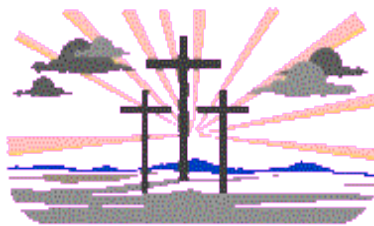


Unit 3: Human Geography

World Religions

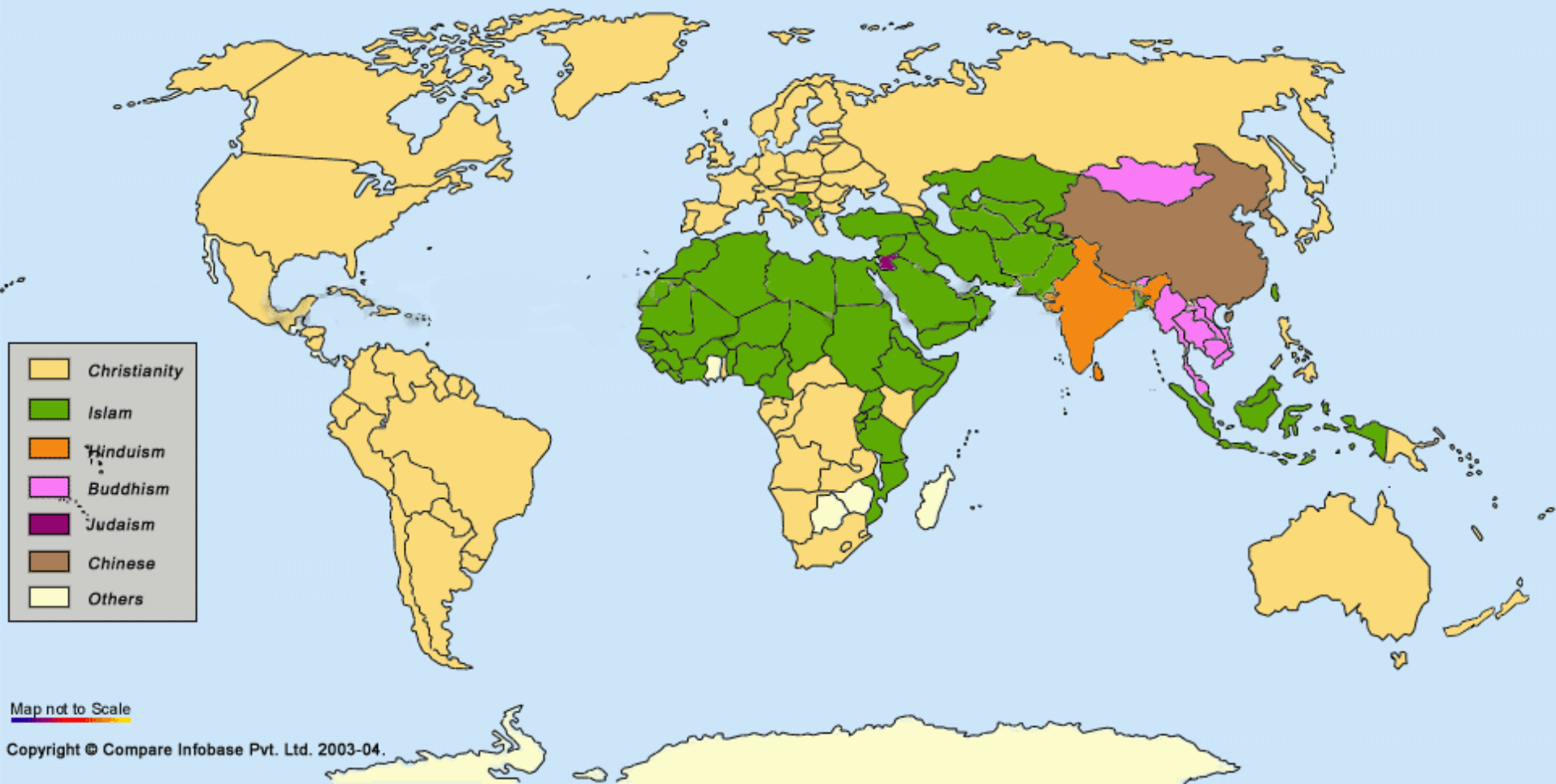


General Questions

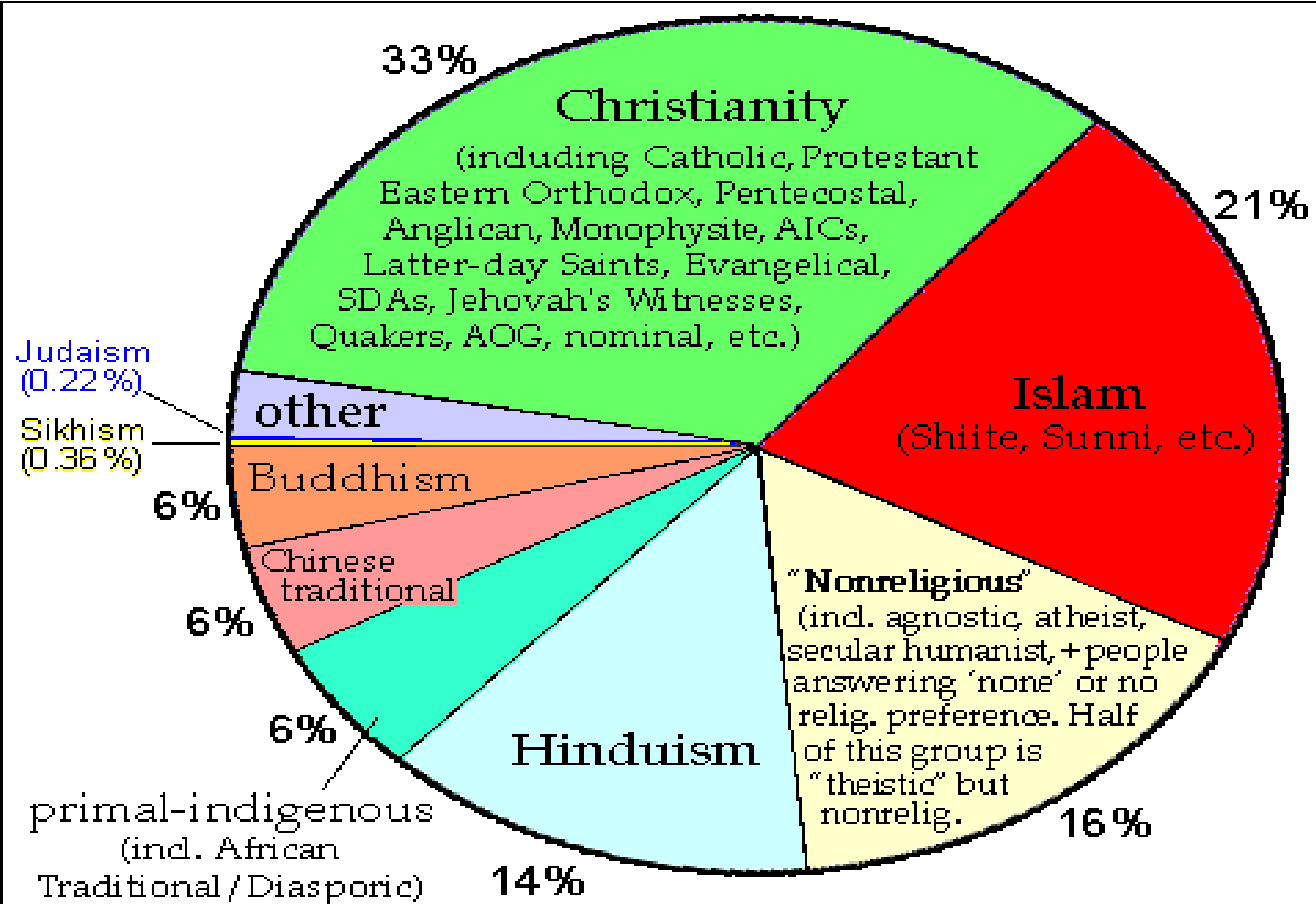
- What exactly is religion?
 - A system of beliefs?
- What purpose does it offer?
 - Hope, Peace, Order, Kindness, Structure
- Is religion always a positive institution or can it have negative repercussions?
 - Can be the cause for conflict and war

