



World Religions

TOPICS

World Religions
SEL

GRADE LEVELS

3rd to 8th grades

TIME

two 40-50 minute sessions

LESSON GOALS

Students will make meaning of religious practices around the globe and how those may contribute to our values.

PART I

Students will engage with a set of value cards prompting discussion about core beliefs shared by humanity.

PART II - DEEP DIVE

Students will dig into the various world religions utilizing technology.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will gain new vocabulary understandings to draw conclusions about traditions and religions as well as what might connect humans.

Students will utilize technology to explore, research, and share their learning about world religions.

- How is religion practiced around the globe?
- What are some similar ways in which we practice our faith? How do they differ?
- What are the values that we hold true?

CONTENT STANDARDS

Literacy (Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards): Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Social Studies: Use historical perspectives to analyze global issues faced by humans long ago and today.

Use the fundamental themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement, region) to describe regions or places on earth.

Describe the human characteristics of places: describe the human characteristics of the region under study, including languages, religions, economic system, governmental system, cultural traditions.

Explain how culture and experience influence people's perception of places and regions.

Social Emotional Learning Competencies: Demonstrate an awareness of different cultures and a respect for human dignity.

Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve interpersonal conflicts in helpful ways.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

Seen By Me Religion episodes available at:
projectexplorer.org/seen-by-me

Value cards and worksheets (provided at end of this document)

A website where students have access to age-appropriate tools for research and understanding of the world's religions. For example: The United Religions Initiative at: www.uri.org/kids/world-religions

VOCABULARY

Buddhism
Christianity
Hinduism
Islam
Judaism
religion
tradition
spirituality

LESSON

As a class (or online learning group), view the [Seen By Me World Religion episodes](#). Through group dialogue, establish a true definition for "religion" and "tradition".

Provide each student the eight value cards (attached). These will serve as a catalyst for a conversation surrounding core values despite varied beliefs or religious practices. Encourage students to cut the cards apart, rearrange, sort, organize, add their own as they consider the following questions:

- What do these words mean?
- How do you see them play out in your community or around the world?
- What values would you add?

Begin by working in pairs to gather ideas. Then invite the entire group to discuss "what do all religions have in common?" For example:

- Sense of community
- Treat others as you would want to be treated
- Look after others less fortunate

CONNECTION

Where do you see these values being exemplified?

The examination of the value cards should naturally lead to the idea that despite the religion we practice, whom we may or may not worship, or how we choose to practice our faith, the underlying values remain.



Can you capture images of values playing out in your real world? Capture images and share them utilizing #seenbyme on Instagram and Twitter to have your photos shared with the world!

DIVING DEEPER

Go beyond the ideas of values to provide students the opportunity to dig deeper into history and geography to learn about five of the world's major religions.

Use the World Religion Worksheets to facilitate independent or group research. We suggest an age-appropriate online resource like [United Religions Initiative](#). Share findings and discuss with the whole group.

ASSESSMENT

- Collection and review of completed worksheets
- Student reflection (oral or written)

EXTENSION

- Investigate beyond these religions to explore faith worldwide
- There are additional video clips within ProjectExplorer's original content that can provide supplements for the learning

WORKSHEETS & VALUE CARDS FOLLOW

VALUE CARDS

What do these words mean to you?

How do you see them play out in your community or around the world?

When do you see them having tension?

What values would you add?

Truth

Security

Coexistence

Diversity

Freedom


Empathy

Respect

Equality

VALUE CARDS

What values would you add?


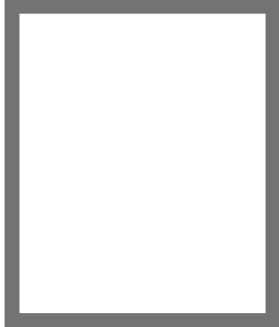
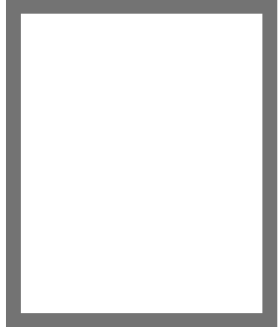
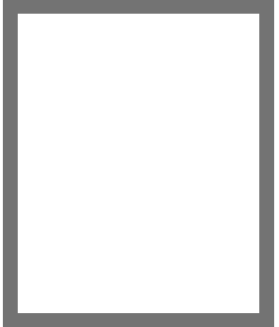
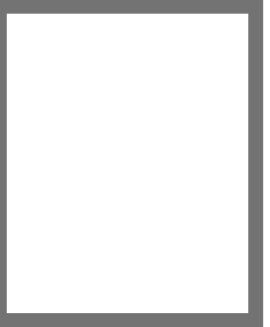


WORLD RELIGIONS WORKSHEET

As we learn about five of the world's major religions, take time to examine them by responding to each religious inquiry.

