

# Monotheistic Religions of the Middle East

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**Lesson Overview:** Review basic characteristics of the monotheistic religions of the Middle East and analyze the growth of these religions across time.

## **Essential Questions:**

- What are the characteristics that are common among Judaism, Christianity and Islam?
- What are the observable patterns of diffusion of these religions?
- Why are these monotheistic religions predominant in certain regions today?

**Objectives:** Students will be able to:

- Identify the similarities among Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- Describe the patterns of the diffusion of these religions.
- Explain the reasons for the locations of these religions today.
- Identify different types of diffusion using religion as an example.
- Interpret historical maps and look for patterns.

**Subject/Grade Level:** World History and Geography, World Cultures, Global Studies, grades 7-12

**Duration:** approximately 2+ class periods

**Student Materials:** Maps, Map Activity worksheet, Chart and cards, assessment materials

**Teacher Materials:** Background readings, Answer Keys, Additional Information and Maps

## **Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations**

- **7-W3.2.1:** Identify and describe the beliefs of the five major world religions.
- **7-W3.2.2:** Locate the geographical center of major religions and map the spread through the 3rd century AD.
- **7-G4.1.1:** Identify and explain examples of culture diffusion within the Eastern Hemisphere
- **WHG-F3:** Growth and Development of World Religions
- **WHG-4.1.2:** World Religions Using historical/modern maps & other documents, analyze the spread of major world religions during this era & describe encounters between religious groups

## **National Geography Standards**

- **Standard 1:** How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information
- **Standard 10:** The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics

## **National World History Standards: Era 3**

- **Standard 1B:** The student understands the emergence of Judaism and the historical significance of the Hebrew kingdoms.
- **Standard 3B:** The student understands the emergence of Christianity in the context of the Roman Empire.
- **Standard 3D:** The student understands religious and cultural developments in India in the era of the Gangetic states and the Mauryan Empire.
- **Standard 5A:** The student understands major global trends from 1000 BCE to 300 CE

## **ELA Common Core State Standards**

### ***Text Types and Purposes***

- **2.** Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

## Definitions:

- **Monotheistic**—worship of one god (these three are sometimes call Abrahamic religions because of their connection to Abraham)
- **BCE**—before common era (many use BC)
- **CE**—common era (replaces AD in some texts)
- **diffusion**—spread particularly of ideas
- **Methods of diffusion:**
  - **Hierarchical** (mandated by the powers that be) example conquest
  - **Contagious** by coming into contact with others example trade
  - **Relocation** (innovation) through migration
  - **Hearth areas**—where the idea first began

## Procedures:

1. **Introduction: Card sort activity.** Give each group of students a set of cards with the characteristics of religions and a chart. Students will try to organize the information into the correct columns and rows. (*Teacher can take the 8x11 sheet in this packet and make a larger poster for this activity*) The teacher gives little direction, only encouraging students to look at characteristics and patterns of organizing and drawing on prior knowledge. The teacher goes around the room telling students which cards are in the wrong place and at times giving clues. After most groups have finished the chart correctly, each student **fills in an individual chart** with completed information
2. **Comparing Religions.** Ask students to **share the similarities** noted among the religions (heroes, monotheistic, holy cities, origins, beliefs) emphasizing how similar they are in many ways.
3. **Vocabulary Development:** Introduce the **concept of diffusion** (see background notes) of religions with students through discussion and notes. Discuss other vocabulary as necessary. View video <http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/history-of-religion.html> to show the spread of religions. Remind students that all 3 religions started in the Middle East. Background information about the spread of each religion can be found as readings in the teacher materials. Discuss (or have students read) the background information about the spread of each religion.
4. **Map Activity:** Hand out maps (6) and Map Activity worksheet for students to work in groups with maps. Have students first circle Mecca (Makkah) and Jerusalem on each map and then allow time to work on questions in groups. *Use of highlighters may be helpful.*
5. Have groups **share answers** and lead discussion on the patterns discovered. (Questions can either be collected or put in student notebook).
6. **Prediction:** On back of Map Activity worksheet, have students guess which country today has the most Jews, which country the most Christians, which country the most Muslims and be ready to defend that answer. Have a few students share answers.
7. **Assessment assignment:** Hand out Assessment Activity worksheet and explain procedures.
8. **Conclusion:** Close with a reviewing of the video cited in step 3.

## Extensions/Enhancements/Adaptations:

- Expand the chart to include Buddhism and Hinduism.
- Have students explain the differences between the monotheistic religions of the Middle East and eastern religions.
- Have students graph the data on world religion populations.
- Have students map the locations of the followers of the 3 monotheistic (or 5 major world) religions.
- Research why Hinduism and Buddhism have not seen the diffusion that Christianity, Islam and Judaism have experienced.
- Use a jigsaw activity to have groups of students become experts on one map or religion and then share.
- Combine the map reading with a timeline activity.
- Use a Venn Diagram to compare religions.
- Use similar ideas to discuss diffusion of other cultural aspects: language, art, music.
- Use GeoHistoGram to plot the growth and diffusion from the Maps of War video.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade West Hemisphere: Note number of current followers of each religion and have students explain why (relate to colonialism). Also why are there no Western Hemisphere countries in the top 10 for Islam?
- Study the historical conflicts among these religions: i.e. Crusades, Inquisition.
- Present lesson on the conflict in the Middle East among the three monotheistic religions in a necessary follow-up lesson.

