by Country



State Religion by Country




Irreligion by Country




World Religion Basics


MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS

Judaism			
<p>Judaism (Rabbinic Judaism)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judaism – A religion based on the deity Yahweh who was worshipped by the prophet Abraham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A major religion based on its impact (but small in size); ~15 million followers (~0.2% of world) ○ Evolved from the religions of ancient Israel and Judah by the 5th century BCE ○ Considered to be one of the oldest monotheistic religions ○ Followers are known as Jews (Note: the term ‘Jew’ can refer to both a religion and an ethnicity) ○ Teachings are documented in the Torah, Tanakh and Talmud • Judaism is based on the following Jewish principles of faith: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Belief in God, as well as the ‘oneness’ of God (as opposed to a Trinity = Father, Son, Holy Spirit) ○ Belief that the Jewish people were chosen by God to be an example of faith for others ○ Belief in the prophecy of Moses and the Ten Commandments ○ Belief in the coming of a Messiah, who is not a deity, but is a leader from King David's lineage ○ Belief in the resurrection of the dead (Note: Less emphasis on the afterlife; focus is on this world) 		
<p>God in Judaism (Yahweh) (God) (Allah)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God in Judaism (Yahweh) – The one and only deity in Judaism (Note: Yahweh = God = Allah) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The supreme being and creator of all things, who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent ○ God’s image is never written or spoken (instead write “G-d” or say <i>hashem</i> – “the Name”) 		
<p>Moses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses – The most important prophet in Judaism (Note: He is also important in Christianity & Islam) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moses was a leader of the Israelites and the prophet who received the Torah from God • The life of Moses (~1391–1271 BCE according to texts in Judaism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Pharaoh ordered Jewish newborns killed, but Moses was mistakenly adopted by the royals ○ God later instructed Moses to demand that the Pharaoh release Israelites from Egyptian slavery ○ Moses led the Exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt by the Crossing of the Red Sea ○ Moses received the Ten Commandments and wrote the Torah based on God’s direction ○ After wandering 40 years, Moses died at 120 years old, just before re-entering Canaan (Israel) 		
<p>Torah (5 Books of Moses) (Pentateuch)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torah – The first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The words of the Torah are believed to have been received from God by Moses ○ Starts with the genesis creation narrative and ends with the death of Moses 		
<p>Tanakh (Hebrew Bible)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanakh – Scriptures (24 books) that are known as the Hebrew Bible; forming the written tradition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes the Torah, the Nevi'im, and the Ketuvim ○ Shares many books with the Christian Old Testament 		
<p>Talmud</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talmud – Guidance from the Torah passed down verbally until recorded; forming the oral tradition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarifies how to fully comply with the laws set out within the written tradition (Tanakh) 		
<p>Halakha</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halakha – Jewish religious law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on: 1) The 10 Commandments, 2) Talmudic & Rabbinic Laws, and 3) Customs & Traditions 		
<p>Mitzvah</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitzvah – A commandment or religious duty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 613 mitzvot are in the Torah: 248 are positive (“thou shalt”) 365 are negative (“thou shalt not”) ○ The word ‘mitzvah’ is also used for an act of human kindness in keeping with the Jewish Law 		
<p>Ten Commandments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten Commandments (Note: the numbering and wording may differ across Abrahamic religions) <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You shall not have others before God 2. You shall not make idols 3. You shall not take God’s name in vain 4. Keep holy the Sabbath day 5. Honor your father and your mother </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. You shall not murder 7. You shall not commit adultery 8. You shall not steal 9. You shall not bear false witness 10. You shall not covet (wife or possessions) </td> </tr> </table> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You shall not have others before God 2. You shall not make idols 3. You shall not take God’s name in vain 4. Keep holy the Sabbath day 5. Honor your father and your mother 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. You shall not murder 7. You shall not commit adultery 8. You shall not steal 9. You shall not bear false witness 10. You shall not covet (wife or possessions)
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<p>Principles of Jewish Faith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Jewish Faith – 13 principles outlined by Rabbi Maimonides (1135–1204 CE) <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existence of God 2. God's unity and indivisibility into elements 3. God's spirituality and incorporeality 4. God's eternity 5. God alone should be the object of worship 6. Revelation through God's prophets 7. Moses is preeminent among the prophets </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The Torah was dictated to Moses by God 9. The Torah is permanent 10. God is aware of human actions & thoughts 11. Righteousness will be rewarded & evil punished 12. The coming of the Jewish Messiah 13. The resurrection of the dead </td> </tr> </table> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existence of God 2. God's unity and indivisibility into elements 3. God's spirituality and incorporeality 4. God's eternity 5. God alone should be the object of worship 6. Revelation through God's prophets 7. Moses is preeminent among the prophets 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. The Torah was dictated to Moses by God 9. The Torah is permanent 10. God is aware of human actions & thoughts 11. Righteousness will be rewarded & evil punished 12. The coming of the Jewish Messiah 13. The resurrection of the dead
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World Religion Basics

Jewish Religious Denominations	
Jewish Religious Movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish Religious Movements – Movements within Judaism, as found in the United States <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reform (~35%) ○ No Classification (~30%) (e.g., Judaism is more of a cultural identity than a religion) ○ Conservative (~20%) ○ Orthodox (~10%) ○ Other (~5%) 
Orthodox Judaism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthodox Judaism – The movement of Judaism focused on strict adherence to Jewish Law (halakha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Firmly established when the Jewish emancipation ensured equal rights (~1700 CE) ▪ Leadership: Synagogues are either independent or associated in local organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Modern Orthodox Synagogues are open to outer society – Haredi & Hasidic Synagogues are more reclusive ▪ Clergy: Rabbis are married men and have strong authority in religious practices ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: Souls of both the righteous and unrighteous go to Sheol, a place of darkness ▪ Salvation: A period when the messiah will bring peace and brotherhood, without any evil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Historically, salvation was a goal for the Jewish people as a group (not just the individual) – Judaism has since adopted diverse beliefs on a final judgement and individual salvation ▪ Halakha: Orthodox Judaism believes that Jewish Law (halakha) is required or 'binding' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bar/Bat Mitzvah: A ritual that transfers responsibility for a child's sins from the father to the boy (bar) or girl (bat); typically occurs at or around 13 years old – Kashrut: Dietary laws dealing permitted foods and how those foods must be prepared – Kippahs: A skullcap (brimless hat) is worn by males (a.k.a. yarmulke - a Yiddish word) – Mezuzah: A piece of inscribed parchment is affixed to the doorposts of homes – Negiah: Avoiding physical contact of the opposite sex outside of the immediate family – Niddah: A woman who has menstruated and not yet taken a ritual bath (mikveh) – Shabbat: Judaism's sabbath day of rest on the seventh day of the week (Saturday) – Tefilah: Daily prayer and public worship – Tzitzit: Specially knotted ritual fringes, or tassels, worn on a prayer shawl (tallit) – Music: Instrumental music is not permitted during Synagogue services – Jew Definition: Requires one's mother to be Jewish or complete conversion training
Conservative Judaism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservative Judaism – The movement seeking to both conserve & modernize Jewish Law (halakha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Inspired by Rabbi Zecharias Frankel (1801-1875) ▪ Leadership: Synagogues are either independent or associated in local organizations ▪ Clergy: Rabbis may be married or unmarried men or women ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife and Salvation are the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halakha: Conservative Jews seek guidance from the Committee on Jewish Law & Standards (CJLS) on matters of Jewish Law (halakha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The CJLS votes on Jewish Law (halakha) and recommends laws that are 'binding' on Jews – The local rabbi, however, remains the final authority in each conservative community
Reform Judaism (Liberal) (Progressive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform Judaism – A movement of Judaism that is open to new interpretations of Jewish Law (halakha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Rabbi Abraham Geiger (1810-1874) & Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise (1819 – 1900) ▪ Leadership: Synagogues are either independent or associated in local organizations ▪ Clergy: Rabbis may be married or unmarried men or women ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife and Salvation are the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Halakha: Reform Judaism applies modern inputs in following Jewish Law (halakha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Bar/Bat Mitzvah: May be eliminated and/or replaced with confirmation – Kashrut: Strict dietary law is typically not required – Kippah: Typically worn by men only in Synagogue; women may wear kippot as well – Negiah: Men and women may sit together in synagogue services – Shabbat: Restricting normal activities on the Sabbath is typically not observed – Tefilah: Daily public worship is typically not required – Music: Instrumental music is permitted during Synagogue in Reform services – Jew Definition: Allows members with a Jewish father, those raised Jewish, and converts


