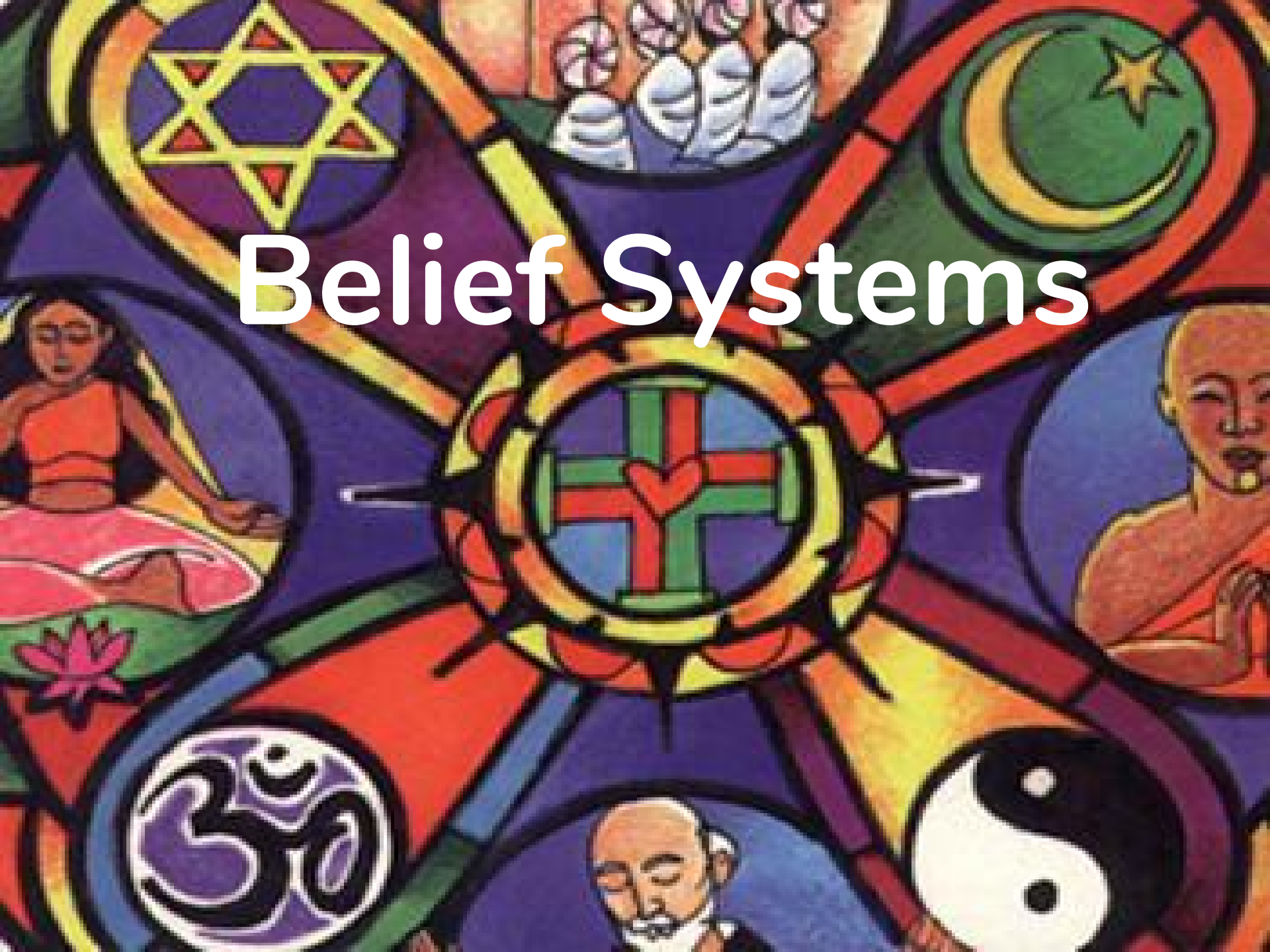


# Belief Systems



# What you will learn in this unit...

- What are the characteristics of major religions?
- How are they similar and different?
- How have major religions affected culture?
- How have belief systems spread over large areas?

## PRE- TEST

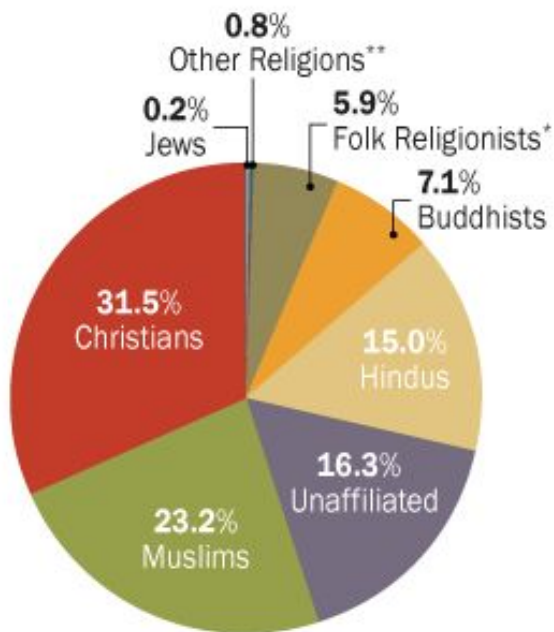
Directions: For each statement below, determine whether the question applies to Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism or Buddhism. Each statement may apply to more than one religion. Write the appropriate letter (C, I, J, H or B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Their Holy Book is called the Quran
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus is considered the son of God
3. \_\_\_\_\_ This religion accepts both the Old and New Testaments as Holy Books
4. \_\_\_\_\_ This religion believes in karma and reincarnation
5. \_\_\_\_\_ This is the main religion in India
6. \_\_\_\_\_ This religion believes in one Supreme Being
7. \_\_\_\_\_ This religion accepts the Old Testament as its only Holy Book
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem is considered a holy city
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Followers of this religion call themselves Muslims
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The Ten Commandments are accepted as guidelines for ethical behavior
11. \_\_\_\_\_ This religion has a number of sects or denominations
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Place of worship is a church
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Place of worship is a mosque
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Place of worship is a synagogue

# Major Religions and Where They Are Concentrated

## Size of Major Religious Groups, 2010

Percentage of the global population



\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

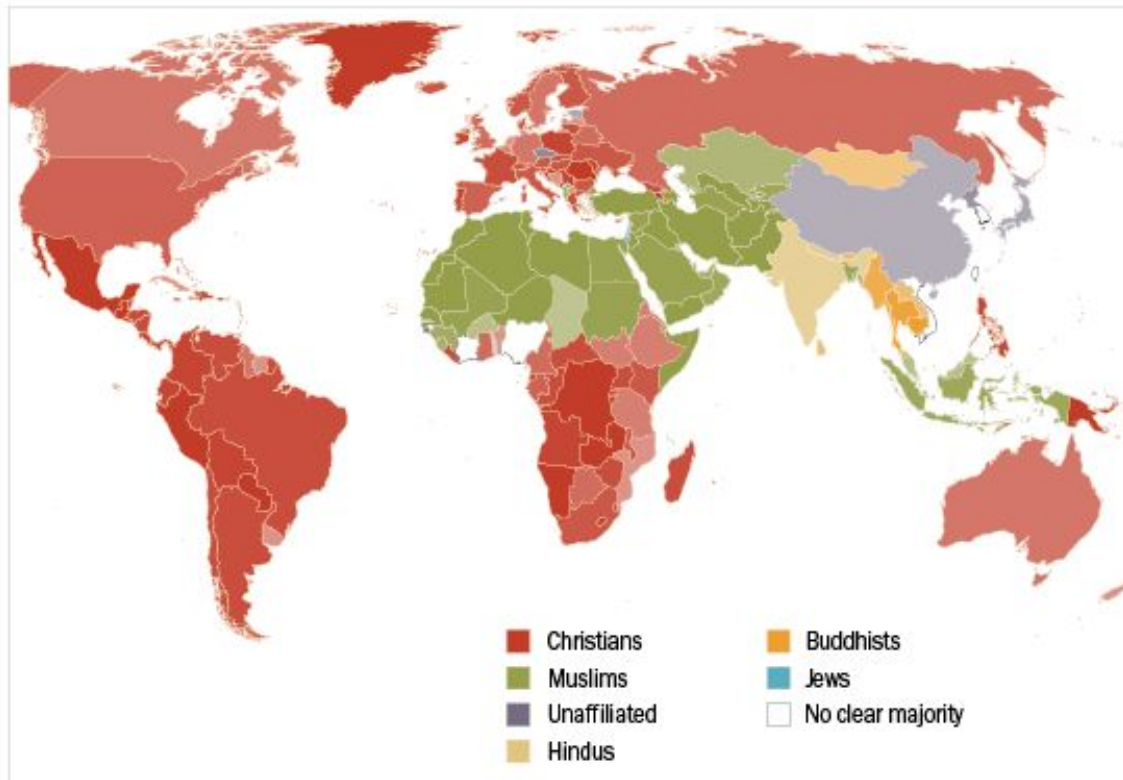
\*\*Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

## Majority Religion, by Country

Countries are colored according to the majority religion. Darker shading represents a greater prevalence of the majority religion.



