

World Religion

I. Hinduism

A. Beginnings(about 1000 BC)

1. no founder
2. from Aryan and Hindu beliefs
3. in India

B. Major Beliefs

1. polytheism
 - a. Brahma
 - b. Vishnu
 - c. Shiva
2. Sacred Objects
 - a.cow
 - b.Ganges River
 - c.Holy Books: Vedas, Upanishads
3. Class system
 - a. Caste system
 - b. Determines whole life
 - c. Cannot marry outside caste
 - d. Cannot eat with anyone outside class
 - e. Determines job
 - f. Brahma top
 - g. Untouchables are bottom (outside caste system)
 - h. Brought in by the Aryans
4. Major Beliefs
 - a. Reincarnation: soul is reborn in another body after death
 - b. Dharma: duties of caste
 - c. Karma is collection of your good and bad deeds
 - d. Dharma and Karma together determine your reincarnation in the next life
 - i. Overall good karma means you stay in the same social class or go up
 - ii. Overall bad karma means you down in the next life
5. End Goal:
 - a. Moksha = total peace

C. Hinduism Today

1. Primarily in India
2. Hindus world wide
3. Caste System is outlawed in India but silently practiced in rural villages

II. Buddhism

A. Beginnings

1. founder: Siddhartha Guatama (563-483)
 - a. was Hindu prince
 - b. began religion
 - c. Enlightened One = Buddha
2. Began in India

B. Major Beliefs

1. no gods
2. all in life is suffering and sorrow
3. Get rid of desire to get rid of suffering.
4. Follow the Eightfold Path and Four Noble Truths
5. Eightfold Path includes
 - a. Right views
 - b. Right aspirations
 - c. Right speech
 - d. Right conduct
 - e. Right livelihood
 - f. Right endeavor
 - g. Right mindfulness
 - h. Right meditation
6. Holy Book:
 - a. Writings of Buddha
 - b. Sutras
7. End Goal:
 - a. Enlightenment: wisdom
 - b. Nirvana: release from pain and suffering

C. Modern Day Buddhism

1. mainly in East Asia:
 - a. China
 - b. Japan
 - c. South East Asia
2. World Wide 338 million Buddhists
3. mostly non-violent

III. Judaism

A. Beginnings

1. founded in fertile crescent
2. Abraham
3. promised land by god (Canaan) modern day Israel and Palestine
4. Abraham moves his family to Canaan (2000 BC)
5. Jews will move to Babylonia and Egypt
- 6.

B. Major Beliefs

1. one god = Yahweh
2. God follows the people everywhere
3. Covenant: God gives protection for loyalty
4. Jews = followers of Judaism
5. Move to Egypt for jobs
6. Forced out of Egypt by the pharaoh
7. Moses leads them out of Egypt to Canaan
8. Moses given the 10 Commandments
 - a. Only one god
 - b. no images
 - c. Do not take lord's name in vain
 - d. Keep holy Sabbath day
 - e. Honor mother and father
 - f. No stealing
 - g. No killing
 - h. No adultery
 - i. Don't bear false witness
 - j. No coveting neighbor's goods or wife
9. New covenant: Follow my laws = protection
10. Kingdom set up:
 - a. Saul, David, Solomon = kings
 - b. Romans come in and end kingdom
 - c. Jews spread from there = Diaspora
11. Holy Book = Torah
 - a. Talmud (interpretations) = holy also
12. End goal: lead a moral life

C. Modern Day

1. 13.4 million Jews world wide
2. Highest concentration of Jews in Israel
3. Suffered persecution throughout history.
 - a. Anti-Semitism= hatred of Jews
4. 1935- 1945 Holocaust.
 - a. Genocide against Jews
 - b. 6 million Jews killed
 - c. leads to creation of state of Israel

IV. Christianity

A. Beginnings

1. 30 AD Jesus preaches
 - a. son of God
 - b. new covenants: love your neighbor as yourself and love god with heart, soul, mind
2. extension of Judaism
3. Christians belief Jesus was killed by Romans and then rose from the dead 3 Days later

