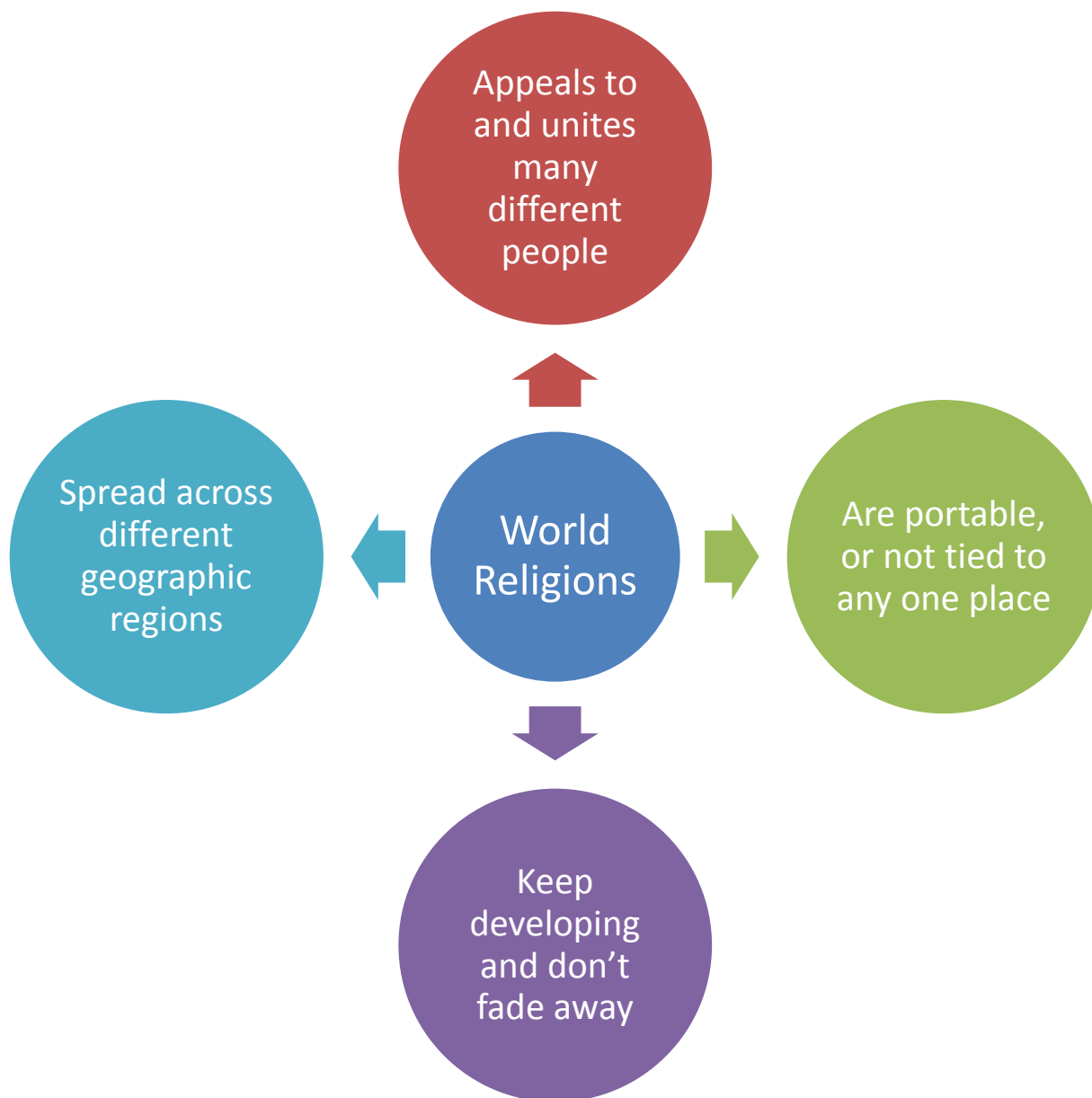


Graphic Organizer



Big Idea Card

Big Ideas of Lesson 5, Unit 4

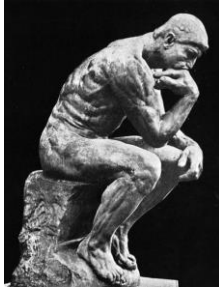
- As larger civilizations formed at the end of Era 2 and the beginning of Era 3, new opportunities arose for the development and spread of common belief systems, both philosophies and world religions, which could appeal to a wide range of people.
- The religions were “world religions” in that they united people with different cultures across different places. World religions are portable, as opposed to local religions that are more rooted to a specific place, and they spread through networks of contact and exchange.
- These world religions offered belief systems that appealed to many people. For example, they offered salvation or new life in different forms to all people, even the poor. They also provided common values and practices that shaped government and facilitated trade and communication across different cultural regions.

Word Cards

<p>23 sacred</p>  <p>regarded with great respect by a particular religious group and having a spiritual dimension</p> <p>Example: The Vedas are the ancient sacred texts of Hinduism, which recorded the religion's philosophy and customs.</p> <p>(SS070405)</p>	<p>24 reincarnation</p>  <p>the cycle of birth and rebirth of a soul into a new body</p> <p>Example: The ultimate goal of the religious path of Buddhism is to escape the cycle of birth and rebirth by getting rid of desires.</p> <p>(SS070405)</p>
<p>25 missionary</p>  <p>a person sent to promote a particular religion in a foreign place</p> <p>Example: Part of the reason the Christian religion spread so far and so fast is due to the use of missionaries who travel to other places and seek to convince people to become Christian.</p> <p>(SS070405)</p>	<p>26 convert</p>  <p>to adopt a new religion from the one previously practiced</p> <p>Example: Some religions try to actively convert people through the use of missionaries while others do not.</p> <p>(SS070405)</p>