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Christianity	
<p>Christianity</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity – A major world religion based on teachings of Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The world's largest religion, with ~2.4 billion followers (~31% of world population) ○ The primary religion in the majority of countries in the world (157 countries) ○ Evolved after the Fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE and became legal in the Roman Empire in 313 CE ○ Followers are known as Christians ○ Primary teachings are documented in the Bible • Christianity is based on the following general beliefs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Belief in one deity (God) ○ Belief in the Trinity, in which God exists in 3 forms: God the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit ○ Belief that Jesus is the son of God and the Messiah who was prophesied in the Old Testament ○ Belief in a second coming of Jesus, who will return to Earth and take believers to heaven
<p>God in Christianity (God) (Yahweh) (Allah)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God in Christianity (God) – God is the one and only deity in Christianity (God = Yahweh = Allah) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The supreme being and creator of all things, who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent ○ God is often viewed as one entity in three forms, or the Trinity (Father, Son, & Holy Spirit)
<p>Jesus (Jesus of Nazareth) (Jesus Christ)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus (~4 BCE to ~30 CE) – The central figure of Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Believed to be the son of God and the Messiah who was prophesied about in the Old Testament ○ Believed to have come to earth in human form, taught about God, and put to death for teaching ○ Believed to have died for the sins of humans, enabling them to reach heaven • The life of Jesus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Believed to have been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to Mary (& Joseph) in Bethlehem ○ Originally a carpenter in the town of Nazareth in the region of Galilee (Israel/Lebanon) ○ Baptized by John the Baptist and received the Holy Spirit ○ Commissioned the twelve apostles to assist with his work ○ Taught about God and told followers to adhere to Jewish law and repent their sins ○ Was persecuted because of his teachings and crucified by the Romans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entombed for 3 days, Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to heaven; reuniting with God ○ Believed to be the Messiah who will usher in a Messianic Age at his Second Coming ○ Worshipped with God and the Holy Trinity
<p>Bible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible – Christian teachings are documented in the Bible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Christian Bible includes two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament ○ There are different versions of the Christian bible; some denominations use the different version • Old Testament (OT) – 24+ books written by various authors over several centuries. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The name & number of books in the Old Testament varies by religion and denomination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Judaism: The Tanakh = 24 books ▪ Protestantism: The Old Testament = 39 books ▪ Catholicism: The Old Testament = 46 books ▪ Orthodoxy: The Old Testament = 49 books ○ Christians traditionally divide the books of Old Testament into four sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The first five books, or Pentateuch, which correspond to the Jewish Torah ▪ Books telling the history of the Israelites, from the conquest of Canaan to exile in Babylon ▪ Books dealing with questions of good and evil in the world (the “Wisdom Books”) ▪ Books of the biblical prophets, warning of the consequences of turning away from God • New Testament (NT) – 27 books written by various authors at different times <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The books are generally consistent across Christian denominations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 27 books include: 4 x Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, 1 x Acts of the Apostles 13 x Pauline Epistles. 1 x Epistle to Hebrews, 7 x General Epistles &, 1 x Book of Revelation
<p>Apostles Creed (~Profession of Faith) (~Nicaean Creed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostles Creed – A simple statement of Christian beliefs that is based on the Nicaean Creed (325 CE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Belief in <u>one God</u>, who is the maker of heaven and earth ○ Belief in <u>Jesus Christ</u>, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary ○ Belief that <u>Jesus was crucified</u>, died, and buried for the sins of mankind ○ Belief in the <u>2nd coming of Jesus</u> to judge whether the living and the dead can enter heaven ○ Belief in the <u>Holy Spirit</u>, who has spoken through the prophets ○ Belief in the <u>holy church</u> ○ Belief in <u>baptism</u> for the remission of sins ○ Belief in the <u>resurrection of the dead</u>, and the life everlasting


World Religion Basics

Primary Christian Denominations	
<p>Major Christian Denominations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Denominations – There are 3 primary denominations in Christianity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Catholic (~50%) ○ Protestant (~37%) – Note: many sub-denominations exist ○ Orthodox (~12%) ○ Other (~1%) 
<p>Catholic (Roman Catholic)</p> <p>Note: A catholic-centric viewpoint is that without a strong, central, spiritual authority (the Pope) to determine truth from untruth, each group of like-minded people could claim 'truth' in religious doctrine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic – The largest primary denomination of Christianity, followed by ~50% of world Christians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy split in the Great Schism of 1054 CE ▪ Leadership: The Pope is the leader of all churches (papal supremacy) ▪ Clergy: Only unmarried men can be priests. Celibacy is the rule for clergy ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: After death, the soul of a good person goes to Heaven, and bad to Hell (or Purgatory) ▪ Salvation: Attained by God's grace, faith in God, following scripture, and observing sacraments ▪ Sacraments: Baptism, Penance, Eucharist, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders, Last Rights ▪ Baptism: Conducted after birth (infant baptism), but affirmed in adulthood (confirmation) ▪ Eucharist: Belief that the eucharist becomes the body & blood of Christ (transubstantiation) ▪ Church Service: Primarily follows a liturgical format (a recurring annual structure) ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bible: The primary religious text, including the Old Testament (46 books) and New Testament
<p>Protestant</p> <p>Note: The term Protestant is not a unified religion itself, but rather a term for a group of many independent churches.</p> <p>Many of the independent protestant religions formally split from the Catholic Church beginning in the 1600s CE.</p> <p>Protestant movements separated from the Catholic Church for both religious and political reasons.</p> <p>Also see Appendix C: Beliefs & Practices Protestant Denominations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protestant – The 2nd largest primary denomination, followed by ~37% of world Christians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Protestant denominations first appeared in the Reformation (1517-1648 CE) ▪ Leadership: Different Protestant denominations use various forms of church governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Episcopal: Governance by a hierarchy of bishops – Presbyterian: Higher assemblies of elders exercise authority over congregations – Congregational: Every local church (congregation) is independent and autonomous ▪ Clergy: May include married or unmarried men & women, dependent on denomination ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife is the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Salvation: Attained by God's grace alone (sola gratia), faith alone (sola fide) and by understanding scripture alone (sola scriptura), and not by penance (as in Catholicism) ▪ Sacraments: Usually 2 sacraments (baptism and eucharist), although others are possible ▪ Baptism: Either conducted after birth (infant baptism) and affirmed in adulthood (confirmation), or only as an adult (believers' baptism), dependent upon the denomination ▪ Non-Beliefs: Often reject Catholic concepts like papal supremacy and transubstantiation ▪ Church Service: Includes Liturgical, non-Liturgical and Contemporary formats ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bible: The primary religious text, including the Old Testament (39 books) and New Testament
<p>Orthodox (Orthodox Catholic) (Eastern Orthodox)</p> <p>Note: The term Orthodox is not a unified religion itself, but rather a term for a group affiliated churches.</p> <p>The Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church split for both religious and political reasons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthodox – The 3rd largest primary denomination, followed by ~12% of world Christians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Eastern Orthodoxy and Roman Catholicism split during the Great Schism of 1054 CE ▪ Leadership: Multiple self-governing (autocephalous) churches that align with each other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Churches are often organized around an ethnic group/language (e.g., Greek, Russian) – Each self-governing church has an independent hierarchy of ordained clergy – The Patriarchate of Constantinople is considered first among equals ▪ Clergy: Only men are ordained, priests can marry (not bishops); clergy typically have beards ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife is the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theosis: The ultimate goal is to achieve theosis ("deification"), an intimate union with God ○ Trinity: Orthodoxy believes the Holy Spirit "proceeds from God the Father," while for Catholics & Protestants, it "proceeds from the Father and the Son" (Filioque Controversy) ▪ Church Service: Typically follows a Liturgical format <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minor differences from Catholicism in the sign of the cross, eucharist & kneeling in prayer ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bible: The primary religious text, including the Old Testament (49 books) and New Testament