## Credits/References:

### Maps:

- Spread of Islam <http://www.gmi.org/products/islamoht.htm#4> 7-16-07
- Islam Expands [http://www.upf.edu/materials/fhuma/portal\\_geos/bcn/t3/img/is.jpg](http://www.upf.edu/materials/fhuma/portal_geos/bcn/t3/img/is.jpg) 7-16-07
- Medieval Jewish Migration [www.routledge.com/.../resources/maps/map37.jpg](http://www.routledge.com/.../resources/maps/map37.jpg) 7-17-07
- Jewish emigration  
<http://www.couragetocare.com.au/SiteMedia/w3svc006/Uploads/Images/6d810662-6a67-4b29-aef3-041fac297210.jpg> 7-17-07
- Spread of Christianity  
<http://regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/movement/images/christmap.gif> 07-16-07
- Christians Today [http://creationwiki.org/images/thumb/6/6d/Christ\\_Islam\\_map.JPG/350px-Christ\\_Islam\\_map.JPG](http://creationwiki.org/images/thumb/6/6d/Christ_Islam_map.JPG/350px-Christ_Islam_map.JPG) 07-17-07

**Video:** <http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/history-of-religion.html>

**Statistics:** [http://www.adherents.com/Religions\\_By\\_Adherents.html](http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html) 07-18-07

### Background::

- [www.hypershistory.net/apwh/essays/comp/cw11christislamexpand.htm](http://www.hypershistory.net/apwh/essays/comp/cw11christislamexpand.htm) 8-15-07
- [www.american.edu/TED/spice.htm](http://www.american.edu/TED/spice.htm) 8-15-07
- [http://jewish-history.suite101.com/article.com/forced\\_expulsion\\_of\\_european\\_jews](http://jewish-history.suite101.com/article.com/forced_expulsion_of_european_jews) 8-15-07
- [www.geocities.com/turkel.geo/History.htm](http://www.geocities.com/turkel.geo/History.htm)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Nystrom Atlas of World History 2007 has several useful reference maps on this topic (Judaism & Christianity 38-39; Spread of Islam 44-45, 82-83).

**Three Faiths, One God: Judaism, Christianity, Islam** PBS documentary

<http://www.threefaithsonegod.com/>

Cards for chart activity (copy and cut apart)

<b>ABRAHAM</b>	<b>JESUS CHRIST</b>	<b>MUHAMMAD</b>
<b>1800 BC</b>	<b>1 AD</b>	<b>622 AD</b>
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>	<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>
<b>JERUSALEM</b>	<b>JERUSALEM</b>	<b>JERUSALEM MAKKAH</b>
<b>WAITING FOR MESSIAH</b>	<b>JESUS--MESSIAH</b>	<b>ONE GOD--ALLAH</b>
<b>MOSES, ABRAHAM, DAVID</b>	<b>MOSES, ABRAHAM, DISCIPLES</b>	<b>MOSES, ABRAHAM, JESUS,</b>
<b>TORAH</b>	<b>HOLY BIBLE</b>	<b>QURAN</b>
<b>HEBREW</b>	<b>NO SPECIFIC ONE</b>	<b>ARABIC</b>
<b>SYNAGOG</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>MOSQUE</b>
<b>PASSOVER ROSH HASHANAH YOM KIPPUR</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EASTER</b>	<b>RAMADAN</b>
<b>14 MILLION</b>	<b>2.1 BILLION</b>	<b>1.3 BILLION</b>

Chart (one for each group and one for each student)

<b>MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST</b>			
	<b>JUDAISM</b>	<b>CHRISTIANITY</b>	<b>ISLAM</b>
<b>FOUNDER</b>			
<b>BEGINNING DATE</b>			
<b>PLACE OF ORIGIN</b>			
<b>HOLY CITY</b>			
<b>BELIEFS</b>			
<b>HEROES AND PROPHETS</b>			
<b>HOLY BOOK</b>			
<b>LANGUAGE</b>			
<b>PLACE OF WORSHIP</b>			
<b>HOLY DAYS</b>			
<b># OF FOLLOWERS</b>			

**Spread of Christianity, c. 325-600**

1. What general directions did Christianity spread?
2. What was a common characteristic about the areas in which it first spread?
3. Why do you think they were affected by the spread of Christianity?
4. What three continents were affected by the spread of Christianity?
5. What geographic feature might have prevented the spread of Christianity to other areas?

**Christians Today**

1. Which continent has the smallest percentage of Christians?
2. Drawing from what you may know, why are there few Christians in Northern Africa?

**Islam Expands**

1. What was hearth area of the Islamic Religion?
2. What general direction did Islam spread?

**The Spread of Islam**

1. What were the three methods by which Islam was diffused?
2. What method had the most impact?

### **Medieval Jewish Migration**

1. To what areas did the Jews migrate during the medieval period before their expulsion?
2. What event caused some of the Jews to return to Islamic areas from which they moved?

### **Jewish emigration from Germany, 1933-1938**

1. Using what you know about this period of history, explain the massive emigration from Germany at this time.
2. To what Middle Eastern country did over 33,000 Jews flee?
3. To which two countries did the most Jews immigrate during this period and how many went to each?

### **Map Comparisons**

1. Compare the map of Islam Expands with the Spread of Christianity. What differences do you notice? What similarities?
2. Using the spread of Islam and Christians Today maps, what areas on the map have not been as affected by Islam and Christianity.
3. What areas were influenced by both Islam and Christianity?

