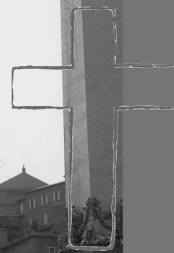





WORLD RELIGIONS (PART 1)



WORLD RELIGIONS - JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM

9

	 JUDAISM	 CHRISTIANITY	 ISLAM
	<p>Judaism affirms only one God.</p> <p>The Star of David is one symbol of Judaism; another a seven-armed candlestick called the menorah.</p>	<p>Christians believe in God's trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>The symbol of Christianity is the cross, representing Christ's death and resurrection.</p>	<p>Muslims believe in Allah, which is the Arabic word for God. They profess Muhammad to be His greatest prophet.</p> <p>A symbol of Islam is a depiction of the Kabah; another is a crescent moon with a star.</p>
Origin	<p>The Jews received their name from Judah, one of the sons of the patriarch Jacob, who had received the name Israel from God. He was the grandson of the progenitor Abraham, who moved from Ur to Canaan via Haran. Jacob's descendants are called Israelites or the people of Israel. Under Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egyptian captivity, God made a covenant with the people and gave them laws.</p> <p>Jewish time reckoning begins with the day when creation is assumed to have taken place (3761 BC).</p>	<p>Jesus was born to the Jewish virgin Mary in Bethlehem.</p> <p>Jesus is the promised Messiah. He truly is God and man in one.</p> <p>Jesus preached the gospel of God's mercy among the Jews.</p> <p>Jesus gathered disciples around Him, twelve of whom He chose to be Apostles.</p> <p>On the cross Jesus brought the sacrifice for the redemption of mankind, arose from the dead and ascended to God, the Father.</p> <p>Christian time reckoning goes back to the birth of Jesus.</p>	<p>Islam goes back to Muhammad. Around 622 Muhammad travelled to Medina, Saudi Arabia. That is the beginning of Islamic time reckoning.</p>

Theme picture clockwise: Western Wall (also called Wailing Wall) in the old city of Jerusalem/Star of David (Jewish symbol); the Dome of the Rock/crescent moon with star (Islam); St. Peter's Basilica in Rome/cross (Christian)

WORLD RELIGIONS - JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM



JUDAISM



CHRISTIANITY






ISLAM

Doctrinal focus	<p>There is only one God. He is invisible and eternal, the creator and ruler of the world.</p>	<p>Christians believe in redemption through Christ and in the resurrection of all the dead. Christ will preside over the Last Judgement, at which mankind shall be judged according to its works.</p>	<p>Allah is the only God. He will judge mankind according to their works at the Last Judgement.</p>
Holy writings	<p>The Torah</p>	<p>The Bible</p>	<p>The Koran</p>
	<p>The Torah contains God's law, consisting of the five books of Moses. It is the outstanding holy work for the Jews. Additional holy writings include the books of the prophets and others, which are all combined into one book, the Hebrew Bible, which we call the Old Testament.</p>	<p>The Bible consists of the Old and New Testaments. It contains God's word and is the basis of faith for all Christians.</p>	<p>The Koran is the holy book of Islam. For Muslims it is the proclamation of God's word as revealed to the prophet Muhammad. The religious and legal instructions contained in the Koran constitute the fundamental principles of Islamic law.</p>

WORLD RELIGIONS - JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM

9

	 JUDAISM	 CHRISTIANITY	 ISLAM
Rules, instructions, and commandments	<p>Strict observance of the law is a key element of the Judaic religion.</p> <p>This law comprises 613 instructions for religious worship and everyday life. It also includes the Ten Commandments.</p>	<p>Belief in the gospel is imperative to Christianity.</p> <p>The Ten Commandments, which Moses received from God on tablets of stone on Mount Sinai, are to be kept by Christians out of love for God and their neighbour.</p>	<p>Strict observance of the laws of the Koran is essential to Islam.</p> <p>The Pillars of Islam are the five duties incumbent on every Muslim:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allah is the only God, and Muhammad is His prophet. 2. Say a ritual prayer five times daily. 3. Support the needy. 4. Fast during Ramadan. 5. Make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in your life.
	<p>The Sabbath (Saturday) is the holy day of rest.</p>	<p>For the most part, Sunday is considered the day of the Lord.</p>	<p>The outstanding day of the week is Friday, when the faithful gather for mid-day prayer in the mosque. Friday is a holiday, but not a day of rest.</p>
	<p>Baby boys are circumcised on the eighth day after their birth.</p>	<p>There are sacraments such as baptism with water and communion.</p>	<p>Circumcision is a celebrated rite.</p>
Holidays	<p>The three highest holidays are Passover (Easter), Shavuot (Pentecost), and Sukkoth (the Feast of Tabernacles). The greatest feast, however, is Yom Kippur (the Day of Reconciliation).</p>	<p>Christmas: the birth of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Good Friday: Jesus Christ's crucifixion</p> <p>Easter: Jesus Christ's resurrection</p> <p>Pentecost: the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and founding of the church of Christ.</p>	<p>Eid al-Fitr ends the month of Ramadan.</p> <p>Eid al-Adha is celebrated 70 days later.</p>

