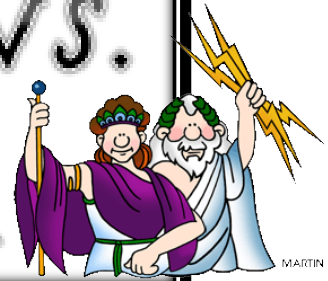


MONOTHEISM VS.

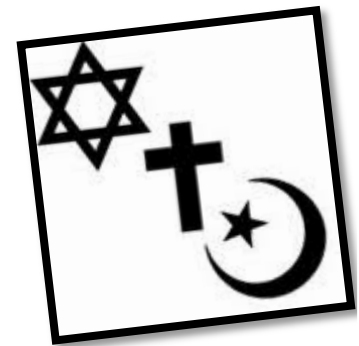
POLYTHEISM



WORLD RELIGIONS

BIG PICTURE

While civilization began in the fertile river valleys of Asia and Africa, the first "classical civilizations" emerged along the Mediterranean Sea in ancient Greece and Rome. From a series of independent city-states, such as Athens and Sparta, Classical Greece achieved a high level of cultural achievement in math, science, philosophy, theater, and government based on democracy. This "Hellenistic" culture was spread by Alexander the Great who conquered the Greeks, Egyptians, and Persians. From the nearby Italian peninsula, the classical civilization of Rome emerged, first as a republic ruled by elected senators. Later, after an era of intense expansion and corruption, Rome became an empire led by an emperor. Like the Greeks, the Romans developed a series of significant achievements in government, law, architecture, engineering, and religion based on Christianity. Like the classical cultures of Gupta India and Han China, much of the "Greco-Roman" achievements of the classical era are still used today.



MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS	POLYTHEISTIC RELIGIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christianity• Judaism• Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hinduism• Shintoism• Animism

The first humans were Animists. They believed in the existence of spirits in nature. They worshipped many gods. They were polytheistic. However, over time, some people began to question the existence of many gods. Approximately 3500 years ago, in ancient Persia (Iran), the prophet, Zoroaster also began preaching a new religion. His religion, Zoroastrianism, was the official religion of Persia from 600 B.C. to 650 A.D. It is now one of the world's smallest religions. Zoroastrians believe that there is one God (monotheism) called Ahura Mazda (the God of goodness and light). Zoroastrians believe that Ahura Mazda created the world. They also believe that fire represents Ahura Mazda's light or wisdom. Zoroastrians believe that the universe is a battleground between two forces, good and evil. People are free to choose whom they will follow. However, those who lead good lives will eventually go to Heaven, while others will be doomed to Hell. The beliefs of Zoroastrianism clearly affected people's view of an afterlife.

POLYTHEISM IN GREECE & ROME

- The Greeks worshipped many gods
- Used ritual and sacrifice to please the gods
- Developed myths (traditional stories) about their gods
 - Used these stories to explain the world around them
- Gods had human qualities – they could experience love, hate and jealousy
- Gods lived forever
- The most powerful = Zeus
- Temples were built to honor the gods publicly
- Roman religion borrowed from the Greeks – typically the only difference was the name of the god
 - Jupiter: ruler of the Roman gods

THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

- The increasing popularity of Jesus and his monotheistic teachings frightened Roman leaders
 - After Jesus was killed, his followers continued to spread his belief in only one god
 - Christians were **persecuted** (*mistreated*) for their beliefs (they refused to worship Roman gods)
 - Despite the violence towards them, Christians continued to preach the teachings of Jesus and gained millions of followers



Buddhism

WORLD RELIGIONS



BIG PICTURE

The Buddhist religion began in India around 500 B.C. Siddhartha Gautama, the founder of Buddhism, was the son of a wealthy and powerful king. As a prince, Siddhartha lived a life of comfort and luxury. But one day, Siddhartha left the palace and was shocked by all the human suffering he saw. He decided to leave his family, wealth, and comfort in search of truth. He joined a group of Hindu ascetics (people who practice self-denial for spiritual purposes). After nearly starving to death, Siddhartha left the ascetics and meditated under a tree. While meditating, Siddhartha became the Buddha or the "Enlightened One". For the rest of his life, Buddha taught and preached. He walked from village to village, dressed in a yellow robe. Buddha preached the Four Noble Truths about the meaning of life.