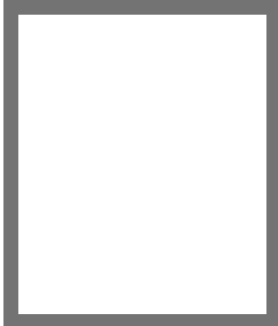
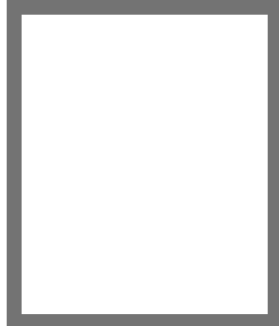
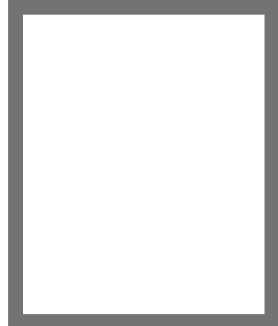
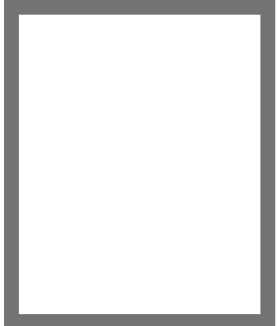
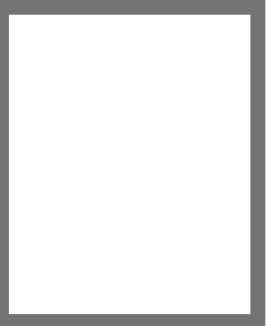
QUESTION:

In what year and by whom was this religion/ religious practice established?

Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judiasm
				


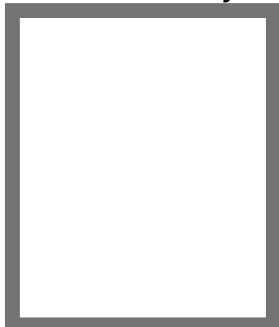
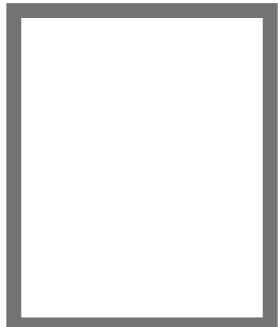
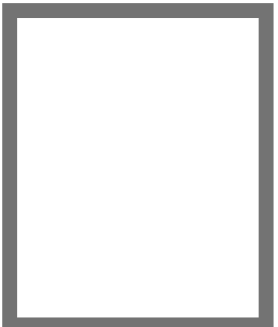
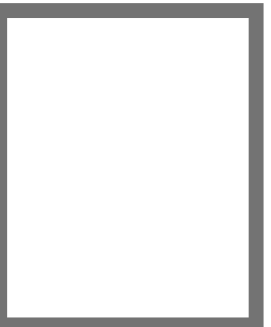
QUESTION:

Where did this religion originate?

Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judiasm
				

QUESTION:

What are the core beliefs?