<p>27 diaspora</p>  <p>the dispersion of people beyond their original homeland</p> <p>Example: By 70 CE there were more Jewish people living outside of their homeland, Jerusalem, than within it due to a diaspora.</p> <p>(SS070405)</p>	<p>28 religion</p>  <p>a system of beliefs involving the existence and often worship of a superhuman controlling power</p> <p>Example: Buddhism and Christianity are religions that were created during Era 3.</p> <p>(SS070405)</p>

29
philosophy

the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence based on observation and rational argument



Example: Ancient Greek philosophy arose around 600 BCE and included thinkers like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle.

(SS070405)

30
religious ritual

a set of often repetitive acts that usually use symbolic objects, words, and actions.



Example: The religious ritual of going to church on Sunday is a common practice for Christians.

(SS070405)

Student Handout 1: World Religions in Expanding Networks – 1200 BCE to 500 CE

An important development of this era, and one related to the spread of writing, was the appearance of several belief systems that included people of differing languages and cultural traditions, that is, "world religions." The great majority of people in that era practiced local religions, that is, belief systems that centered on local gods and goddesses, sacred (special) places in nature, astrology, magic, and pronouncements of shamans (individuals who connected the natural and supernatural worlds).

In the large states and empires early on, there were many different religions, although many of the rulers wanted their people to worship (the rulers) in one way or another, and sometimes even see them as gods.

Since humans had many local religions at this time, why did large-scale belief systems develop in this particular era? In fact why did all the major world religions appear in this era, with the exception of Islam? One possibility is that by about the middle of the first millennium B.C.E (around 500 BCE), Afroeurasia had large population centers and growing trade networks, and all of the different people needed some sort of value and belief system that they all shared. If they had similar beliefs and rules, it might be easier to get along and do business.

Turn and Talk: Why did world religions develop at this time in human history?