Nine countries have no clear religious majority: Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Macau, Nigeria, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo and Vietnam. There are no countries in which adherents of folk religions make up a clear majority. There are also no countries in which followers of other religions (such as Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans or Zoroastrians) make up a clear majority.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

Source: The Global Religious Landscape

<http://www.pewforum.org/2012/12/18/global-religious-landscape-exec/>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvFI6UBZLv4>

# Hinduism



© Peter Langer - Associated Media Group  
[www.peterlanger.com](http://www.peterlanger.com)



# History

- Hinduism has **no single founder**, but originated from the mixing of Harappan and Aryan cultures in ancient **India** around **1500 BCE**.



- Hindus believe in one unifying spirit, **Brahman**.
- Brahman can manifest in many, **polytheistic**, forms or in one, **monotheistic**.

Read the following primary source about the Brahman (textbook page 67) and answer the following questions in your handout.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

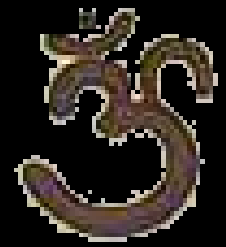
Thou art woman, Thou art man, Thou art the lad and the maiden too. Thou art the old man tottering on his staff: Once born thou comest to be, thy face turned every way! A dark-blue moth art Thou, green [parrot] with red eyes. Pregnant with lightning—seasons, seas: Thyself beginningless, all things dost Thou pervade. From Thee all worlds were born.

Svetasvatara Upanishad. IV. 3–4

1. How does the document describe the Brahman?
2. After reading this passage, do you believe Hinduism is polytheistic or monotheistic? Use the text to support your answer.



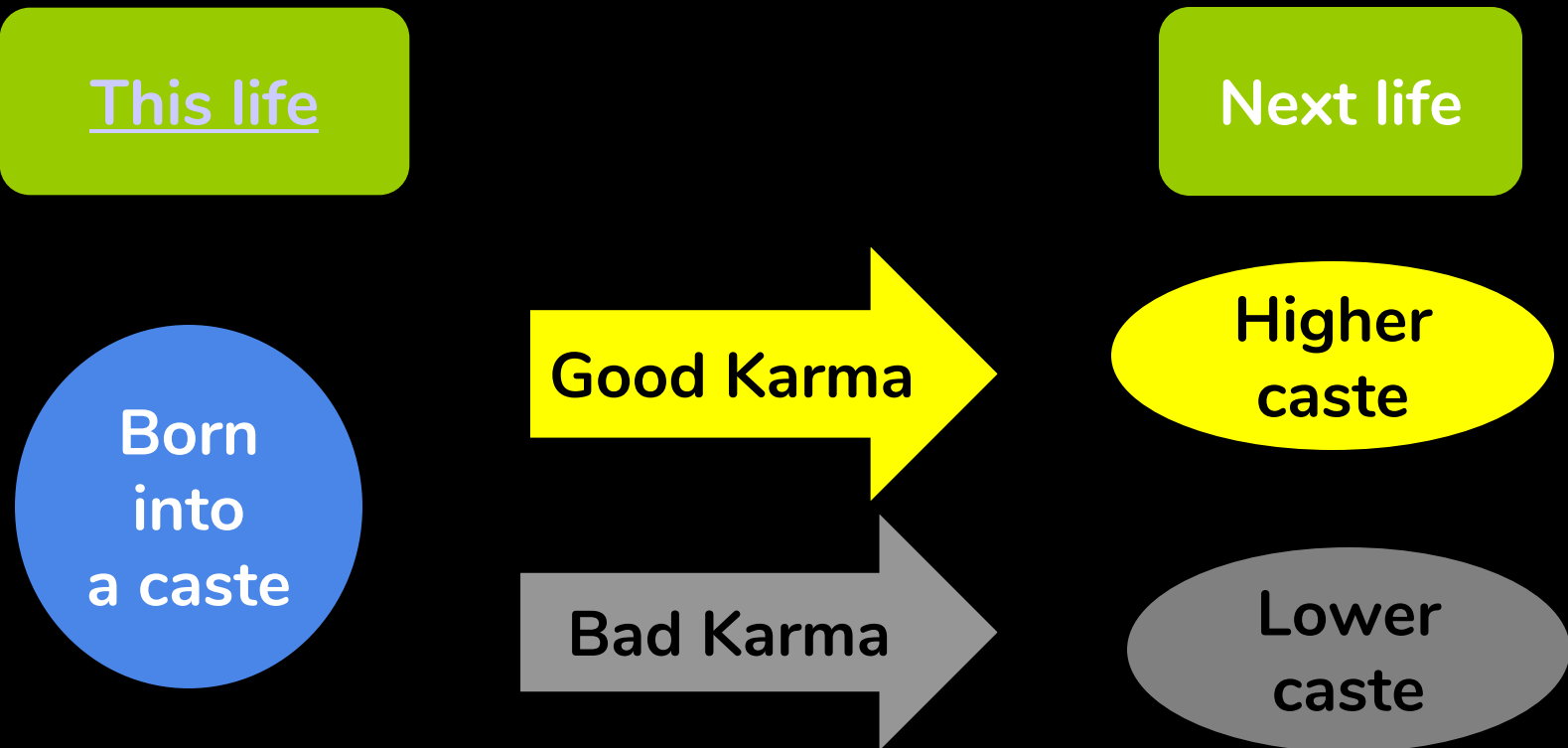
# Beliefs



- Hinduism is based on the concept of **reincarnation**.
- Spirits return to earth many times in different forms trying to become one with Brahman.
- The soul moves up or down a hierarchy depending on their behavior in life.

- A person moves closer to Brahman by obeying the law of karma.
- **Karma** is the sum of all your deeds, good and bad. Good deeds involve following your **dharma**, or duties dependent on your position, gender and occupation.
- **Moksha**, or being released from the cycle of rebirth, is the ultimate goal for Hindus.

- The caste system (outlawed since 1948) was an important part of Hinduism.
- Castes are social classes into which a person is born and lives their entire life.
- If a person has good karma, they may be reincarnated into a **higher caste**.



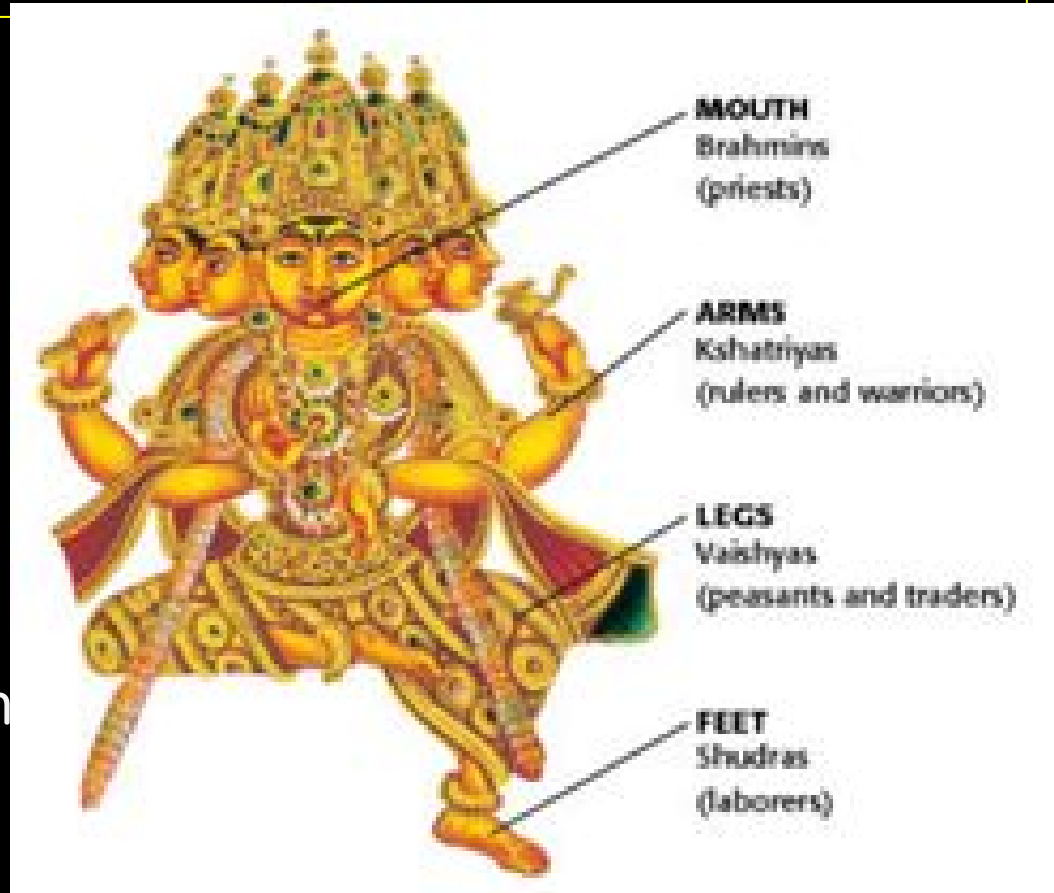
- The **caste system** separated Indian society into **distinct social classes** in which everyone knew their place.

