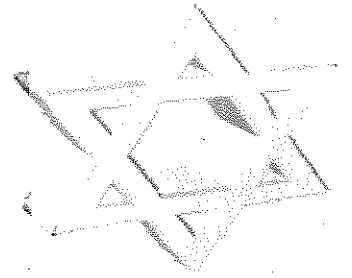
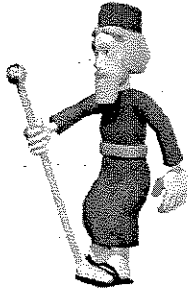


The Five Major Religions of the World

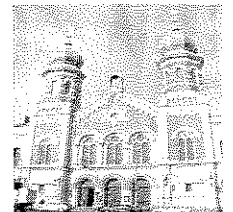
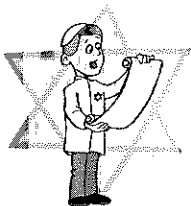
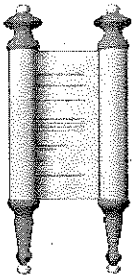
(Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism)



1. Judaism



- Judaism Began _____
- Founder _____
- Location _____
- Judaism is a religion for just one people: _____
- Jewish people are called _____
- **First** religion to teach the belief in _____
 - Belief in one god is called _____
 - Jews believe God will send a _____
 - Judaism marks the beginnings of _____ & _____
- **Covenants** or agreements were made between god and _____
- Judaism teaches that death is not the end _____
- The **first five books** of the five books of the **Hebrew Bible** are called the _____. Their names are: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
- The book/guide to civil and religious laws is call the _____
- Jewish house of worship is called a _____
- Jewish leaders: interpret Jewish law and deliver sermons are called _____
- Many Jews live in the Jewish Nation of _____
- Jewish teachings suggest that a _____ will come and unite and save the Jewish people.



Abraham the Patriarch

In order to understand the origins of Judaism, we must travel back almost 4000 years to the land of Ur. It was here that a boy named Abram was born. According to the Torah, God chose Abram to be the father of a great nation. Before the time of Abram, all people believed that there were many gods, such as a god of rain, a god of wind, a god of sun, and a god of the land. God made a covenant, or a sacred agreement, with Abram that he would worship only one God. As a sign of that covenant, Abram's name was changed to *Abraham*, meaning exalted father of a great nation.

When Abraham was young, his family moved north from Ur to the land of Haran. (Use a modern atlas and the map below to discover where Haran would be today.) It was in Haran in about 2000 B.C.E. that God made a covenant with Abraham. Abraham was about 75 years old when God said to him:

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” (Genesis 12: 1-3)

So Abraham and his wife, Sarah, along with a small caravan, journeyed hundreds of miles to the land of Canaan. This is the home where God promised Abraham a great nation. And though the land of Canaan has changed hands many times since Abraham’s arrival, today it is the land of Israel, the Jewish homeland.

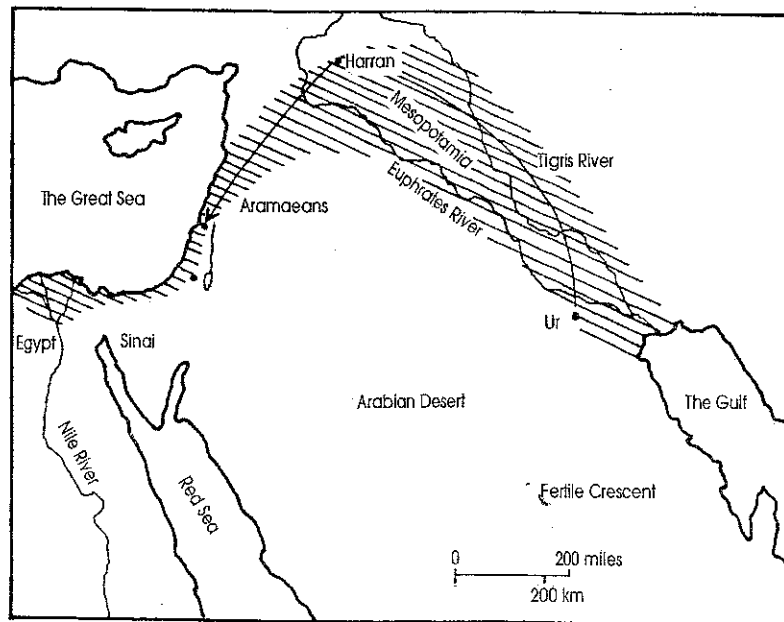
Sarah and Abraham grew old, but God granted them the miracle of a son, Isaac. In Genesis 22, God tests Abraham’s faith by commanding him to sacrifice Isaac. Though Abraham’s heart is breaking, he takes his son to the hills, binds him, and lays him on an altar of wood. As the old man reaches for the knife to slay his only son, an angel calls out to him, telling him to release Isaac.

“Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld me from your son, your only son.”

The angel comes to Abraham a second time, assuring him that because of his faith he will have many descendants, and they will be blessed and prosperous.

