

The 5 Major World Religions

Judaism

- **Origins/History**
 - Started in the Middle East about 6,000 years ago
 - Started by Abraham
 - Jews were enslaved but were freed by Moses
- **Major Beliefs**
 - One God (Monotheistic)
 - God gave Moses the 10 Commandments (Moral Code to live by)
 - God expects people to live righteous and moral lives
 - God will protect man if he follows his commandments
 - God is the creator of the universe

Judaism

- Major Practices
 - Live by the 10 Commandments
 - Celebrate the Sabbath Day (Saturday)
 - Do not eat pork
 - Major Holidays: Passover and Hanukah
- Place of Worship
 - Synagogue or temple
 - Leader of worship is a rabbi
 - Sabbath Day is Saturday
- Holy Book
 - Bible (Old Testament)
 - First 5 books of the Old Testament is known as the Torah

Christianity

- Origins/History
 - Started in the Middle East about 2,000 years ago
 - Developed out of Judaism
 - Based on the teachings of Jesus (Son of God)
 - Jesus taught brotherhood peace and charity
 - Ancient Romans felt that he was a threat and executed him
 - After Jesus' death, his Apostles spread the new religion

Christianity

- Major Beliefs
 - Believe in One God (Monotheistic)
 - Follow the 10 Commandments
 - Jesus was the Son of God
 - Jesus died and was resurrected (returned from death) and rose to heaven.
 - This act saved man and opened heaven to all who live a righteous life
 - God created the universe

Christianity

- Major Practices
 - Jesus taught love and respect
 - Live righteous lives by following the 10 Commandments
 - Major Holidays: Easter and Christmas
 - Sabbath Day is Sunday
- Place of Worship
 - Church
 - Leader of worship: Catholics led by priests. Protestants are led by ministers or pastors
- Holy Book
 - Bible (Old and New Testament)

Islam

- **Origins/History**
 - Started in the Middle East about 1,400 years ago
 - Followers called Muslims
 - Founded by Mohammed
 - Mohammed exposed to the ideas of Judaism and Christianity

- **Beliefs**
 - One all powerful God known as Allah
 - God has complete control over everyone's lives. Your life has already been decided by God
 - God (Allah) revealed his plan through the prophets of Abraham, Moses, and Jesus
 - Live a righteous life

Islam

- **Major Practices**
 - Do not eat pork
 - Sabbath on Friday
 - 5 Pillars of Islam
 - Believe in only one God
 - Pray 5 times a day facing Mecca
 - Give charity to the poor
 - Make pilgrimage (trip) to Mecca once during the life
 - Do not eat during the month of Ramadan

Islam

- Holy Book
 - The Koran/Quran
- Place of Worship
 - Mosque

Hinduism

- Origins/History
 - Began in India more than 3,000 years ago when the Aryans conquered the people living there
- Beliefs
 - Polytheistic
 - Believe in many gods and goddesses, the most important being Shiva and Vishnu
 - Reincarnation: A person's soul never dies, a person's spirit leaves the body to be reborn in another living thing
 - Good life: Reincarnated in a higher social class
 - Bad life: Reincarnated into a lower class or a less desirable form

Hinduism

- Major Practices
 - Believe cow is holy
 - Will not eat beef
 - Cremation
 - Ganges River is holy and bathe in it to wash away sins
 - Traditional Hindus believe in the caste system
 - Born into a caste and cannot move from one to another
 - Your caste is based on a past life

Hinduism

- Holy Book
 - Vedas and the Bhagavad-gita
- Places of Worship
 - Worship images of gods and goddesses in the home or temple

Buddhism

- Origins/History
 - Developed in India out of Hinduism
 - Founder *Siddhartha Gautama* who became known as Buddha or the “Enlightened One”
 - Teachings spread to China, Japan, and Southeast Asia

Buddhism

- Beliefs
 - Life is filled with sorrow and pain caused by our desire for material goods and success
 - Find peace and happiness by giving up love for material things
 - Follow the Eight Fold Path: right views, right intentions, right speech, right actions, right occupation, right effort, right effort, concentration, and meditation
 - Believe in the Four Noble Truths: Accept Suffering, Find the Cause of Suffering, End Suffering, Free yourself from Suffering
 - Believe that you can escape the cycle of reincarnation living a good life
 - Nirvana: state of happiness and peace
 - Do not believe in personal creator “God”

Buddhism

- Major Practices
 - Give up material things
 - Act in worth manner
 - Speak truthfully
 - Respect living things
 - Follow the ideas of reincarnation; but reject the idea of the caste system
- Holy Book:
 - Tripitaka
 - Sutras (Written by followers after Buddha's death)
- Place of Worship
 - Temples and shrines
 - Monks retreat to monasteries