The Emergence of World Religions		
Belief system	Time of appearance	Homeland
Zoroastrianism	1200-1500 B.C.E	Southwest Asia
Hinduism	around 1500 B.C.E.	Northern India
Judaism	around 1500 B.C.E.	Southwest Asia
Buddhism	5th century B.C.E.	Northern India
Daoism (Taoism)	5th century B.C.E.	Northern China
Confucianism	5th century B.C.E.	Northern China
Christianity	1st century C.E.	Southwest Asia

The new religious systems provided common ideas that made it easier for people to communicate and share the same rules. This helped develop trust and connection between people who were meeting, sharing ideas, and doing business often times far away from their home communities. The new belief systems, however, were by no means all the same. Each one offered different answers to important questions about humanity and life and different ways of approaching worship, ritual, and living in a community.

Belief Systems

Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, and Taoism all offered paths to self-transformation (changing to become a better person) and to eternal salvation (saving your soul or reaching a state of peace for eternity) in one form or another. Christianity and Judaism were the most monotheistic, proclaiming one omnipotent (all powerful) and omniscient (all knowing) god. Hinduism made room for many powerful gods and goddesses, although there was still a belief in one supreme power. Buddhism and Daoism also accepted the existence of multiple divine beings in various forms. The worship of many different gods tied to a particular place, however, was not a part of most of these new religions.

Buddhism and Christianity emphasized their appeal to all humans, and both spread widely across different cultures and languages. Judaism remained closely identified with the Hebrew people and their descendants, though by the end of this era a diaspora of Jewish communities extended nearly across Afroeurasia.

All six systems taught that human relations should be guided by kindness, selflessness, and decency. Confucianism, which some scholars characterize as an ethical system rather than a religion, particularly emphasized public moral behavior, good government, and social responsibility.

These six systems may of course be compared and contrasted in numerous other ways, and within each tradition important differences developed depending on local cultural tendencies and social environments. The only major belief system that did not appear in this era was Islam, which emerged in the seventh century C.E.

Stop and Jot: Why were world religions helpful to large, growing societies?

What types of beliefs in these world religions would have helped people get along better?

How and Why World Religions Spread

World religions often had missionaries, or people who actively traveled to preach and teach others about the religion. These people often traveled on existing trade routes. Empires developed networks of roads and communication to help their armies control large areas and to also increase the amount of trade that was happening. These networks made it easier for world religions to spread.

Religions also spread because they appealed to many people. A lot of people living in the age of empires were very poor. Many of these world religions offered comfort to poor people by talking about how they could overcome their suffering on earth. Buddhism taught that life was suffering, and that suffering was caused by desire. To ease their suffering, people had to give up on their desire for more material wealth. In a similar way, Christianity taught that suffering on earth would be rewarded in heaven. Poor people took comfort in these beliefs, and rulers liked these beliefs as well because they taught people to be obedient and to wait for the afterlife for better things. As empires rose and fell, and as war came and went in this era, people began to turn to these religions for a sense of stability and hope.

As world religions spread, they mixed with the animist beliefs that people already practiced. Animism, in many cases, did not completely go away, but instead was absorbed by the new religions. For example, natural objects like mistletoe or pine trees, which had been seen as having special, spiritual qualities before Christianity, became incorporated into the Christmas tradition over hundreds of years.

Of course, not every part of the world was affected by these new beliefs at this time. The Americas and parts of Asia and Africa were still geographically isolated from the rest of the world, so these religions did not arrive in these places until much later.

Stop and Jot: How and why did world religions spread? Where did they NOT spread? Why not? (*underlined sentences will help you!*)

Now Turn and Talk about your ideas!

Philosophy Develops Alongside World Religions

World religions tried to explain the answers to important questions, such as where humans came from, why we are here, what does it mean to be good, and so on. As world religions were emerging, so were other belief systems that tried to answer these questions. However, in contrast to world religions these belief systems focused on investigation, discussion, and rational argument, and tried to base the search for answers more in the human world and less in the supernatural world of gods. These systems developed into what we now call philosophy, the pursuit of knowledge through thought and inquiry based on reasoning, and they were connected to the beginnings of what we now call science. In Greece, for example, people

believed in a number of gods, but Greek scholars developed a method of scientific and moral questioning known as natural philosophy. According to natural philosophy, human reason could be effectively used to explain natural, cosmic, and psychological phenomenon. These thinkers saw no contradiction between their efforts to understand the natural world through observation and study and their belief that the gods fundamentally ruled it.