Through these stories, it is easy to understand the importance of Abraham. You can read about all of the Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs in the book of Genesis. Interestingly, the Muslim religion also descends from Abraham’s family. Before Isaac was born, Abraham had fathered a son with his maidservant Hagar. His name was Ishmael, and according to Jewish and Muslim tradition, he is the ancestor of the Arab people.

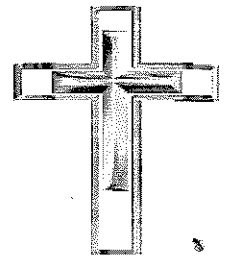
The Journey of Abraham



Describe The Journey of Abraham (w,w,w,w)

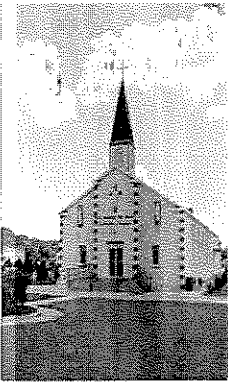
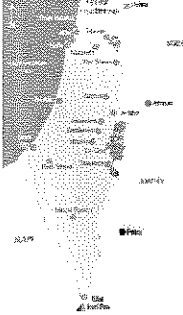
The Five Major Religions of the World

(Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism)

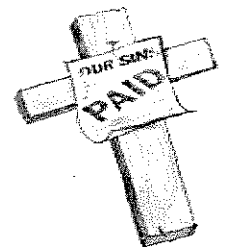


2. Christianity

- Christianity Began _____
- Founder _____ also so called the _____
- His followers were called the _____
- Location _____
- Jesus was a _____ boy
- Jesus was _____
- People who believe in Jesus and follow his practices are _____
- Christians are promised _____
- A Christian house of worship is call a _____
- Christians follow the Ten _____ of God
- The Christian cross represents _____
- The Christian Holy Book is called the _____
 - Two parts the Old and New _____
- Christians show they are willing to live by the words and actions of Jesus by performing _____
- _____ is used to remember Jesus last supper.
- Christians believe there is one God who is three persons: (The Holy Trinity)
_____, _____, _____
- Christians believe Jesus was both _____ & _____ and that he was born of the Virgin Mary and was _____ then _____ from the dead, and ascended to the Father (God)
- Christianity is the largest religion in the world representing about _____% of the world population.



THE TRINITY



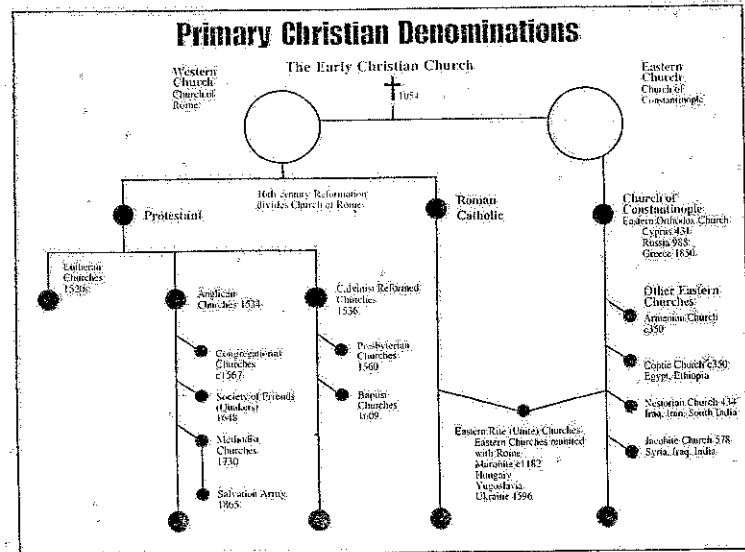
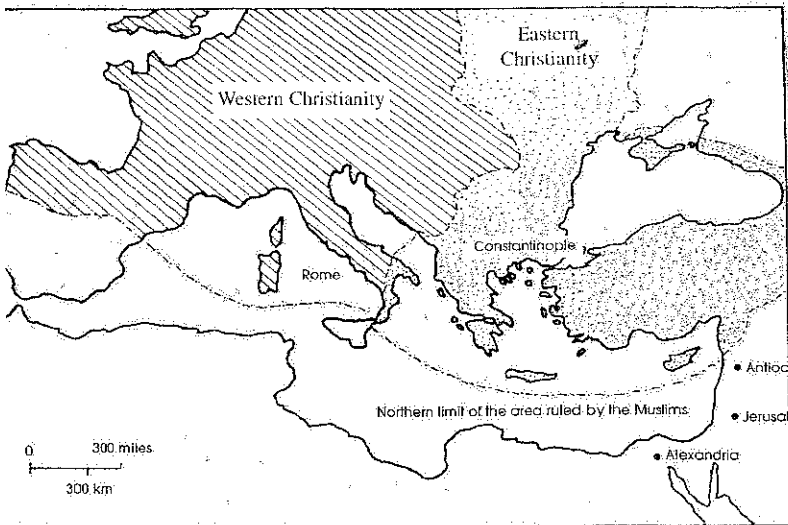
Branches of Christianity

Christianity has undergone many changes over the course of history. Though it began in ancient times as one church, it has divided into many separate churches, each with its own set of beliefs and practices. For non-Christians, understanding the differences among Christian churches can be difficult.

