

CHALLENGE THE

PALMETTO **A**CHIEVEMENT **C**HALLENGE **T**EST

SIXTH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

SAMPLE PAGES

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGION

Goal

Explain the development of religion in the ancient world.
Describe the major religions of the time period.

Words to Know

Judaism	Buddhism
monotheism	nirvana
Hebrews	meditation
Christianity	Hinduism
Islam	Confucianism
Hegira	Taoism

Places to Know

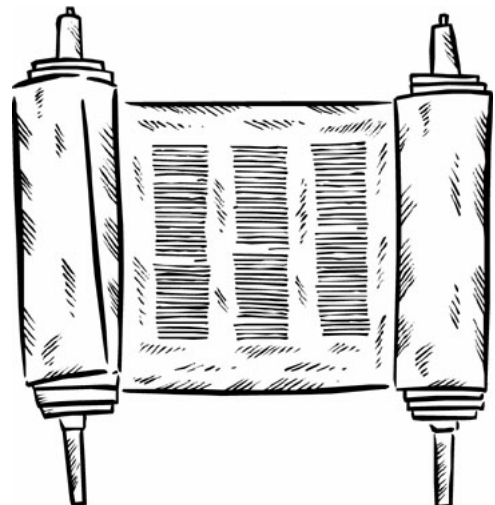
Africa

A Global View of Religion

Religion is an organized system of beliefs, ceremonies, practices and worship that center around one or more gods. Religion has had an important impact on the history of the world. It has guided the beliefs and actions of many people around the globe. We study religion to understand other people. It would be impossible to understand them without first understanding their beliefs.

Judaism

There are about 13 million Jews in the world who practice **Judaism**. It was the first major religion to teach **monotheism**, or the belief in only **one god**. The **Hebrews** were the ancestors of the Jewish people and traced their ancestry to Abraham. At that time they were the only people who believed in one god. At first the Hebrews created a nation called Israel, but around 1300 B.C. they had to move to Egypt to escape a famine. The basic laws and teachings of Judaism come from the **Torah**.

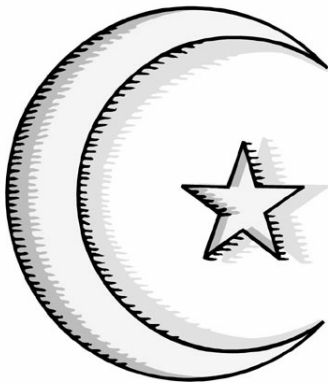


Christianity

Christianity is the largest religion in the world, with about 1.9 billion followers. It is based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, who lived about 2000 years ago. Christianity is divided into many different groups. Most Christians are members of one of three major groups: Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Eastern Orthodox. Like Judaism, Christianity teaches that there is only one God. Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God who was born to save them from sin. The basic laws and teachings of Christianity come from the **Bible**.



Islam



Islam is an Arabic word that means “surrender to God.” People who believe in Islam are called **Muslims**, or “those who surrender.” The Islamic religion was founded by the prophet **Muhammad** in A.D. 622 in Mecca. He had a vision that he was a messenger of God. He began to teach that there is only one God, called Allah, and proclaimed five basic duties known as the ‘pillars of Islam.’ They are (1) a profession of faith to one Islamic God, (2) a formal prayer said five times a day while facing Mecca, (3) alms-giving to the church, (4) a duty to fast during the month of Ramadan and (5) a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during ones lifetime. Muhammad fled from Mecca to Medina where people accepted his teachings. Muhammad’s flight is called the **Hegira**. The basic laws and teachings of the Islamic faith come from the **Koran**, the Islamic bible. It is the fastest growing religion in the world.

Buddhism

Buddhism is a religion founded by a man named **Siddhartha Gautama**. As a young man, Siddhartha decided to give up his worldly possessions in order to understand why he was not happy with his life. Siddhartha told other people that he became enlightened and he began to teach others what he learned. His students called him “the Buddha,” which means “the enlightened one.” The Buddha taught his followers to seek balance in their lives and to find happiness through the “middle way.” Buddhists look within themselves to find peace and they believe they can find the path to **nirvana** through **meditation** and **karma**. Karma is a person’s fate brought on by himself.



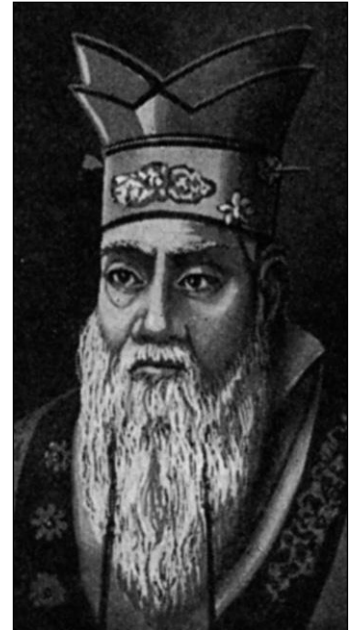
Hinduism



Hinduism is the one of the world's oldest religions and is the major religion of India. It also has followers all over southeast Asia and throughout the world. Hindus are **polytheistic**, which means they believe in many different gods, rather than just one god. The Hindus also developed a strict social class system, known as the **caste system**.