Use the following tables and what you have learned to answer the questions below:

### Christian Nations

Rank	Nation	Number
1	USA	224,457,000
2	Brazil	139,000,000
3	Mexico	86,120,000
4	Russia	80,000,000
5	China	70,000,000
6	Germany	67,000,000
7	Philippines	63,470,000
8	United Kingdom	51,060,000
9	Italy	47,690,000
10	France	44,150,000
11	Nigeria	38,180,000

### Jewish Nations

Rank	Nation	Number
1	USA	5,602,000
2	Israel	4,390,000
3	Russia	1,450,000
4	France	640,000
5	Canada	350,000
6	United Kingdom	320,000
7	Argentina	250,000
8	Brazil	150,000
9	Australia	92,000
10	South Africa	70,000

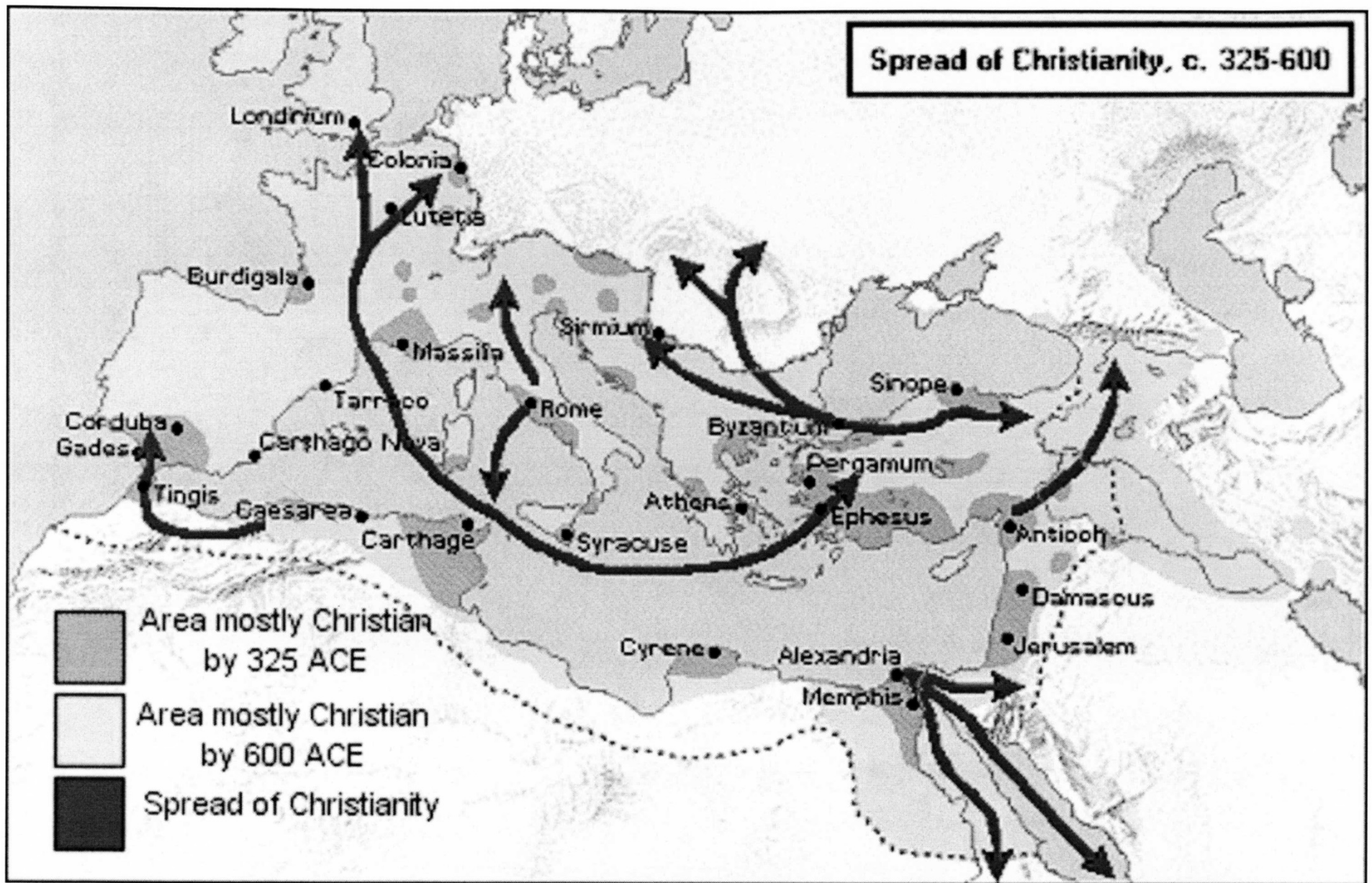
Country	Number of Muslims
Indonesia	170,310,000
Pakistan	136,000,000
Bangladesh	106,050,000
India	103,000,000
Turkey	62,410,000
Iran	60,790,000
Egypt	53,730,000
Nigeria	47,720,000
China	37,108,000

[http://www.adherents.com/Religions\\_By\\_Adherents.html](http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html) 07-18-07