The most significant division within Christianity occurred in 1054 CE when the Eastern and Western churches separated. The Eastern church, as seen on the map below, was composed of the churches of Greece, Russia, Eastern Europe, and Western Asia. The capital of the Western church was Rome, and the Roman Pope, or Bishop of Rome, claimed authority over both churches. The Western church believed that the Pope was the person closest to God and, therefore, most capable of leading Christians. But the Eastern church did not believe the Pope should have power over them. This conflict, when added to the disputes of the past, finally caused the churches to split. From then on, the Roman Catholic Church has been led by the Patriarch of Constantinople, or the Pope.

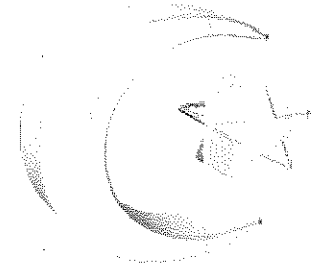
In the 16th century, a movement called the Reformation caused a split which divided the Roman Catholic Church. At that time, there were many independent Christian groups. Although they did not all share the same beliefs, they each rejected the central authority of the Pope and came to be known as Protestants. It is difficult to speak about Protestantism as one religion since it has divided itself into hundreds of separate sects. They include such groups as the Quakers, Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians.

Each of these branches of Christianity maintains different beliefs and practices in different ways. The chart on page 66 will help you follow the branching of Christian churches. find out more about the denominations listed on page 66.



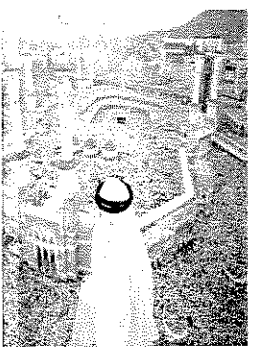
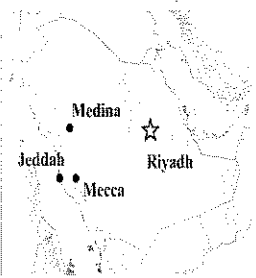
Describe the most significant division within Christianity. (w,w,w,w)

The Five Major Religions of the World
(Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism)



3. Islam

- Islam Began _____
- Islam translates as _____, _____
- The organizer of Islam was _____
- Location _____
- Islamic name for God is _____
- Islamic holy book is called the _____, given from _____
- The Koran gives it followers a _____
- People who believe in the ideas of the Koran are called _____
 - i. This means _____
- The traditions of retelling the acts of Muhammad is called _____
- The Koran and Shunnah Teaches Muslim's **social and personal codes of conduct** for both men and women known as _____
- Muslims view Abraham, Moses, and Jesus as _____
- Muslims follow the Five _____
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - iv. _____
 - v. _____
- Muslims Pray _____ times a day facing the city of _____
- All Muslims must make a pilgrimage or _____ at least once in their lifetime.
- The **Sunni** Muslims make up ___ % of all Muslims
 - i. Sunni means _____
- The **Shia** Muslims make up ___ % of all Muslims
 - i. Shia means _____
- The cubed shaped building in Mecca is called the _____



Origins of Islam: Abraham and the Ka'bah

Islam is the youngest of the Semitic religions. It was founded by the prophet Muhammad who was born in 570 CE. By 630 CE, Islam was an established faith spreading throughout Arabia. Followers of Islam are called Muslims, which means "one who submits (to) Allah." Allah is the Arabic name for God. Islam means "submission to God." The map on page 94 shows the spread of Islam during Muhammad's lifetime.

The roots of Islam, however, go all the way back to Abraham around 2000 BCE. You may remember Abraham as the father of the Jewish religion. Interestingly, Muslims also regard Abraham as the forefather of their religion.