World Religion Basics

Islam	
<p>Islam</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam – A major world religion based on teachings of Muhammad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The world's 2nd largest religion, with ~1.9 billion followers (~25% of world population) ○ The fastest growing religion, projected to be the largest by the end of the 21st century ○ Originated in the city of Mecca in ~622 CE ○ Followers are known as Muslims ○ Primary teachings are documented in the Quran • Islam is based on the following general beliefs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Belief in one deity (Allah) ○ Belief that nothing happens without Allah's consent, but humans can choose good or evil ○ Belief in the supremacy of the Quran as the final, verbatim and unaltered word of Allah ○ Belief in the Five Pillars of Islam, which are obligatory acts of worship in Islam ○ Belief that Isa (Jesus) will usher in a Messianic Age and establish Islam as the word of Allah ○ Belief that a final judgement will reward good with paradise (jannah) and evil with hell (jahannam)
<p>God in Islam (Allah) (Yahweh) (God)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God in Islam (Allah) – Allah is the one and only deity in Islam (Allah = Yahweh = God) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The supreme being and creator of all things, who is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent ○ God has no physical body or gender (but is referred to with masculine pronouns and grammar)
<p>Muhammad</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muhammad (~570 – 632 CE) – The central prophet of Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Was a devout person who received the teachings of Allah via the archangel Gabriel ○ Was able to unite the Arabian Peninsula under the religion of Islam ○ Is believed by Muslims to be the final prophet of Allah • The life of Muhammad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Born in ~570 CE to Abdullah and Amina in the city of Mecca, but was orphaned at 6 years old ○ Was a devout person who was visited by the archangel Gabriel ○ Received his 1st revelation in ~610 CE and started preaching about revelations in 613 CE ○ Persecuted for his teaching and migrated from the city of Mecca to Medina in 622 CE (hijra) ○ Gathered an army and conquered the city of Mecca In December 629 CE ○ Became ill and died in 632 CE, a few months after returning from his Farewell Pilgrimage (hajj)
<p>Quran</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quran – Islamic teachings are centered on the Quran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider be the verbatim word of Allah and the final revelation ○ Was revealed to Muhammad through the archangel Gabriel ○ Is divided into 114 chapters (sūrah) which combined contain 6,236 verses (āyāt)
<p>Hadith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hadith – Islamic teachings also consult the hadith ('accounts'), or the written record of Prophet Muhammad's life (sunnah), to both supplement the Quran and assist with its interpretation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Different Denominations of Islam follow different hadith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunni Islam: 6 principal books, 37 primary books, 18 secondary books ▪ Shia Islam: 4 principal books, 18 primary books, 7 books of infallibles, 13 secondary books
<p>Sharia (Islamic Law)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharia (Islamic law) – A body of religious law that forms part of the Islamic tradition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on both the Quran and Hadith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Quran is primary and takes precedence, although the Hadith provides more guidance ○ Touches on virtually every aspect of life, from banking and finance, to welfare, to male roles and female roles in Islam, to the environment
<p>Five Pillars of Islam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Pillars of Islam – Obligatory acts of worship in Islam <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assertion of Faith (shahada) – believe in Allah & Muhammad 2. Daily Prayers (salah) – perform five obligatory prayers each day 3. Almsgiving (zakat) – contribute to the needy 4. Fasting (sawm) – fast dawn to nightfall during Ramadan 5. Pilgrimage (hajj) – visit the city of Mecca once in your lifetime
<p>Six Articles of Faith</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six Articles of Faith – The Islamic Faith includes six primary articles of faith: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Belief in one Allah ○ Belief in the Angels ○ Belief in God's Books The Quran, Injeel, Torah, Psalms, Scrolls of Moses, S' o' Abraham ○ Belief in Prophets Muhammad, Jesus, David, Moses, Joseph, Jacob, Abraham ○ Belief in the Day of Judgment Humanity is assigned to paradise or hell - with subgroups ○ Belief in God's predestination Whether it involves good or bad


World Religion Basics

Primary Islamic Denominations	
<p>Major Islamic Sects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Islamic Sects – There are 2 primary sects within Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sunni (~85%) ○ Shia (~15%) ○ Other (<1%) 
<p>Sunni Islam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunni Islam – The largest sect of Islam, followed by ~85% of the world's Muslims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Fully established after the death of Muhammad in 632 CE ▪ Leadership: Teaches that Abu Bakr became the leader of Islam after Muhammad's death; future leaders can be selected rather than being from Muhammad's bloodline ▪ Clergy: Sunni mosques are often managed by a cleric (Mullah), which is most often a man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prayers are led by an Imam, who is typically a man ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eschatology: At the end of days, the Mahdi will join Isa (Jesus) and defeat Dajjal (Antichrist) ▪ Afterlife: The soul enters different levels of paradise (Jannah) or hell (Jahannam) as a temporary state until the final judgement, where only the unbelievers remain in hell ▪ Salvation: On the Last Day, Islam teaches that belief in Allah, the Quran, and Muhammad are needed to enter Paradise, but that a person is still at the mercy of Allah's judgement ▪ Angels: Teaches that angels always obey Allah's commands (they have no free will) ▪ Prayer: Sunni Muslims say prayers 5 times per day; pray with arms crossed over the chest ▪ Praying at Graves: Opposed to praying at graves because it seeks help outside of Allah ▪ Self-Flagellation: Unlike Shia, self-flagellation is not actively practiced and is considered a sin ▪ Temporary Marriage: Rejects temporary marriage during long absences as adultery ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quran: Sunni & Shia typically use the same Quran, but have different beliefs about it ▪ Hadith: Contains six principal books (Kutub al-Sittah), 37 primary, and 18 secondary books
<p>Shia Islam</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shia Islam – The second-largest sect of Islam, followed by ~15% of the world's Muslims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Established after the death of Muhammad in 632 CE ▪ Leadership: Teaches that Ali ibn Abu Talib became the leader of Islam after Muhammad's death and that follow-on Imams were from Muhammad's bloodline (including the Mahdi) ▪ Clergy: Shia mosques are often managed by a cleric (Mullah), which is most often a man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ayatollah is an honorific title for high-ranking Shia clergy in Iran and Iraq – An Imam must be a decedent of Muhammad, and is designated as infallible (Note: There are no living Imams) ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Eschatology is the same as in the section above, with more detail on Mahdi below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mahdi: A leader believed to appear at the end of times to rid the world of evil and injustice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – He will appear just before the Prophet Isa (Jesus) and lead the Muslims to rule the world – Most of Shia Islam believes Muhammad al-Mahdi (the 12th Imam) has been in hiding (i.e., living in occultation) since 868 CE and will reappear at some point in the future ▪ Salvation: Teaches that belief in Allah, the Quran, and Muhammad & the Twelve Imams will completely guarantee Paradise ▪ Angels: Teaches that angels have free will, and while obedient to God, can stray & disobey ▪ Prayer: Shia Muslims say 5 prayers across 3 times per day; pray with their arms by their sides ▪ Praying at Graves: Has no issues with praying at graves and even encourages it ▪ Self-Flagellation: Actively practice self-flagellation to honor the martyrdom of Hussein ▪ Temporary Marriage: Honors the practice of temporary marriage during long absences ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quran: Sunni & Shia typically use the same Quran, but have different beliefs about it ▪ Hadith: The majority of Shia use 4 principal books, 18 primary books, 7 books of infallibles, and 13 secondary books, which are linked to Muhammad's family and close peers