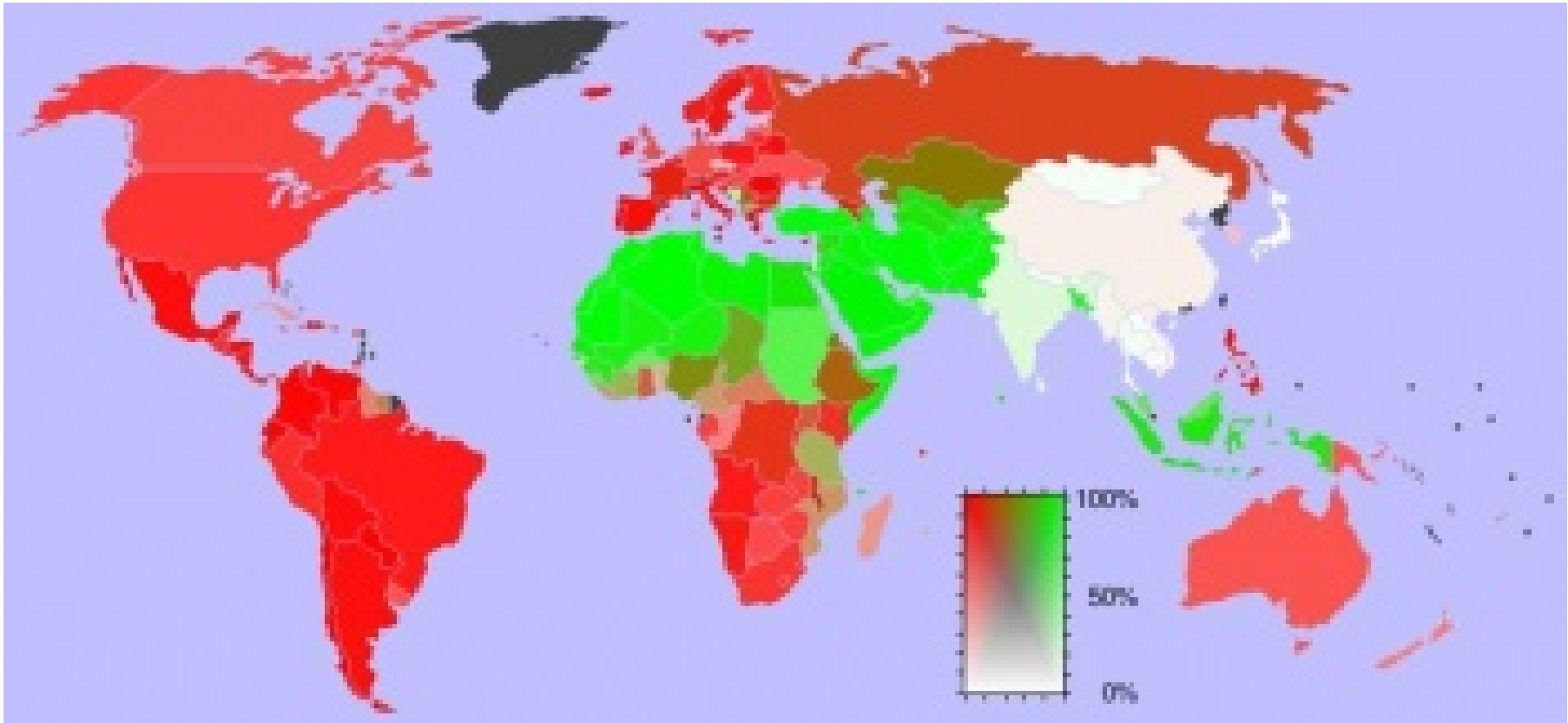
1. Which country has the largest number of Muslims and how many? Using what you have learned about diffusion, how would you explain this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Which country has the largest number of Christians and how many? Using what you have learned about diffusion, how would you explain this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Which country has the largest number of Jews and how many? Using what you have learned about diffusion, how would you explain this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. In a well-constructed paragraph, based on patterns of diffusion and your knowledge of world affairs, predict whether Islam or Christianity will have the larger impact in India, China, and East Asia over the next 50 years. Make sure to defend your position.

Your paragraph must include an introductory sentence, a statement of your position, at least three supporting details, and a conclusion sentence



<http://regentsprep.org/regents/global/themes/movement/images/christmap.gif> 07-16-07