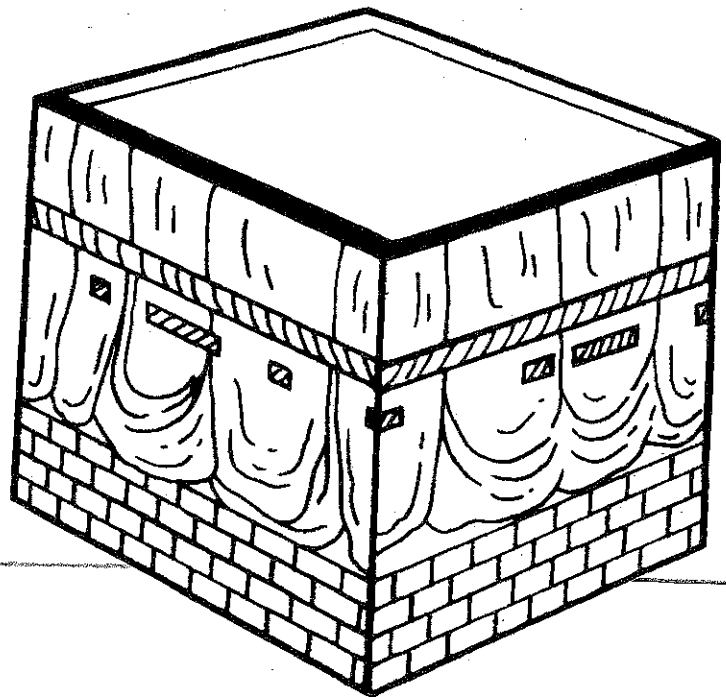
According to both the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible) and the Koran (the Islamic holy scripture), Abraham had fathered a son before the birth of Isaac. The boy was Ishmael, whose mother was Abraham's servant, Hagar. Abraham's wife, Sarah, was childless and became jealous. So God told Abraham to bless the child and to send him and his mother south into the desert.

They wandered the desert until they ran out of water. Hagar rested Ishmael on the sand and then searched desperately between two high rocks. She ran back and forth seven times. Finally, resting on one of the rocks, she heard an angel's voice tell her not to be afraid. Miraculously, water spouted from where Ishmael's heels touched the sand. This became the famous well, Zamzam, where the city of Mecca was born.

Toward the end of his life, Abraham traveled into Arabia to visit Ishmael. Muslims believe that God told Abraham to build a holy sanctuary at Zamzam. This site was called the Ka'bah, meaning "cube." It is also known as the House of God. The Ka'bah is about forty feet (12 m) in height, width, and length. The door is seven feet (2.1 m) from the ground and must be entered by a moveable staircase. Curtains and carpets cover most of the outside of the Ka'bah.

Inside the sanctuary are some silver and gold lamps. But the most important object is an oval black stone about seven inches (18 cm) in size. Muslims believe that this stone was given to Abraham by an angel. They say the stone was white but turned black with the kisses of worshippers seeking forgiveness. According to the Koran, God instructed Abraham to tell all worshippers of Allah to make a pilgrimage to the Ka'bah.

As you will see, the Ka'bah plays a central role in the history of Islam. You will learn more about its significance later in this chapter on Islam.



The Life of Muhammad and the Birth of Islam

3.

Early Years

Muhammad ibn Abd Allah, commonly known as Muhammad, was born in the city of Mecca in 570 CE. At the time, Mecca was a busy marketplace crowded with residents and nomads buying and selling goods. Not a great deal is known of Muhammad's early life. Both his mother and father were dead by the time he turned six. He was first cared for by his grandfather, but when he passed away, Muhammad's uncle, Abu Talib, adopted him. Abu Talib was the head of the Hashim clan, one of many clans making up separate Arabic tribes.

It is believed that as a young adult Muhammad worked as a camel driver. He traveled the Arabian Peninsula with his uncle, making contact with various cultures and religions, including Judaism and Christianity. Because idol worship had come to dominate Mecca, this contact was important. The Ka'bah itself housed many idols, including those representing the three main goddesses.

At the age of twenty-five, Muhammad was working for a widow named Khadijah who was a wealthy merchant. Though he was much younger, she admired his intelligence and maturity so much that she proposed to him. They married, and in the fifteen years which followed, Muhammad lived in affluence. He continued traveling, encountering different faiths and customs.

But riches did not satisfy Muhammad. In Mecca, powerful merchants controlled both the flow of goods and the religious life. As the gap between the rich and the poor widened, Muhammad began to question his life and the world around him.

4.

Muhammad's Revelation

By the time he was forty, Muhammad had begun to spend time in solitude, preoccupied with the questions that troubled him. He spent some nights alone in a small cave near Mecca. During one such night, Muslims believe that the angel Gabriel appeared before him. Gabriel grabbed hold of Muhammad and ordered him to recite some words. He did so, and as he fled the cave in fear, he heard the angel say, "Oh, Muhammad, you are the messenger of God, and I am Gabriel."

At first, Muhammad thought he was going insane. But Khadijah, his wife, believed the vision to be true. And as similar encounters continued, Muhammad slowly began to accept his role as a prophet of God. He started to preach in Mecca, though it took him some time to overcome doubts. But after a few years, he gained conviction that he was one of a lineage of prophets that included Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. According to historians, Muhammad continued to receive revelations for the next twenty years.

Muhammad openly declared that there was only one God. He called on Meccans to reject their idols. Though monotheism was shared by Jews and Christians, its introduction into Mecca troubled the ruling class. As Muhammad's followers increased, so did the unease among his opposition.

The Life of Muhammad and the Birth of Islam

(cont.)

5.

Flight to Medina

Opposition to Muhammad increased. The ruling families insulted him and threatened violence. Soon Muhammad knew that he and his followers must leave Mecca. In 619 CE, they moved for a short while to Ta'if, a nearby town. But they were not allowed to stay, and so they returned to Mecca.

Things got worse for Muhammad when death claimed both his wife, Khadijah, and his uncle, Abu Talib. They had represented support and protection for the young Muslim community. However, it was also during this period, in 619 CE, that Muhammad was believed to have experienced his famous journey to heaven. With Gabriel guiding him, they journeyed first to a rock in Jerusalem, and from there Muhammad rode his faithful horse into heaven. It is claimed that he met other prophets, including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Finally, he stood in the presence of Allah.

The course of history changed in 620 CE when some pilgrims from the northern town of Medina came through Mecca. At the time, Medina was being torn apart by the violence of two rival tribes. The pilgrims were moved by Muhammad's teachings and hoped he might settle the raging dispute.

For the next two years, groups of people from Medina came to Mecca and converted to Islam. This inspired Muhammad, who instructed all Muslims to settle in Medina. In 622, Muhammad fled Mecca after hearing of a plot to assassinate him. Legend has it that he and a friend, Abu Bakr, hid in a cave. When his enemies rode by, a giant spider's web covered the mouth of the cave, and seeing the web, they assumed no one could have entered.

From there Muhammad and Abu Bakr traveled safely to Medina. This journey is known as the Hijrah, and it holds special significance to Muslims. Muhammad's arrival into Medina marked the birth of a united Islamic community. The Hijrah signifies the beginning of the Islamic calendar. (See page 117.)

6.

Life in Medina and the Growth of Islam

Muhammad arrived in Medina as the new leader, bearing tremendous responsibilities. While receiving communication from God and teaching his devotees, he had to protect Islam from opposition and find a peaceful solution to the local feuds. Though he was able to unite the feuding clans through his teachings (the Jewish and Muslims prayed together, for example), when Muhammad instructed his followers to pray towards Mecca instead of Jerusalem, tensions grew, and the groups separated completely. Violence erupted, ending in the expulsion of some Jewish tribes from Medina.

With his community established, Muhammad began raiding caravans bound for Mecca. These kinds of raids were not uncommon at the time, and they provided sustenance for the Muslims. This angered the Meccans, and a series of battles followed. Despite a few setbacks, the Muslims gained power and recognition. After destroying or converting his tribal enemies, Muhammad all but controlled the Arabian Peninsula.

Finally, in 629 CE, Mecca submitted to the Muslims. Muhammad entered the city and headed directly to the Ka'bah. After circling it seven times, he smashed the stone idols. He spoke of the oneness of God, or Allah, and proclaimed himself a prophet. From that moment until the present, the Ka'bah became the principal holy place for Muslims.

Muhammad's Last Years

7.

By 630 CE, Islam was the dominant religion in Mecca. Muhammad then set out to conquer the Arabian Peninsula. Some tribes were easily converted while others were met by force. The crusade was successful, and Islam spread to the Arabian Sea to as far north as Syria.

In 632 CE, Muhammad made his last pilgrimage to Mecca. First, he ordered that only Muslims could worship at the Ka'bah. Then, he delivered his last sermon, asking for Islamic unity. He ended with his final revelation from God:

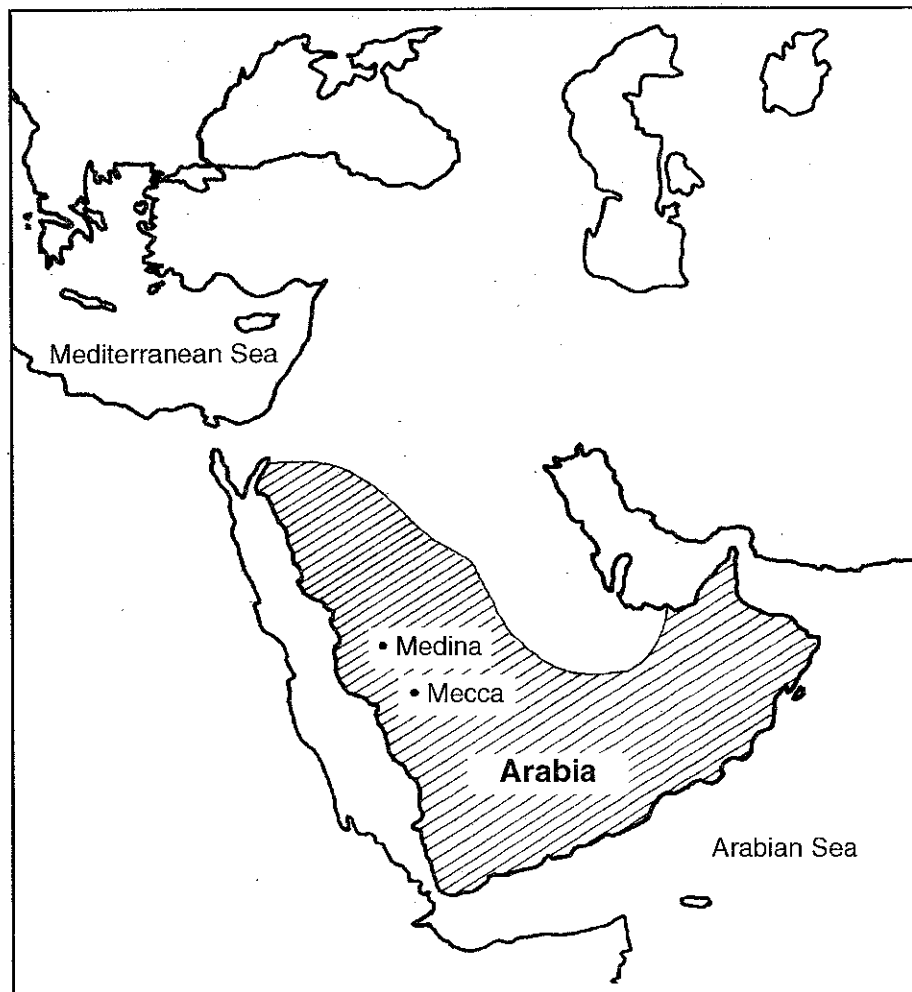
“The unbelievers have this day abandoned all hope of vanquishing your religion. Have no fear of them: fear Me.

