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 prey?
  - 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.