

2. The 10 Commandments were given to

Moses from God.

a. An Ethical Code

E. Holy City - Jerusalem

F. Symbol - The Star of David

G. Leaders and teachers - Rabbi

H. Place of worship - Synagogue (Temple).

I. Celebrate Passover and Hanukkah.

IV. Christianity - The largest religion in the world.

A. God - one God - God (of Abraham).

B. Founder - Jesus Christ

C. Holy Text - The Bible to include the Old and New Testament.

D. Beliefs

1. Based on the life teachings of Jesus.

2. Jesus, a Jew taught many ideas from the Jewish tradition,

3. God has 3 parts or the Holy Trinity that includes:

a. God, the Father

b. Son (Jesus Christ) The Messiah or Savior.

c. Holy Spirit (God's presence on Earth).

4. The 10 Commandments and New Testament in the

Bible. The ultimate goal is Salvation through eternal life with God in Heaven.

6. Christians believe in Baptism and communion as sacraments.

E. Holy City - Jerusalem

F. Symbol - the Cross

G. Leaders - priests, pastors, or Ministers (Catholic, the

Pope).

1. Christianity includes: Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox.

H. Place of worship - Church or Cathedral

I. Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter.

V. Islam - The newest major religion

A. God - one god called Allah.

1. This is the same God who is worshipped in Christianity and Judaism.

B. Founder - a prophet named Muhammad.

C. Holy Text - The Qur'an.

1. The Qur'an describes allowed and prohibited acts.

a. Cannot eat pork, drink alcohol, or invest money that charges interest.

D. Beliefs

1. Muslims, follow the Five Pillars of Faith.

a. Faith (One God - Allah)

b. Prayer - 5 times per day facing Mecca

c. Charity - give to the poor.

d. Fasting

e. Pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj)

2. The ultimate goal of the Muslim people is to live according to Allah's guidance and be rewarded with Salvation

E. Holy Cities

1. Mecca (the birthplace of Muhammad)

2. Jerusalem

a. The Dome of the Rock where Muhammad rose to heaven to Allah's will.

F. Symbol - The Crescent moon.

G. Leaders - An Imam usually leads prayers.

H. Place of worship - Muslims worship in a Mosque.

I. Muslims fast from dawn to sunset during the holy month of

Ramadan.

VI. City Holy to three religions: Jerusalem.

1. Christianity: Church of the Holy Sepulcher

2. Judaism: Western Wall

3. Islam: Dome of the Rock

## Five Major World Religions Outline Notes

### Polytheistic Religion

- I. **Hinduism** - major religion and a way of life.
- A. Gods (3 main) Created the universe.  
 1. Brahman Sustains the universe.  
 2. Vishnu destroys the world and \_\_\_\_\_ it again.  
 3. Shiva none
- B. Founder none
- C. Holy Text - The vedas Book of Knowledge (Sansk)
- D. Beliefs  
 1. Hindus believe in dharma (law and duty).  
 2. Karma  
 a. A person's every action affects his or her fate in the next life.  
 b. The Soul is reincarnated after death into another body.  
 c. A Circle of life: birth, death, rebirth.
- E. Holy City - none.  
 1. The Ganges River is considered Sacred.  
 2. Reverence for life symbolized in the sacred COW.
- F. The Caste System, outlawed now, organized by a (class).  
 1. Brahmin: Priest  
 2. Kshatriyas: Warrior  
 3. Vaishyas: herders, Merchant and farmers.  
 4. Shudras: Workers, dirty  
Untouchables
- G. Symbols - is the Oin which represents the Universal spirit or the Brahma.
- H. Leaders - Brahmin Priests are the religious leaders.
- I. Place of worship - Hindu temple (Shrine).
- J. The Festival of divali is celebrated with lights.

### Religions with no deity

- II. **Buddhism** - A way of life.  
 A. God - no main deity (God).  
 B. Founder - Buddhism began in India by a Hindu prince.  
 1. Founded by Siddhartha Gautama or Buddha "enlightened one".  
 2. Born into a noble family, left home to search enlightenment or Wisdom.
- C. Beliefs  
 1. Buddhist believe in the Four Noble Truths  
 a. Life is full of suffering  
 b. The cause of suffering is desire  
 c. Nirvana - the Cure for suffering is to overcome desire.  
 d. Follow The Eightfold Path or The Middle Way to end suffering.  
 e. Right behavior.
- D. Symbols - a Wheel "sets in motion the wheel of dharma" (his teachings).  
 E. Leaders - Buddhist Monks live in religious communities called Monasteries  
 F. Place of worship - Shine or temples.  
 G. Goal - to reach Nirvana and end the circle of birth (reincarnation.)

### Monotheistic Religions

- III. **Judaism** - first major monotheistic religion  
 A. God - one god called Yahweh.  
 1. Yahweh is the "God of Abraham".  
 B. Founder - Abraham, a Hebrew shepherd.  
 C. Holy Text - Torah or the first 5 books of Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)  
 D. Beliefs  
 1. Jews serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings.