



Dear Esteemed Colleague:

Teachers can instruct with three lesson ideas with the same **World Religions**

Resources:

1. Stations- Teacher places resources on tables and students rotate through table stations. There are seven stations in total. However, keep in mind that teachers can use the introductions as class readings before the stations. The stations will take about 5-7 minutes per station. Student graphic organizer options:
 - **A. Fact Sheets and Graphic Organizers** (*more in-depth, includes introduction fill-in-the blank too*)
 - **B. World Religions Basic Facts Graphic Organizer** (*no introduction writing spaces*)

2. Gallery Walk- Teacher posts resources around the room. There are seven resource pages in total including the two introduction sheets. Student graphic organizer options:
 - **A. Fact Sheets and Graphic Organizers** (*more in-depth, includes introduction fill-in-the blank too*)
 - **B. World Religions Basic Facts Graphic Organizer** (*no introduction writing spaces*)

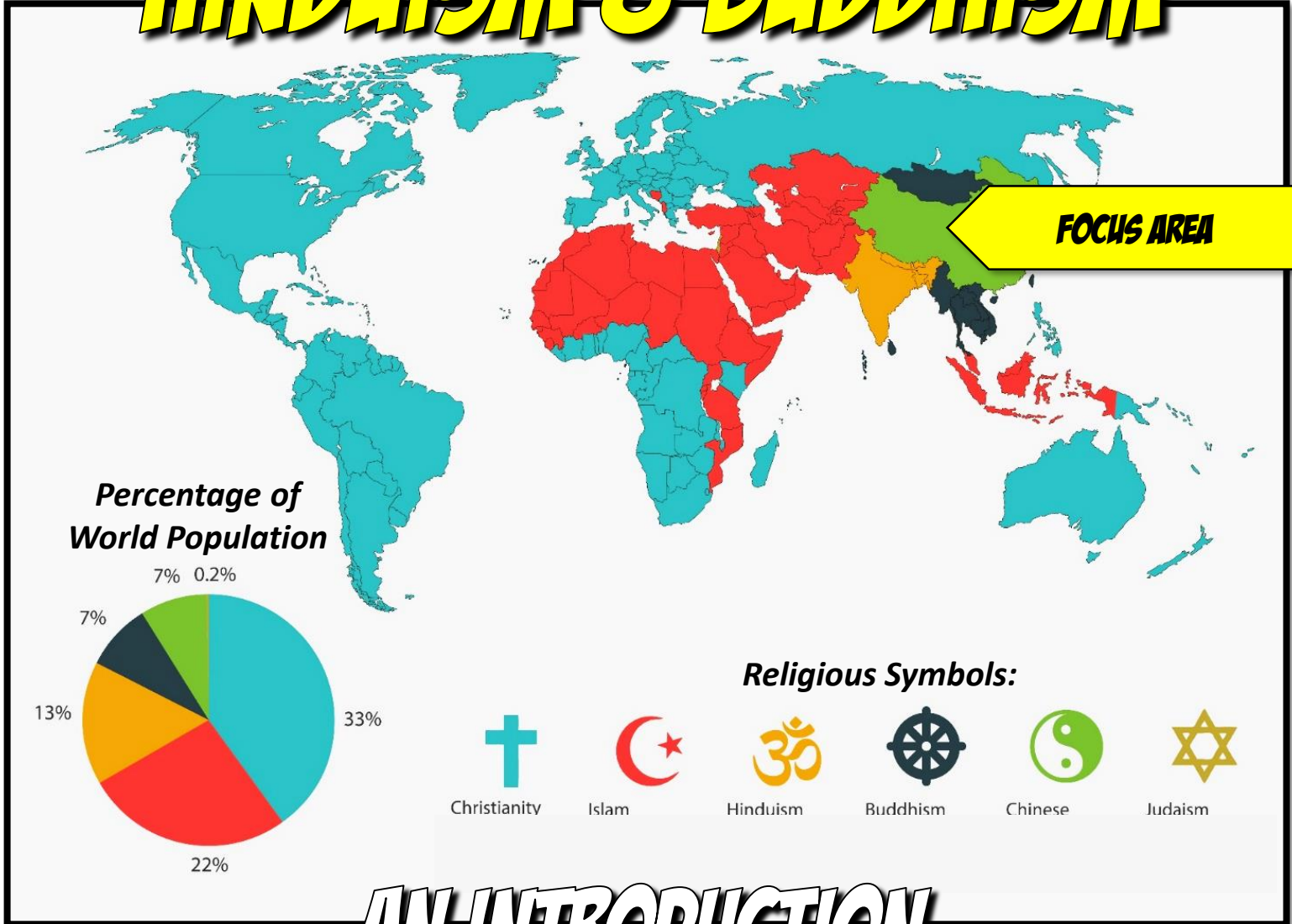
3. A Class Presentation- Students are divided into groups of four to create a presentation. Each group is assigned one religion to answer questions either via Google Slides or on a poster. A handout is included on page one. Graphic organizer to be used:
 - **A. World Religions Quick Facts Presentation GO** (*no introduction writing spaces*)

The resources print well in black and white, but consider copying the resources in **color**, as the maps are more easy to interpret.

Thanks for your support!
Tony and Erika at Instructomania



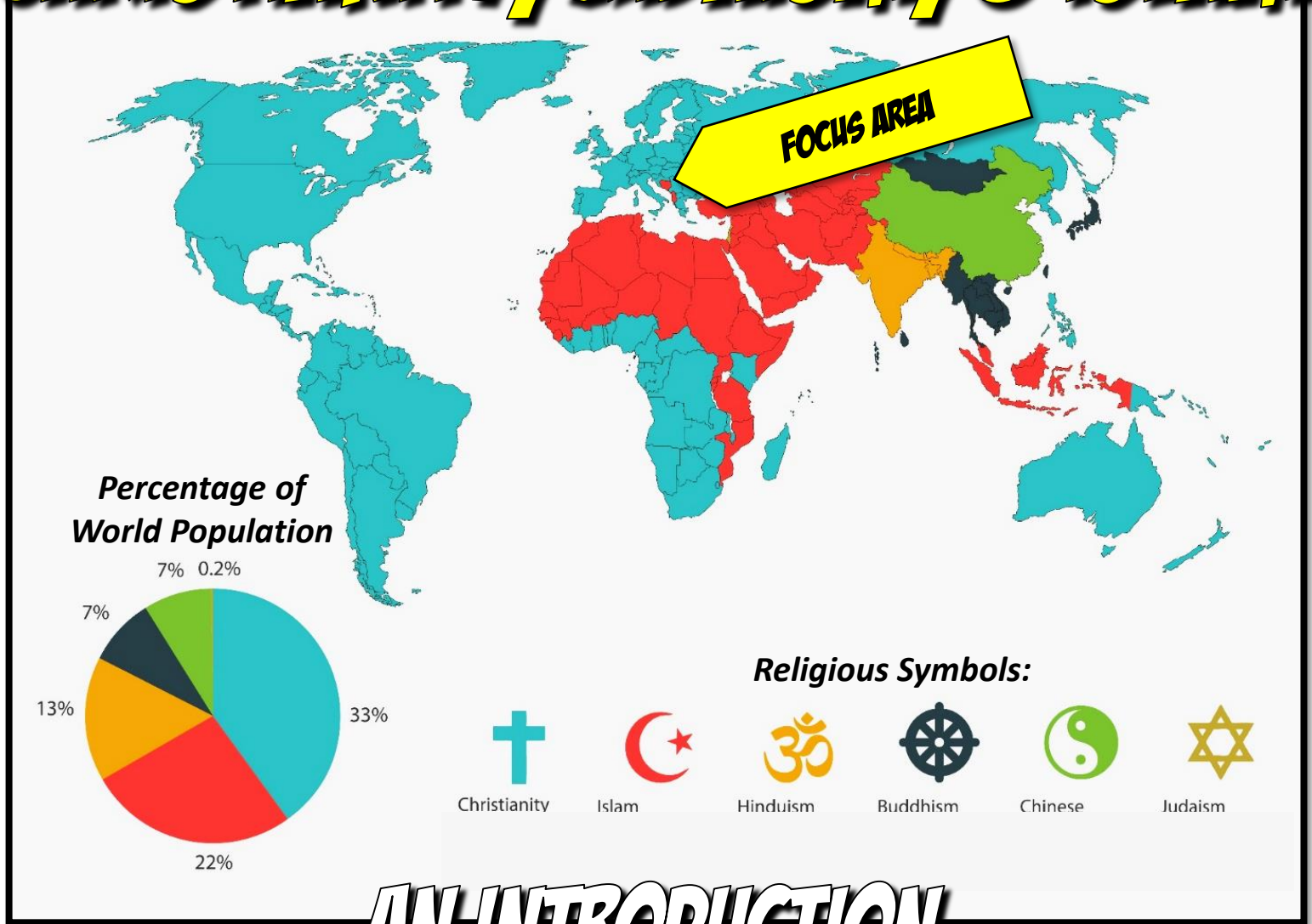
HINDUISM & BUDDHISM



AN INTRODUCTION

Hinduism and Buddhism are two of the oldest religions in the world! Hinduism originated in the Indus River Valley as early as 7000 B.C.E, while Buddhism dates back to the 400's B.CE. Both religions are similar in their beliefs with regards to reincarnation, that is that souls will be reborn again. They also both adhere to the idea that meditation, or quiet focused thinking is important. However, they differ in beliefs about gods. Buddhists do not worship a god as creator, but stress self-examination and improvement. Hindus are pantheistic, which means they believe that everything encompasses God and God is virtually present everywhere. However, Hindus worship three different supreme beings. Today there are over one billion Hindus worldwide (mostly in India) and 360 million Buddhists (mostly in China).

CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM, & ISLAM



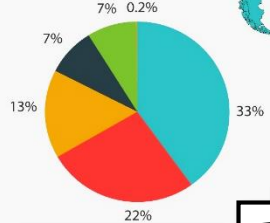
AN INTRODUCTION

Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are all monotheistic (believe in one god) religions. All three religions were broadly founded on the continent of Asia in the geographic region called the Middle East. These three faiths share common history and traditions. All three have a respect for the Bible, especially the Hebrew Bible or “Old Testament” as all three religions believe in many of the same prophets (messengers of God) such as Abraham and Moses. They all maintain that there is one God