This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed My favor to you. I have chosen Islam to be your faith.”

(Koran 5.3)

On his way back from this pilgrimage, Muhammad fell ill. He died in Medina on June 8, 632 CE, at the age of sixty-one (the 12th day of Rabi I in the Islamic calendar). Although he had married two wives since the death of Khadijah, he had yet to father a son, leaving the question of successor in the hands of his followers.

The Spread of Islam During Muhammad's Lifetime



Once your group has been assigned section 1-7 you will need to:

1. **Read** over the assigned section with your group.
2. You will have **15 minutes to create** a short skit or reenactment of the information you have been given.
 - a. Your skit will explain the information you have read and be no more than a **few minutes long**.
 - b. Use the form below to help organize your skit
 - c. **Everyone in your group will be involved.**

I. The main idea of the skit.

II. Characters and who will play the characters. Ex Mr.Bliznik/Muhammad

_____/_____

_____/_____

_____/_____

_____/_____

_____/_____

III. What happened in chronological order? (names, dates, places, vocab)

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

IV. If time write as much of the script as you can otherwise you may need to use the reading and this form as a guide to what you should act out.

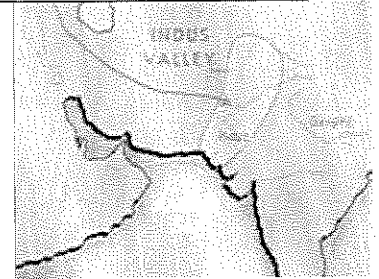


4. Hinduism

- Hinduism has been developing since _____
- Founder _____
- The Hinduism mainly practiced today began in _____

i. This religion was a mixture of _____

- Location _____
- Hindu means _____

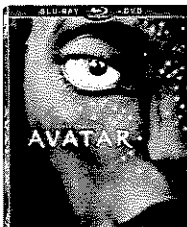
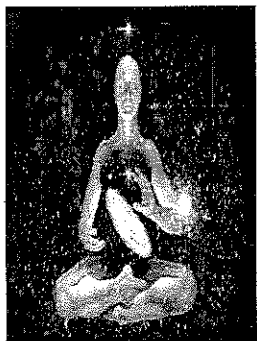
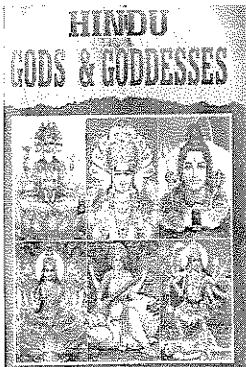


- 2/3 or the world's Hindus live in _____
- Hindus believe in _____
- The three main Hindu gods _____

- Hindu's recognize one supreme spirit called _____
- The goal of Hindus is to _____
- Hindus believe in a process of rebirth called _____
- Hindus believe that your _____ will determine what you will become in your next life.

- The cycle of birth, death, and rebirth is called _____
- The Hindu's soul merges with the Brahman called _____
- Hinduism's oldest sacred books are called the _____
- Modern Hinduism and the idea of reincarnation comes from the last book of the Vedas called the _____
- Traditional Hindu society was divided into groups of four classes. This is known as the _____

- Hindus believe gods and goddesses can take the form of people and animals in something called an _____



Hindu Beliefs

In order to understand Hinduism, we must learn about a few basic beliefs which form the foundation of the religion. These beliefs are rooted in both *The Vedas* and *The Upanishads*. Some of these ideas may be new to you, although some have become quite popular, such as the idea of reincarnation. Besides defining a belief system, these ideas also carry into Hindu law and rites of passage.

Dharma

Dharma stands for the ultimate moral balance of all things. Dharma belongs to the universe and to the individual as well. So, just as there is a divine order of the natural and cosmic realms, there is the same order within a personal life. However, each one has the responsibility to balance his or her own dharma.

A Hindu's dharma is played out in all areas of life: religious, social, and familial. If a person makes a promise, the promise must be kept at all costs. Likewise, the faithful maintain their religious rituals while attending to their family's needs.