In China, the writings of Confucius offered another system of beliefs and guidelines for moral behavior, suggesting that humans had the ability to improve and develop moral behavior on their own. Confucius used his writings to suggest guidelines for good leadership, moral behavior, family relationships, and overall human improvement for the good of the community.

Stop and Jot: What are key similarities and differences between philosophy and religion?

Turn and Talk: Share your ideas with a partner!

Reading adapted from: World History For Us All...and Stearns

SUMMARIZATION PRACTICE:

Identify and write in your words at least five important points from this reading:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Student Handout 2- Zoroastrianism



Zoroastrianism was founded by the Prophet Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) in ancient Iran approximately 3500 years ago. Zoroaster was born in Northeast Iran or Southwest Afghanistan. He was born into a Bronze Age culture with a polytheistic religion (the worship of many gods), which included animal sacrifice and the ritual use of intoxicants. This religion was quite similar to the **early forms of Hinduism** of the Indus Valley.

Zoroaster rejected the religion of the Bronze Age Iranians with their many gods and oppressive class structure, in which the *Karvis* and *Karapans* (princes and priests) controlled the ordinary people. He also opposed animal sacrifices and the use of the hallucinogenic Haoma plant (possibly a species of ephedra) in rituals. When Zoroaster was thirty years old he had a divine vision he believed was from God during a ritual purification rite. This vision radically transformed his view of the world, and he tried to teach this view to others.

From his vision, Zoroaster came to believe in one creator God, teaching that only one God was worthy of worship. Furthermore, some of the deities of the old religion, the *Daevas* (Devas in Sanskrit), appeared to delight in war and strife. Zoroaster said that these were evil spirits and were workers of **Angra Mainyu**, God's adversary (sort of like the devil).

Zoroaster's ideas did not take off quickly and at first he only had one convert: his cousin Maidhyoimanha. The local religious authorities opposed his ideas. They felt their own faiths, power, and particularly their rituals, were threatened by these new beliefs. After twelve years, Zoroaster left his home to find somewhere more open to new ideas. He found such a place in the country of King Vishtaspa (in Bactria). The King and his queen, Hutosa, heard Zoroaster debating with the religious leaders of his land, and decided to accept Zoroaster's ideas and made them the official religion of their kingdom. Zoroaster died in his late 70s.

The unrecorded centuries

Very little is known of the time between Zoroaster and the **Archaemenian period** except that during this period Zoroastrianism spread to Western Iran. By the time of the founding of the Archaemenian Empire, Zoroastrianism was already a well-established religion. (*adapted from http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/zoroastrian/history/zoroaster_1.shtml*).

The Persian ruling class, the Achaemeinds, followed the religion of Zoroastrianism. This religion taught that there were two deities, Ahura Mazda, the god of light and truth and Ahriman, the god of darkness and evil. These two gods were in constant struggle, a struggle that Ahura Mazda would eventually win. Zoroastrians believed that after the final battle, there would be a Judgment Day and everyone who had ever lived would be judged and sent either to heaven or hell. These ideas are believed to have influenced Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The Achaemeinds did not force Zoroastrianism on their subjects. As rulers of an empire that embraced more cultural communities than had any other before them, they allowed their subjects much cultural freedom. Nevertheless, Persian kings saw themselves as ruling by the will of the god


Ahura Mazda who cared for the well-being of all. In an inscription on a rock in Behistun, written in 519 BCE, Darius proclaims that “by the favor of Ahura Mazda I am King; Ahura Mazda bestowed the kingdom upon me.”



Stop and Jot, then Turn and Talk:


- Do you think Zoroastrianism was polytheistic or monotheistic?
- Why do you think this?
- Where is the evidence in the text?
- How did Zoroaster’s ideas spread and take hold? What did he need for this to happen?
- Is Zoroastrianism a world religion? Explain how it does, or does not, meet the criteria for a world religion.

Student Handout 3 - Global Belief Systems—Reference Sheet and Study Guide


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belief System Name</i> • <i>Amount of followers</i> • <i>Where largest percentage of followers exist</i> 	<i>Name of Deity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founder</i> • <i>Location of origin</i> • <i>Date started</i> 	<i>Sacred Text</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Basic Beliefs</i>	<i>Symbols/Icons</i>
<p>Animism (Tribal Religions)</p> <p><i>Today: 232 million followers in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas</i></p>	<p><u>Polytheistic</u>-many Gods Often connected to the natural world; beliefs are passed through stories and myths explaining the creation of fire, wind, water, man, and natural world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No real founder • Probably one of the earliest human belief systems, most likely dating to the Paleolithic Age (pre-history) 	<p>No text</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shamans and other types of leaders; • Their main task was to tend to the relationship between the community and the world of the spirits. 	<p>People in this religion generally believe that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A soul or spirit exists in every object • All life is sacred, including plants and animals, and there is a balance what must be maintained between humans and the natural world. • The spiritual world and the material world are connected. • The spirits of the dead are still present and must be honored. 	<p>Charms--people often carry charms or amulets, which they believe will ward off evil spirits, encourage fertility or long life and can be used for healing. Masks-commonly used in ceremonies and are believed to have power</p>


<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belief System Name</i> • <i>Amount of followers</i> <i>Where largest percentage of followers exist</i> 	<i>Name of Deity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founder</i> • <i>Location of origin</i> • <i>Date started</i> 	<i>Sacred Text</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Basic Beliefs</i>	<i>Symbols/Icons</i>
<p>Hinduism</p> <p><i>Today: Over 1 billion followers mainly in India and South East Asia with smaller groups in Europe and the US</i></p>	<p>Brahman – the one supreme being</p> <p>Believed in other forms of the same god, such as Vishnu and Shiva, and Shakti, are worshipped separately and treated almost as different gods.</p> <p>Don't want to label their religion as having one or many gods.</p>	<p>No one founder</p> <p>India</p> <p><i>Uncertain, but before 1,500 BCE</i></p>	<p>No single book; sacred texts:</p> <p>The Vedas: existed in oral form for centuries before they were written down.</p> <p>The Puranas: long stories of Hindu myths, gods, goddess and heroes.</p> <p>-Upanishads -Rig Veda -Laws of Manu</p>	<p>Guru, Holy Man, Brahmin priests</p> <p><i>Famous Teachers -- Gandhi</i></p>	<p>People in this religion generally believe that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The soul never dies, but it is continually reborn; this is called reincarnation. • Persons achieve happiness and enlightenment after they free themselves from their earthly desires. • Freedom from earthly desires comes from a lifetime of worship, knowledge, and virtuous acts. • Good deeds and thoughts will result in later good results, whereas bad deeds result in bad outcomes... this is Karma. • Worship and praying to god(s) brings blessings and protections and expresses devotion. • The relationships with favorite gods/goddesses are very personal. 	<p>The sound OM, or AUM, is the most sacred syllable for Hindus. It is often used in prayers.</p> 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belief System Name</i> • <i>Amount of followers</i> <i>Where largest percentage of followers exist</i> 	<i>Name of Deity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founder</i> • <i>Location of origin</i> • <i>Date started</i> 	<i>Sacred Text</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Basic Beliefs</i>	<i>Symbols/Icons</i>
<p>Taoism (Daoism)</p> <p>550 BCE</p> <p>Today: Around 225 million in China, South East Asia Mainly <u>Taiwan</u>; Some reside in North America and Canada as well</p>	<p>Polytheistic</p> <p>Tao is not a god, but a unifying force in the universe. Some Taoists believe in many gods, most borrowed from other cultures. These gods themselves are subject to the Tao.</p>	<p>Lao-Tzu (“The Old One”)—he is looked upon as a god by some Taoists.</p> <p>China</p> <p>550 BCE</p>	<p>The two most important Taoist texts are the <i>Tao Te Ching</i>, said to have been written by Lao-tzu and the <i>Chuang Tzu</i>, named after its author.</p>	<p>Spiritual leader:</p> <p>Sage</p>	<p>People in this religion generally believe that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no all-powerful god. • Some worship more personal gods in order to try to be in harmony with Tao, to achieve balance in their lives. <p>Tao (pronounced "Dow") can be roughly translated into English as <i>path</i>, or <i>the way</i>. It is basically indefinable. It has to be experienced. It "<i>refers to A power which envelops, surrounds and flows through all things, living and non-living. The Tao regulates natural processes and nourishes balance in the Universe. It embodies the harmony of opposites (i.e. there would be no love without hate, no light without dark)</i></p>	  <p>Chinese character "Tao"</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belief System Name</i> • <i>Amount of followers</i> <i>Where largest percentage of followers exist</i> 	<i>Name of Deity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founder</i> • <i>Location of origin</i> • <i>Date started</i> 	<i>Sacred Text</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Basic Beliefs</i>	<i>Symbols/Icons</i>
<p>Buddhism</p> <p><i>Today: 376 million</i> <i>In China, Tibet, Nepal, Japan, and South East Asia (India, Korea, and Vietnam)</i></p>	<p>The Buddha did not teach a personal deity (God).</p> <p><u>Sects:</u> <i>Theravada</i>--the original teachings of Buddha</p> <p><i>Mahayana</i>--the modified version -- mass salvation and popular worship-- teaches that Buddha was a god</p>	<p>The Buddha—<i>Siddhartha Guatama</i></p> <p>India</p> <p><i>Approx. 500 BCE</i></p>	<p>No one Book-sacred texts include the <u><i>Perfection of Wisdom Sutra</i></u> or <u><i>The Tripitaka</i></u></p>	<p>Buddhist Monks and Nuns</p>	<p>People in this religion generally believe that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons achieve complete peace, known as nirvana, by eliminating their attachment to things. • Nirvana is achieved by following the Eightfold Path. • There are Four Noble Truths <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Suffering exists 2) There is a reason that people suffer. 3) There is an end to suffering. 4) To end suffering, follow the Eightfold Path: know the truth, resist evil, say nothing that might hurt, respect life, free the mind from evil, service to others, control evil thoughts, and meditation. 	<p>Wheel of the Law</p> <p>The Buddha is said to have "set in motion the wheel of the dharma" during his first sermon.</p> <p>His teachings are often symbolized by a wheel.</p> 