WORLD RELIGIONS - JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM



JUDAISM



CHRISTIANITY



ISLAM

Peculiar features	<p>The Wailing Wall is the only remaining part of the temple built by King Herod the Great and destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. Faithful Jews come to this wall to pray and insert written petitions between its great stone blocks.</p>	<p>For Christians God is omnipresent. They can pray to Him anywhere and at any time.</p>	<p>Mecca in Saudi Arabia is Islam's most important place of pilgrimage. The Kabah, a cube-shaped structure veiled with a black cloth, containing the holy black stone of Mecca, is there. Muslims believe Abraham of the Bible (whom they call Ibrahim) built the Kabah as a house of God.</p>
	<p>There are various groups with different interpretations of the Torah.</p>	<p>Christianity is fragmented into many thousands of denominations.</p>	<p>There are two major divisions in doctrine: the Sunnite and Shiite, who in turn consist of many different groups with diverging doctrinal opinions.</p>
Gathering place	<p>Synagogue</p>	<p>Church</p>	<p>Mosque</p>
Expectations	<p>Based on promises, the Jews await a Messiah of whom it is hoped that he will re-establish the kingdom of David.</p>	<p>Jesus Christ will come again. At His return many Christians expect the Last Judgement.</p>	<p>Many Muslims are waiting for the Mahdi, the restorer of the world and faith.</p>

WORLD RELIGIONS - JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM

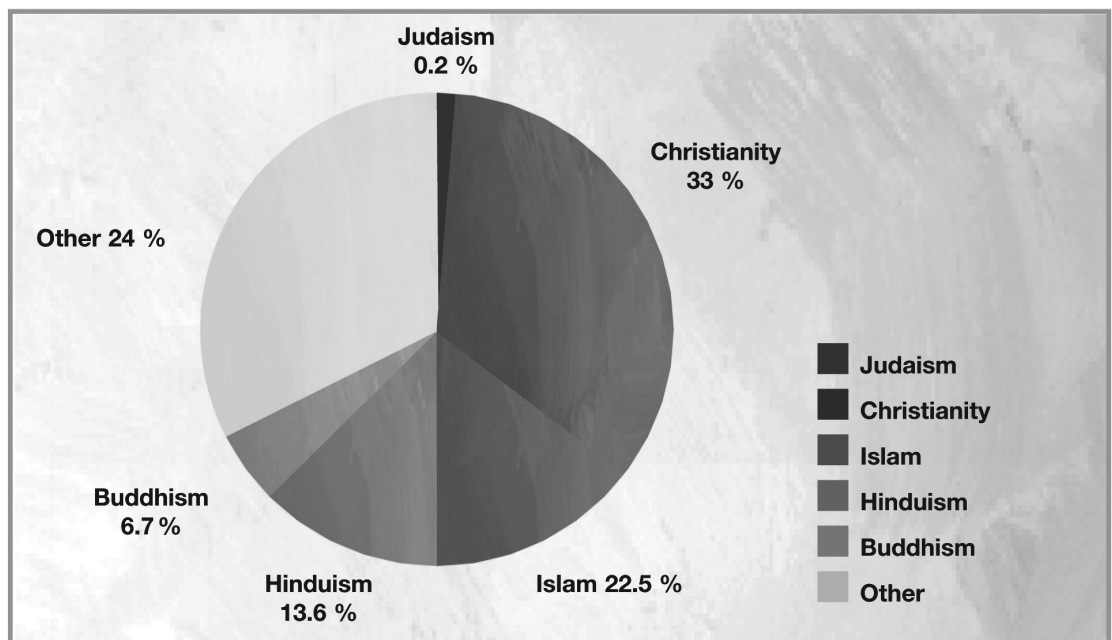
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EXERCISE 1



Talk about the diagram!