- They believed that if they followed the dharma of their caste, they would be reincarnated into a better caste.

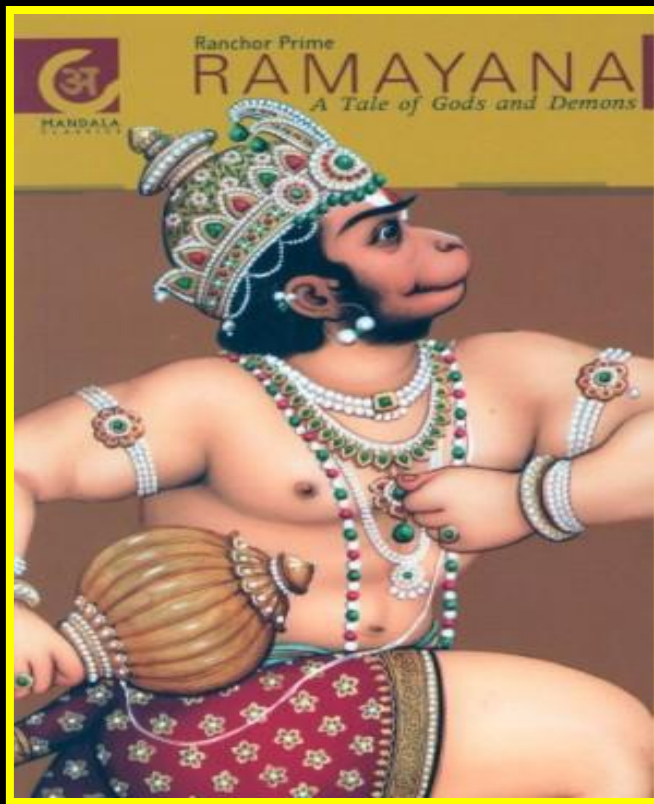


Analyze the image in your textbook (pg. 64) and answer the following questions in your handout

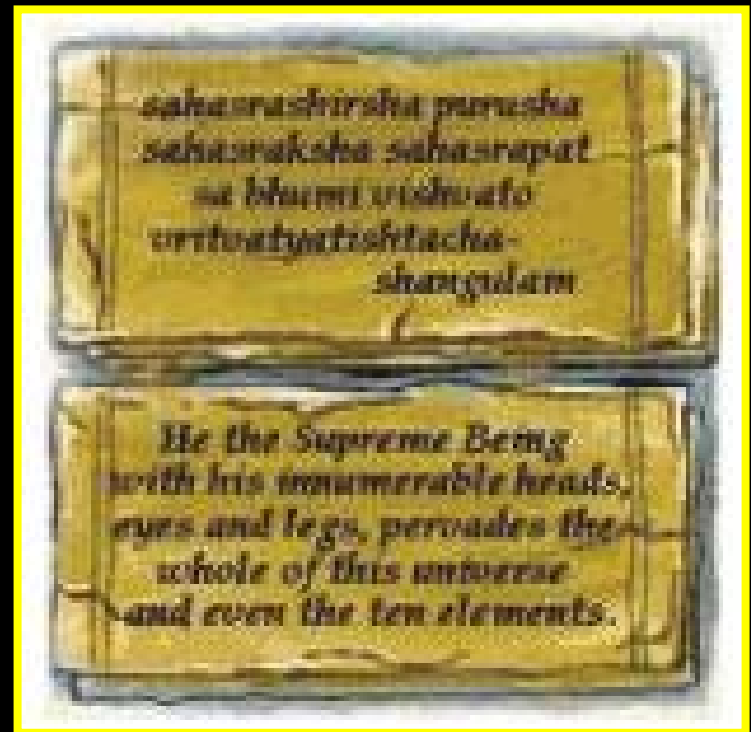
1. What makes up the Shudras class?
2. Why might the Shudras be associated with the feet?
3. Why might the caste of brahmins be associated with the mouth?



- Over the centuries Hindu beliefs were recorded into a number of **sacred texts** including the **Vedas** and the **Upanishads**.



## Sacred Texts



- The **Ramayana** is a Hindu creation story.

# Practices



- Hindus believe the **Ganges River** is a sacred site.
- Thousands make a pilgrimage each year and many wish to be cremated and have their ashes sprinkled in the river upon death.

- There are about **860 million** followers worldwide.

Video: Review of Hinduism  
<https://youtu.be/lmV2Wd8bOcc>

## Making Connections: Answer the following question in your handout

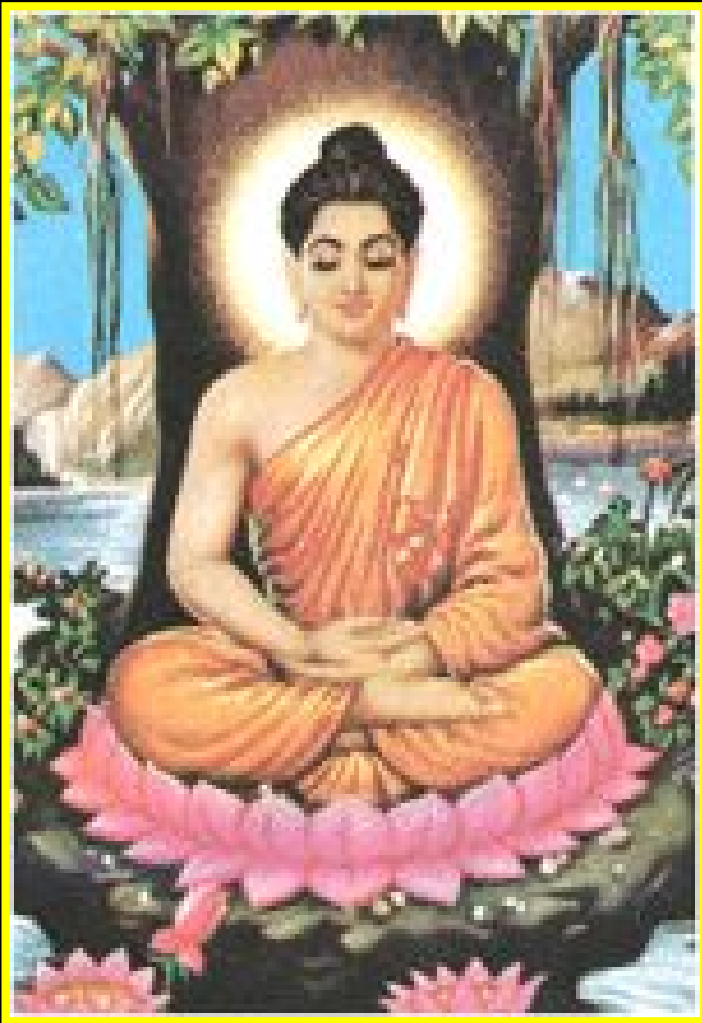
- What would be a pilgrimage in the religion you practice and why?

→ Hint: Look back to your religion vocab for the definition of pilgrimage

# Buddhism







# History

- Buddhism was founded by **Siddhartha Gautama** in northern **India** around **560 BCE**.
- Gautama was born into a wealthy Hindu family, but renounced his wealth to seek spiritual **enlightenment**.

## About Buddha

<http://www.meditateinlondon.org.uk/about-buddhism/about-buddha-the-founder-of-buddhism/>

Making Connections: Answer the following question in your handout

- List 5 things you want as gifts?

Use the following chart in your notes to complete Buddhism's Four Noble Truths.

|    |  |
|----|--|
|    |  |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |

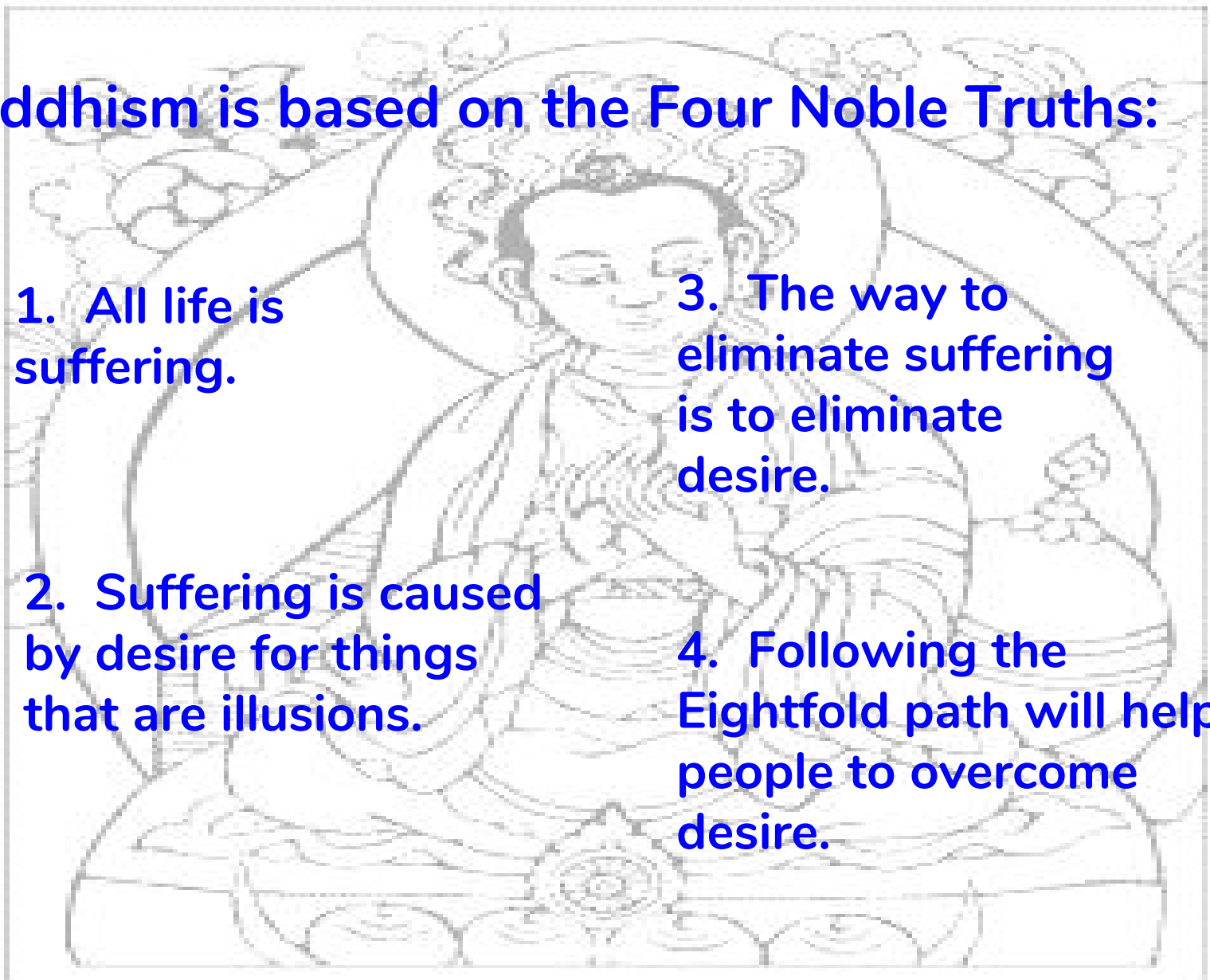
# Buddhism is based on the Four Noble Truths:

1. All life is suffering.

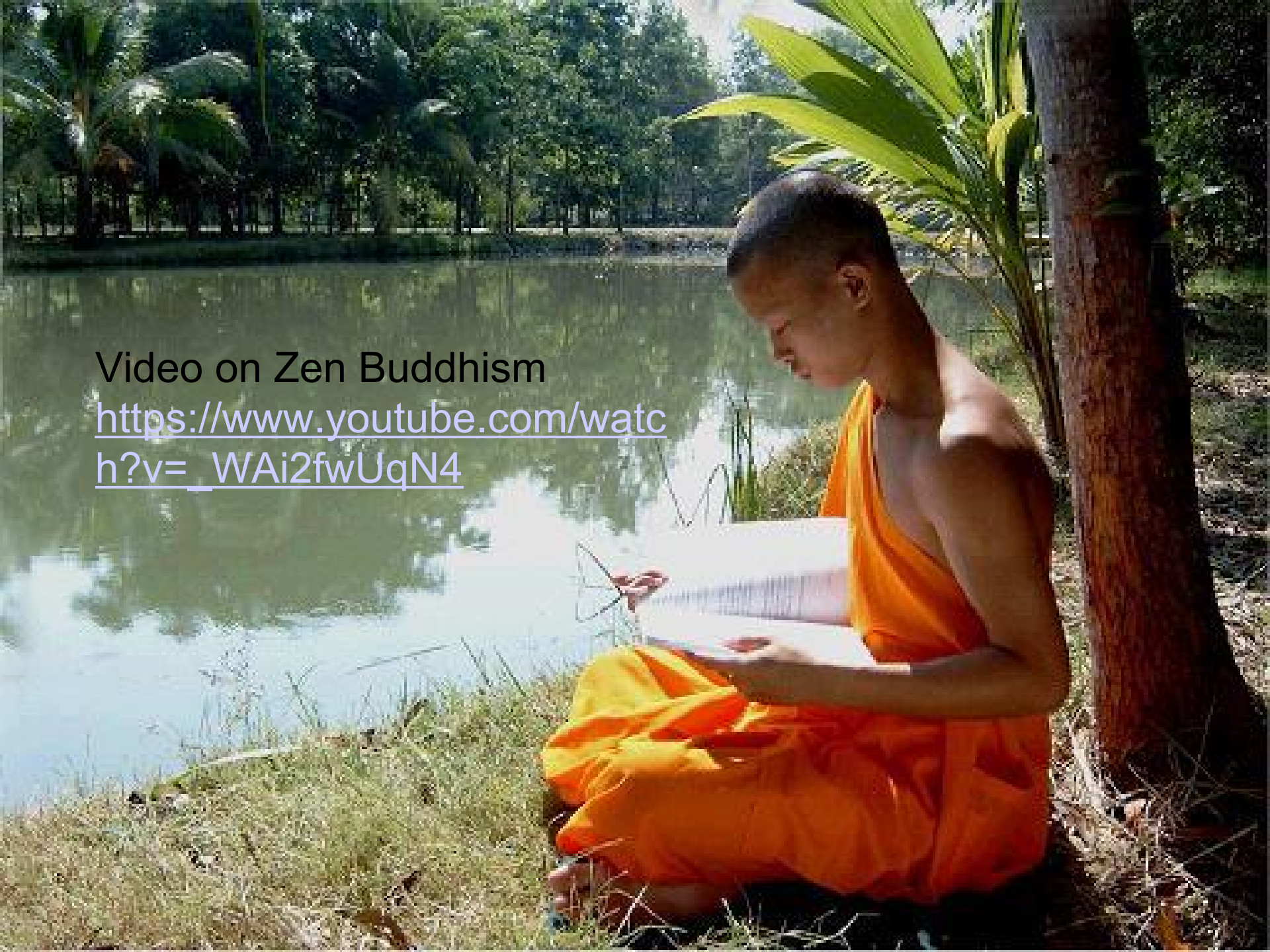
2. Suffering is caused by desire for things that are illusions.

3. The way to eliminate suffering is to eliminate desire.

4. Following the Eightfold path will help people to overcome desire.



ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय ॥

A Buddhist monk with a shaved head, wearing traditional orange robes, is sitting cross-legged on the grassy bank of a pond. He is holding an open book and looking down at it. The background features a calm pond reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery, including palm trees and other tropical plants. The scene is peaceful and serene.

Video on Zen Buddhism  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_WAI2fwUqN4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WAI2fwUqN4)

# The Eight- Fold Path



# Meditation



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEzbdLn2bJc>  
5 minute meditation

# Making Connections

- How did you feel while meditating?
- Why do you think Buddhists use meditation?