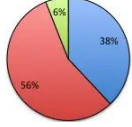
World Religion Basics

Primary Hindu Denominations	
<p>Hindu Traditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindu Traditions – There are 3 primary traditions within Hinduism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vaishnavism (~68%) ○ Shaivism (~27%) ○ Shaktism (~3%) ○ Other (~3%) <div style="text-align: right;"> </div>
<p>Vaishnavism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaishnavism – The largest Hindu tradition focused on the deity Vishnu, followed by ~68% of Hindus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Originated in ancient India as early as ~2000 BCE ▪ Leadership: Has no unified leader, but a well know organization is the Hare Krishnas (ISKCon) ▪ Clergy: Hindu priests (pandit or pujari) are most often male, but not always ▪ Geographic Area: Focused in India, but widespread throughout other areas ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deity: Considers Vishnu, the Preserver, to be the Ishvara (supreme deity) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Vishnu is incarnated in Rama, Krishna, and other avatars (the Dashavatara) – Vishnu and his avatars empower the good to fight evil, restoring dharma ▪ Spiritual Practice: The Bhakti Yoga has been historically most associated with Vaishnavism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sharanagati is the process of total surrender to God ▪ Afterlife: Reincarnation (samsara) into a living thing, such as a plant, animal or human ▪ Salvation: Varies from region to region across the Indian subcontinent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Some sects seek enlightenment & liberation (moksha) from reincarnation (samsara) – Some sects seek health & prosperity in this life ▪ Worship: Most Hindus visit temples to pray and make offerings, but all worship can be performed with icons in a home shrine (the home is a very important place of worship) ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major Texts: Vedas, Upanishads, Vaishnava Agamas, Puranas, Itihasas, Bhagavat Gita
<p>Shaivism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaivism – The 2nd largest Hindu tradition focused on the deity Shiva, followed by ~27% of Hindus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> (Note: Founding, Leadership, and Clergy is the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geographic Area: Prominent Southern India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife, Salvation, and Worship are the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deity: Considers Shiva, the Destroyer, to be the MahaDeva (Supreme deity) ▪ Spiritual Practice: Shaivism is attracted to the practice of asceticism (no sensual pleasures) ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major Texts: Vedas, Upanishads, Shaiva Agamas
<p>Shaktism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaktism – A Hindu tradition focused on the female deity Shakti, followed by ~3% of Hindus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> (Note: Founding, Leadership, and Clergy is the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geographic Area: Prominent in Northeast India, especially Bengal & Assam ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife, Salvation, and Worship are the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deity: Considers the goddess of female power Shakti to be the Ishvara (supreme deity) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shakti is also known by many names, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Devi (Goddess) or MahaDevi (Mother Goddess) ○ Lakshmi, who is the wife of Vishnu ○ Parvati, who is the wife of Shiva ○ Durga, who is associated with motherhood, protection, strength, destruction, and wars ▪ Spiritual Practice: Emphasizes opposites: male-female, absolute-relative, pleasure-pain, cause-effect, mind-body ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major Texts: Vedas, Upanishads, Shakta Agamas (Tantras), and Puranas

World Religion Basics




Buddhism													
<p>Buddhism (Buddha Dharma) (Dharma Vinaya)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhism – A major world religion based and life philosophy on the teachings of Buddha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The world's 4th largest religion with ~520 million followers (7% of the global population) ○ Originated in India around ~500 BCE and spread throughout Asia via the Silk Road ○ Follower are known as Buddhists ○ Primary teachings are outlined in the Tripitaka • Buddhism is based on the following general beliefs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Belief in reincarnation after death until Nirvana is reached ○ Does not believe in a universal deity or creator, but supernatural beings help people gain insight ○ Belief in dharma, which has no direct translation, but refers religious & moral duty for conduct ○ Belief in the Middle Way, a path of spiritual development that avoids extremes ○ Belief in the Eightfold Path, which trains the mind through Buddhist ethics and meditation 												
<p>The Buddha (The Awakened)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Buddha (~500 BCE) – A religious teacher who founded Buddhism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ His teachings are summarized in the Middle Way and the Noble Eightfold Path • Details about the life of the Buddha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Siddhartha Gautama (a.k.a. the Buddha) was born to royal parents in the city of Lumbini (in Nepal) ○ Renounced his home life to live and led a life of austerity and meditation ○ Attained enlightenment sitting under the Bodhi Tree at the holy site of Bodh Gaya in India ○ Wandered throughout lower Asia, teaching and building a monastic order ○ Died in the city of Kushinagar (in India), attaining nirvana-after-death (paranirvana) 												
<p>Tripitaka</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripitaka – A term for ancient collections (canons) of literature that form Buddhist sacred scriptures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes 3 'baskets' (Pitaka): Vinaya (monastic life), Sutta, (Buddha's teachings), Abhidhamma (other) ○ There are three primary Tripitaka collections (canons): Pali Canon, Chinese Canon, Tibet Canon 												
<p>Four Noble Truths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Noble Truths – One of the first and most important teachings of the Buddha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Four Noble Truths are: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1. Life is Suffering</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Suffering is Caused by Craving</td> <td>Desire and ignorance lie at the root of suffering</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Suffering can have an End</td> <td>By achieving nirvana</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. There is a way to end the Suffering</td> <td>The Noble Eightfold Path</td> </tr> </table> 	1. Life is Suffering		2. Suffering is Caused by Craving	Desire and ignorance lie at the root of suffering	3. Suffering can have an End	By achieving nirvana	4. There is a way to end the Suffering	The Noble Eightfold Path				
1. Life is Suffering													
2. Suffering is Caused by Craving	Desire and ignorance lie at the root of suffering												
3. Suffering can have an End	By achieving nirvana												
4. There is a way to end the Suffering	The Noble Eightfold Path												
<p>Nirvana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nirvana – The release from worldly suffering & reincarnation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Similar to moksha in Hinduism, but Nirvana can be achieved in this lifetime ○ Achieved by extinguishing the '3 fires/poisons'; greed (raga), hatred (dvesha) and ignorance (moha) 												
<p>Middle Way</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Way – A life philosophy between indulgence and austerity that leads to nirvana • Refers to 2 major aspects of the Buddhist dharma; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A spiritual practice (the Noble Eightfold Path) 2. A philosophy about the nature of the world and humanity existence 												
<p>Noble Eightfold Path</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noble Eightfold Path – A training of the mind that includes ethical training and meditative practices . which includes three categories: 1) Moral Conduct, 2) Concentration, 3) Wisdom <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">○ <u>Moral Conduct</u></td> <td style="width: 33%;">○ <u>Concentration</u></td> <td style="width: 33%;">○ <u>Wisdom</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Right Speech</td> <td>4. Right Effort</td> <td>7. Right Thought</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Right Action</td> <td>5. Right Mindfulness</td> <td>8. Right Understanding</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Right Livelihood</td> <td>6. Right Concentration</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 	○ <u>Moral Conduct</u>	○ <u>Concentration</u>	○ <u>Wisdom</u>	1. Right Speech	4. Right Effort	7. Right Thought	2. Right Action	5. Right Mindfulness	8. Right Understanding	3. Right Livelihood	6. Right Concentration	
○ <u>Moral Conduct</u>	○ <u>Concentration</u>	○ <u>Wisdom</u>											
1. Right Speech	4. Right Effort	7. Right Thought											
2. Right Action	5. Right Mindfulness	8. Right Understanding											
3. Right Livelihood	6. Right Concentration												
<p>Five Precepts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Precepts – The basic code of ethics for lay followers of Buddhism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes 5 ideas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Killing, 2. No Stealing, 3. No Sexual Misconduct, 4. No Lying, 5. No Taking Intoxicants 												
<p>Bodhisattva</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bodhisattva – One who is on the path to becoming a buddha and seeks awakening (bodhi) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bodhi is the final awaking and enlightenment, which leads to spiritual release (nirvana) ○ Bodhisattva Precepts: Includes the Five Precepts and adds: 6. No tattling, 7. No self-praise, 8. No stinginess, 9. No harboring anger, 10. No speaking ill of the Buddha or Buddhism 												
<p>Samsara in Buddhism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samsara in Buddhism – Reincarnation (samsara) in Buddhism is slightly different than in Hinduism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Includes birth into 6 good & bad realms: gods, demi-gods, humans, animals, hungry ghosts, hells ○ Hells are not a permanent state of damnation, but a temporary existence of punishment 												