Distribution of the world's population among the different religions



What are the followers of the various religions called?
Enter these terms into the chart below.

Religion	Term for believers
Judaism	
Christianity	
Islam	
Hinduism	
Buddhism	

EXERCISE 2



Compare the statements with the descriptions on pages 46 to 49, and mark the religion to which the respective statement applies. The marked words will form the required sentence.

Statement	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
The most important symbol is the Star of David. Another is the seven-armed candlestick.	The	That	This
The religious and legal instructions contained in the Koran form the basis of Islamic law.	knowledge	religions	worship
The law consists of 613 instructions for religious worship and everyday life.	of only	of many	of two
There are sacraments of which two are common to almost all churches: baptism with water and communion.	same	one	various
The Kabah, a structure veiled in black cloth and containing the holy black stone, is found in Mecca.	God's	gods	god
The eternal, triune God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in one.	named	is called	says
He was already on earth, brought the sacrifice to effect redemption, returned to God the Father, and will come again	confession	monotheism	religion

Solution:

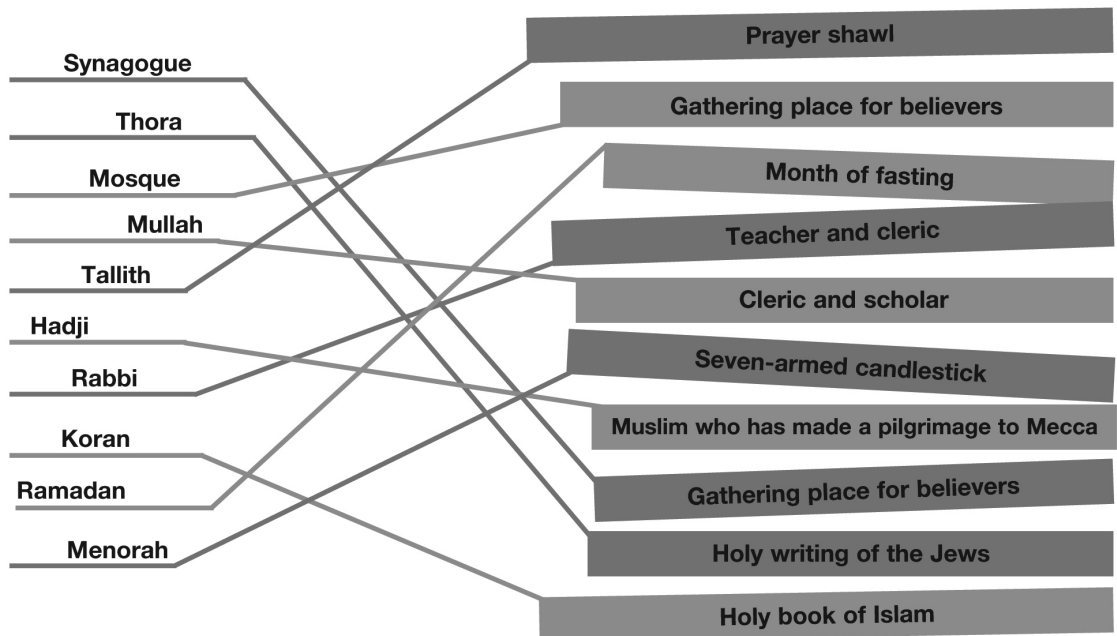
WORLD RELIGIONS - JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, ISLAM

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EXERCISE 3



Here you will learn more about some additional concepts from the Jewish and Islamic religions. Follow the lines to find the explanations! Enter the terms correctly into the chart below. Watch the colour, because it will help you!



Judaism	Islam
Gathering place for believers _____	Month of fasting _____
Teacher and cleric _____	Gathering place for believers _____
Prayer shawl _____	Cleric and scholar _____
Seven-armed candlestick _____	Muslim who has made a pilgrimage to Mecca _____
Holy writing of the Jews _____	Holy book of Islam _____