and that Jerusalem is a holy city. However, Christianity, Islam and Judaism also differ significantly in both belief and practice. The belief in Jesus is at the forefront of their differences. While Christians believe he is a messiah (savior) and the son of God, Muslims acknowledge him as a prophet only. Still, most Jews deny that he was a prophet or messiah. The following chart is intended to be a brief overview for understanding the *basics* of these ancient religions and their shared history.

CHRISTIANITY



Percentage of World Population



Religious Symbols:



ORIGINATION

The Middle East - Roman province of Palestine.

Based on life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, c. 30 CE.

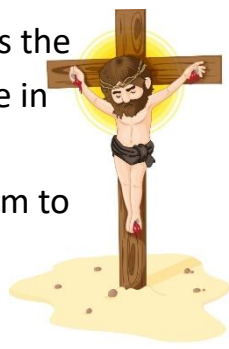
BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

Monotheistic (believe in one god)

Holy Trinity (One God in three persons)=God the Father + God the Son + God the Holy Spirit

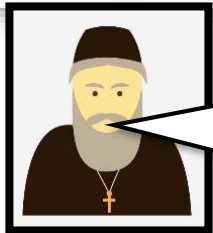
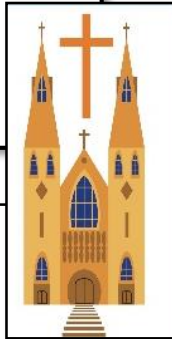
BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

Christians believe he was the son of God, as God made in flesh (part of the holy trinity). They consider him to be the Jewish **messiah** (savior of the world)



FOLLOWERS & PLACE OF WORSHIP

called Christians practice Christianity worship in a church



TEXTS

Bible= Hebrew Bible (referred to as Old Testament) and the New Testament.

The Old Testament or Hebrew Bible -

Comprised of thirty-nine books. The texts are about law, history, prophecy, and wisdom of the ancient people of Israel.

For example: The ten commandments are laws given to the Ancient Israelites by God.

The New Testament -Teachings of Jesus and his earliest followers.



