




Monotheistic Religions of the Middle East Background Notes

Key

| The Religion | The Followers | The Symbol (words & picture)                                                                      |
|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Judaism      | Jews          |  Star of David |
| Christianity | Christians    |  cross         |
| Islam        | Muslims       |  Crescent      |

How are they Similar?

1. Monotheism : (one GOD)
2. Abraham : Recognize Abraham as Patriarch (father)
- 3 Consider city of Jerusalem to be holy.
4. All connected to parts of the Bible.

**JUDAISM:**

|                                                    |                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Where Founded:<br>SW Asia, <u>fertile crescent</u> | When Founded:<br>*Founded <u>4,000</u> years ago.<br>* Judaism is the <u>oldest</u> surviving <u>monotheistic</u> religion. |
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| Important teachings & Beliefs:<br>1. <u>monotheistic</u><br>2. <u>10 commandments</u><br>3. <u>prayer</u><br>4. <u>still waiting for messiah (savior)</u> | Holy Book(s)<br>Torah (can also be seen in the 1 <sup>st</sup> <u>5</u> books of the <u>Bible</u> )<br>According to the Torah, it is <u>disrespectful</u> to spell out the name of deity (G_D) in full. |
| Important Cities:<br>1. <u>Jerusalem</u><br>Major Groups:<br>1. <u>Orthodox</u><br>2. <u>Conservative</u><br>3. <u>Reform</u>                             | Founder/Important People:<br>1. _____<br>2. _____<br>3. _____<br>Languages: _____<br>Percent of World Followers: _____                                                                                  |

**CHRISTIANITY:**

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Where:<br>-SW ASIA: <u>Jerusalem</u> | When: <u>2,000</u> years ago<br>--Stems from <u>Judaism</u> .<br>---Jesus was a <u>Jew</u> , whom <u>Christians</u> claim is the <u>Messiah</u> (Savior) |
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Key

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| <p>Important Teachings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. Monotheism</u></li> <li><u>2. Salvation</u><br/>*Jesus <u>died</u> on the cross as <u>payment</u> for sin. <u>Resurrected</u> to offer <u>hope</u> of eternal life.</li> <li>Trinity of <u>God</u> :<br/>* <u>God, the father</u><br/>* <u>Jesus, the son</u><br/>* <u>Holy Spirit (Ghost)</u></li> <li>Holy Book: <u>Bible</u><br/>* <u>Old Testament</u><br/>* <u>New Testament</u></li> </ol> | <p>Important Cities:<br/>- <u>Jerusalem</u> and <u>Vatican City</u></p> <p>Important Groups:<br/>--Roman Catholic: <u>makes</u> up the <u>largest</u> group of <u>christians</u>.<br/>--Protestant:<br/>*can include <u>Lutherans</u>, <u>Methodist</u>, <u>Prebyterians</u>.<br/>--Eastern Orthodox: Example <u>Russian Orthodox</u>.</p> |
| <p>Founder/Important People:<br/><u>Jesus</u><br/><u>Abraham</u><br/><u>12 apostles</u><br/><u>Paul</u><br/><u>Augustine</u><br/><u>Martin Luther</u><br/><u>John Calvin</u></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Languages:<br/><u>Greek</u><br/><u>Hebrew</u><br/><u>Latin</u></p> <p>Percent of followers in the world:<br/><u>32%</u><br/><u>Largest Religion in the world</u></p>                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <p>Similarities?</p> | <p>Differences?</p> |
|----------------------|---------------------|

Key

Islam:

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| <p>Where:<br/> <u>SW Asia (Middle East)</u><br/> <u>Mecca (present day Saudi Arabia)</u><br/> <u>Medina, Saudi Arabia</u></p> <p>When:<br/> <u>613 A.D. (C.E.)</u></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Important Teachings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Five Pillars of Islam</u></li> <li><u>Monotheistic</u></li> <li><u>Allah is name of God</u></li> </ol> <p>Holy Books:<br/> <u>Qur'an (Koran)</u></p> <p>Contains both<br/> <u>verses</u> from the<br/> <u>Torah</u> and the<br/> <u>Bible</u>.</p>                                  |
| <p>Moral Code is derived from<br/> <u>Sharia law</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAITH: There is only<br/> <u>one</u> God--<br/> <u>Allah</u>.</li> <li>PRAYER: Pray <u>5</u><br/> times a day towards<br/> <u>Mecca</u>.</li> <li>FASTING: During the month of<br/> <u>Ramadaan</u>.</li> <li>ZAKAH: Giving to the<br/> <u>poor (2.5%)</u>.</li> <li>HAJJ:<br/> <u>trip (pilgrimage)</u><br/> to <u>Mecca (at least once/life)</u>.</li> </ol> | <p>Close ties to<br/> <u>Christianity</u> &amp;<br/> <u>Judaism</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Believe that both<br/> <u>Abraham</u><br/> and <u>Jesus</u><br/> are prophets.</li> <li>Islam is the<br/> <u>first religion</u> of<br/> the Abrahamic<br/> <u>tradition</u>.</li> <li>Muhammad is the last<br/> <u>prophet</u>.</li> </ol> |
| <p>Important Cities:<br/> Founding City: <u>Mecca</u><br/> <u>Medina</u><br/> <u>Jerusalem</u><br/> (3<sup>rd</sup> holiest site)</p> <p>Major Groups:<br/> Sunni: Largest Group<br/> Believe caliphs should be chosen<br/> <u>by consensus (vote)</u>.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Founder/Prophets/Important People:<br/> <u>Muhammed</u><br/> <u>Ali</u></p> <p>Languages:<br/> _____</p> <p>Percent of followers worldwide:<br/> <u>25</u> %<br/> <u>2<sup>nd</sup></u> largest religion in<br/> the world.</p>                                                                                                                        |