B. Major Beliefs

1. one god in three persons (father, son, holy spirit)
2. Jesus died and resurrected for humans
 - a. Forgives sins
 - b. Leads to eternal life
3. People achieve salvation by following Jesus' teaching
4. Follow the 10 Commandments from Judaism
5. more forgiving
6. Persecuted under Roman Empire
 - a. 313 Edit of Milan allows them to worship
7. Organized church splits in two in 1054
 - a. Roman Catholic
 - b. Eastern Orthodox
8. Catholic Church splits again in 1500's = Protestant Reformation
 - a. Martin Luther = Lutherans
 - b. John Calvin = Calvinists (later Presbyterians)
 - c. Henry VIII = Church of England (Anglican or Episcopal Church)

C. Modern Day

1. found in every part of the world
 - a. missionary work brought religion to all continents
 - b. not always the choice of the people to start
2. 1.9 billion people
3. most popular in Europe and The Americas

V. Islam

A. Beginnings

1. began by Mohammad around 613
 - a. saw visions in cave outside Mecca
 - b. Angel Gabriel revealed God (Allah)'s will
 - c. Written down in Koran (Quran)
2. Mohammad fled from Mecca to Medina (622)
 - a. Hegira (hijrah)
 - b. Begins the religion of Islam
3. Mohammad returns to Mecca and conquers the city
 - a. Beginning of Islamic Empire

B. Major Beliefs

1. Five Pillars
 - a. Belief : There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his greatest prophet
 - b. Pray five times a day facing Mecca
 - c. Make a pilgrimage to Mecca once in your life
 - d. Fast during the holy month of Ramadan
 - e. Give to Charity
2. Holy Book: Koran (Quran)
 - a. Words of Allah
 - b. Sacred: top book, never on the floor
 - c. Written in Arabic
3. Holy places:
 - a. Mecca: birthplace of prophet (make a trip there once if you can)
 - b. Kaaba Box containing the sacred stone given to Abraham (believed to be a meteorite by scientists) in center of Mosque in Mecca
 - c. Medina (city of the Prophet) originally Yathrib. Muhammad fled there to avoid death
 - d. Jerusalem (Dome of the Rock = now a mosque) Muhammad was brought up to Allah
4. Lifestyle Choices:
 - a. No alcohol
 - b. No drugs
 - c. No gambling
 - d. Women can choose to veil themselves
 - e. Separation of Genders
 - f. Jihad (holy war) in defense of Islam or in response to your inner struggle with your religion
5. Religion splits
 - a. Sunni (majority)
 - b. Shiite (minority)

6. Place of worship = mosque
 - a. Center of Islamic City
 - b. Call to prayer comes from there
7. End Goal: Lead moral life and go to paradise

C. Modern World

1. Fastest growing religion
 - a. By birth
 - b. By conversion
2. 1 billion believers world wide(Muslim)
 - a. Indonesia = Highest population of Muslims
 - b. Saudi Arabia
 - c. Most popular in Middle East
 - d. Growing throughout Asia, Africa
3. Often stereotyped for being violent
 - a. Recent terrorist attacks tied to splinter groups.
 - b. Not the majority of the believers

VI. Confucianism

A. Beginning

1. philosophy founded by Confucius (559-479 BC)
2. Chinese philosopher and scholar

B. Major Beliefs

1. Five Relationship in Life
 - a. Ruler to subject
 - b. Father to son
 - c. Husband to Wife
 - d. Brother to Brother
 - e. Friend to Friend
2. Filial Piety
 - a. Respect for elders
3. Group is more important than individual
4. These provide a well ordered society
5. Education is important
 - a. Civil service exam begins from Confucianism
6. Holy Book: Analects (collection of Confucian teachings)

C. Modern Day

1. unable to calculate followers
2. primarily in China and Asia
3. Ideas are influential in all parts of Asia.