MAJOR BRANCHES

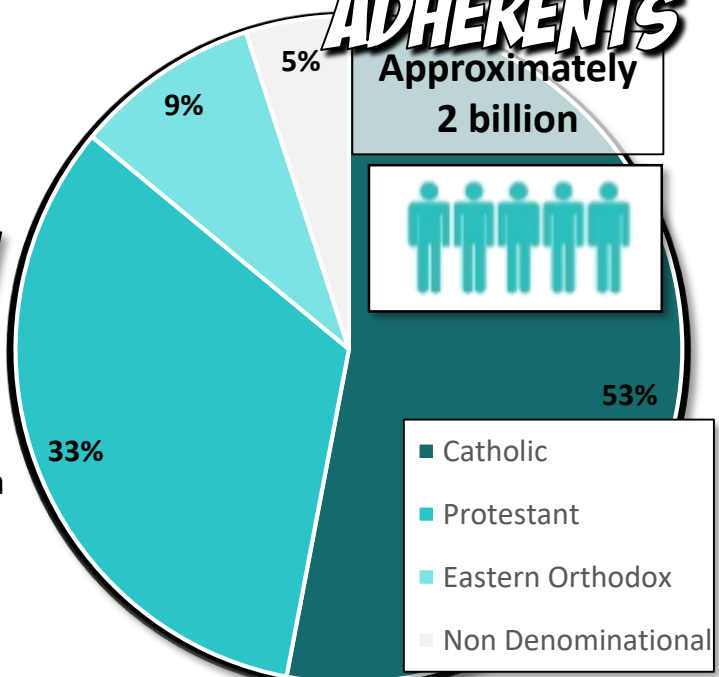
Catholic - Original "Roman Catholic" form of Christianity.

Greek Orthodox (1054) - After the *Great Schism* (a disagreement over the selection of a pope).

Protestant (1500s) - After the Protestant Reformation initiated mostly by *Martin Luther*.

ADHERENTS

Approximately 2 billion



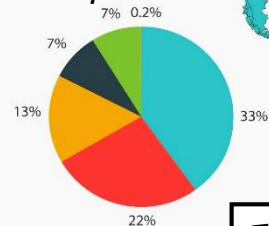
FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS

Christians do not view Muhammad as a prophet. Christians believe Jesus was the **messiah** (savior) that was prophesized about in the Hebrew Bible.

JUDAISM



Percentage of World Population



Religious Symbols:



ORIGINATION

The Middle East-

The religion of the Hebrews. Traces of Judaism are dated back as far as c. 1300 BCE in Ancient Babylonia.

BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

Monotheistic

One God=Yahweh (Hebrew name for God as used in Bible)

BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

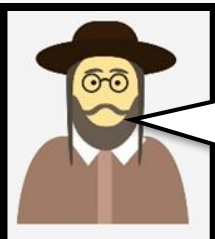
Jews do not believe he is the Jewish messiah. He is also not considered a prophet.

Muslims believe he was a messenger of God or, **prophet**.

FOLLOWERS & PLACE OF WORSHIP

called Jews
practice Judaism

worship in a synagogue or temple



TEXTS

Hebrew Bible or *Tanakh* and the Talmud.

The Hebrew Bible - Comprised of thirty-nine books. Torah (Hebrew: 'Law'), Nevi'im ('Prophets') and Ketuvim ('Writings'). The texts are about law, history, prophecy, and wisdom of the ancient people of Israel.

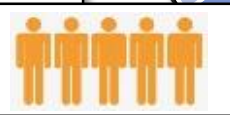
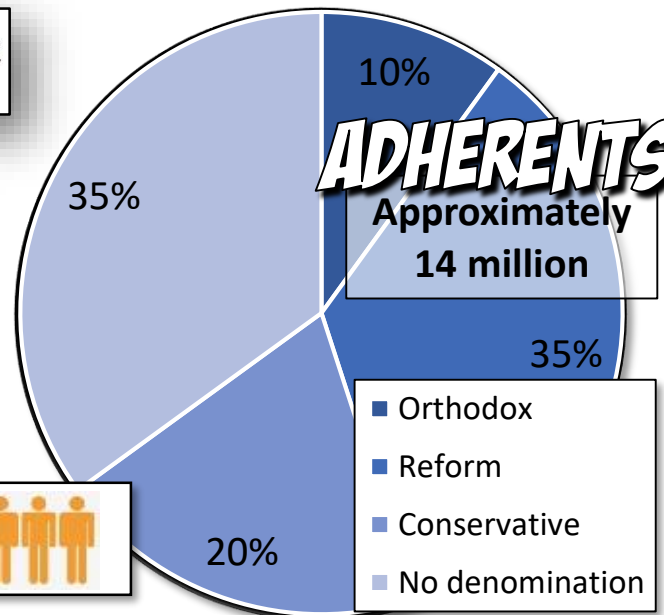
For example: The ten commandments are laws given to the Ancient Israelites by God.

Talmud - A body of Jewish civil and ceremonial law, customs and culture.