World Religion Basics




Primary Buddhist Denominations	
<p>Schools of Buddhism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools of Buddhism – There are 3 primary schools of thought within Buddhism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theravada Buddhism (~38%) ○ Mahayana Buddhism (~56%) ○ Vajrayana Buddhism (~6%) ○ Other (~<1%) 
<p>Theravada Buddhism (‘Teaching of Elders’) (Southern Buddhism)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theravada Buddhism – The oldest existing school within Buddhism, followed by ~38% of Hindus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Originated in India as early as ~500 BCE ▪ Leadership: Has no unified leader or widespread organizational hierarchy, but Theravada is considered conservative in doctrine (<i>pariyatti</i>) and monastic discipline (<i>vinaya</i>) ▪ Clergy: Referred to as the <i>Sangha</i>; consist of male & female monks (<i>bhikkhu/bhikkhuni</i>) ▪ Geographic Area: Dominant in Southeast Asia (<i>Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar</i>) ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: Reincarnation (<i>samsara</i>) in 6 realms: gods, demi-gods, humans, animals, ghosts, hells ▪ Deity: Includes belief in divine beings called <i>Devas</i>, who are mortal and limited in power ▪ Bodhisattva: Theravadins feel becoming a Buddha (<i>bodhisattva</i>) is only for rare individuals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Values wisdom as a key virtue for bodhisattva ▪ Arhat: One who has gained full insight into the true nature of existence and achieved <i>nirvana</i> ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pali Canon: The earliest and most complete Tripiṭaka canon in a classical Indian language ▪ Buddhist Agamas
<p>Mahayana Buddhism (‘Great Vehicle’) (Eastern Buddhism)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahayana Buddhism – The largest school of thought within Buddhism, followed by ~56% of Hindus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> (Note: Clergy is the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Arose within India ~100 CE ▪ Leadership: Has no unified leader or widespread organizational hierarchy ▪ Geographic Area: Widely followed today in Central & East Asia (<i>China, Tibet, Korea & Japan</i>) ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife and Deity are the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bodhisattva: Mahayanas feel the path to become a Buddha (<i>bodhisattva</i>) is open to everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Values compassion as highly as wisdom as a key virtue for bodhisattva – Advocates the enlightenment of all beings and not just seek personal enlightenment ▪ Arhat: One who far advanced into the true nature of existence ▪ Tri-kaya: A key doctrine in Mahayana & Vajrayana Buddhism, in which Buddha has 3 bodies: <i>Dharma-kaya</i> (Dharma), <i>Sambhoga-kaya</i> (Bliss), and <i>Nirmanakaya</i> (Transformation) ▪ Rituals: Places heavy emphasis on the use of rituals ▪ Vegetarianism: Followers are typically vegetarian ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chinese Buddhist Canon: The Tripiṭaka canon maintained by the <i>East Asian Buddhist tradition</i> ▪ Mahayana Sutras: Texts dating as far back as the 1st century BCE written in Sanskrit
<p>Vajrayana Buddhism (‘Thunderbolt Vehicle’) (Tantric Buddhism) (Northern Buddhism) (Tibetan Buddhism)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vajrayana Buddhism – A Buddhist school of <i>tantric practice</i>, followed by ~6% of Hindus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> (Note: Clergy is the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Developed earlier in India and formally established by the King in Tibet (747 C.E.) ▪ Leadership: There is no primary leader, but the <i>Dalai Lama</i> well-known from Tibet (China) ▪ Geographic Area: <i>Tibet, Nepal</i>, other <i>Himalayan states, East Asia</i>, and <i>Mongolia</i> ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> (Note: Afterlife and Deity are the same as in the section above) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bodhisattva: Belief that Tantric practices can substantially shorten the path to Buddhahood ▪ Tantra: Rituals and practices which can be used to invoke the energy of a deity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Buddha is not considered a person, but a mirror of one’s on mind – The teachings point out the mind’s perfect qualities known as Buddhist Tantra ▪ Mantras: The use of a word or phrase chanted repeatedly to invoke spiritual qualities ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tibetan Buddhist Canon: The Tripiṭaka canon maintained by the <i>Tibetan Buddhist tradition</i> ▪ Buddhist Tantras: A varied group of Indian & Tibetan texts outlining the tantra religious system

World Religion Basics




Other Religions (Folk Religions)

Other Religions (Folk Religions)	
<p>Folk Religion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folk Religion – A system of beliefs and practices, which occurs in a small group or local community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sometimes lacks official doctrines, practices, creeds or sacred texts ○ May be related to a major religion without adhering to some norms and practices ○ Examples include: Asian folk religions, African folk religions, Native American folk religions, folk-Christianity, folk-Islam, folk-Hinduism, folk-Buddhism, folk-Judaism, etc.
<p>Confucianism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confucianism – A religion and life philosophy from ancient China (Note: Confucianism is a Western term with no counterpart in the Chinese language) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Developed from the teachings of Confucius (551–479 BCE), a Chinese philosopher ▪ Clergy: Confucian priests or "sages of rites" (lǐsheng) worship in Chinese temples ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: Confucius didn't explicitly discuss an afterlife, eternal life, gods, or spirits ▪ Deity: Tian, a key concept in Chinese thought, refers to the Universal Spirit in Heaven ▪ Five Constants (wǔcháng): Ethical concepts of humanness (ren), righteousness (yi), conscientiousness (li), justice (zhi), and xin (faithfulness) ▪ Four Virtues: loyalty (zhōng), filial piety (xiao), continence (jie), righteousness (yi) ▪ Filial Piety: A key to Confucius thought is devotion to family (including ancestor worship) ▪ 5 Cardinal Relationships: Sovereign-Subject, Father-Son, Husband-Wife, Brothers, Friends ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Five Classics: Basic texts authored/edited by Confucius, including Classic of Change (I Ching), Classic of Poetry, Book of Documents, Book of Rites, and Spring and Autumn Annals
<p>Jainism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jainism – A religion from ancient India that seeks enlightenment through disciplined nonviolence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Enters recorded history from the teachings Mahavira (~599 - 527 BCE) ▪ Clergy: Jains employ a pujari, who may be a Hindu, to perform priestly duties at a temple ▪ Geographic Area: Jains are concentrated in India's West, largely in Maharashtra ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: Reincarnation into one of five categories: earth, water, fire, air and vegetable ▪ Salvation: The highest goal is moksha, or liberation of a soul from ongoing reincarnation (samsara) ▪ Deity: Most Jains worship deities as mediators between perfected souls (Jinas) and humans ▪ Tirthankara: A group of 24 spiritual teachers of the dharma; Mahavira was the last teacher ▪ Karma: Seen as a spiritual substance that attaches to the soul between rebirths, affecting samsara ▪ Ratnatraya (The 3 Jewels): The 3 paths to moksha: Right Faith, Right Knowledge, Right Conduct ▪ 5 Vows: Non-violence, Truthfulness, Non-Stealing, Sexual Restraint, and Non-Attachment ▪ Jains are strict vegetarians; cannot eat vegetables if killing the root would kill the plant ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jain Literature: Jain sacred texts are called the Jain Agamas
<p>Scientology</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientology – A set of beliefs and practices promoted by the American author L. Ron Hubbard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Established in 1953 by L. Ron Hubbard ▪ Leadership: Religious Technology Center (RTC) was founded in 1982 to oversee Scientology ▪ Clergy: Auditors help people remove negative engrams forming in the mind ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: A person's inner self (thetan) is reincarnated for eternity ▪ Salvation: Once engrams have been removed, an individual is given the status of clear ▪ Deity: God is not a focus, so there is set dogma or deities; allows individual beliefs about God ▪ Dianetics: A counseling technique that uses auditing to recall traumatic life events ▪ Thetan: A human's immortal inner self that resides in the body and has had past lives ▪ Engrams: Parts of the mind affected traumatic events that cause mental issues ▪ Auditing: A practice for removing engrams ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are at least 13 Basic Books written by L. Ron Hubbard, including two primary texts: Dianetics: The Original Thesis (1948) and Scientology: The Fundamentals of Thought (1956)

World Religion Basics

<p>Shinto</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shinto – A religion from Japan based on a belief in supernatural entities called kami <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Shinto has no founder, but the roots of Shinto in Japan trace back to ~300 BCE ▪ Leadership: The Association of Shinto Shrines administers ~80,000 shrines in Japan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Shrine Shinto: The predominant branch of Shinto that focusses on worship in public shrines – State Shinto (1868-1945 CE): Japan’s nationalist leaders tried to expel Buddhist influence by establishing State Shinto and citizens worshiped the emperor as a kami (abolished in 1945) ▪ Clergy: Men and women may become Shinto priests, marry and have children ▪ Geographic Area: Shinto is primarily found in Japan ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kami: Supernatural entities (spirits) from many sources, including nature, ideas, and human beings ▪ Afterlife: After death a person’s spirit/soul (kami) may continue to live on earth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The kami of past relatives are honored, and the kami of the powerful are often worshipped ○ Those who die cruelly, unhappy, or lack family become hungry ghosts and cause trouble ▪ Deity: None, but some kami are worshipped ▪ Buddhism: In many cases, Shinto and Buddhism are functionally inseparable ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key Shinto Texts: Kojiki, Rikkokushi (Nihon Shoki & Shoku Nihongi), Fudoki, Jinnō Shōtōki, Kujiki
<p>Sikhism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sikhism – A large and more recently founded religion from India based on the teachings of Guru Nanak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Founded by Guru Nanak Dev Ji in 1469 CE in Punjab, North India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ten Human Gurus: The Gurus who established the religion between 1469-1708 CE – The ‘Guru-ship’ passed the tenth and final Guru, the holy scripture called Guru Granth Sahib ▪ Leadership: Within India, the Supreme Committee of Temple Management, an elected body, manages Sikh temples (gurdwaras) ▪ Clergy: A Granthi, a male or female, is a ceremonial reader of the holy book (Guru Granth Sahib) ▪ Geographic Area: Approximately 90% of Sikhs live in India (focused in the north/northwest) ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: Reincarnation (samsara); nothing dies and nothing is born - it just changes forms ▪ Salvation: God’s grace allows spiritual union with the timeless being (Akal), another name for Ik Onkar, which results in enlightenment in lifetime (jivanmukti) and liberation after death (mukti) ▪ Deity: A universal God called Ik Onkar (“One God”), who was revealed by the ten human gurus ▪ 3 Pillars of Sikhism: Meditation (nam japo): Honesty (kirat karo); Sharing (vand chhako) ▪ Caste: Although caste is condemned, it is tolerated in marriage and in Gurdwara usage ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guru Granth Sahib: Sacred text, which serves as the last Guru (a.k.a. Adi Granth or ‘First Volume’)
<p>Taoism (Daoism)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taoism – A Chinese religion and philosophy focusing on living in balance with the spiritual universe (Tao) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Taoism began ~500 BCE, when the main book of Taoism was written by Lao Tzu ▪ Leadership: No central organization, with many schools or sects that follow a common theme ▪ Clergy: Clergy are known as Daoshi, who are predominantly male, and who may marry ▪ Geographical Area: Taoists are focused in China and Taiwan ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Afterlife: Belief in spiritual immortality, in which the spirit joins the Tao (universe) after death ▪ Deity: Tao is NOT god, but deities (often from other religions) are believed to be part of Tao ▪ Three Treasures: The basic virtues in Taoism, including: compassion, frugality, humility ▪ Yin and Yang: A main idea in Taoism is the belief in opposite but interconnected forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Yin (passive) and Yang (active) are viewed from a perspective of balance vs. opposition ▪ Human Nature: Believes humans are innately good and only need reminders of their inner nature ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tao Te Ching, or “The Way and Its Power,” is a collection of poetry and sayings ▪ I-Ching the Book of Changes, which is a book to tell the future