World Religion Map

Religions of the WORLD



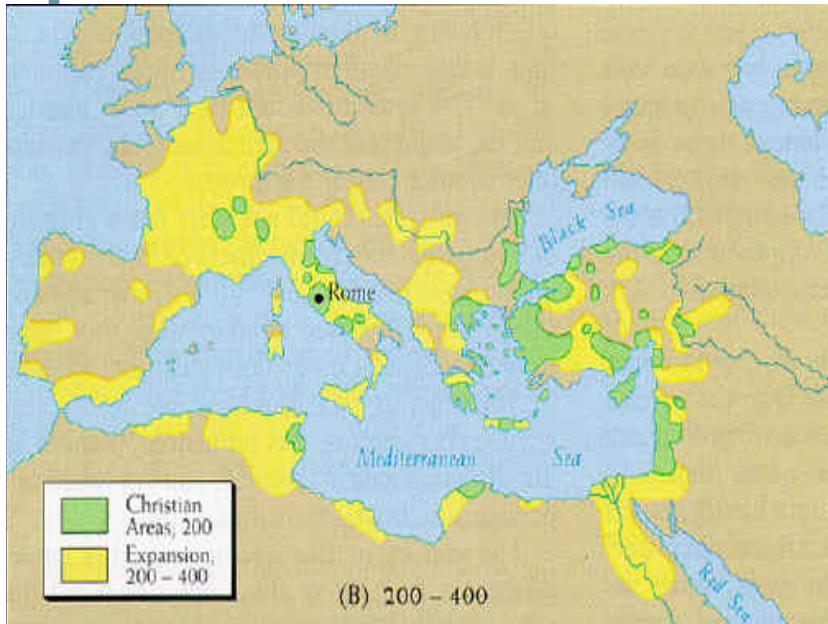
Map not to Scale



NOTE: Total adds up to more than 100% due to rounding and because upper bound estimates were used for each group.

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Christianity



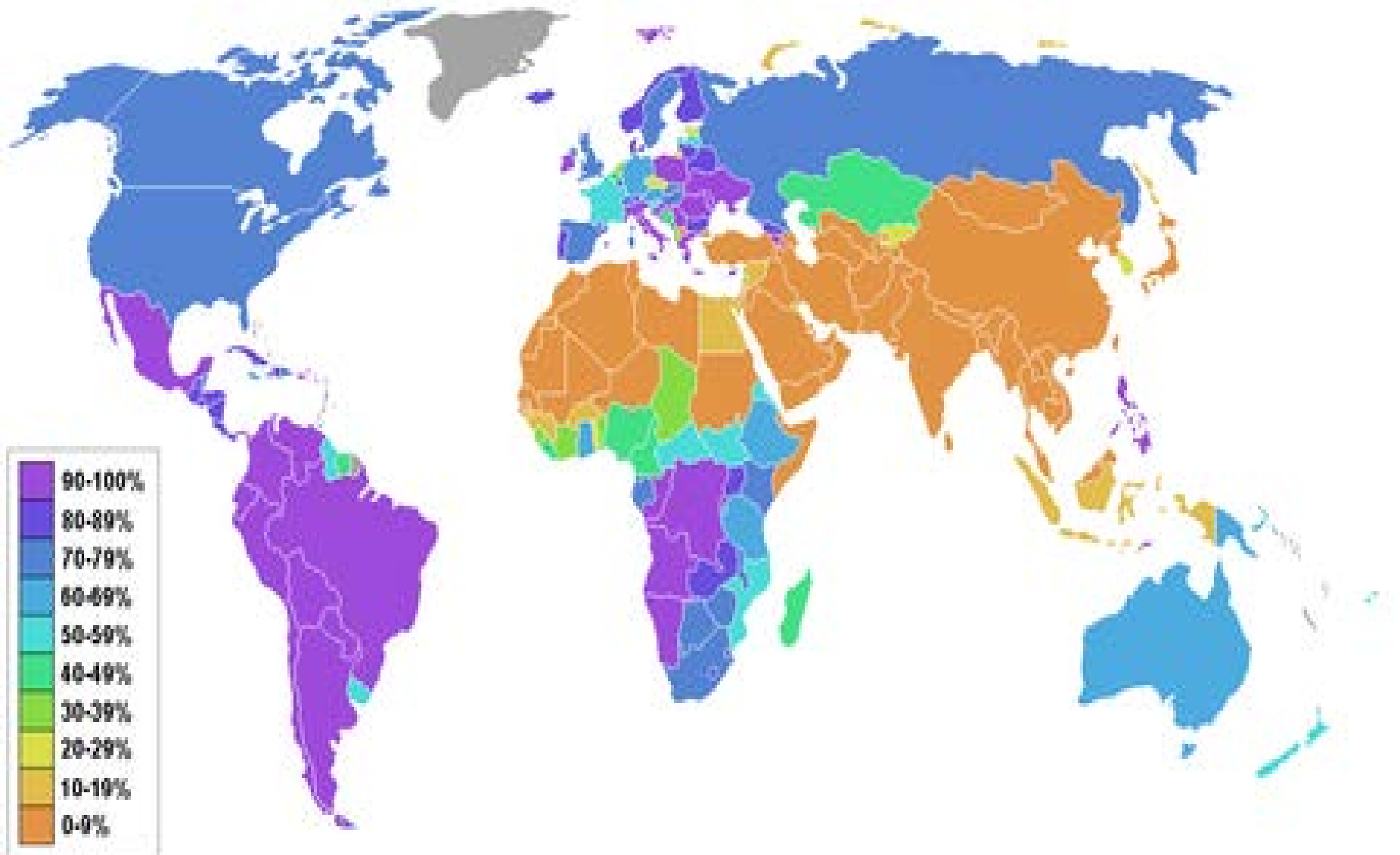
- Began about 2000 years ago.
- Based on the teachings of Jesus
 - A Jew born in Bethlehem
- Beliefs
 - Believe that Jesus was the son of God who came and died for people's sins and then rose so that all people could be saved
 - Believe in one God (monotheistic) who created the universe and all things in it
 - Preached forgiveness, mercy, and sympathy for the poor/helpless
- Was crucified by the Roman for his claims to be the Messiah (savior)
- Has roots with Judaism

