

World Religions Project

Name: _____

Religion: _____

In this research project, you will become an expert on one of the five major world religions. The religions you will study are:

Buddhism Hinduism Islam
Judaism Christianity

STEP 1: RESEARCH

After you have been assigned your religion, you will begin researching the provided subtopics in the library/computer lab.

The subtopics are as follows:

- Worship
- Origins / Founder
- Beliefs and teachings
- Festivals
- Buildings and places of worship
- Scriptures and important people
- Rites of passage/rituals
- Geography and Holy Places

*You will spend class time, and the computer lab, completing your research.

*You will be required to submit a bibliography with your final project, so DON'T FORGET TO WRITE DOWN YOUR SOURCES ON YOUR DRAFT BIBLIOGRAPHY SHEET EVERY TIME!

Step 2: POSTER

- Create a poster that includes the subtopics above.
- Include images and brief descriptions of each subtopic.
- Paper will be provided if you need it.

Listed on the next several pages are *guiding questions* only. Use them to help figure out what to focus on for each subtopic. Only include the items under the "Include" heading.

Geography

- In which country did your religion begin?

>>Include: Complete a map showing the country of origin in red (you will be provided with a world map for this purpose). Identify and locate any holy places specific to your religion.

Rites of Passage/Rituals

- Research some key rites of passage / rituals practiced by the members of this religion.
 - What are the activities associated with the ritual?
 - What are the rules and regulations?
 - Why is the ritual/rite important to the religion?
- Rites of passage/rituals contribute to a feeling of community or belonging among people who believe in a religion.
- Who is allowed to be included in the ritual/rite? Are there people excluded? If so, why?

>>Include: Provide a drawing or photo that represents one or more of the rituals/rites. It may be a symbol used in the ritual/rite.

Scriptures

- Who is said to have written the scripture?
- How is the scripture used in the religion's ceremonies?

>>Include: Give the name of the important book or books used in this religion. Include a brief passage from (one of) the scriptures.

Buildings and Places of Worship

- Find the name of the place(s) of worship used in this religion.
- What is the role of the building in this religion (how is it used? How often? Who uses it?)

>>Include: An image of the outside of a typical building used by the religion.

Worship

- How do groups and individuals who believe in this religion worship?
- How do these people pray?
 - To whom do they pray?
 - What sorts of things do they pray for?
 - How often do they pray?
 - Do they pray publicly or privately?
- Who are the people that lead the faithful in worship?
 - What is their title?
 - What do they do to lead the faithful in worship?
 - What is their role in the religion?
 - How are these leaders dressed during various ceremonies?

>>Include: Provide one or more drawings/pictures that represent worship in this religion.

Origins

- Where was your religion founded?
- How did it begin? Provide information outlining your religion's history.
- Was the religion successful immediately? What obstacles or difficulties did its founders and early followers face?

>>Include: Who was the founder of this religion? Indicate 5 key points regarding the founder's life and their contributions to the religion. Name one other key figure, modern or historical, of this religion. Indicate 5 key points regarding this person's life and their contribution to the religion.

Festivals

- What are the key features of the festival?
- Why is the festival celebrated?
- Are there important foods related to the festival? If so, what are they?
- Where is the festival celebrated? Do the people have to go to a special place?
- How long is the festival?
- Do you have to wear special clothing or costumes at the festival?

>>Include: List a minimum of 4 important festivals that people in this religion celebrate. Include the dates and time of the year the festival/holiday is held. Provide at least one drawing or photo representing these celebrations.

Beliefs and Teachings

- What deities (God or Gods) do the people of this religion believe in? What do the deities represent?
- If there are no gods in this religion, explain why.

>>Include: What are the major beliefs and/or teachings of this religion? Give a brief explanation of the teachings and/or beliefs.