THE FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS

- 1- Life means suffering or nothing lasts forever. During a lifetime, a person experiences sickness, old age, and ultimately, death.
- 2- The origin of suffering is selfish desire and attachment. Say you want something and you don't get it--you get sad or frustrated. But say you want something and you do get it. Eventually you'll get bored with it and you'll start wanting something else. And so you start all over again.
- 3- Suffering can end. If a person stops wanting endlessly, he won't suffer anymore. Buddhists believe that suffering is caused by endless wanting.
- 4- Live by the Noble Eightfold Path. There are eight actions that help a person live a life that avoids extremes. Through right speech and action, a person can achieve the Middle Path.

Buddhists also believe in Karma and reincarnation. However, they believe that when desire ends, a person enters nirvana or complete peace and stops reincarnating. The basic beliefs of Buddhism are found in books called the Sutras.

Religion	Origins and Development	Beliefs	Spread and Influence
Buddhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on teachings of Siddhartha Gautama.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belief in the Four Noble Truths.• Belief in the Eightfold Path.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spread across South Asia.• Became leading religion in Southeast Asia, Central Asia, China, Korea, and Japan.

Buddhism developed out of the same period of religious questioning that shaped modern Hinduism and Jainism. The founder of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, was born into a noble family that lived in Kapilavastu, in the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal. According to Buddhist legend, the baby exhibited the marks of a great man. A prophecy indicated that if the child stayed at home he was destined to become a world ruler. If the child left home, however, he would become a universal spiritual leader. To make sure the boy would be a great king and world ruler, his father isolated him in his palace. Separated from the world, Siddhartha married and had a son. Siddhartha never ceased thinking about the world that lay outside, which he had never seen. When he was 29, he ventured outside the palace four times. First he saw an old man, next a sick man, then a corpse, and finally a wandering holy man who seemed at peace with himself. Siddhartha understood these events to mean that every living thing experiences old age, sickness, and death and that only a religious life offers a refuge from this inevitable suffering. Siddhartha decided to spend his life searching for religious truth and an end to life's suffering. So, soon after learning of his son's birth, he left the palace. Siddhartha wandered through the forests of India for six years seeking enlightenment, or wisdom. He tried many ways of reaching an enlightened state. He first debated with other religious seekers. Then he fasted, eating only six grains of rice a day. Yet none of these methods brought him to the truth, and he continued to suffer. Finally, he sat in meditation under a large fig tree. After 49 days of meditation, he achieved an understanding of the cause of suffering in this world. From then on, he was known as the Buddha, meaning "the enlightened one." The Buddha preached his first sermon to five companions who had accompanied him on his wanderings. That first sermon became a landmark in the history of the world's religions. In it, he laid out the four main ideas that he had come to understand in his enlightenment. He called those ideas the Four Noble Truths. The Eightfold Path, a guide to behavior, was like a staircase. For the Buddha, those who were seeking enlightenment had to master one step at a time. Most often, this mastery would occur over many lifetimes. By following the Eightfold Path, anyone could reach nirvana, the Buddha's word for release from selfishness and pain. As in Hinduism, the Buddha accepted the idea of reincarnation. He also accepted a cyclical, or repetitive, view of history, where the world is created and destroyed over and over again. However, the Buddha rejected the many gods of Hinduism. Instead, he taught a way of enlightenment. Like many of his time, the Buddha reacted against the privileges of the Brahmin priests, and thus he rejected the caste system. The final goals of both religions—*moksha* for Hindus and *nirvana* for Buddhists—are similar. Both involve a perfect state of understanding and a break from the chain of reincarnations.

ORIGINS

Buddhism

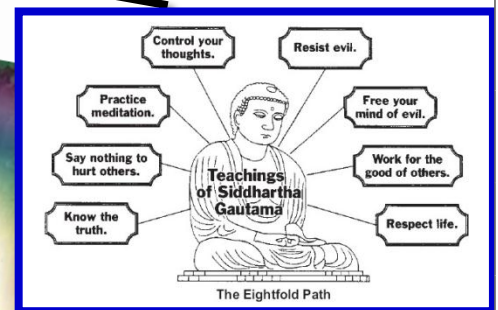
Origins:

- Buddhism was created by Siddhartha Gautama who abandoned a noble life in search of enlightenment
- After a period of meditation, Siddhartha gained enlightenment & became known as the "Buddha"



Buddhism

- **Basic Beliefs:**
- Like Hinduism, Buddhists believe in moksha & reincarnation
- But, Buddhists rejected the caste system & the idea that only Brahmins can achieve nirvana



Basic Beliefs: Buddhism

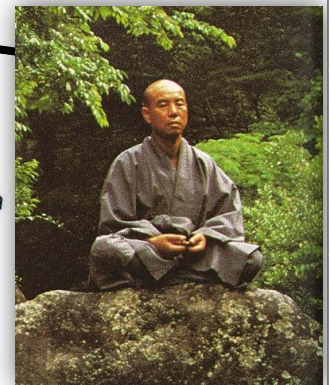
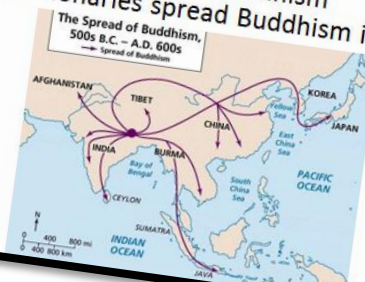
- The major teaching of Buddhism are the **Four Noble Truths**

First Noble Truth	Life is filled with suffering and sorrow.
Second Noble Truth	The cause of all suffering is people's selfish desire for the temporary pleasures of this world.
Third Noble Truth	The way to end all suffering is to end all desires.
Fourth Noble Truth	The way to overcome such desires and attain enlightenment is to follow the Eightfold Path, which is called the Middle Way between desires and self-denial.

- Buddhists believe they can achieve nirvana by following the **Eight-Fold Path**

Buddhism

- **Impact on society:**
- Women & Hindus in the lowest castes were attracted to Buddhism
- Missionaries spread Buddhism into Asia



Christianity

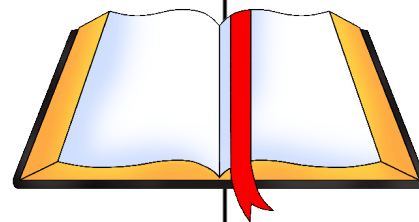


WORLD RELIGIONS

BIG PICTURE

About 2,000 years ago in the Middle East, Christianity began. Christianity is based on the beliefs and life of Jesus Christ. Jesus was a Jew born in Bethlehem and he taught the importance of forgiveness, mercy, love, and compassion for the poor. Jesus lived in the conquered Roman territory of Palestine. The Jews of Palestine longed for political freedom and believed that one day, God would send them a messiah or king to lead them to freedom. Some Jews believed that Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus grew up in Nazareth) was this messiah. Jesus preached that God loved all people equally. The Romans and some Jewish leaders feared that Jesus and his followers would rebel against Rome. Rebellion would lead to bloodshed. Eventually, one of Jesus' followers betrayed him. The Romans crucified Jesus. According to the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus' followers believed that God raised Jesus from the dead. His followers also taught that Jesus was the son of God and the Christos, which is the Greek word for messiah. Those who believed that Jesus had risen from the dead became known as Christians, or followers of Christ. While the first Christians were Jews, early converts preached to gentiles or non-Jews. The Romans persecuted many early Christians for refusing to worship the Roman emperor as a god. But by the 300s A.D., the Roman emperor, Constantine, converted to Christianity. By 395 A.D., Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Religion	Origins and Development	Beliefs	Spread and Influence
Christianity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birthplace of Christianity was a territory at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, called Judea by the Romans.• The origins of Christianity were developed by the life and teachings of Jesus.• The story of Jesus is based largely on accounts in the New Testament of the Christian Bible.• Eventually became the official religion of the Roman Empire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belief in the Trinity, the Resurrection, and the salvation of God.• Christians practice their beliefs by trying to follow Christ's moral teachings and by observing certain customs and rituals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christianity spread to many parts of the Roman Empire and later to Persia, China, India, Africa, and the Americas.• Christianity is the largest religion in the world today.