Christianity

- Apostles
 - Spread the message after the death of Jesus
 - Mostly attracted to the promise of an afterlife, where even the poor would be rewarded
- Christian Bible
 - Old Testament – similar to Jewish bible
 - New Testament – description of the life of Christ and works of the Apostles
- Christianity would become the religion of the Roman empire.



Christianity



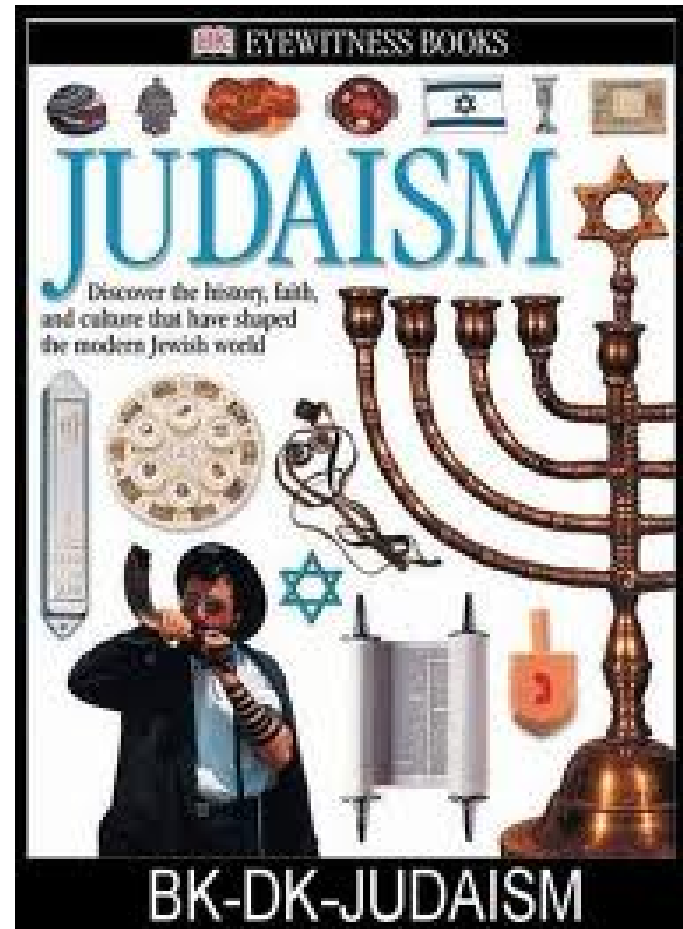
Judaism



- Originated 4000 years old along the Mediterranean near modern-day Israel
 - Oldest, yet smallest of the world's major religions.
- Jews migrated to Egypt because of drought
 - Were enslaved by the Egyptians
- Moses liberates the Jews and takes them back.
 - The Ten Commandments are issued to the Jews
- This special relationship makes the Jews God's chosen people.