# Beliefs

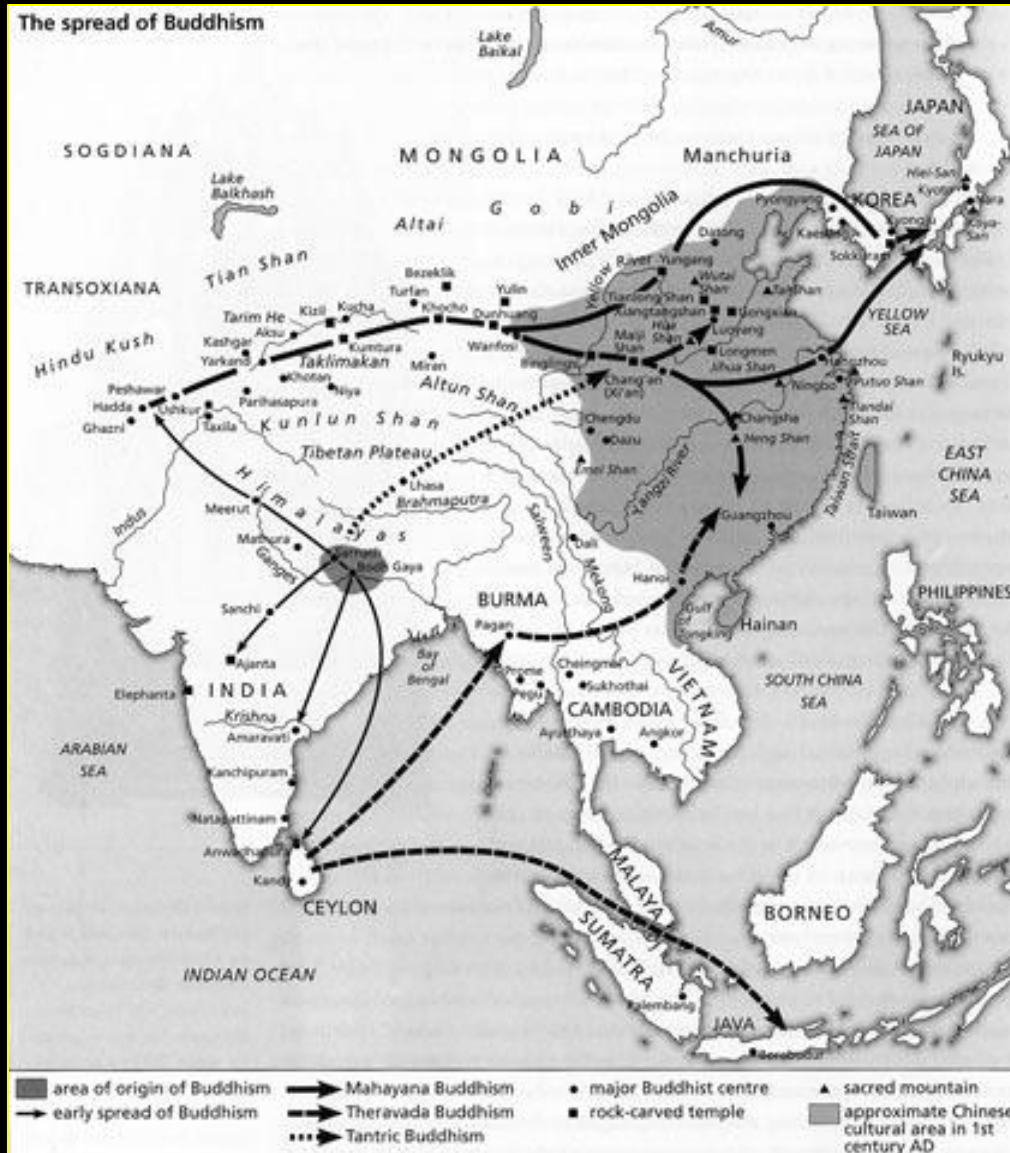
- Like Hindus, Buddhists also believe in reincarnation, & Karma.
- The ultimate goal of Buddhists is to reach **Nirvana** which stops the process of reincarnation.
- Originally, Buddhists **did not** believe in any Gods.

# Sacred Texts



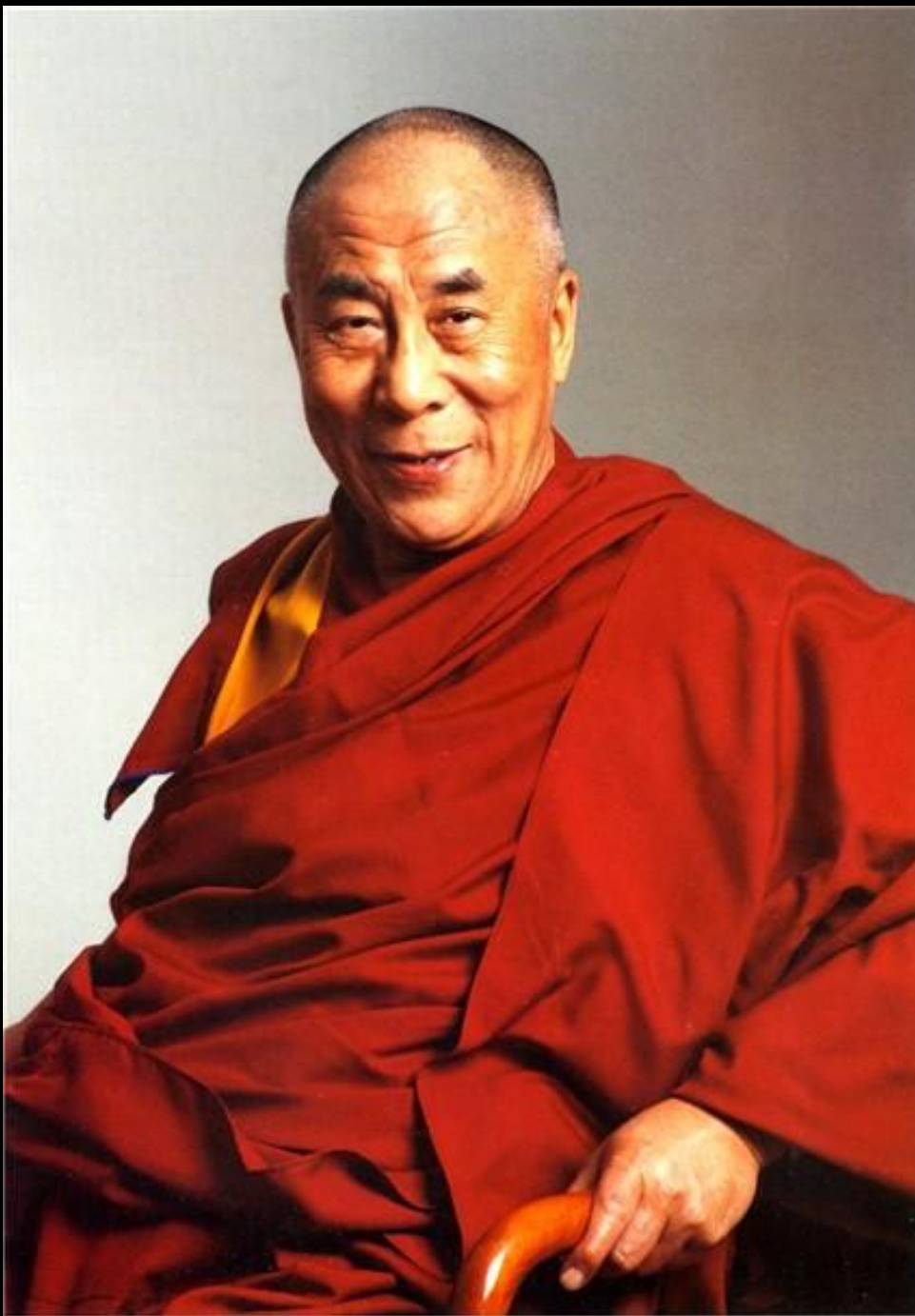
- Buddha did not record his teachings, but after he died, his followers collected them into the **Tripitaka**.

- Another well known Buddhist scripture is the **Dhammapada**.



# Spread

- Buddhism spread through **cultural diffusion** to eastern Asia, including China, Thailand, Korea and Japan.
- In other areas, Buddhism was adapted and took on new forms.
- There are about **379 million** followers worldwide.



# Leadership

Today's Tibetan Buddhists are led by the **Dalai Lama**, who advocates for freedom from China.