Christians believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that:

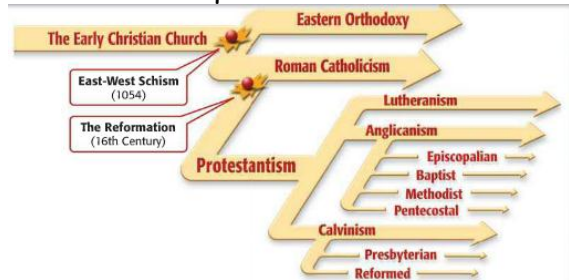
- God sent his Son to earth to save humanity from the consequences of its sins
- Jesus was fully human, and experienced this world in the same way as other human beings of his time
- Jesus was tortured and gave his life on the Cross (At the Crucifixion)
- Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his Crucifixion (the Resurrection)
- Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament
- Christians believe that there is only one God, but that this one God consists of 3 "persons"

BELIEFS

God the Father

God the Son

The Holy Spirit



- Christians believe that God made the world.

THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

- Many of Jesus' followers dedicated their lives to spreading his ideas and teachings
 - Many people embraced this new religion because 1. it embraced all people 2. gave hope to the powerless 3. appealed to those who didn't approve of the Roman government 4. offered a personal relationship with a loving God and 5. it promised an eternal life after death
- **Emperor Constantine**
 - 312 A.D. the Roman Emperor ordered his soldiers to put a cross, the symbol of Christianity, on their shields.
 - When his troops were successful in battle, he believed it was with the help of the Christian God
 - 313 A.D. Constantine passed the Edit of Nantes, in which he declared Christianity was a religion approved by the Roman Emperor
- 380 A.D. Roman Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire



In the East, the Byzantine Empire was a wealthy and powerful center for trade. During the reign of Emperor Justinian, the Byzantines developed an important law code (the Justinian Code), extended its territory, promoted learning, and preserved Greco-Roman culture. Differences between Christians in Eastern and Western Europe divided the Christian Church into Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox denominations. In sharp contrast to the Byzantine Empire, Western Europe descended into the Middle Ages. There was little trade, learning, or cultural achievements during these

"Dark Ages." Society was controlled by feudal system in which peasants worked for noble lords in exchange for protection and access to farm land. The Catholic Church played an important role played a unifying force that guided peoples' daily lives.

Religious Beliefs and Practices in the 16th Century

	Roman Catholicism	Lutheranism	Calvinism	Anglicanism
Leadership	Pope is head of the Church	Ministers lead congregations	Council of elders govern each church	English monarch is head of the Church
Salvation	Salvation by faith and good works	Salvation by faith alone	God has predetermined who will be saved	Salvation by faith alone
Bible	Church and Bible tradition are sources of revealed truth	Bible is sole source of revealed truth	Bible is sole source of revealed truth	Bible is sole source of revealed truth
Worship Service	Worship service based on ritual	Worship service focused on preaching and ritual	Worship service focused on preaching	Worship service based on ritual and preaching
Interpretation of Beliefs	Priests interpret Bible and Church teachings for believers	Believers interpret the Bible for themselves	Believers interpret the Bible for themselves	Believers interpret the Bible using tradition and reason

Roman Catholic

Services are conducted in Latin.
The pope has authority over all other bishops.
The pope claims authority over all kings and emperors.
Priests may not marry.
Divorce is not permitted.

Similarities

They base their faith on the gospel of Jesus and the Bible.
They use sacraments such as baptism.
Their religious leaders are priests and bishops.
They seek to convert people.

Eastern Orthodox

Services are conducted in Greek or local languages.
The patriarch and other bishops head the Church as a group.
The emperor claims authority over the patriarch and other bishops of the empire.
Priests may be married.
Divorce is allowed under certain conditions.