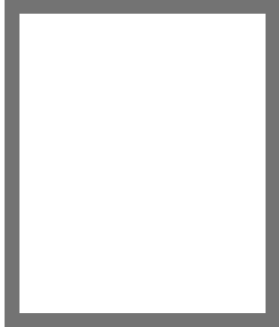
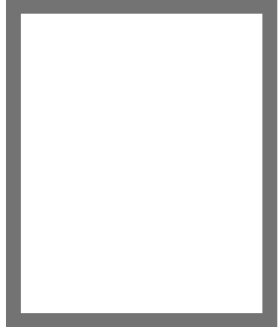
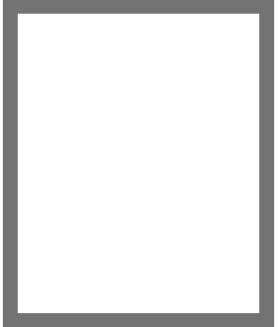
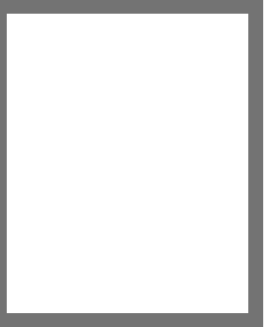
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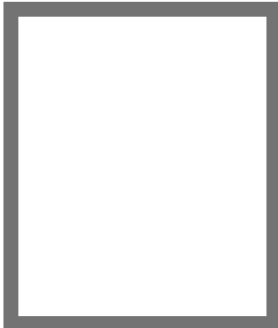
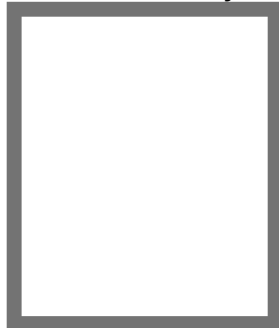
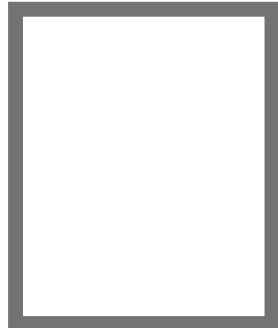
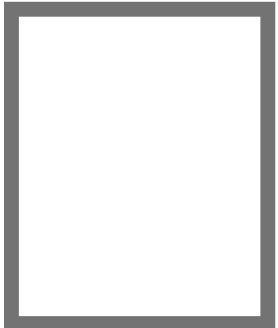
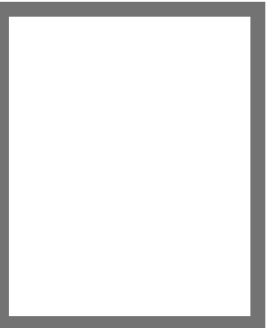
QUESTION:

What are the specific ways or methods in which this religion is practiced?

Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism
				


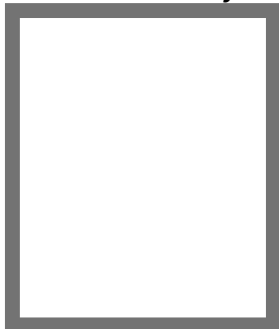
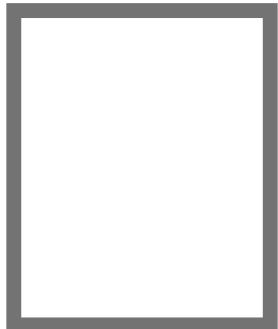
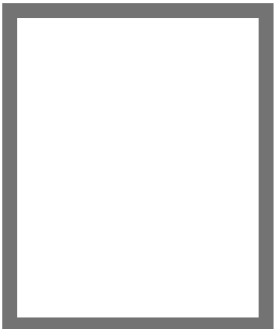
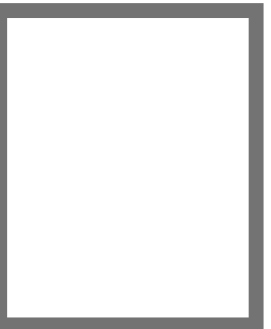
QUESTION:

What portion of the world's population practices this religion?

Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism
				

QUESTION:

How does this religion capture the teachings (how are the traditions and practices passed down)?

Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism
				

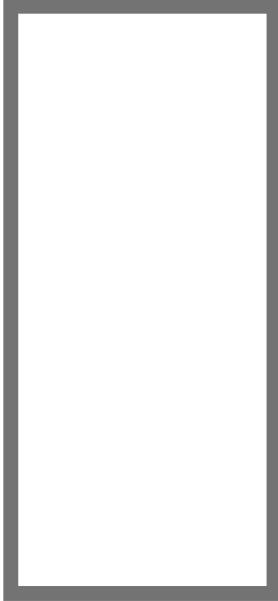
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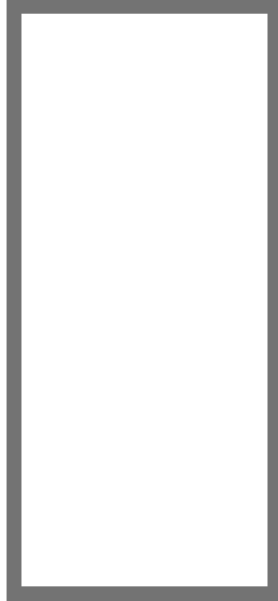
QUESTION:

What surprises you about this practice?