Judaism

- Monotheism
 - A belief in one god
 - Polytheism “many”
- The commandments issued by god for living justly
- The history of the ancient Hebrews are told in the first books of the bible, known as the Old Testament
 - Jews call the first five books of old testament as the Torah
- 17 million Jews today
 - 40% live in Israel, 40% in U.S., 20% elsewhere.



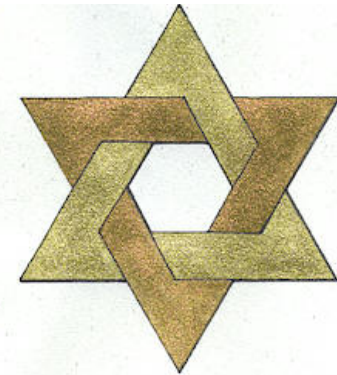
Judaism

- Synagogue
 - The Jewish place of worship
- Rabbi
 - The religious leader
 - Rabbi is not a priest and has no special religious status
- Sabbath (Shabbat)
 - The Jewish holy day starts at sunset on Friday and continues until sunset on Saturday
 - During the Sabbath, Jews do not work(drive, cook, etc)
- Menorah
 - It is a symbol of the nation of Israel and a mission to be "a light unto the nations."



Judaism

- A Yarmulke
 - worn during prayer to show respect to God
- The Star of David is the international symbol of Judaism
 - Flag of Israel has it
- Kosher Foods
 - Foods that meet all Jewish Laws
 - Certain animals are not allowed:
 - Hare, whale, Dolphin, Pig, Camel,



Judaism: 7 Holy Events

- Rosh Hashanah
 - Jewish New Year
- Yom Kippur
 - A day of fasting and praying which occurs 10 days after the first day of Rosh Hashanah. The holiest day in the year
- Sukkot
 - 8 day festival of thanksgiving
- Hanukkah
 - The Feast of Lights is an 8 day *Feast of Dedication*. It recalls the war fought by the Maccabees in the cause of religious freedom
- Purim
 - The Feast of Lots recalls the defeat by Queen Esther of the plan to slaughter all of the Persian Jews, circa 400 BC
- Pesa(Passover)
 - The 8 day festival recalls the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt circa 1300 BCE. A holiday meal, the Seder, is held at home
- Shavouth
 - Pentecost recalls God's revelation of the Torah to the Jewish people

Animism

- Believe that things in nature have their own spirits
 - Including animals, plants, and even places
 - Adopted by many early cultures
 - Medicine involved making contact with these spirits
- Native Americans had similar beliefs



Animism: Shintoism

- Japan
 - Spirits were known as Kami
 - Religion known as Shintoism



Hinduism

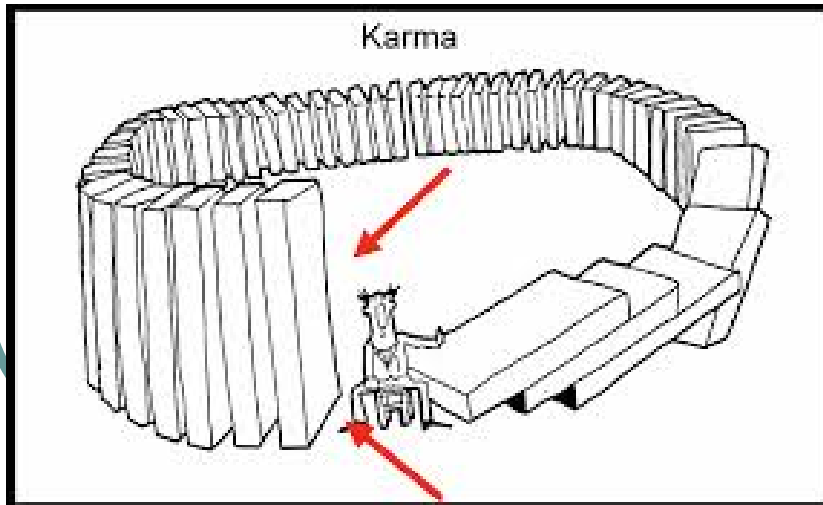


- Ancient Religion
- Principles of life can be discovered by meditation
 - No Holy book, but had books for guidance and inspiration
 - Upanishads
 - Bhagavad-Gita
- Third largest religion in the World
 - About 1 billion Hindus
- Most popular in Indian and Nepal

Hinduism: Beliefs

Beliefs

- Reincarnation - the soul never dies.
 - After death, soul is reborn as another living thing
- Hence, we are in a cycle of births and deaths and rebirths.