Hinduism



WORLD RELIGIONS

BIG PICTURE

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions, and has over 900 million followers worldwide. Hinduism originated in the Indus River Valley over 3,000 years ago. About 80% of the Indian population regard themselves as Hindu. Hinduism has no single holy book, but Hindu writings like the Vedas, Upanishads, and Bhagavad-Gita provide guidance. Hinduism remains the most popular religion of modern India. Hindus believe that there are many gods and goddesses. However, they believe that each of these gods is a manifestation of one Supreme Being. This universal and eternal Supreme Being is called Brahman, who created and is present in everything. Hindus believe that existence is a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth governed by Karma. In other words, Hindus believe in reincarnation or that a person's soul is reborn as another living thing. Karma determines a person's reincarnation. Karma refers to a person's behavior in life which Hindus believe determines a person's form in the next life. People who live a good life will be reborn to a better situation in the next life. Those who do not lead good lives will be reborn to a worse situation. Hindus believe that the next incarnation is always dependent on how the previous life was lived. Hindus also believe in a caste system. A caste system is a fixed social class system. There are four main castes. The castes are Brahmins (Priests), Warriors, Merchants, and Farmers. If a person belongs to no caste, he is an untouchable or outcaste. A person remains in his caste throughout his lifetime. Caste members must marry within their caste, perform certain prayers, and eat food prepared by their caste members. These rules of caste are referred to as Dharma. Violating the rules of caste will affect a person's reincarnation.

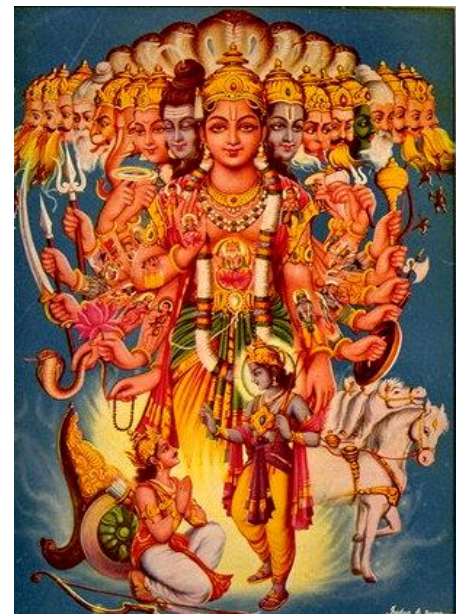
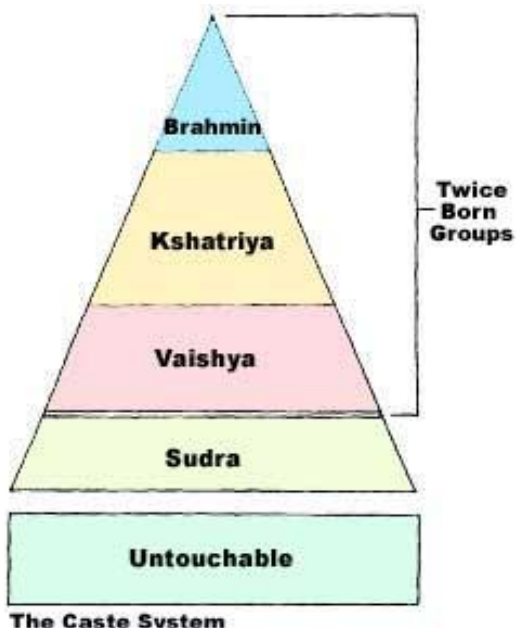
Religion	Origins and Development	Beliefs	Spread and Influence
Hinduism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Origins go back to ancient times in India. No clear starting point or founder. Developed over centuries by drawing from India's religious and cultural traditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belief in polytheism. Other key beliefs include a belief in reincarnation, dharma, and karma. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindu beliefs are deeply woven into Indian society. Hindu ideas and practices are followed around the world.



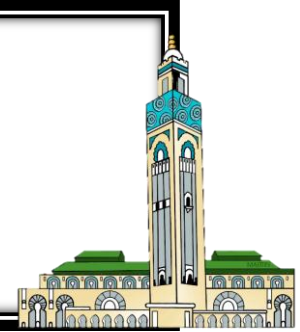
RELIGION:	HINDUISM
Origin:	Hinduism is largely based on the beliefs of the Aryans, invaders who came to the Indus River Valley around 1500 B.C.
Gods:	There is One Supreme Reality (Brahman) that is manifested in many gods and goddesses.
Life's Purpose:	Humans live in a state of illusion but are able to escape. The purpose of life is to stop reincarnating and become god again. Moksha is the state achieved when the cycle of reincarnation ends.
Practices:	Yoga, meditation, devotion to a god or goddess, and living according to dharma are practices of Hinduism.
Sacred Objects:	Hindus believe the Ganges River is sacred and has the power to wash away sin and evil. The cow is also considered sacred, and religious Hindus do not eat beef.

India has been an important part of three major world religions - Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam. Buddhism began in India and spread to other places in Asia. Islam came into India from West Asia. The origins of Hinduism are less clear, but are certainly related to the arrival of the Indo-European Aryans from West Asia. We don't know very much about the earliest Indian religion, of the Harappa people, but certainly it was polytheistic. Based on the art of that time, some people think the later Hindu gods were already being worshipped. With the arrival of the Aryans about 1500 BC, the Indo-European gods entered India as well. This was the beginning of modern Hinduism. Hinduism was (and is) polytheistic - Hindus believe in many gods. Stories about these gods were written down in the Veda (holy books) and other epic poems. In this kind of Hinduism, people believed in reincarnation - that people could be reborn into other bodies after they died.

ORIGINS



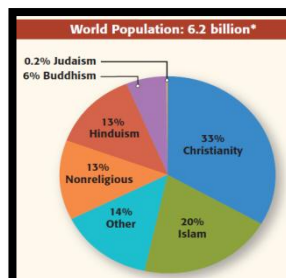
ISLAM



BIG PICTURE

Islam is a monotheistic religion. It was founded by a man from Mecca (Arabia) named Muhammad (Mohammed). Muhammad was involved in the caravan trade and had contact with Jews and Christians. He was also a spiritual man who often went to the caves of Mecca to pray. While praying, he had a vision that commanded him to convert the Arab tribes to a single God, known in Arabic as "Allah". The Arabic tribes worshipped many gods but Muhammad wanted to convert them to the same God worshipped by Jews and Christians. Muhammad preached his beliefs and developed a large following. As Muhammad's popularity grew, merchants in Mecca became jealous of his growing influence. Fearing for his life, Muhammad fled from Mecca to the city of Medina in 622 A.D. This event, known as the Hegira, is the starting point of the Muslim (Moslem) calendar. In Medina, Muhammad became a popular religious leader. He gathered an army to retake Mecca in a jihad or "holy war". In 632 A.D., two years after recapturing Mecca, Muhammad died. His teachings were recorded by his followers in the Qu'ran (Koran), Islam's holiest book.

Religion	Origins and Development	Beliefs	Spread and Influence
Islam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerged in the Middle East in the 600s. • Taught by Muhammad, known by Muslims as Allah's prophet. • By 750, Islam moved beyond Arabia to become the main religion of the Middle East and North Africa and also spread to Spain, Central Asia, and India. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief that the Qur'an contains the word of God as revealed to Muhammad. • Belief in the teachings of the Sunnah, the example Muhammad set for how Muslims should live. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islam spread to Asia, Turkey and the Balkans region of Europe, along the east coast of Africa, and into the African interior. • Islam is the second largest religion in the world today.



The Five Pillars are core Islamic beliefs. A Muslim who fulfills the Five Pillars of Islam, remains in the faith of Islam, and sincerely repents of his sins, will make it to paradise.

- The First Pillar: Sha'hada

This is the Islamic proclamation that "There is no true God except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." Allah is the Arabic word for God.

- Prayer

Prayer is performed five times a day. The first prayer is at dawn and the last at sunset.

- Fasting

The month of Ramadan is the month of fasting in Islam. It is an act of worship where the faithful follower denies his own needs and seeks Allah. Usually, this fasting entails no drinking, eating during, or sexual relations during the daylight hours for the entire month of Ramadan.

- Alms-giving or charity

Muslims are expected to give charity to the needy.

