The Five Major Religions of the World

1. Judaism
2. Christianity
3. Islam
4. Hinduism
5. Buddhism
Judaism

- Judaism began c. 1800 B.C.E.
- Founder Abraham
- Location Arabian Peninsula\Israel
- Judaism is a religion of just one people: the Jews.
- Jewish people are called Hebrews
- Judaism was the first to teach belief in only one God or Yahweh
  - First to promote Monotheism
  - Jews think God will send a Messiah (a deliverer) to unite them
- Christianity and Islam mark their beginnings from Judaism
Judaism

- Covenants or agreements
  - Abraham, Noah, Moses

- Judaism teaches that death is not the end and that there is a world to come.

- The Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, is the most important Jewish scripture.
  - Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy
  - It contains the basic laws of Judaism.
  - 3rd Book Leviticus\Kosher foods

- Another book is the Talmud, a guide to the civil and religious laws of Judaism.
Judaism

• **Synagogue** is a Jewish house of worship

• **Rabbis** (spiritual leaders) conduct services, interpret Jewish law, and deliver sermons.

• Today there are over 18 million followers of Judaism scattered throughout the world.
  • Many Jews live in the Jewish **nation of Israel**.
  • Over six million live in the United States
Judaism Philosophy

- God is one and unique
- God is the creator
- God is transcendent
- God is lawgiver
- God is personal
- Obligation to worship
- The Torah is God's law
- God is judge
- The Messiah will come.
Christianity began c. 30 A.D. or C.E.

The Founder of Christianity was Jesus (called the Messiah), and his followers or 12 disciples.

Location Jerusalem, Israel

The early Hebrews who developed the Jewish religion became the foundation for Christianity.

Jesus was a Jewish boy who disagreed with some Jewish principles and began to profess a new way of thinking.

Jesus was crucified on the cross by Romans

People who believe that Jesus is the Messiah and follow his practices are call Christians
Christian Practices

- All believers are promised everlasting life.
- A church is a Christian house of worship.
- Sin and Evil are realities in our existence.
- Christians believe in the Seven Deadly Sins which are:
  - Pride, Envy, Lust, Anger, Greed, Sloth, & Gluttony
- Follow the Ten Commandments which are the basis of the Old Testament.
- The cross represents Jesus' death for people’s sins.
Christian Practices

• The Christian Holy Book is called The Bible
  • The Bible contains the New and Old Testament

• Baptisms are immersion in water, being cleansed as Jesus was. This means to accept Jesus' words and live by his words.

• Confessionals are confessions of sins in a Catholic Church.

• Communion is used to remember the Lord's Supper. (Bread and Wine)
Central to Christian belief is:

- God, the Father, entered into human history as the Son, Jesus of Nazareth, and arose as the Holy Spirit.

- God is the Creator of the universe, and there is one God, who is three persons: 
  - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- Jesus is both fully man and fully God. He was born of the Virgin Mary, crucified, resurrected from the dead, and ascended to the Father.

- Christianity is the largest religion in the world representing about 33% of the world population.
Islam

- Islam began c. 622 A.D. or C.E.
- Islam translates as “submission” to God or “peace”.
- The organizer (not founder) of Islam was Muhammad.
- Location Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia, the Middle East
- Allah is the Islamic name for God.
- The Islamic Holy Book is the Koran
  - Koran are words from Allah to Muhammad
  - The Koran gives social, legal, and ethical systems or a WAY OF LIFE
- People who believe these ideas are called Muslims.
  - Muslims means “one who submits”
  - Muslims do not worship Muhammad
Islam

- The Sunnah is an assembly of traditions retelling the acts and sayings of Muhammad and those close to him.
- Islam through the Koran and Shunnah teaches Muslim’s social and personal codes of conduct affecting both men and women.
  - This is known as Sharia’ah Law
- Muslims also believe that Islam is the complete version of a faith revealed before by Abraham, Moses and Jesus.
  - Whom they believe are prophets.
- Muslims are obligated to:
  - “commend good and reprimand evil”
  - Not drink alcohol or eat pork
  - Not gamble or usury
Islam

The Five Pillars of Islam
1. Confession of one’s faith in God and in his prophet - Muhammad
2. Ritual Worship
3. Almsgiving (2.5% of one’s wealth)
4. Fasting (Ramadan)
5. Pilgrimage

- Muslims pray **five** times a day

- While praying, they face the holy city of **Mecca** (in Saudi-Arabia) and sometimes kneel with faces to the ground.

- All Muslims are required to make a pilgrimage or **Hajj** to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.
  - Al-Hajj (pilgrim) can then be added to their name