Confucianism

Confucianism is based on the teachings of a Chinese scholar named **Confucius**. He traveled across China during his lifetime teaching people his ideas. He wanted to improve society and government. He taught that there were five relationships (see the chart on following page) that were important in life. Confucianism teaches that people should be sincere, polite, and unselfish. People should obey and respect laws and traditions and work hard and respect learning.



Taoism

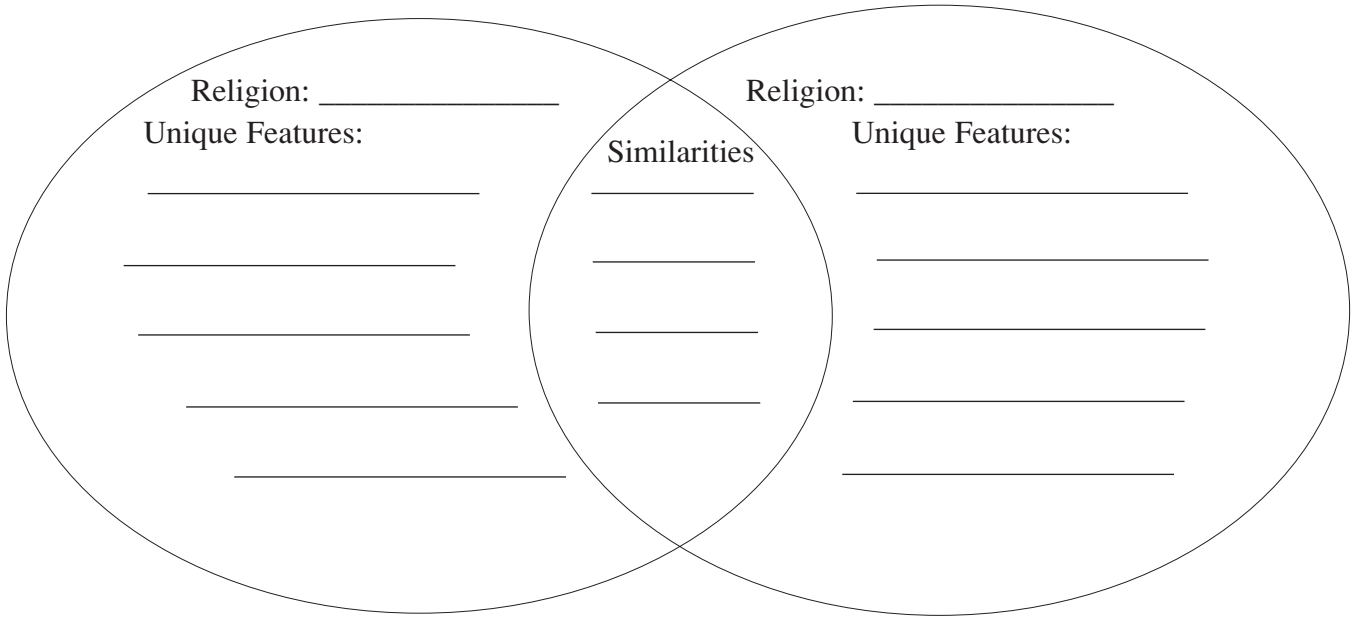


Taoism or **Daoism** was a system of ideas based on the teachings of **Laozi**, also known as the Old Master. Laozi believed that people should live simple and natural lives in harmony with nature. He believed that if individuals lived by nature's way, they would find inner peace. Taoism encouraged people to meditate and to be happy with what they had. Under Taoism, people would not try to become famous or to make a lot of money.

RELIGION	FOUNDING LEADERS AND ORIGINS	BASIC PRINCIPLES
Judaism	Abraham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God, who is called Yahweh. • The holy book is the Hebrew Bible, including the Torah. • God loves and protects his people, but expects them to be responsible for their behavior.
Christianity	Jesus Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God. • Jesus Christ was the Son of God. He died to save people from sin. • People will gain salvation if they follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.
Islam	Muhammad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Islamic God is called Allah. • The Five Pillars of Islam must be followed and include faith, almsgiving, fasting, pilgrimage and prayer.
Buddhism	Siddhartha Gautama (The Buddha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People can have nirvana, or complete peace and happiness, by removing their attachment to worldly things. • Nirvana is reached by following the Noble Eightfold Path.
Hinduism	No one founder (Ayrans established it)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brahman is the one great spirit or supreme being • The Self, or Soul, called Atman, is a part of Brahman • Nothing living ever truly dies; the spirit is reborn.
Confucianism	Confucius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social order, harmony and good government should be based on strong family relationships. • There are five basic relationships: between ruler and subject, husband and wife, father and son, older sibling and younger sibling, and friend and friend. • Education is very important to society.
Taoism	Laozi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People should live simple and natural lives in harmony with nature. • By understanding nature, people will achieve peace. • There should be little interference from the government.

Let's Review

1. Choose two religions and identify their similarities and differences in the Venn diagram.



2. What do Judaism, Christianity and Islam have in common?

3. Provide 3 reasons why we should or should not learn about religious faiths other than our own. Support your answer.