- Pilgrimage (Hajj)

This is the pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims, if they are able, are to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. It involves financial sacrifice and is an act of worship. Muslims must make the pilgrimage the first half of the last month of the lunar year

THE FIVE PILLARS

Islam

Basic beliefs of Islam:

- Followers of Islam are called Muslims who believe in one God, called Allah
- Allah is the same God worshiped by Jews & Christians
- Muslims believe Muhammad was the last of God's prophets

The teachings of Mohammed were written down in the Qur'an (Koran), the holy book of Islam



From the leadership of Muhammad to the Abbasid Empire, the Islamic faith spread and had a lasting impact on the areas where it was introduced. Because of increasing trade contacts between new areas, the flow of goods, ideas and religions reached a new height during this period. Islamic achievements in science and mathematics improved upon the ideas of the classical cultures that came before. One of the regions most changed by the introduction of Islam was Africa, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa where many traditional customs blended with the cultures of their Islamic neighbors. By the year 850 A.D., Islam spread so far that three continents were altered by its introduction. Today, Islam is the fastest growing world religion with over 1.2 billion followers.

Sunnah and Shari'ah

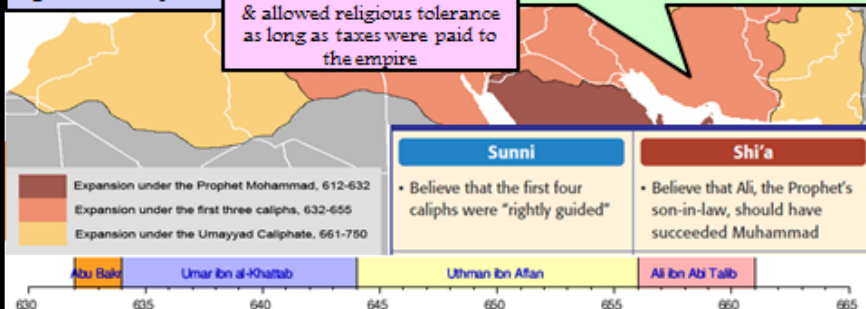
- When Muhammad died in 632, the Muslim community elected a new leader called a **caliph** ("successor")
- The first 4 caliphs all knew Muhammad & promised to stay true to the Qur'an & Muhammad's message

- The **first caliph** was Muhammad's friend & father-in-law, **Abu Bakr**. His goal was to keep Muslims united under his gov't ("**caliphate**"). His used jihad to control & expand the Muslim empire.
- After **Ali's death** in 661 led to a civil war for control of the empire: The clan that came to power started the Umayyad Empire. But the rise of the Umayyads led to a **division in Islam**.

The caliphs used the Shari'ah (laws of Islam) to govern the empire

The caliphate never forced non-Muslims to convert, especially "People of the Book" & allowed religious tolerance as long as taxes were paid to the empire

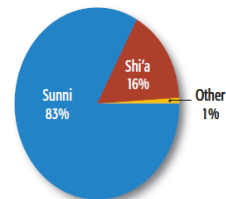
During the Rightly Guided Caliphates, the Islamic Empire expanded "**Dar-al-Islam**" (the areas where Islam is practiced)



Basic Differences Between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims

Sunni	Shi'a
• Believe that the first four caliphs were "rightly guided"	• Believe that Ali, the Prophet's son-in-law, should have succeeded Muhammad
• Believe that Muslim rulers should follow the Sunna, or Muhammad's example	• Believe that all Muslim rulers should be descended from Muhammad; do not recognize the authority of the Sunna
• Claim that the Shi'a have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur'an	• Claim that the Sunni have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur'an

Percentage Today of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims Worldwide