But what if an individual goes astray? This leads to the next major Hindu belief, karma.

Karma

Have you ever heard someone say, "What goes around comes around"? What about, "You reap what you sow"? Both of these sayings mirror the Hindu concept of *karma*.

Basically, karma stands for the belief that a person experiences the affects of his or her actions—that every act or thought has consequences. Living in a balanced universe, if an individual disturbs this order, he or she will suffer commensurately. But an ethical and moral life, with undisturbed dharma, will lead to happiness. How, then, can a Hindu hope to find redemption from wrongdoing? If the person does not lead a pure and stainless life, what hope is there for happiness? The answer lies in *samsara*.

Samsara

In the Western world, *samsara* is commonly known as reincarnation. *Samsara* represents the cycle of life, death, and rebirth in which a person carries his or her own karma. Each life cycle presents an opportunity for balance.

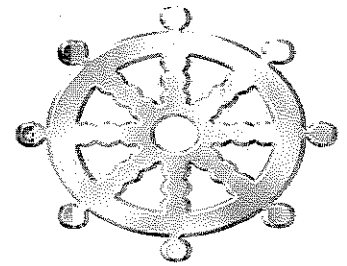
Therefore, an individual may experience effects from past lives, although the circumstances may be totally different. In fact, many Hindus believe that a person's worldly status depends upon actions in a past life. Likewise, good thoughts and actions can liberate a person. Some Hindus believe that certain people meet in more than one life in order to achieve karmic balance. Thus, every relationship and situation becomes meaningful.

What happens, then, when a person becomes purified? Is reincarnation an eternal process, or is there another realm? The answer lies in *moksha*.

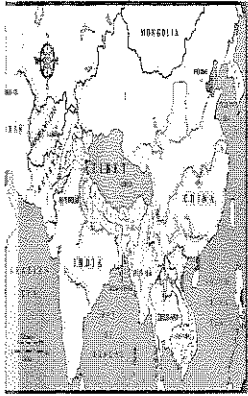
Moksha

Like heaven for the Christian, Hindus strive to reach *moksha*, or a state of changeless bliss. *Moksha* is achieved by living a life of religious devotion and moral integrity without any interest in worldly things. However, it may be many lifetimes within the wheel of life before *moksha* is achieved. The ultimate reward is release from *samsara* and union with God.

1. Do you have a sense of Karma in your own life? Explain



5. Buddhism



- Buddhism began _____
- Founder _____
- Location _____, Major religion of _____, _____, & _____
- Gautama Buddha said we need to be liberated from the three habits of _____, _____, _____
- Buddhism has many **similarities** with _____

- i. Buddhism accepts Hindu gods but they _____
- ii. Buddhists believe the state of final liberation from the cycle of birth and death is called _____
- iii. Buddhists also believe in _____ & _____

- Buddhists believe that nothing lasts forever and holding onto what does not actually exist will lead to _____

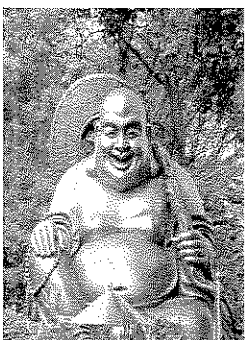
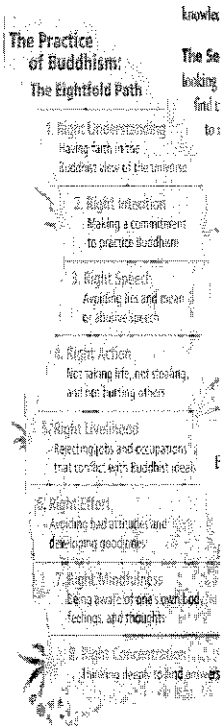
- Gautama Buddha's road map to Nirvana is called _____

- i. Life is _____
- ii. Suffering is caused by _____
- iii. _____
- iv. The path to end craving and attachment is called the _____