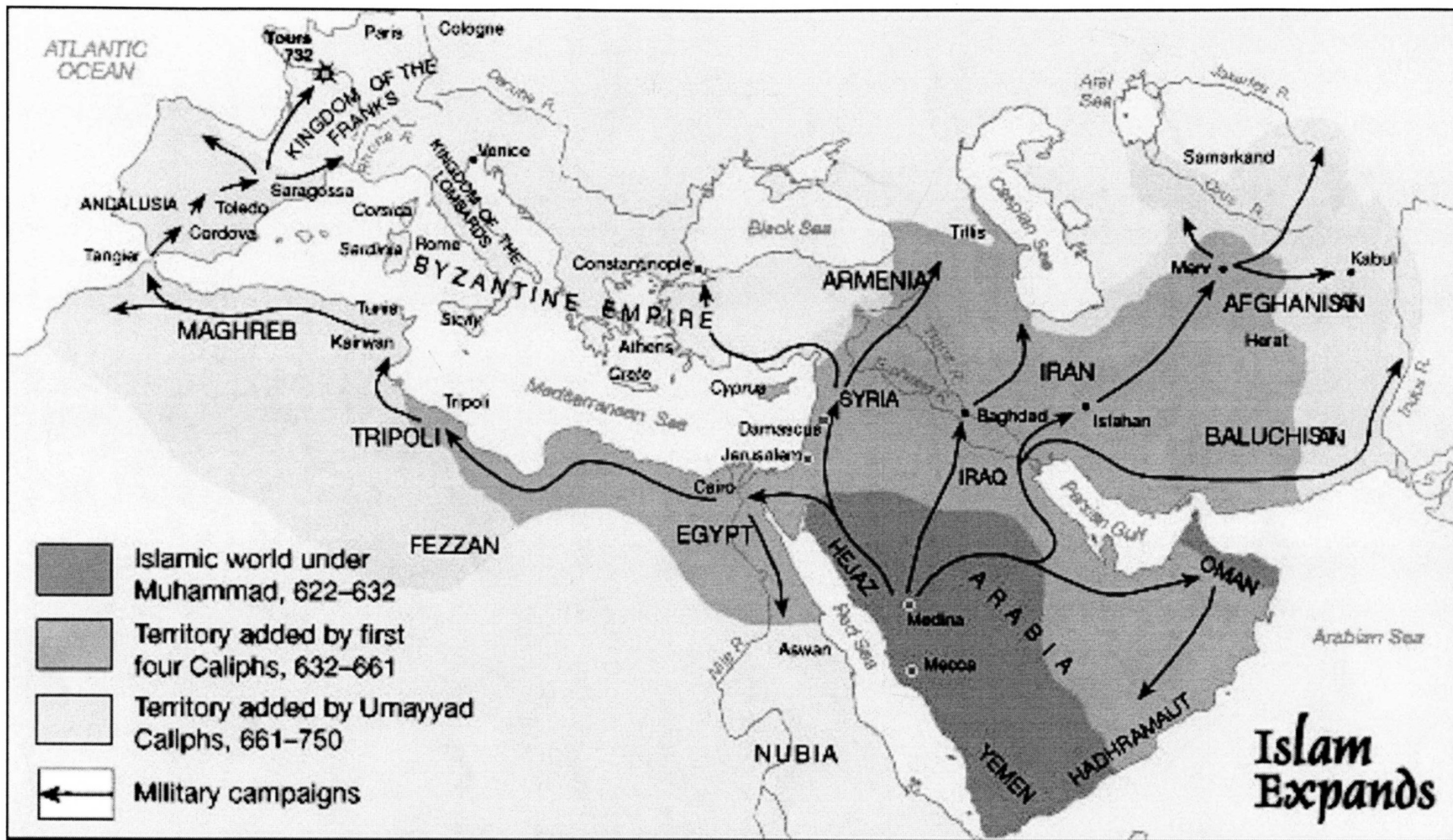
# Christians Today



[http://creationwiki.org/images/thumb/6/6d/Christ\\_Islam\\_map.JPG/350px-Christ\\_Islam\\_map.JPG](http://creationwiki.org/images/thumb/6/6d/Christ_Islam_map.JPG/350px-Christ_Islam_map.JPG)