ADHERENTS

Approximately
14 million



MAJOR BRANCHES

Orthodox (1800 CE) - Believe both the written and oral Torah represent the word of God.

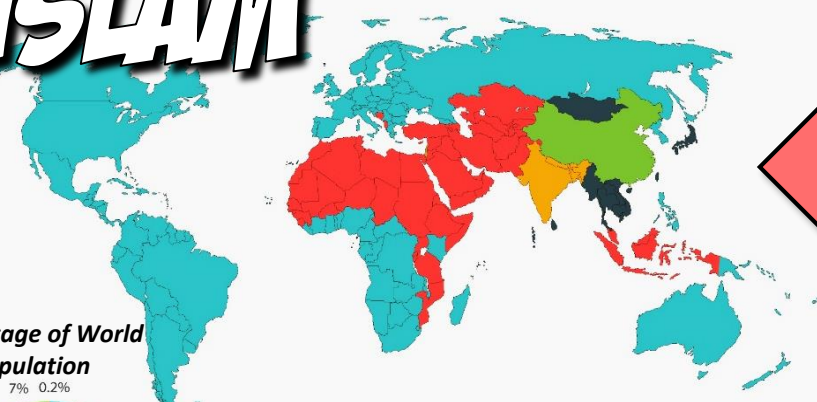
Reform (approximately 1926) - Jewish traditions and ancient laws were modernized to be more compatible with participation in Western Culture (including use of modern technology).

Conservative (1850)- In between Orthodox and Reform Jews. They seek to conserve the traditional elements of Judaism, while also allowing for *some* modernization.

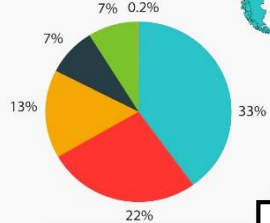
FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS

Jews do not view Muhammad as a prophet, nor do they view Jesus as a messiah or son of God. Jews are still awaiting a **messiah** or savior.

ISLAM



Percentage of World Population



Religious Symbols:



ORIGINATION

The Middle East - Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Based on teachings of the **Prophet** (messenger of God) Muhammad; founded 622 CE.

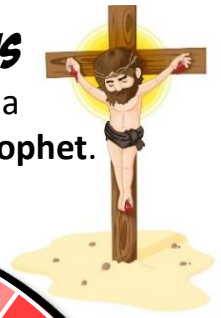
BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

Monotheistic

Allah=Arabic word for God.

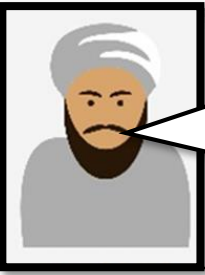
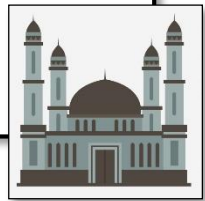
BELIEFS ABOUT JESUS

Muslims believe he was a messenger of god or, prophet.



FOLLOWERS & PLACE OF WORSHIP

called Muslims
Muslims practice Islam worship in a mosque



TEXTS

Qur'an or Koran (Scripture) and the Hadith (tradition).

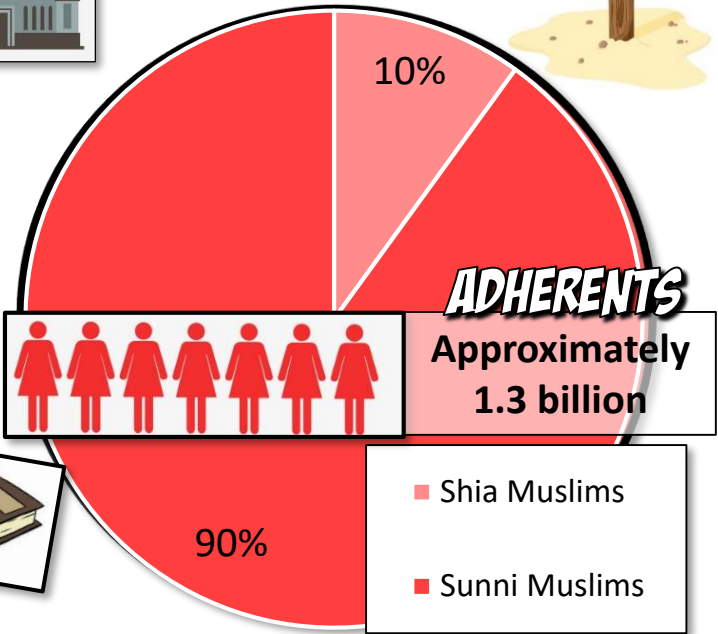
Qur'an - Believed to be the word of God as dictated to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel.