## Brief Biography

<http://www.dalailama.com/biography/a-brief-biography>

## Pictures

<http://www.dalailama.com/gallery#ad-image-0>

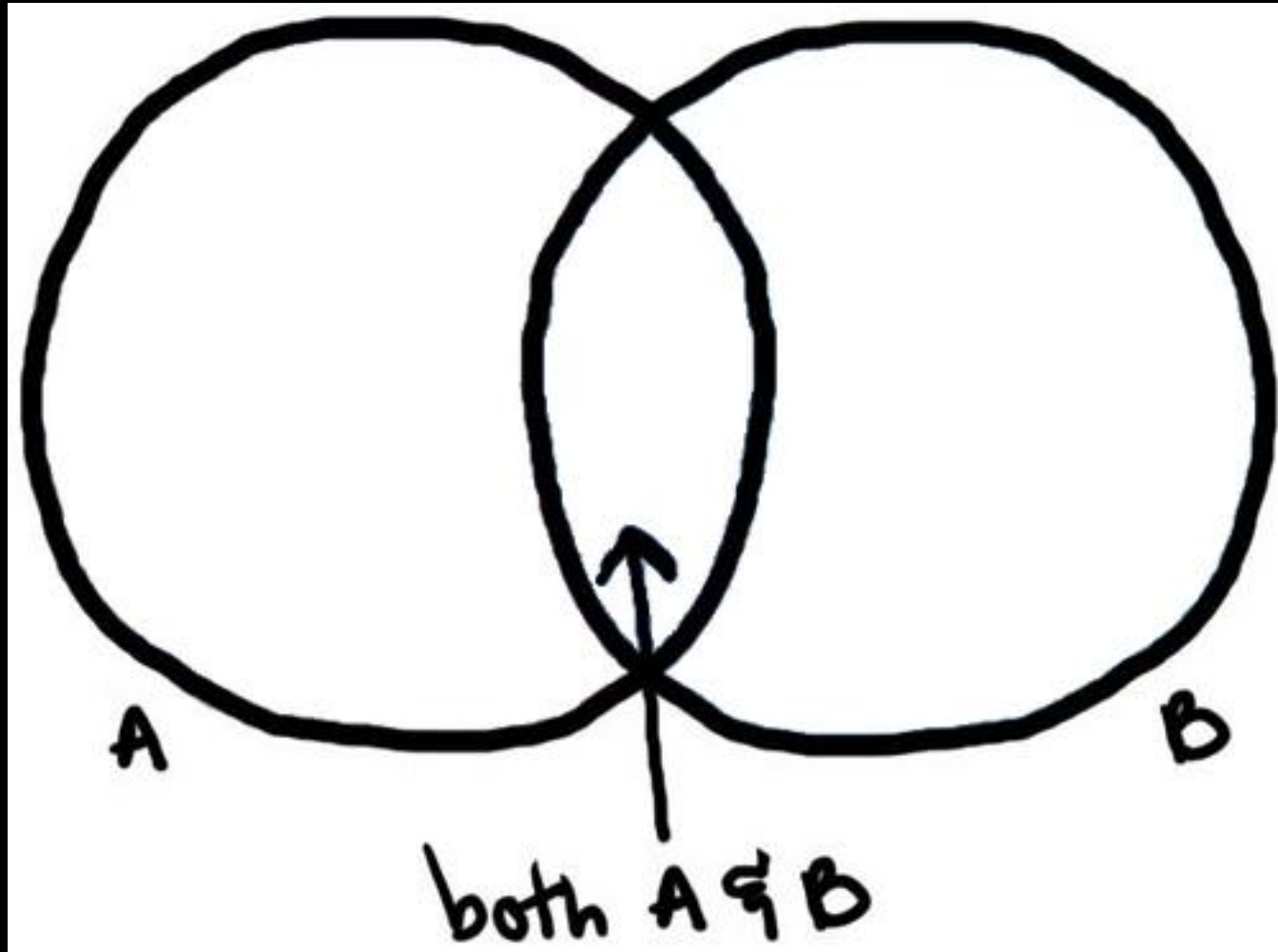


Answer the following critical thinking question in your notes:

Why do you think Buddha is typically portrayed with long ears?



Create a Venn diagram that compares and contrasts Hinduism and Buddhism.



**Buddhism has much in common with Hinduism, but also has important differences:**

**Similarities**

**Reincarnation**

**Karma**

**Dharma**

**Moksha/Nirvana**

**Sacred texts**

**Differences**

**Caste system/  
dharma (H)**

**Four Noble Truths &  
8 Fold Path(B)**

**Hindu gods**

**Founder (B) /lack of  
founder (H)**

**Amount of followers**

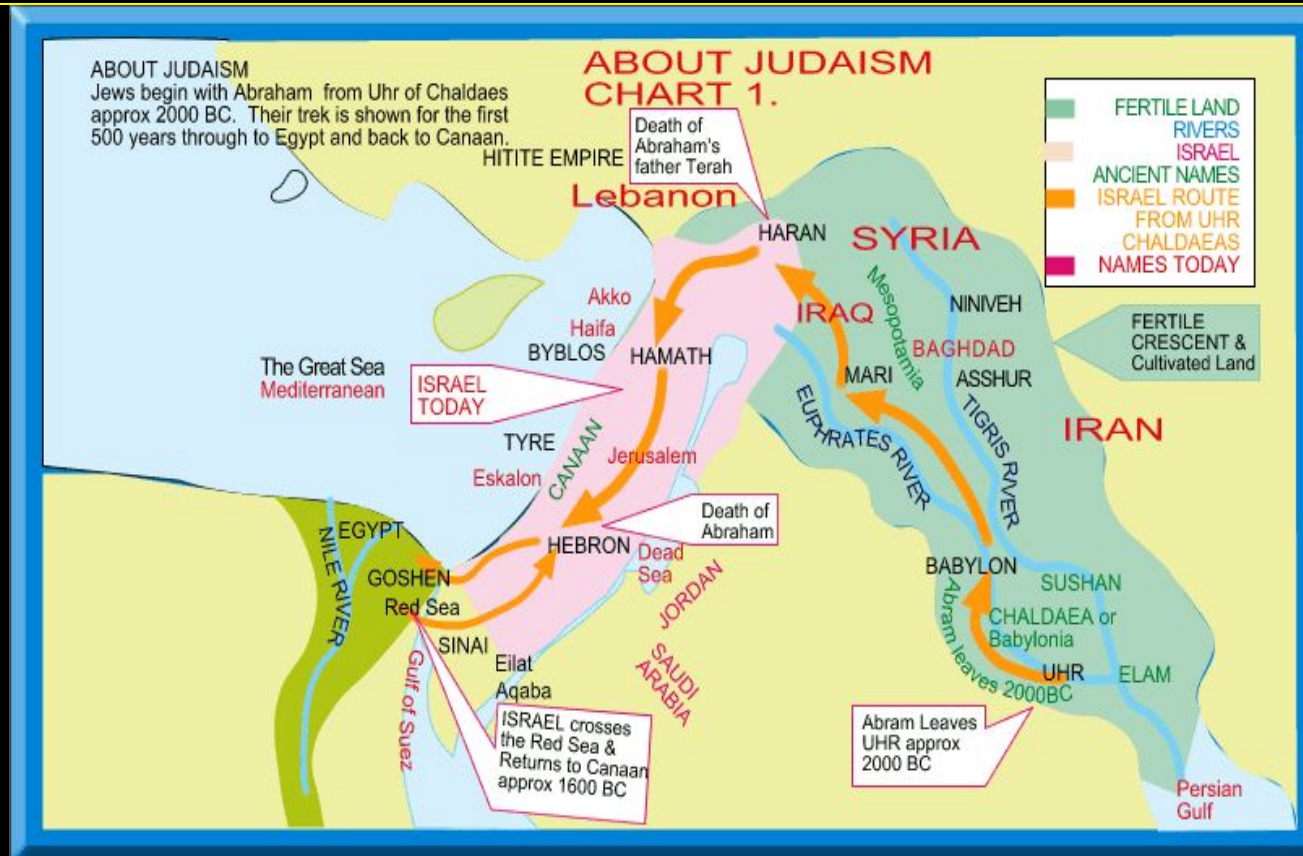
# Judaism





# History

- Judaism originated in the **Middle East** around **1000 BCE**.
- God made a **covenant**, or promise to Abraham to be the God of the Hebrews. **Abraham** is considered the founder of Judaism.



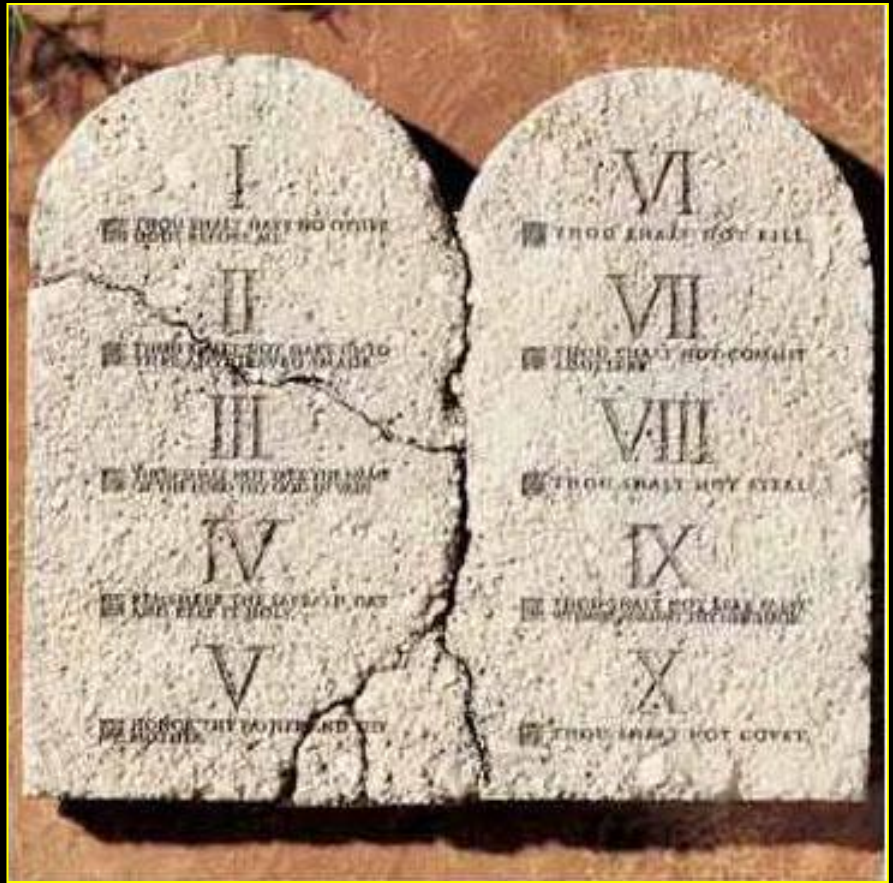
## ANALYZING SOURCES

Genesis is the first book (chapter) in the Old Testament. Use the primary source below to answer the questions that follow.

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” (Genesis 1: 1-3)

1. According to the document, what did God have to do to create the universe?
2. What does this tell you about the extent of his power?

- According to Jewish tradition, God chose the Hebrews and helped them to escape slavery in **Egypt**.
- God gave Hebrews the **Ten Commandments** through Moses.
- The Ten Commandments describe how people should behave toward God and one another.