World Religion Basics

<p>Zoroastrianism</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoroastrianism – An ancient religion that originated in Iran and is based on the teachings of Zoroaster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Organization</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Founding: Ancient, but enters recorded history in the middle of the 6th century BCE (~550 BCE) ▪ Leadership: The World Zoroastrian Organization supports the religion, its people and traditions ▪ Clergy: Clergy are known as Mobad, who are predominantly male ▪ Geographic Area: Zoroastrianism is focused primarily in Iran, where it is a minority religion ○ <u>Beliefs & Practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deity: One deity, who is the supreme creator, Ahura Mazda ("Wise Lord") ▪ Afterlife: After death, each person is judged by three divinities and goes to one of three locations: House of Song (Heaven), Hamistagan (Purgatory), or House of Lies (Hell) ▪ Salvation: Ahura Mazda will eventually triumph over evil and all worthy souls are later redeemed ▪ Threefold Path of Asha: Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds ▪ Zoroastrianism first introduced concepts that have influenced other religions, including: monotheism, messianism, free will, judgement after death, heaven, hell, angels, and demons ○ <u>Source Doctrine</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Avesta: Central writings that define the teachings of Zoroaster
<p>Native American Religions</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Religions – The spiritual practices of Native American can vary widely and are based on the differing histories and the beliefs of individual nations, tribes and bands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Beliefs and practices are often passed down in oral histories, stories, allegories, and principles ○ Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inuit religion ▪ Alaska native religion ▪ Crow religion ▪ Hopi Mythology ▪ Longhouse religion ▪ Mexicayotl ▪ Native American Church
<h3>Irreligion (Unaffiliated)</h3>	
<p>Irreligion (Unaffiliated)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irreligion – Either the absence of religion or the active rejection of religion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Often a purely naturalist worldview that excludes the belief in anything supernatural ○ Irreligion takes many forms, ranging from the casual and unaware to full-fledged philosophies such as Atheism, Antitheism, Agnosticism, Humanism, etc.
<p>Agnosticism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agnosticism – Belief that the existence of deities and the supernatural is unknown or unknowable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley coined the word agnostic in 1869 CE ○ Agnostic beliefs have existed since early Greece and India (5th century BCE) • Classification of Agnosticisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strong Agnosticism – The existence of a deity is unknowable ○ Weak Agnosticism – The existence of a deity is currently unknown, but is not unknowable ○ Apathetic Agnosticism – The existence of a deity is a matter of little interest
<p>Apostasy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apostasy – Disaffiliation, abandonment or renunciation of a religion
<p>Atheism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atheism – Either the absence of a belief, or the rejection of a belief, in the existence of deities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implicit Atheism – The absence of a belief in deities without a conscious rejection of it ○ Explicit Atheism – The rejection of a belief in deities
<p>Antireligion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antireligion – Either the opposition to, or the rejection of, any kind of religion
<p>Alatrim</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alatrim – Those who believe that one or more deities exist, but decide not to worship any of them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Typically includes a belief that religious rituals have no supernatural significance
<p>Humanism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanism – A philosophy that emphasizes human matters over divine or supernatural ones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stresses the human goodness, human needs, and rational ways of solving problems ○ Secular humanism embraces reason, ethics, and naturalism and rejects religion and supernaturalism
<p>Naturalism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naturalism – Belief that only natural (vs. supernatural) laws and forces operate in the universe
<p>Secularism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secularism – A political conviction in favor of minimizing religion in the public sphere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sometimes a synonym for naturalism or atheism (especially in the United States)
<p>Spiritual but not Religious (SBNR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spiritual but not Religious (SBNR) – Those who reject religion but having strong metaphysical beliefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A term coined by Robert C. Fuller that emphasizes noninstitutionalized or individualized religion