					The soul is reborn into new life after death. Living a good life can help you escape the cycle.	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belief System Name</i> • <i>Amount of followers</i> <i>Where largest percentage of followers exist</i> 	<i>Name of Deity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founder</i> • <i>Location of origin</i> • <i>Date started</i> 	<i>Sacred Text</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Basic Beliefs</i>	<i>Symbols/Icons</i>
<p>Judaism <i>No consensus-possibly around 3000 years ago</i></p> <p><i>Today: 13.5 million in Israel and the United States, smaller numbers in Europe</i></p>	<p><i>Monotheistic</i> God (Yahweh)</p>	<p>Abraham</p> <p>Middle East</p> <p><i>No consensus-possibly around 3000 years ago</i></p>	<p>Hebrew Bible, known as the Torah</p> <p>The Talmud is contains stories, laws, medical knowledge, debates about moral choices, etc. It also includes a series of debates or interpretations of passages</p>	<p>Rabbis</p>	<p>People in this religion generally believe that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. • God loves and protects his people, but also holds people accountable for their sins and short-comings. • Persons serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings. <p>Jewish sacred texts have little to say about what happens after death. It is more focused on actions than on beliefs.</p>	 <p>Star of David</p> <p>Also called the Shield Of David, it is the universal symbol of Judaism. The emblem refers to King David, who ruled the kingdom of Israel from about 1000-962 BCE</p>