- Judaism is one of the first **monotheistic** religions.

Analyze the following primary source (textbook page 79) and answer the DBQs in your handout.

## > Analyzing Primary Sources

### The Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments are the ten orders or laws given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. These orders serve as the basis for Jewish laws.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

1. I am the Lord thy God. . . . Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. . . .
3. Thou shalt 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 thy mother. . . .
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet . . . anything that is thy neighbor's.

Deuteronomy 5:6-22

#### DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS

1. **Comparing** Do the first four commandments concern themselves more with the Hebrews' relationship with God or with one another?
2. **Contrasting** What do the last six commandments have in common that distinguishes them from the first four?



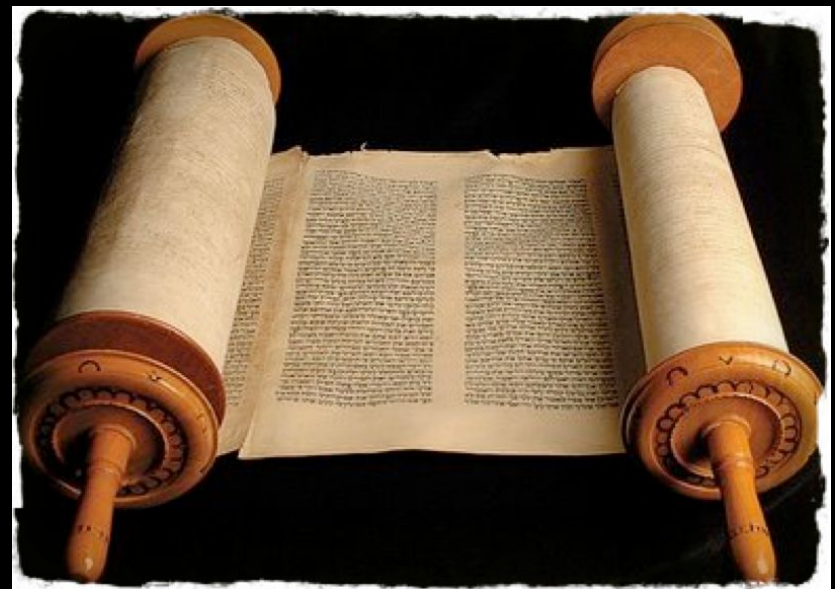
▲ Tradition dictates that the Torah be written on a scroll and kept at the synagogue in an ornamental chest called an ark.



Jews were discriminated against in the Roman Empire and eventually kicked out of their homeland, Israel, in what is known as the **Diaspora**.

# Sacred Texts

- The **Torah** is a sacred scripture recording laws and events in Jewish history.
- The Old Testament of the Bible includes the Torah.



# Followers

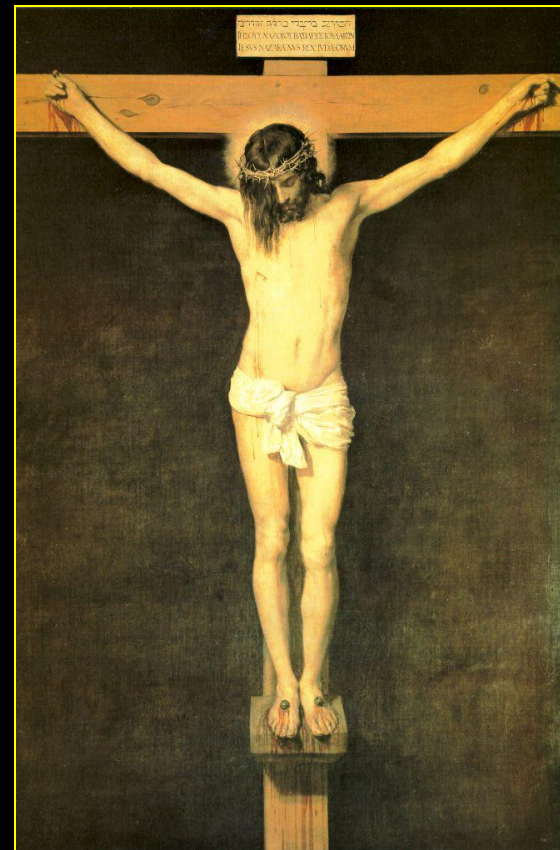
- There are about **15.1 million** followers worldwide.

- The **Star of David** is the universal symbol of Judaism.



- Judaism had a great influence on the later development of Christianity and Islam.

# Christianity





# History



Jesus Biography

<http://www.biography.com/people/jesus-christ-9354382>

- Christianity originated from Judaism about 30 CE.
- Christians believe that **Jesus** was a **Messiah**, or savior sent by God to bring eternal life to anyone who would follow him.
- Jesus accepted the **Ten Commandments** and also preached equality of man before God.
- Jesus was **crucified** in the Roman Empire.

**ANALYZING SOURCES** Jesus often utilized stories to get his point across. A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson. Use the primary source below to answer the questions in your handout. P. 169

### **PRIMARY SOURCE**

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone hits you on the cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just what you want them to do for you.

Luke 6:27–31

1. Why do you think Jesus would want people to love their enemies?
2. What are some situations that might happen in your life that would make you have to “offer your other cheek”?

# Spread



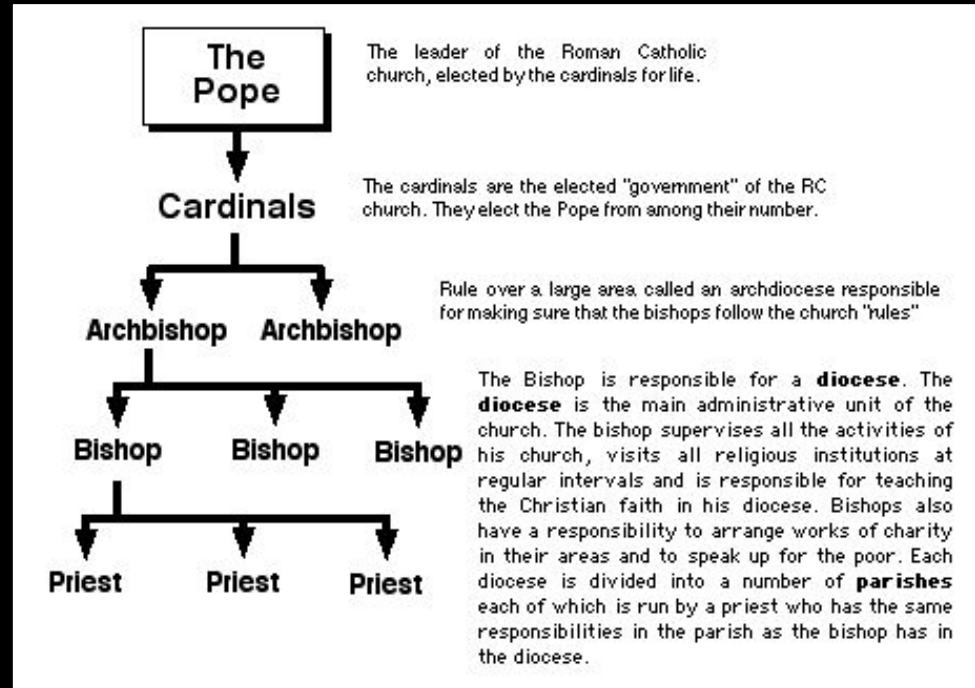
## Persecution of the Christians

- Christians posed a **problem** for the Roman Rulers because they refused to worship Roman gods
  - Christians were used as **scapegoats**
    - Romans exiled, imprisoned, or executed Christians for refusing to worship Roman deities.
- Despite persecution, Christianity became a powerful force and **spread** throughout Roman Empire
  - Continued to gain strength when **Constantine** (Roman Emperor) converted to Christianity and announced an end to persecution (AD 313)

# Leadership

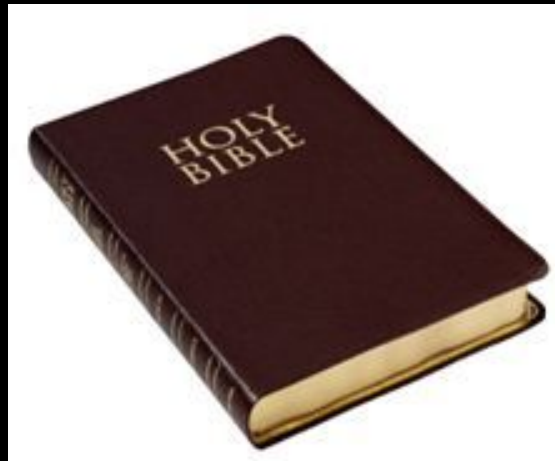
## Church Structure

- As the church grew, a **hierarchy** emerged
- The Church had different ranks of **clergy**, or religious **officials**
- **Pope** was head of Church
- All clergy, including bishops and priests fell under **pope's authority**
- For most people, **local priests** served as the main contact with the Church