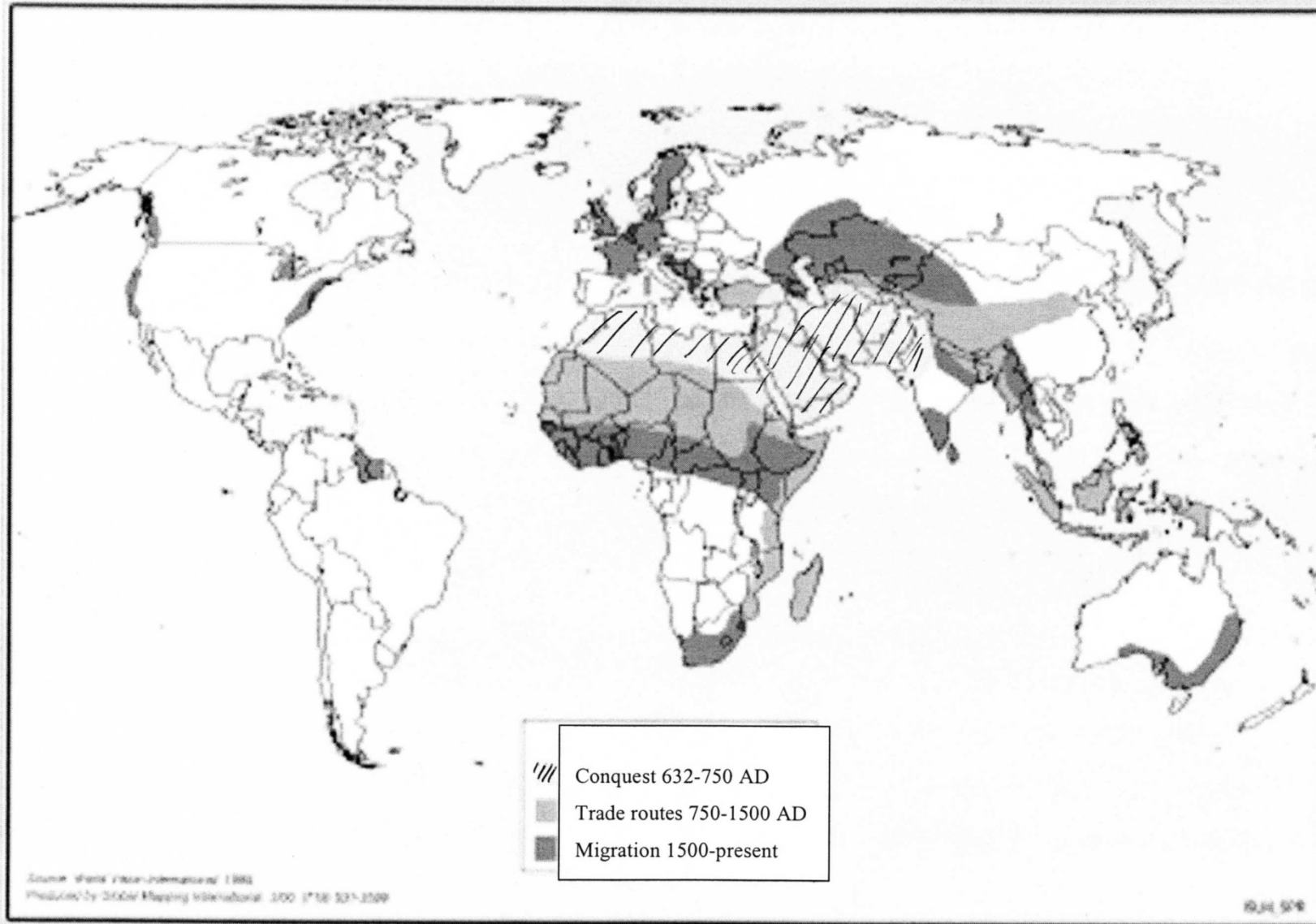
 **Christians**



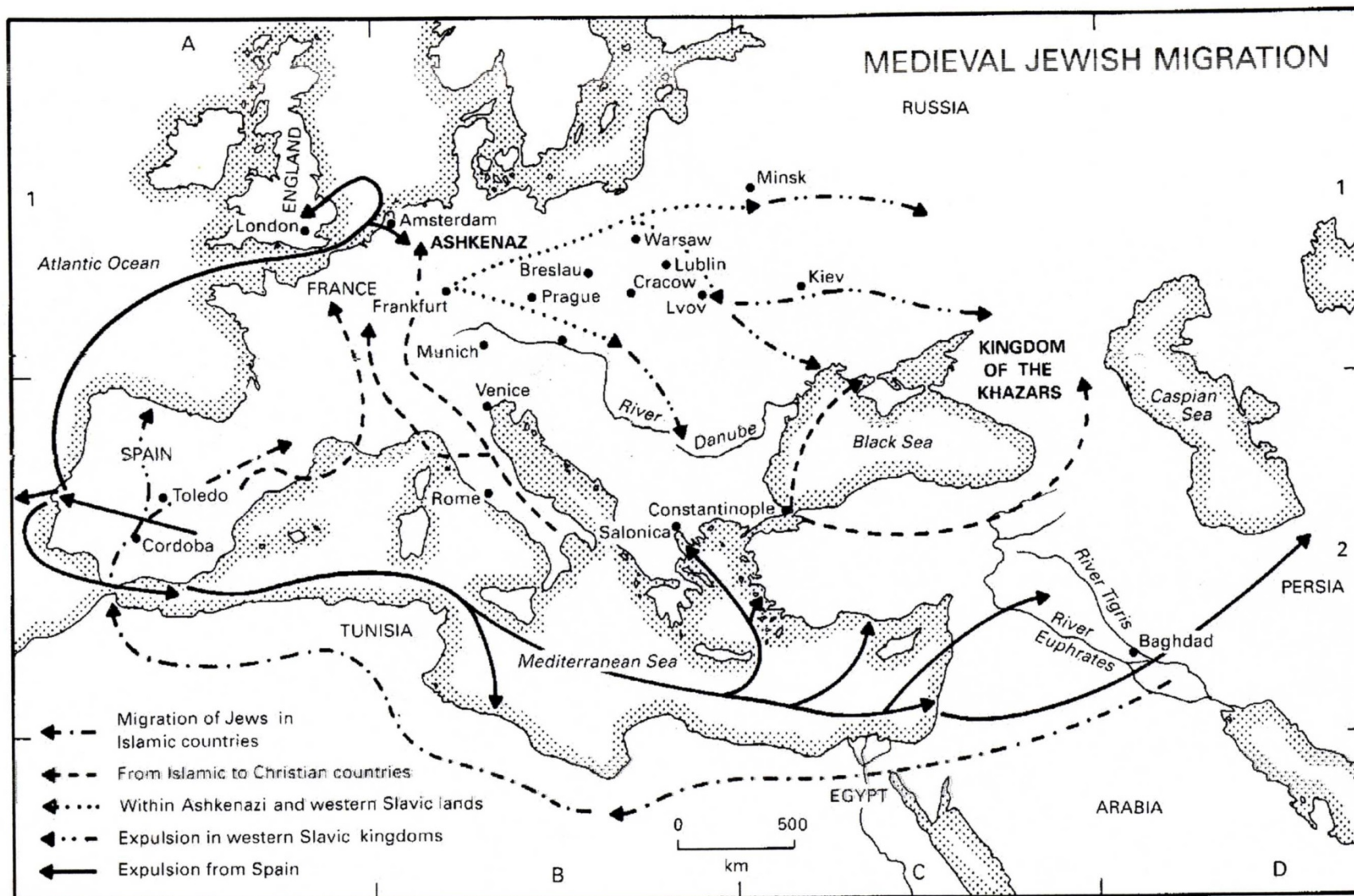


[http://www.upf.edu/materials/fhuma/portal\\_geos/bcn/t3/img/is.jpg](http://www.upf.edu/materials/fhuma/portal_geos/bcn/t3/img/is.jpg) 7-16-07

## The Spread of Islam







[www.routledge.com/.../resources/maps/map37.jpg](http://www.routledge.com/.../resources/maps/map37.jpg) 7-17-07





<http://www.couragetocare.com.au/SiteMedia/w3svc006/Uploads/Images/6d810662-6a67-4b29-aef3-041fac297210.jpg> 7-17-07

## ***Spread of Islam:***

The initial growth of Islam was through relocation when Mohammed was persecuted in Mecca and forced to flee to Medina. There were few cities in Arabia so Islam first spread through villages. By Mohammed's death most of the persecution had stopped.

**Phase I—Initially by conquest (*Hierarchical diffusion*):** Muslims conquered land in the Middle East and Africa in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries (632-750 AD). This was the time of the four caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali. Umar (Mohammed's 2<sup>nd</sup> successor) took the area north to Jerusalem, Damascus, Syria, and North Africa. During conquest people were given three options: convert, pay heavy taxes, or die. Many in Egypt and Syria were under oppressive rule so Islam became easy to accept. Islam was met with hostility, however, in Europe where Christianity was strong and less forceful. Charles Martel of the Franks stopped the progression of Islam into Europe at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD.

**Phase II—Trade (*contagious*):** The fact that Islam and its holy book the Quran focused on the Arab language was a benefit for trade. Trade helped to spread language, religion and culture. The Arab hearth center borders three continents—Asia, Africa, Europe, so it was central to all trade routes. Muslim merchants encouraged direct trade traveling the entire length of trade routes unlike their predecessors who used many intermediaries along the routes. As Islamic traders traveled trade routes their ideas (including religion) were “caught” (contagious) by those with whom they came into contact.