Beliefs

- Aim is to live in a way that causes their life to be better than the one before
- Karma - A reference to one's behavior in life
- Good karma helps determine the form one takes in the next life.
- Dharma - Living or acting in the right way.
- Moksha - Hindus ultimate aim is escape from the cycle altogether and achieve the ultimate liberation

Hinduism: Core beliefs

- Sacred Objects

- Believe the Ganges River is sacred
 - Can wash away sins and evil
- Cow is considered sacred
 - Hindus do not eat beef



- Gods

- Hindus believe that there are many gods
 - All form one supreme being known as Brahman
- **Brahma** reflects God's divine work of creating the universe
 - **Vishnu** reflects God's work in keeping the universe in existence
 - **Shiva** reflects God's work in destroying it

Buddhism



- Originated in Nepal in 500 BC
- Prince Siddhartha Gautama looked around and saw suffer
 - Decided to leave his palace in search for the truth
 - After 6 years, he discovered suffering was caused by human desire
 - To end suffering, one must block selfish desires
 - Became known as Buddha
- Missionaries carried this ideas throughout India and to Asia.
- Still a popular religions today in East and Southeast Asia

Buddhism: Core beliefs

- Basic Philosophy
 - Self-denial, meditation, and reincarnation
- Gods & Holy Books
 - Do not belief in a single supreme being
 - No holy book
 - Beliefs are in books call Sutras
- Four Noble Truths
 - Truths explain life's meaning
 - Explain pain and suffering as a result of human desires for wealth and selfish pleasures



Buddhism: Eight Fold Path

- 1. Right View
 - To see and view things as they really are
 - Attained true wisdom
- 2. Right Intention
 - Think and do the right things at all times
- 3. Right Speech
 - Do not lie, curse, slander, or gossip
- 4. Right Action
 - Do not harm yourself or others, do not steal, and no sexual misconduct
- 5. Right Livelihood
 - No jobs dealing in weapons, in living beings (including raising animals for slaughter as well as slave trade and prostitution), working in meat production and butchery, and selling alcohol and drugs
- 6. Right Effort
 - Give 100% effort in what you do
- 7. Right Mindfulness
 - Having the power to control our thought process and see the truth behind things
- 8. Right Concentration
 - Ability to have deep concentration and ability to focus on wholesome thoughts and actions

Buddhism: Nirvana

- Nirvana
 - By following eightfold path, an individual can escape the soul's endless reincarnations and achieve a state of Nirvana
 - a state of eternal peace and bliss (happiness)



Islam



- Islam means “submission” in Arabic
- Follower of Islam is a Muslim
 - “one who submits to God”
- Founded by Mohammed around 600AD
 - Was approached by Angel Gabriel and told to record this words
 - Led to creation of Qu’ran (koran), Islam’s holy book

Islam

- Believed in Single god, called “Allah”
- Religion spread very quickly after leaving city of Mecca and moving to Medina in 622.
- Over one billion people follow the Islamic faith today
 - 2nd most popular



Kaaba in the City of Mecca

Islam: Five Pillars of Faith

- Shahada (Confession of Faith)
 - Must submit their will to Allah
 - Take oath in morning and before bed.
- Salat (Daily Prayer)
 - Must pray 5x a day while facing the holy city of Mecca
- Zakat (Alms-giving)
 - Charity to the poor
 - 2.5% of one's savings.
- Swam (Fasting)
 - During Ramadan, Muslims cannot eat or drink during daylight hours
 - Not just food, but all pleasures.
- Hajj (Pilgrimage)
 - Muslims must take a pilgrimage (religious trip) to Mecca

Sikhism



- Live mainly in Northern India
 - Believe in reincarnation (Hindu)
 - Believe in one god (Muslim)
 - Believe god can be known through deep meditation
 - Everyone has equal social status
 - Men never cut hair, thus the use of turbans