WORLD RELIGIONS




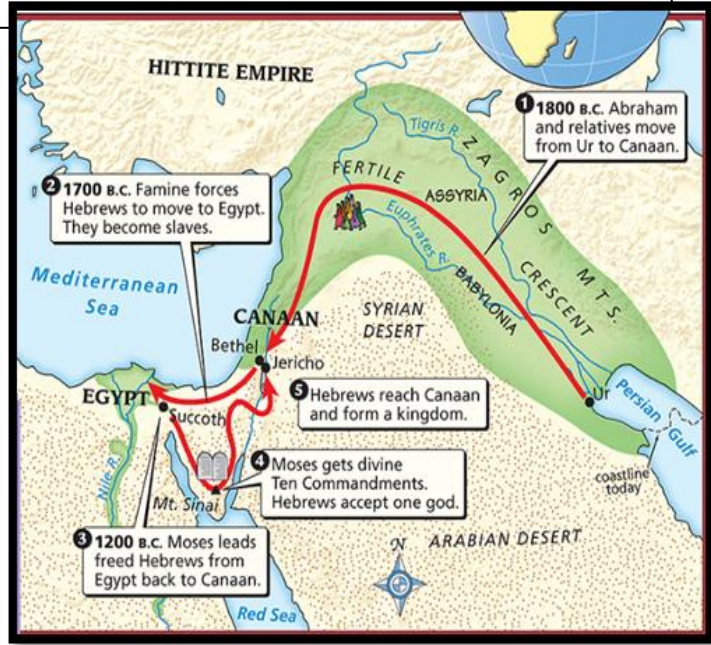
Judaism



BIG PICTURE

Abraham was the leader of a Middle Eastern people called the Hebrews. The Hebrew people believe that God called Abraham's family to worship one God and to leave Mesopotamia. Historians believe this happened 3500 years ago. The Hebrew people believe that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These rules told the Hebrew people to live peacefully with God, each other, and other people. The commandments became the roots of the religion called Judaism. Today, we call the Hebrew people Jews. Judaism is the original of the three Abrahamic faiths, which also includes Christianity and Islam. Jews believe that there is only one God with whom they have a covenant or agreement. In exchange for all the good that God has done for the Jewish people, the Jewish people must keep God's laws and try to bring holiness into every aspect of their lives. Judaism has a rich history of religious text, but the central and most important religious document is the Torah, or the first five books of the Bible. Their spiritual leaders are called Rabbis. Jews worship in Synagogues.

The Sacred Writings of Judaism	
Sacred Writings	Contents
Hebrew Bible 	Torah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first five books of the Bible • recounts origins of humanity and Judaism • contains basic laws of Judaism Prophets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stories about and writings by Jewish teachers • divided into Former Prophets and Latter Prophets • recounts Jewish history and calls for repentance and obedience Writings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a collection of various other writings • includes poetry, history and stories, and philosophical writings called wisdom literature
Talmud	Mishnah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written versions of Jewish oral law Gemara <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explanations and interpretations of the Mishnah



Like many peoples in the Fertile Crescent, the Sumerians were polytheistic (belief in many different gods) and thought the gods controlled the various forces in nature. Sumerians described their gods as doing many of the same things humans do—falling in love, having children, fighting—but their gods were immortal and all-powerful. At any moment, the gods might strike, sending a fire, a flood, or an enemy to destroy a city. To keep the gods happy, the Sumerians built impressive ziggurats for them and offered rich sacrifices of animals, food, and wine.

Along the eastern edge of Mesopotamia was an area known as Palestine. This was the ancient home of the Hebrews (the Jews). Unlike the Sumerians who believed in many gods, the Hebrews were the first monotheists (believed in only one God) in history. The Hebrews proclaimed Yahweh as the one and only God. In their eyes, Yahweh had power over all peoples, everywhere. The Ten Commandments were a series of divine laws to guide the morality of the Jewish people. The Jewish faith had a major influence on the development of both Christianity and Islam.

ORIGINS

The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are the ten orders or laws given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. These orders serve as the basis for Jewish laws.

PRIMARY SOURCE

1. I am the Lord thy God. . . . Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. . . .
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. . . .
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother. . . .
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbor's.



Religion	Origins and Development	Beliefs	Spread and Influence
Judaism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israelites were the ancestors of the Jewish people. • Settled in Canaan. • Babylonian Exile was start of the Jewish Diaspora, during which the Jewish people were dispersed across the Middle East and beyond. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief in Ten Commandments, monotheism, a day set aside for rest and prayer, and moral values to live by. • Judaism also stresses the importance of equality and social justice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Diaspora helped spread the ideas of Judaism. • The principle of monotheism influenced Christianity and Islam. The emphasis on ethical conduct influenced the development of law in many lands.