**Arabia/Africa:** Long established trade routes to the east (including the Silk Road) helped this spread. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century AD western African routes were controlled by the Berbers, Tuareg, and Soninke who eventually became Muslim. In east Africa Arab merchants married African clans and the Swahili developed. The development of the spice trade further encouraged contact with other lands.

**Southeast Asia:** Traders formed small communities in the region. They first came to the Malay peninsula from India and Arabia and then to Indonesia in the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD. Many in these areas converted to Islam because of the elevated political, social, and economic status of Muslims. They then helped natives resist Portuguese and Dutch domination in the 17<sup>th</sup> century AD.

**Central Asia/China:** Initial contact was through conquest of Iran and the Aral Sea area but by the 10<sup>th</sup> century trade is instrumental in the spread of Islam. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD many Mongols convert.

**Phase III—Migration (*relocation*):** Since 1500 AD Muslims from all over the eastern hemisphere moved to western Europe, Australia, parts of Africa, and the “New World”. Some reasons for migration included the break up of the Ottoman Empire, World War II, and the end of colonialism, bringing about the independence of much of the Muslim world. More recent events causing relocation include genocide in Iraq and Sudan and war.



## *Spread of Judaism*

The spread of Judaism came basically through two methods: Voluntary migrations and forced exile/expulsion.

After the initial growth of Judaism (Old Testament times) the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD led to the scattering of the Jews to much of Europe. Jews were accepted in Europe from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> centuries AD because of their culture and economic benefit. They were not politically ambitious, and, therefore, not a threat to Christianity. During the early Middle Ages, Europe became both a spiritual and cultural center of Jewish life, and many Jews engaged in economic pursuits such as merchants and bankers (in part, because of Catholic Church laws prohibiting Christians from such activities).

The Crusades (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century AD) encouraged many Jews to migrate west in search of economic potential and trade. The Jews moved from town to town to create new business opportunities and served as the middle men in trade between Poland, Hungary, Turkey, and the Black Sea. By the 13<sup>th</sup> century AD, however, because of increased nationalism in Europe dominated by ethnic groups and the desire for economic gain, Jews were confined to suburban areas instead of urban centers leading to much poverty and discrimination.

Expulsion of the Jews from Europe followed these lines:

1290 AD England 1391 AD France 1421 AD Austria

1492 AD Spain and Portugal especially with the Spanish Inquisition.

Following these expulsions, the Jews moved to Poland, North Africa, Turkey, the New World, and eventually back to the Holy Land under the Ottomans.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century AD saw increased Jewish persecution in Russia and Galicia (later part of Poland), and pogroms against the Jews created many Jewish refugees throughout Europe. This was also the time of Zionism (the movement to create a homeland for the Jews in Palestine. The Aliyah (ascent) of Jews from Europe was: 1882-1903 AD from Russia

1904-1914 AD from Russia and E. Europe

1919-1923 AD from USSR

1924-1929 AD from Poland and Hungary

1929-1939 AD Germany and the Holocaust

## *Spread of Christianity*

Christianity is a monotheistic religion made up of people who are followers of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God and that he was the Messiah as prophesied in the Old Testament. Christianity shares its origin with Judaism. The Old Testament is a common text used by both Jewish and Christian believers; both are classified as Abrahamic religions.

The Christian calendar begins in **A.D. 1 (although our calendar is actually incorrect; therefore, Christ's birth is actually sometime between 6-4 BC)** with the birth of Jesus. Jesus' followers, who were called disciples, spread the teachings of Jesus across the Roman world and beyond. Christianity spread from Jerusalem into parts of Syria, Turkey, Greece, and Rome by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century because of the work of missionaries such as the Apostle Paul. The spread particularly affected cities around the Mediterranean Sea. Some of these major cities included Antioch, Ephesus, and Alexandria. The diffusion of Christianity was also helped by the universality of the Greek language which was the language of the New Testament.

Until around A.D. 300, Christians were persecuted in the Roman Empire, and yet, Christianity continued to grow as Christians provided hope for the people oppressed by Rome and social support such as hospitals and charity. The testimony of persecuted martyrs also provided a seed of growth. Then Constantine the Great proclaimed that Christianity was a lawful religion with the Edict of Milan in A.D. 313, and at this point Christians were no longer widely persecuted. Christianity then spread into other cities, as well as the rural areas in the interior of Europe and Asia especially after the Emperor Theodosius made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire in A.D. 380.

The development of the Roman Catholic Church in the early Middle Ages played a key role in the growth of Christianity throughout Europe. The spread of Christianity was primarily achieved through the work of individuals and missions. Missionaries built churches, schools and hospitals to aid in Christian work. A secondary example of how Christianity spread is due to the Christian Church sharing its power with the rulers of many nations; therefore, when empires expanded so did the teachings of Christianity. For some medieval rulers, as with Islam, the conquered were given the difficult choice of "convert or die". As Christians traveled and traded throughout Europe and the East (particularly after the Crusades) they took their culture and religion with them aiding the spread of Christianity.

European colonialism during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries also helped to diffuse the teachings of Christianity as many European countries operated under the motto of "God, Gold, and Glory." Christianity was brought to the colonies by settlers and missionaries who shared the message of their faith with native peoples. (This concept is particularly relevant for Latin America) Missionary work is still prevalent among the Christian church in many parts of Asia and Africa today.