			of the Torah.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Belief System Name</i> • <i>Amount of followers</i> • <i>Where largest percentage of followers exist</i> 	<i>Name of Deity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Founder</i> • <i>Location of origin</i> • <i>Date started</i> 	<i>Sacred Text</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Basic Beliefs</i>	<i>Symbols/Icons</i>
<p>Christianity</p> <p><i>Today: 2.1 billion, most in Europe and the Americas, but present in Africa and Asia/Pacific as well</i></p>	<p>Monotheistic</p> <p>One God, and</p> <p>The Trinity holds that there are three in one and one in three aspects of God: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Ghost</p>	<p>St. Paul founded it based on his interpretation of Jesus Christ's life and mission</p> <p>Middle East</p> <p>30 CE</p>	<p><u>Bible</u></p> <p>Includes the Torah, Old Testament, and the Gospels and New Testament (accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and St. Paul's mission amongst Jews and Gentiles)</p>	<p>Clergy (Pope, priests and ministers)</p>	<p>People in this religion generally believe that...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. • Jesus Christ was the son of God. He died to save humanity from sin. His death and resurrection made eternal life possible for others. • The 10 Commandments are a guide for moral behavior (thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not murder, etc.). <p>There are different beliefs within the larger Christian religion about life after death, but Christians generally hold that there is an afterlife, and that the worthy will go to Heaven to be rewarded and that the unworthy will go to Hell. There is disagreement, however, about</p>	<p><u>The Cross</u>, a symbol of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, represents Jesus' love for humanity in dying for its sins.</p> 

					who is worthy and who is unworthy.	
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Student Handout 4 – Global Belief System Comparison/Contrast Matrix

Place an X in the appropriate box for each characteristic that applies to each religion. Then answer the questions.

Religion/Belief System	Approximate date of origin <i>(fill in the closest date)</i>	Polytheistic	Monotheistic	Basic beliefs distinguish between right and wrong	Belief in an after-life (for example, heaven or hell)	Belief in reincarnation	Has sacred text(s)	Has leaders that are seen as religious authorities
Animism <i>(not a world religion)</i>								
Zoroastrianism <i>(use the article, not the chart)</i>								
Hinduism								
Judaism								
Buddhism								
Daoism(Taoism)								
Christianity								
Use the completed chart above to help you make inferences in order to answer the questions below:								

<p>What do the world religions have in common?</p> <p><i>(don't include animism)</i></p>	
<p>What are important differences?</p>	
<p>What religions seem more connected to each other or more similar?</p>	

Teacher Reference Sheet – Global Belief System Comparison/Contrast Matrix

Place an X in the appropriate box for each characteristic that applies to each religion. Then answer the questions.

Religion/Belief System	Approximate date of origin <i>(fill in the closest date)</i>	Polytheistic	Monotheistic	Basic beliefs distinguish between right and wrong	Belief in an after-life (for example, heaven or hell)	Belief in reincarnation	Has sacred text(s)	Has leaders that are seen as religious authorities
Animism <i>(not a world religion)</i>	Paleolithic Age	X		X				X
Zoroastrianism <i>(use the article, not the chart)</i>	1500 BCE	?	?	X	X		X	X
Hinduism	Before 1500 BCE	Hindus don't make this distinction.		X		X	X	X
Judaism	1500 BCE		X	X	X		X	X
Buddhism	550 BCE	X		X		X	X	X
Daoism(Taoism)	500 BCE	X		X		?	X	X
Christianity	30 CE		X	X	X		X	X
Use the completed chart above to help you make inferences in order to answer the questions below:								
What do the world religions have in common?	They all have central moral or ethical core and leaders that are seen as religious authorities. All but animism have sacred texts.							

<i>(don't include animism)</i>	
What are important differences?	Two are polytheistic but most are monotheistic; differences are primarily found in whether they believe in an after-life or reincarnation.
What religions seem more connected to each other or more similar?	Buddhism and Hinduism are similar in their belief in reincarnation and both believe that the source of suffering is desire. Christianity and Judaism share a sacred text (Old Testament).