- The Buddhist monk who remains leader of the Tibetans is called the _____

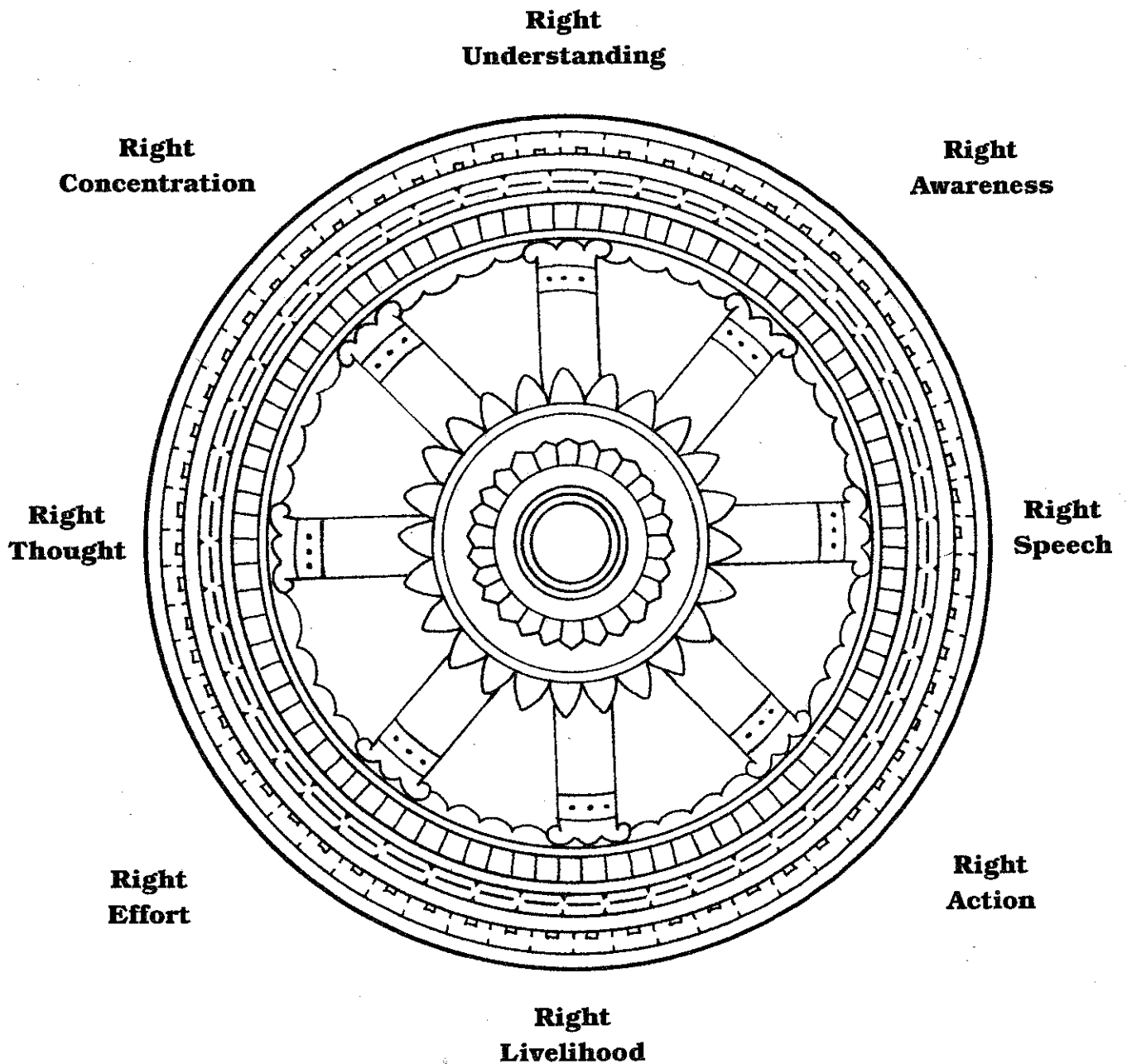
- _____ is a Chinese monk that is known as the _____

- i. He lived _____



Buddha's Teachings *(cont.)*

The Wheel of Law



Buddha's Teachings *(cont.)*

The *Eightfold Path*, also called the *Wheel of Law*, contains eight steps for eliminating *dukkha* (suffering). By following this path, one can bring an end to his or her own *karma* and be released from continuous rebirth. (To review *karma*, see the chapter on Hinduism.) Buddha introduced these ideas during his first sermon at Sarnath. This teaching is often symbolized by a wheel with eight spokes. Later in this chapter, you will read more about this symbol.

The *Five Precepts* represent the third set of laws governing Buddhist thought. Although these are not "commandments" in the strict sense of the word, they are vows which ensure right behavior.

The Eightfold Path

- **Right Understanding**
Strive to clearly understand the Four Noble Truths. Strive to understand the workings of your own mind.
- **Right Thought**
Think kindly of others and avoid dwelling on the past or future.
- **Right Speech**
Speak kindly and truthfully.
- **Right Action**
Act kindly toward all living things. Do not be attached to the results of actions.
- **Right Work**
Have a vocation that does not harm others.
- **Right Effort**
Be determined to cleanse the mind.
- **Right Mindfulness**
Be fully aware of what you are doing, always with concern for others.
- **Right Concentration**
Intensely concentrate during meditation to focus on being one with any situation.

The Five Precepts

- Do not harm any living thing.
- Do not steal. Take only what is given.
- Avoid over-stimulation.
- Do not say unkind things.
- Do not take alcohol or drugs.

Name _____

The Eightfold Path: Personal Response

Directions: There are millions of Buddhists around the world trying to live in the spirit of the Eightfold Path. Opportunities to live in the spirit of the path manifest themselves in many different ways. Under each idea, write about how it might show up in your life. Think about school, home, sports, and hobbies.

1. Right Understanding

2. Right Thought

3. Right Speech

4. Right Action

5. Right Work

6. Right Effort

7. Right Mindfulness

8. Right Concentration
