



World Religions

Lesson Plan by: Darlene Wright, Johnson Park, NCTA 2021 (The Ohio State University seminar)

Title: World Religions

Theme/Topic: World Religions

Introduction: This lesson focusses on the basic religious beliefs and practices of the major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism. Students will be comparing and contrasting elements of these religions throughout the lesson. This lesson will help students better understand and interact with people of other faiths.

Subject/Grade Level: Social Studies/ 6th Grade

Connection to Standards/Common Core (2-3 standards):

Ohio State Standard: Geography Strand – Human Systems – Content Statement: Diffusion of agricultural practices and products, technology, cultural practices and major world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism) impacted the Eastern Hemisphere.

Lesson Plan Activities:

1. Have on the board and ask students what is religion. Have students do a 10-minute quick write individually. They will share their responses with a partner / small group. Then as a class we will discuss how their answers are similar and different. Record responses on the board. After the discussion we will go over the actual definition. Religion is a belief in, devotion to, and

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worship of a God or gods. A follow up discussion question is why it is important to learn about religious faiths other than your own.

2. Using various websites students will do web quests over the various religions. They will read and gathering the following information – when it was founded – the detailed information about the founding of each religion – if it is monotheistic or polytheistic – where in the world most people who follow that faith are located – major beliefs – different sects or denominations – holy book(s) – key figures / individuals – major rules / values for how people should behave – key holidays – what is unique about the religion – how is the religion similar to other religions.
3. The culminating activity, which will also serve as the assessment, will be to create a poster on one of the five major religions. Their poster must include who is the god(s), are they monotheistic or polytheistic, their basic beliefs, some of their religious practices, important holidays, and a topic of their choosing. Each category must include an illustration or picture that goes with it.
4. Throughout this religious unit invite guest speakers who can present information about their religion. Have students create questions prior to the visit to ask the speaker.

World Religions Web Quest 1

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Directions: Read / view the information on various websites and videos to gather information on world religions.

A. Go to this website source and answer the questions below.

<https://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-religions-of-the-world/>

1. Who is the key figure in Christianity? Why is he significant?
2. What is the Christian holy book?
3. How are Jews and Christians similar?
4. What is the Jewish holy book?
5. How are Christians, Jews and Muslims similar?
6. What is the Islamic holy book?
7. Who is the key figure in Buddhism?
8. According to Buddha how can humans end suffering?
9. Are Hindus monotheistic or polytheistic? Explain.
10. What do Hindus believe happens to the soul of a human at death?

B. Go to this YouTube source and answer the questions below.

<https://youtu.be/IFpsAz5BPk>

1. What is the oldest religion?
2. Are Jews monotheistic or polytheistic? Explain.
3. What does Buddhism focus on?
4. What do Christians believe about Jesus?
5. What does Islam mean in English?

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World Religions Web Quest 2

Directions: Read / view the information on various websites and videos to gather information on world religions.

A. Go to this website map source and answer the questions below.

<https://d3tt741pwxqwm0.cloudfront.net/WGBH/sj14/sj14-int-religmap/index.html>

1. What religion is predominantly practiced in the world?
2. Go to the menu in the northeast corner of the map and select Buddhism. Which Asian country has the greatest Buddhist population (scroll over countries)?
3. Go to the menu and look at Christianity and Judaism maps. Identify a country that most Christians and Jews both populate.
4. Go to the menu and select Hinduism. What two countries have the greatest Hindu populations?

B. Go to this website table source and answer the questions below.

<https://www.infoplease.com/culture-entertainment/religion/major-faiths-concise-table>

1. Identify a religion and one of its key beliefs.
2. What do Buddhists believe about God?
3. Which religion is the oldest? When did it begin?
4. Where do most Jews live?

C. Go to this website political cartoon source and answer the questions below.

<https://images.app.goo.gl/NXfKCMDf4L7YDjgT6>

1. Describe someone that needs help in this cartoon. Tell what you see. What do they look like? What are they doing? What emotion is on their face?
2. What does Christian Jesus want the U.S.A. (Uncle Sam with the flag hat) to do for the people?

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D. Go to this website political cartoon source and answer the question below.

<https://images.app.goo.gl/KNyVnURSsXcNquBt5>

1. What Buddhist practice is shown in this cartoon?
2. What is the problem with the monk on the end – the fourth one?