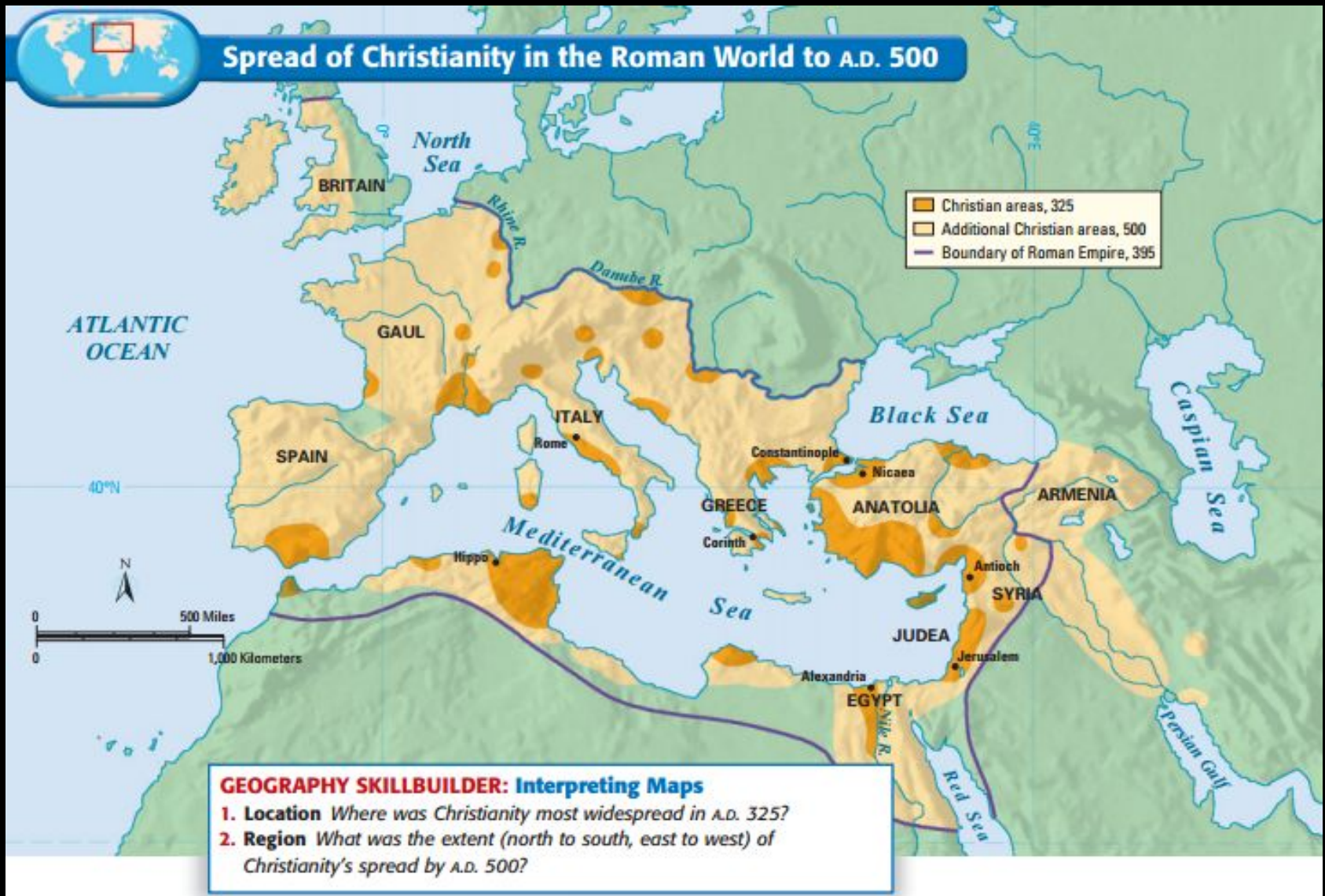
# Sacred Text

- The sacred text of Christianity is the **Christian Bible**.

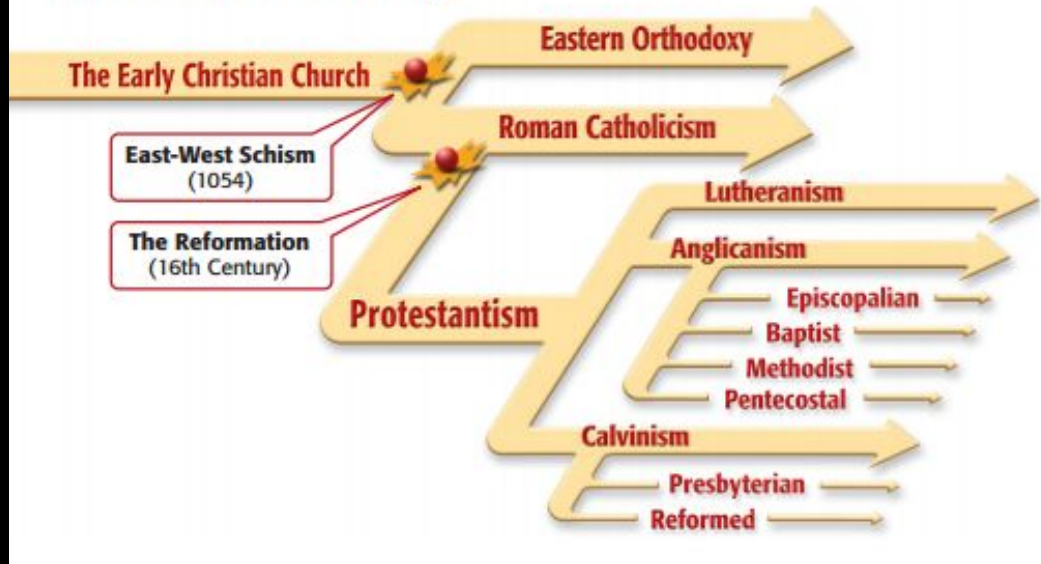


- There are about **2.1 billion** followers worldwide.
- Video: What is Christianity  
<https://youtu.be/Ut-UOhY0s8E>

Complete the geography skillbuilder questions textbook page 171) in your handout.

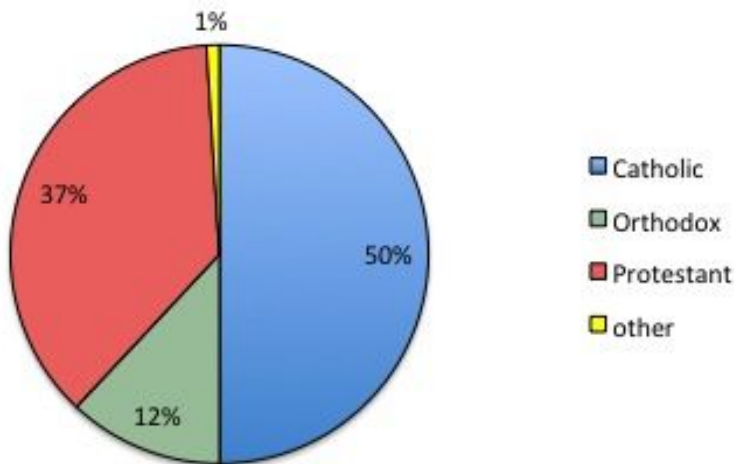


## The Division of Christianity



Turn to pg. \_\_\_ in your textbook

## Global Christianity



## Religious Beliefs and Practices in the 16th Century

|                                  | Roman Catholicism  | Lutheranism                                     | Calvinism                                    | Anglicanism  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Leadership</b>                | Pope is head of the Church                                 | Ministers lead congregations                    | Council of elders govern each church         | English monarch is head of the Church                    |
| <b>Salvation</b>                 | Salvation by faith and good works                          | Salvation by faith alone                        | God has predetermined who will be saved      | Salvation by faith alone                                 |
| <b>Bible</b>                     | Church and Bible tradition are sources of revealed truth   | Bible is sole source of revealed truth          | Bible is sole source of revealed truth       | Bible is sole source of revealed truth                   |
| <b>Worship Service</b>           | Worship service based on ritual                            | Worship service focused on preaching and ritual | Worship service focused on preaching         | Worship service based on ritual and preaching            |
| <b>Interpretation of Beliefs</b> | Priests interpret Bible and Church teachings for believers | Believers interpret the Bible for themselves    | Believers interpret the Bible for themselves | Believers interpret the Bible using tradition and reason |

## Comprehension Questions:





1. What do all these belief systems have in common?
2. Which two originated in the Middle East?
3. Which two originated in India?
4. Which religion gave rise to the caste system?
5. How do religions spread?
6. How are Hinduism and Buddhism alike and different?

[Short Video on the five major world religions](#)





# Review: Use your notes to complete the chart

|                     | Hinduism  | Buddhism  | Judaism   | Christianity  |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|
|                     |  |  |  |  |
| Followers Worldwide |   |   |   |   |
| Name of Deity       |   |   |   |   |
| Founder             |   |   |   |   |
| Holy Book           |   |   |   |   |
| Basic Beliefs       |   |   |   |   |