


Cultural Geography

INTENSIVE FOCUS: RELIGION

Name _____

- Use the text (c. 6) to gather content relevant to the geography of religion.
 - You will need to respond to the following questions/prompts on separate paper.
 - Page numbers are provided in brackets [] to assist you.
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1. [184] Explain the difference between a universalizing religion and an ethnic religion. Then classify each of the five major world religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam) as UR or ER.
2. [208] Briefly discuss the different approaches that universalizing and ethnic religions take relative to calendars and time.
3. [184-185] Examine Figure 6-3. Describe the distribution of each of these faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. [If you need to see additional maps, check out Figures 6-5 – 6-11.
4. [191] Discuss the historical significance of Judaism.
5. [199] Read about the diffusion of Judaism. Summarize the painful history of Jewish *diaspora*, persecution, and extermination.
6. [193] Create a  [Venn Diagram] that succinctly identifies some of the shared and unique characteristics of the three main branches of Christianity.
7. [186] What is the difference between a *branch*, a *denomination*, and a *sect*?
8. [186] Examine Figure 6-5 and read the last two paragraphs of p. 186. Discuss the Christian landscapes of North America and Latin America.
9. [187] List 5 Christian Churches that developed independently (and often in isolation) from the mainstream branches. *Be sure to include their geographic location.*
10. [196] Read the section entitled “Diffusion of Christianity,” mainly for its review of the different types of diffusion. Then, after reading the sections that follow, explain how the spread of Christianity has occurred through hierarchical, relocation, and contagious diffusion.
11. [200] Why is there not a single style of church construction within Christianity?
12. [210-211] Roman Catholic Christianity is a good example of *hierarchical religion*, while many Protestant denominations are good examples of *autonomous religions*. Explain the difference.
13. [194] Read the Five Pillars of Islam. State each one in using 5 words or less.
 - a. EX: #1. One God, Muhammad His Messenger
14. [194] Read about the Prophet Muhammad. Identify the following by stating their importance to the religion of Islam: Mecca (also spelled Makkah); Quran; Arabic; *Hijra*; Medina (also spelled Madinah, formerly known as Yathrib).
15. [194] Explain the source of tension between Islam’s two main branches, the Sunni and the Shiite.

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16. [188] The Shiite branch is significantly smaller than the Sunni branch of Islam, yet Shiite Muslims are the majority-population in what countries?
17. [197] Read the final paragraph on p. 197. Explain how Islam diffused throughout northern Africa and western Asia, and also how it made its way to Indonesia and portions of SE Asia.
18. [200] What is the function of a Muslim mosque, and how are mosques unlike Christian churches?
19. [211] Islam is a religion characterized by both local autonomy and worldwide unity. Explain.
20. [205] Define *cosmogony*; then explain how Christian and Muslim cosmogonies overlap *and* differ.
21. [195] Why is the origin of Hinduism so hard to identify?
22. [190] Glance at Figure 6-10. List the countries (and associated %'s) of Hinduism's distribution.
23. [204] Discuss the relationship between Hinduism and the physical geography. Be sure to identify the most sacred physical feature within the faith, and explain why Hindus revere it so.
24. [204 and 211] Hindu temples are often significantly smaller than sacred spaces of worship in other religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, for instance). Why? {Last paragraph on p. 211}
25. [213] Explain how the *caste system* exists as a point of tension between Hinduism and non-Hindus.
26. [192-193] Briefly summarize the story of Siddhartha Gautama; then paraphrase the 4 Noble Truths.
27. [193] Explain the difference between the Theravada and Mahayana branches of Buddhism relative to daily life (what does each emphasize; how does each direct its adherents to live).
28. [198] Discuss the diffusion of Buddhism: how did it spread and become a universalizing religion?
29. [200-201] What seems to be the main function of Buddhist pagodas?
30. [203] Like Buddhism, Islam assigns holiness to places that marked important moments or events in the life of the founder (in Islam's case the Prophet Muhammad; in Buddhism's case, Siddhartha). Perhaps the holiest object in the Muslim world is the Ka'ba in Mecca. Why is the Ka'ba so holy?
31. [184] Nonreligious groups include *atheists* and *agnostics*. What is the difference?
32. [190] Confucianism and Taoism are two traditional ethnic religions of China. List some words/phrases to associate with each
33. [191] Define *animism* (popular in Africa) and *Spiritism* (popular in Brazil).
34. [206] How have religious burial customs affected the geography of China?
35. [212] First, define *fundamentalism*. Then discuss the Taliban as an example of state fundamentalism.