Hadith - Collection of traditions containing sayings of the prophet Muhammad that, with accounts of his daily practice (the Sunna), constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims apart from the Qur'an.



ADHERENTS

Approximately 1.3 billion



MAJOR BRANCHES

The difference between Shia and Sunni is about the *leadership* of Islam (in its original boundaries).

Shia -Believe God chose Ali (Muhammad's blood relative) to be Muhammad's successor. Hence he was the first acceptable caliph (head of state) of Islam.

Sunni (c. 650 CE) - Deny that a blood relative of Muhammad needed to be the leader of Islam, hence leaders before Ali were acceptable.

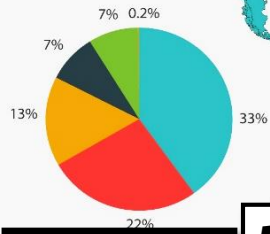
FUNDAMENTAL DISAGREEMENTS

Muslims believe that **Muhammad** was the last prophet and that Jesus was also a prophet, but not the son of God.

BUDDHISM



Percentage of World Population



Religious Symbols:

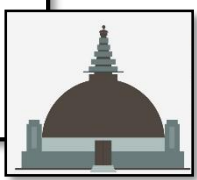
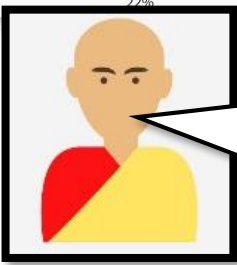


ORIGINATION
 Northern India (present day Nepal)
 400s B.C.E.

BELIEFS ABOUT GOD

Buddhists do not worship a god as creator, but stress self-examination and improvement. Buddhism doesn't fit neatly into either category of **religion or philosophy**. When people asked **Buddha** what he was teaching, he said he teaches "the way things are."

FOLLOWERS & PLACE OF WORSHIP
 called Buddhists
 Buddhists practice Buddhism worship at home or temple



TEXTS

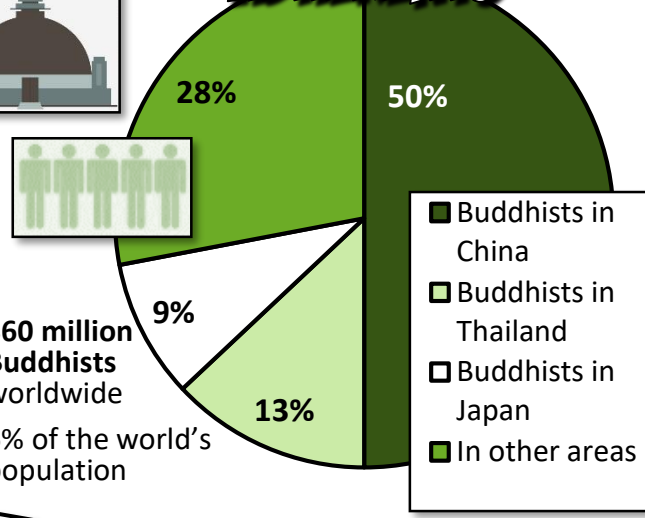
The Tripitaka/The Pali Cannon=
 Handed down orally then written down in the 3rd century B.C. E. (50 volumes)

Contains the Four Noble Truths:
 1. All life is suffering. 2. Desire is the cause of pain 3. End pain by overcoming one's desires. 4. To overcome desire, have virtue and compassion for all living things.

Contains the Eightfold Path that will end desires and lead to a path of Enlightenment.



ADHERENTS



MAJOR BRANCHES

- 1. Theravada Buddhism** (doctrine of the elders) is popular in Southern Asia: Burma, Thailand, Laos, Sri Lanka, and Cambodia
- 2. Mahayana Buddhism** (greater vehicle) is most commonly found in Northern Asia : Tibet, Nepal, China, Korea and Japan.
- 3. Zen Buddhism** (Japan)

BELIEFS ABOUT KARMA

Believe in **karma**: the result of our own past actions and our own present doings. That people are responsible for our own happiness and sorrow.

Believe people are **reincarnated** (re-born on earth) until they have reached inner peace/enlightenment (**Nirvana**).