World Religion Basics

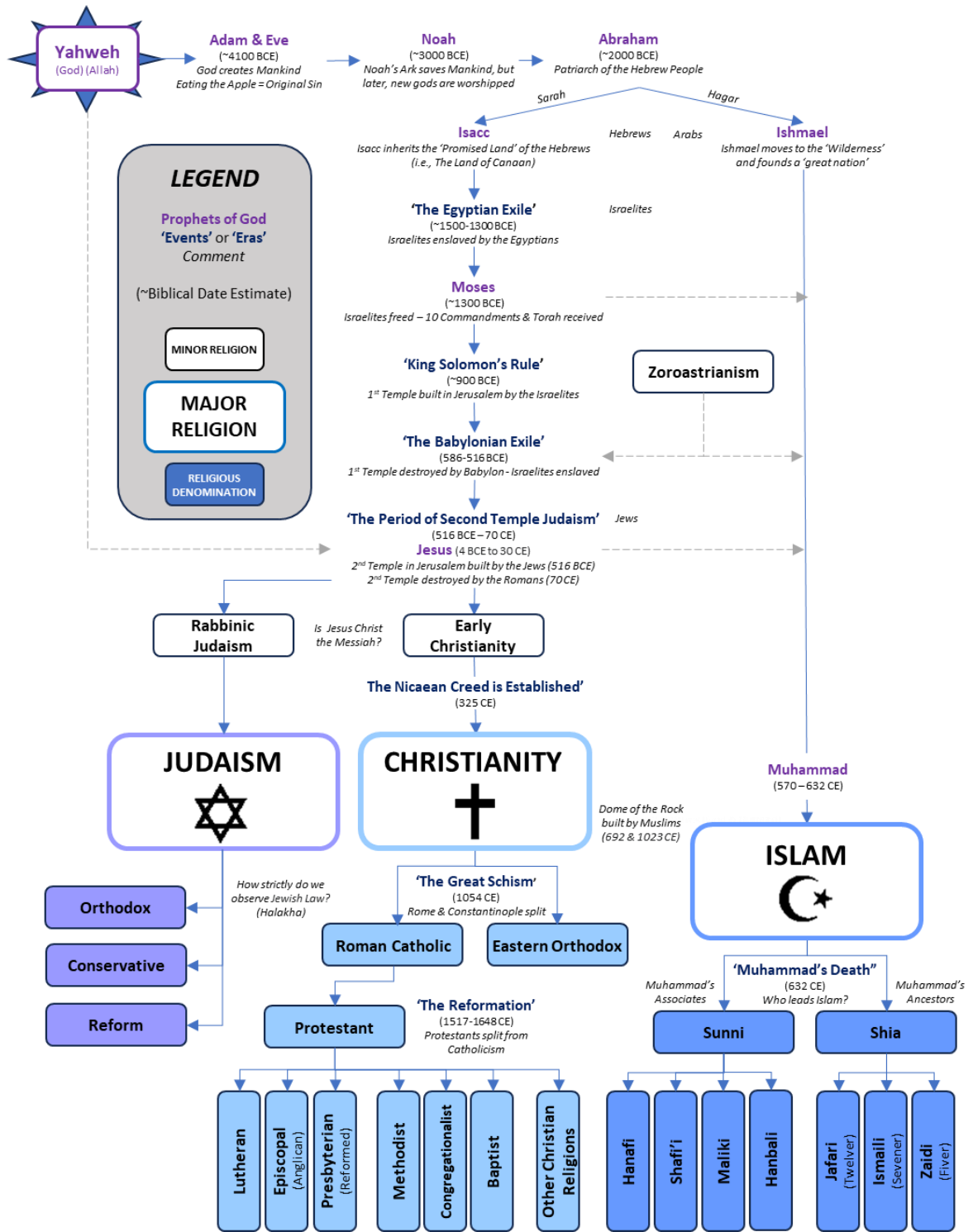
Appendix A: Beliefs of World Religions

	----- BELIEFS ABOUT -----						
	Primary Deities	Key Humans (Prophets)	Creation	Life	Afterlife	Salvation	Religious Text
Judaism	Yahweh (Yahweh=God=Allah)	Abraham & Isaac Moses	Yahweh created the universe Adam & Eve were the first man & woman	Ten Commandments Halakha (Jewish Law)	High Garden of Eden (Heaven) Sheol Gehinnom (Hell)	After the 'Revival of the Dead', all worthy souls enter the 'World to Come' (Olam Haba)	Torah Tanakh Talmud
Christianity	God (God=Yahweh=Allah) Holy Trinity Satan (Devil)	Abraham & Isaac Moses Jesus	God created the universe Adam & Eve were the first man & woman	Ten Commandments Baptism Eucharist	Heaven Purgatory Hell	Heaven attained by: ▪ God's Grace ▪ Faith in God ▪ Scripture	Bible Old Testament New Testament
Islam	Allah (Allah=Yahweh=God) Iblis (Devil)	Abraham & Ishmael Moses Jesus Muhammad	Allah created the universe Adam & Hawwah were the first man & woman	Five Pillars of Islam Sharia (Islamic Law)	Jannah (Paradise) Jahannam (Hell)	Paradise attained by: ▪ Faith in Allah ▪ 5 Pillars of Islam ▪ The Quran Only unbelievers remain in Hell	Quran Hadith
Hinduism	Brahman (The Universal Soul) Vishnu Shiva Shakti	Avatars (Human incarnations of a powerful deity) Krishna	The universe is cyclically created and destroyed in 1 day of Brahma = 4.32 billion years	Dharma Yogas	Samsara in Hinduism (Reincarnation)	Moksha (Liberation)	Vedas Bhagavat Gita
Buddhism	No universal deity or creator Often accepts deities from other religions	Buddha	The universe is cyclic and has neither a beginning nor an end	Dharma Noble Eightfold Path Nirvana	Samsara in Buddhism (Reincarnation)	Parinirvana (Nirvana after death)	Tripitaka
Sikhism	Ik Onkar ("One God")	Guru Nanak Ten Human Gurus	The universe was created by Ik Onkar	Dharma 3 Pillars Jivanmukti	Samsara in Sikhism (Reincarnation)	Mukti (Liberation)	Guru Granth Sahib
Jainism	No Primary Deity	Mahavira	The universe always existed (non-creationism)	Dharma Ratnatraya 5 Vows	Karma in Jainism Samsara in Jainism (Reincarnation)	Moksha (Liberation)	Jain Agamas
Taoism	Tao (The 'Way' or 'Path') Three Pure Ones (3 highest gods)	Lao Tzu	The universe was created by a non-theistic, natural and undirected process	Three Treasures Yin and Yang	Taoists believed the spirit lives on as part of the Tao after death	Taoism centers on this life rather than achieving salvation after death	Tao Te Ching I-Ching
Zoroastrianism	Ahura Mazda (God) Angra Mainyu (Evil, Darkness)	Zoroaster (Prophet) Saoshyant (Messiah)	Ahura Mazda created the universe Gayomard & Gavaevodata the 1 st man & animal	Threefold Path of Asha	House of Song (Heaven) Hamistagan (Purgatory) House of Lies (Hell)	At the end of time, the forces of good triumph over evil A 2 nd Judgment occurs in which all of the worthy are saved	Avesta
Other	---	---	Intelligent Design	The Golden Rule	---	---	---
Irreligion	---	---	Big Bang Theory Theory of Evolution	Natural Law Ethics	Big Crunch Theory	---	---

World Religion Basics

Appendix B: Map of Abrahamic Religions

MAP OF ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS



World Religion Basics

Appendix C: Beliefs & Practices of Protestant Religious Denominations

Religious Denomination	Key Founding Influences	Salvation	Baptism & Confirmation	Eucharist (Lord's Supper)	Church Service	Ecclesiastical Polity (Governance)	Clergy
Catholic	---	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Grace • Faith in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baptism ○ Eucharist ○ Confession • Scripture 	Infant Baptism and Confirmation are sacraments	Transubstantiation The bread and wine are changed into the Body & Blood of Christ	Liturgical Ritualistic	Episcopal Polity Governance by a hierarchy of bishops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deacon • Priest • Bishop • Archbishop • Cardinal • Pope
Anglican Episcopalian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King Henry VIII (1491-1547 CE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Grace • Faith in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baptism ○ Eucharist • Scripture 	Infant Baptism is a sacrament Confirmation is a rite	Consubstantiation The bread and wine coexist with the Body & Blood of Christ	Liturgical Ritualistic	Episcopal Polity Governance by a hierarchy of bishops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vestrymen • Deacon • Priest (Rector) • Bishop • Archbishop
Lutheran	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Luther (1483-1546 CE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Grace • Faith in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baptism ○ Eucharist • Scripture 	Infant Baptism is a sacrament Confirmation is a rite	Consubstantiation The bread and wine coexist with the Body & Blood of Christ	Liturgical	Episcopal Polity Governance by a hierarchy of bishops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor • Deacon • Trustee/Bishop
Methodist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Wesley (1703-1791 CE) • Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609 CE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Grace • Faith in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baptism ○ Eucharist • Scripture 	Infant Baptism is a sign of the covenant of grace Child Dedication and Confirmation are a rite	Mystical Presence The bread and wine contain the spiritual presence of Christ	Non-Liturgical Structured	Connexional Polity Governance by a network of people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steward • Pastor • Superintendent • Bishop
Presbyterian Reformed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Knox (1515-1572 CE) • John Calvin (1509-1564 CE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Grace <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unconditional Election • Faith in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baptism ○ Eucharist • Scripture 	Infant Baptism is a sign of the covenant of grace Confirmation is a rite	Mystical Presence The bread and wine contain the spiritual presence of Christ	Liturgical Formal	Presbyterian Polity Governance by presbyters, or elders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor • Elder • Deacon
Congregational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Browne (1550s-1633 CE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Grace • Faith in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Baptism • Scripture 	Infant Baptism is a sign of the covenant of grace Confirmation is a rite	Symbolic & Memorial Churches differ on how frequently they observe	Non-Liturgical Contemporary	Congregational Polity Each church is autonomous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor • Deacon
Baptists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Smyth (1554-1612 CE) • Roger Williams (1603-1683 CE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's Grace • Faith in God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Believer's Baptism • Scripture 	Believer's Baptism with full immersion in water is required	Symbolic & Memorial Churches differ on how frequently they observe	Non-Liturgical Contemporary	Congregational Polity Each church is autonomous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor • Deacon

Religious Movement	Description
Anabaptist	(Note: A religious movement may affect multiple denominations) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anabaptist – An interdenominational religious movement that is based on believer's baptism (or adult baptism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Candidates must confess faith in Christ and request baptism - opposes the baptism of infants, who cannot make a conscious decision ○ Direct descendants of the Anabaptist movement are the Amish, Hutterites, and Mennonites (Note: Baptists evolved differently)
Arminianism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arminianism – An interdenominational movement based on God's sovereignty and man's free will; named for Jacobus Arminius (1603–09) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questioned some teachings of Calvinism, asserting God's sovereignty and human free will are compatible (i.e., man can reject God)
Calvinism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calvinism – An interdenominational movement based on God's sovereignty and the Bible's authority; named for John Calvin (1509-1564) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Five Points of Calvinism: (remember the acronym TULIP) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total Depravity: Humans are sinners; not inclined to love God 2. Unconditional Election: God extends mercy only to his chosen 3. Limited Atonement: Jesus only atoned for sins of the chosen 4. Irresistible Grace: When God chooses, that individual is saved 5. Perseverance of the Saints: Those saved are saved (no choice)
Evangelical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evangelical – An interdenominational movement affirming: a) being "born again", b) the Bible's authority, and c) spreading of Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evangelicals can be found in nearly every protestant denomination
Pentecostal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pentecostal – An interdenominational and evangelical religious movement emphasizing a direct personal experience with God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christians should seek a post-conversion religious experience called 'Baptism with the Holy Spirit', which allows speaking in tongues
Puritan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puritan – An 18th century term for English protestants who sought to further "purify" religion (Note: the term is no longer widely used) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many left England/Europe and establish colonies in North America (akin to "The Exodus of Moses") ○ Congregational churches in the Reformed tradition are most currently aligned with the Puritans
Reformed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reformed – A religious movement that identifies with the theology of John Calvin (1509-1564) and goes beyond by including the three C's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Calvinistic: Adherence to the five points of Calvinism ○ Covenantal: God works in covenants, 1) 'Covenant of Works' (Adam/Eve), 2) 'of Grace' (many), 3) 'of Redemption' (Crucifixion) ○ Confessional: Alignment with a confession of faith: Westminster Confession, Heidelberg Catechism, Baptist Confessions, etc.