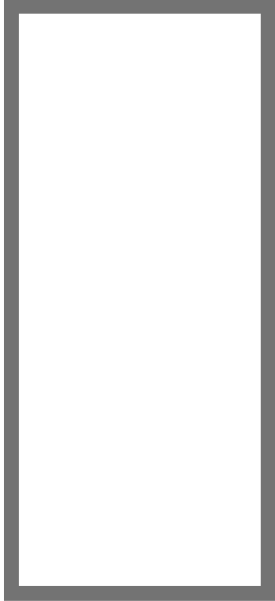
Buddhism



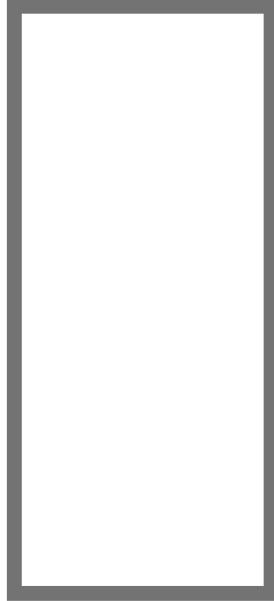
Christianity



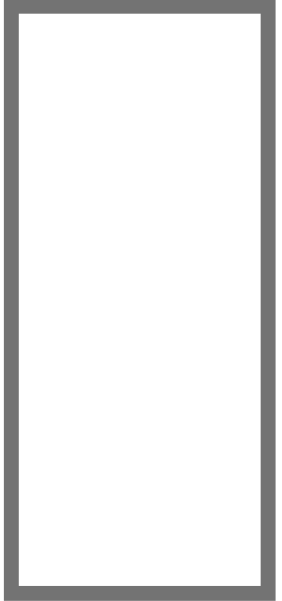
Hinduism



Islam



Judaism



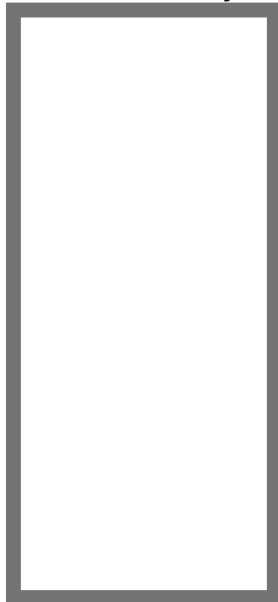
QUESTION:

what ways does this religion foster community and give back?

Buddhism



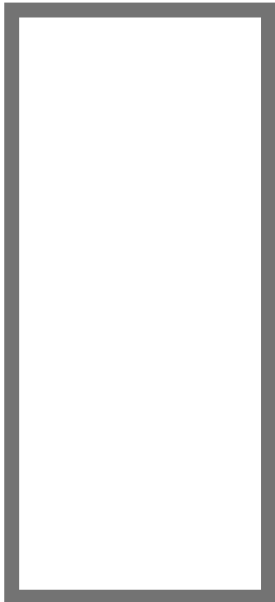
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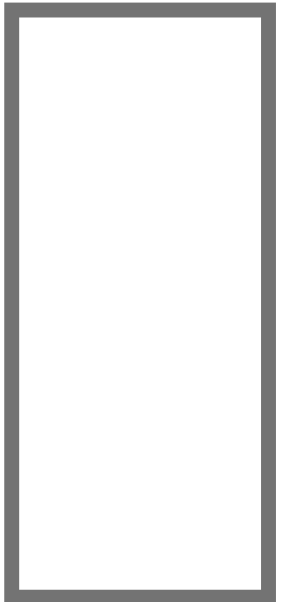
Hinduism



Islam



Judaism



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Katie Tasch Bielecki started her career with Teach For America. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree from Lyman Briggs (Science and Technology Studies) at Michigan State University, she obtained a Master's Degree in the Art of Teaching from Dominican University. She has served as a classroom teacher, an interventionist, and a district curriculum coach.

Her passions lie in social justice, equity, and identifying a method to capture the accounts of all storytellers. Her classroom community is designed to invite the stories and voices of her students. The curriculum she develops challenges learners to think beyond themselves, build empathy, and problem solve with other global citizens.

ABOUT CULTURAL JAMBALAYA



Cultural Jambalaya is a photography-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote understanding and respect for all cultures. Cultural Jambalaya aims to celebrate cultural differences — and similarities — while benefiting nonprofit organizations and schools.

Seen by Me is a 2019 collaboration with ProjectExplorer in which Cultural Jambalaya's award-winning "Windows & Mirrors" educational video series for teacher is re-imagined for today's tech-savvy students. In keeping with the original "Window & Mirrors" blueprint, Seen by Me is supported by free resources for teachers to engage students in a variety of subjects, including social studies, geography, history, diversity, and language.

ABOUT PROJECTEXPLORER



Founded in 2003, ProjectExplorer's mission is to bring the world into classrooms and living rooms with free video content and curriculum that fosters global awareness and cross-cultural understanding. ProjectExplorer offers several children's educational programs including Destinations (originals) and Crash Test World with Kari Byron, with other programs in development.