CONNECTIONS TO OTHER BELIEF SYSTEMS

--Buddhists also believe in **reincarnation**.

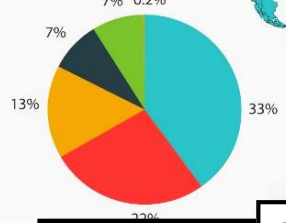
-Many comparisons have been made between **Buddha and Jesus**. Both men were believed to have miraculous births, they both began their spiritual teachings at the age of 30 and they both had a great passion for the poor and oppressed.

HINDUISM



ORIGINATION
 Indus River Valley
 1500 B.C.E., The Vedic Age
 Based on Indus and Aryan cultures

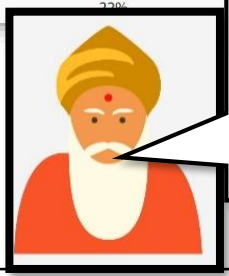
Percentage of World Population



Religious Symbols:

- Christianity: Cross
- Islam: Crescent and Star
- Hinduism: Om symbol
- Buddhism: Wheel
- Chinese: Yin-Yang
- Judaism: Star of David

BELIEFS ABOUT GOD
Pantheism (the universe is God and God is the universe).
 Supreme being is worshiped in 3 forms: Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver) and Shiva (the destroyer).



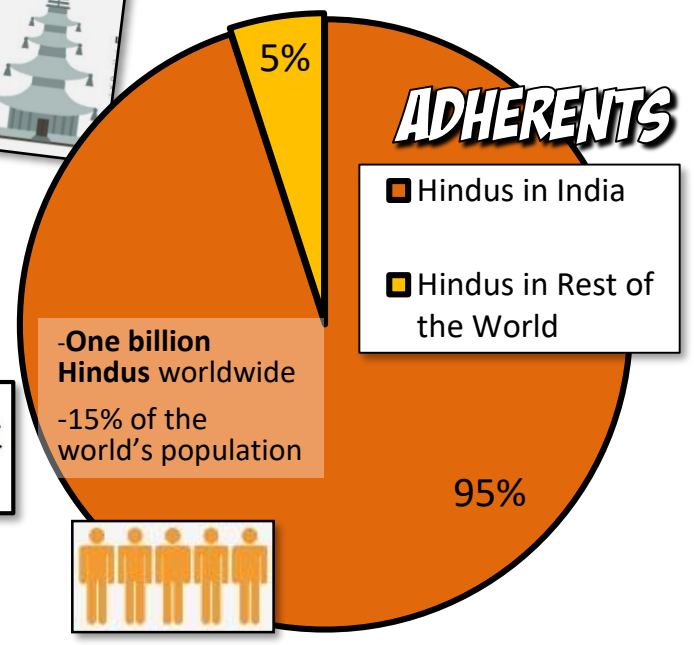
FOLLOWERS & PLACE OF WORSHIP
 called Hindus
 Hindus practice Hinduism
 worship in a mandir or temple



TEXTS

The Vedas:
 Four books of knowledge written in Sanskrit. Believed to be the work of a deity (higher being)

Later Writings:
 The Brahmanas, the Aranyankas and the Upanishads.
 The Upanishads, written between 700-500 B.C.E., contain the final part of the Vedas (the dialogues of spiritual masters)



MAJOR BRANCHES

1. **Vaishnavas** worship Vishnu (The Preserver)
2. **Shaivas** worship Shiva (The Destroyer or Purifier)
3. **Shaktas** worship Devi (Female Deities)
4. **Smartas** worship 5 Deities: Vishnu, Shiva, Devi, Ganesh (Remover of Obstacles) and Surya (god of the sun)

BELIEFS ABOUT KARMA

Believe in **karma** : that people create their own destiny through every action, word or thought.

Believe in **Samsara** (known in the west as **reincarnation**): that after death, the souls of humans and animals will be reborn depending on the karma of their past life. This cycle can be broken when all karma has been purified through conduct, meditation, and other Dharma (religious duties).

CONNECTIONS TO OTHER BELIEF SYSTEMS

- Hindus believe in samsara/reincarnation.
- Celebrate **holy days** like Christianity, Islam and Judaism and Buddhism.
- Like the hajj of Islam, **religious pilgrimages** play an important role in Hinduism. There are several sites in India, each dedicated to a certain god, a group of gods or a famous happening.