Three World Religions:
Judaism, Christianity, & Islam

EQ: Explain the similarities and differences between the three major religions of Europe.
SS6G11 The student will describe the cultural characteristics of Europe.

b. Describe the major religions in Europe: include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
Your Task

- Take out a piece of paper and something to write with
- Create a tree map titled *Major Religions of Europe*
- Make three branches and call them *Judaism, Christianity, Islam*
MONOTHEISM

Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are major faiths that are examples of **monotheism**, or belief in one supreme god.
I. JUDAISM

- First practiced by a small group of people in Southwest Asia called the Israelites.
- Founded by Abraham.
- Holy book is the Torah.
- Followers today are known as Jews.
Jewish Beliefs:

- Believe that they descended from Abraham and Sarah, the first people to worship Yahweh (God). Abraham lived at least 3,700 years ago in what is now Iraq.
- Torah says that God made an agreement, or **covenant**, with Abraham (move to Canaan [Palestine] and he will be blessed).
- Because of this, Jews believe they are God’s “chosen people”.
**Ten Commandments**

- Most important of God’s laws.
- God gave the commandments to Moses (a *prophet*, or messenger of God).
- He moved Israelites out of Egypt, where they were slaves.
- Commandments said that all people are equal, whether they are rich or poor.
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
Exodus 20:1-17

1. Thou shall have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shall not make any graven images
3. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord Thy God in vain.
4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor thy Father and Mother
6. Thou shall not kill
7. Thou shall not commit adultery
8. Thou shall not steal
9. Thou shall not bear false witness
10. Thou shall not covet
Jerusalem, Israel
Over the centuries, the Jews would be conquered and forced to leave their homeland many times. Eventually, they spread to countries in many parts of the world. Scattering of the Jews = Diaspora. In many areas, the Jews were treated cruelly...
Jewish Diaspora
Holy Days

♫ **Passover:** festival that retells the story of the Israelites fleeing Egypt.

♫ **Rosh Hashanah:** Jewish New Year’s Day.

♫ **Yom Kippur:** known as the Day of Atonement. People fast (go without food) and pray on this day.
Additional Facts:

- Torah – first 5 books
- Believed to be given to Moses at Mt. Sinai
- Belief is in the laws of one God and the words of his prophet
Additional Facts

- 3 main types of Judaism:
  - Orthodox (most traditional)
  - Conservative
  - Reform (least traditional)
Additional Facts

Jews in Europe were nearly wiped out by Hitler and Nazi Germany
II. Christianity

- Arose from Judaism in Southwest Asia.
- Founded by a Jew named Jesus began preaching in what today is Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan.
- Taught that God loved all people, even those that have sinned.
- Some Jews greeted him as the **messiah**, or savior, who would deliver them from the Romans.
A.D. 30, Jesus and his disciples, or followers, went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

Many Jews greeted him as the messiah, and this worried other Jews and Romans.

Jesus was convicted of treason under Roman law and crucified, or executed.
Disciples proclaimed that Jesus had risen from the dead.

They began preaching that Jesus was the Son of God, and they called him Christ (Greek for “messiah”).

They spread Jesus’ teachings throughout the Roman world and beyond.

The holy book of the Christians (followers of Jesus Christ) is the Bible; stories about Jesus became the New Testament.
Christianity Spreads...

- A.D. 300: Christians were persecuted until Roman emperor Constantine became one and proclaimed it a lawful religion.
- Christianity later divided into Roman Catholics (Pope in Italy), Eastern Orthodox, and Protestants (Martin Luther).
- Has more followers than any other religion (about 2.1 billion)
Holy Days

☞ Christmas: Jesus’ birthday.
☞ Good Friday: day Jesus was crucified.
☞ Easter: most important day of Christian calendar; believed to be the day that Jesus rose from the dead.
Beliefs based on teachings of Jesus: love of God and neighbor, regard for justice, belief that Jesus is the son of God
Additional Facts

- 3 major groups:
  - Eastern Orthodox
  - Roman Catholic
  - Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, etc.)

Is in most parts of the world
Began in the A.D. 600s in the Arabian Peninsula (Southwest Asia). Founded by Muhammed.

In Arabic, *Islam* means “surrender” to the will of Allah (God).

Followers of Islam are called Muslims and there are about 1.3 million.
Muhammad

- Born A.D. 570 in Makkah (Mecca), city in western Arabia.
- A.D. 610, he heard the voice of angel Gabriel telling him to preach about God.
- Told the people there is only one God, Allah, and all believers in him are equal.
- Urged the rich to share with the poor.
- Saw life as a preparation for the Day of Judgment (when Allah would reward the good and punish the bad).
Muhammad’s swords

Muhammad’s hat, robe, and staff
A piece of Muhammad’s hair!

One of Muhammad’s sandals
Hijrah

- Muhammad’s message angered the rich merchants of Makkah.
- A.D. 622, he was forced to flee for safety to Madinah.
  - His departure is known as the Hijrah, or migration.
  - His forces eventually defeated armies who came to Madinah.
  - Made Madinah the center of Islam.
- By the time of his death in A.D. 632, most of Arabia had accepted Islam.
The Green Dome in Madinah

Muhammad’s grave lies under the Green Dome. (Above is his casket.)
The Muslim holy book is the Quran (Koran).

Describes the Five Pillars of Faith (obligations all Muslims must fulfill).
Additional Facts

- Belief that Muhammed was the last of the prophets
- Fastest growing religion in Europe
Additional Facts: Five Pillars of Faith

1. Confession, or statement, of faith.
2. Pray 5 times a day, facing Makkah.
3. Give charity to people in need.
4. Fast during daylight during Ramadan (the month in which God began to reveal the Quran to Muhammad).
5. Make the **hajj**, or journey, to Makkah to pray (once in each Muslim’s lifetime).
The Grand Mosque in Makkah
Comparison of Major World Religions

NOTES:
1. There are 160 million Muslims in Indonesia and 100 million in India. 1.4% of the population of China is Muslim (17.6 million people).

APPROXIMATE PERCENTAGE OF WORLD POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese traditional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoruba</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baha'i</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jainism</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shintoism</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Credits

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Modifications made by B. Morgan