**Spread of Christianity, c. 325-600**

1. What general directions did Christianity spread? *North and west*
2. What was a common characteristic about the areas in which it first spread?  
*Coastal cities*
3. Why do you think they were affected by the spread of Christianity?  
*Population centers, trade, water route*
4. What three continents were affected by the spread of Christianity?  
*Europe, Asia, Africa*
5. What geographic feature might have prevented the spread of Christianity to other areas? *Mountains*

**Christians Today**

1. Which continent has the smallest percentage of Christians? *Asia*
2. Drawing from what you may know, why are there few Christians in Northern Africa? *Islam*

**Islam Expands**

1. What was hearth area of the Islamic religion? *Western Arabia*
2. What general direction did Islam spread? *North and east*

**The Spread of Islam**

1. What were the three methods by which Islam was diffused?  
*Conquest, trade and migration*
2. What method had the most impact? *Trade*

**Medieval Jewish Migration**

1. To what areas did the Jews migrate during the medieval period before their expulsions? *Western Europe, and/or Christian countries*

2. What event caused some of the Jews to return to Islamic areas from which they moved? *Expulsion from Spain during the Spanish Inquisition*

### **Jewish emigration from Germany, 1933-1938**

1. Using what you know about this period of history, explain the massive emigration from Germany at this time. *Hitler and the Holocaust*
2. To what Middle Eastern country did over 33,000 Jews flee? *Palestine*
3. To which two countries did the most Jews immigrate during this period and how many went to each? *United States 102, 200 and Argentina 63,500*

### **Map Comparisons**

1. Compare the map of Islam Expands with the Spread of Christianity.  
*Differences- Islam expanded north and east and into Asia. Christianity, mostly north and west and into Europe. Christianity expanded more by sea than land. Christianity began earlier.*  
*Similarities- Both expanded into Africa, Spain and Byzantium.*
2. Using the spread of Islam and Christians Today maps, what areas on the map have not been as affected by Islam and Christianity.  
*East and Southeast Asia*
3. What areas were influenced by both Islam and Christianity?  
*Africa and Western Europe (United States)*

## Chart Answers:

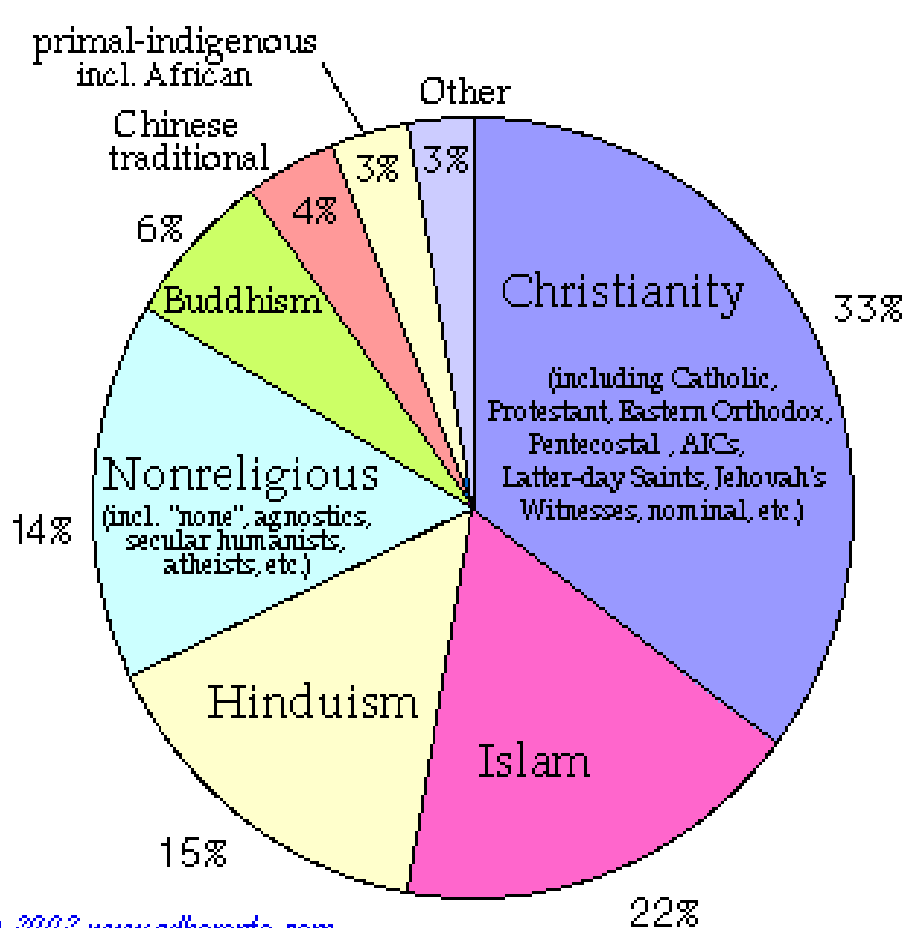
MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST			
	JUDAISM	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
FOUNDER	ABRAHAM	JESUS CHRIST	MUHAMMAD
BEGINNING DATE	1800 BCE	1 CE	622 CE
PLACE OF ORIGIN	MIDDLE EAST	MIDDLE EAST	MIDDLE EAST
HOLY CITY	JERUSALEM	JERUSALEM	JERUSALEM MAKKAH
BELIEFS	WAITING FOR MESSIAH	JESUS-MESSIAH	ONE GOD-ALLAH
HEROES AND PROPHETS	MOSES, ABRAHAM, DAVID	MOSES, ABRAHAM, DISCIPLES	MOSES, ABRAHAM, JESUS, MUHAMMAD
HOLY BOOK	TIRAH	HOLY BIBLE	QURAN
LANGUAGE	HEBREW	NO SPECIFIC ONE	ARABIC
PLACE OF WORSHIP	SYNAGOG	CHURCH	MOSQUE
HOLY DAYS	PASSOVER ROSH HASHANAH YOM KIPPUR	CHRISTMAS, EASTER	RAMADAN
# OF FOLLOWERS	14 MILLION	2.1 BILLION	1.3 BILLION

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM

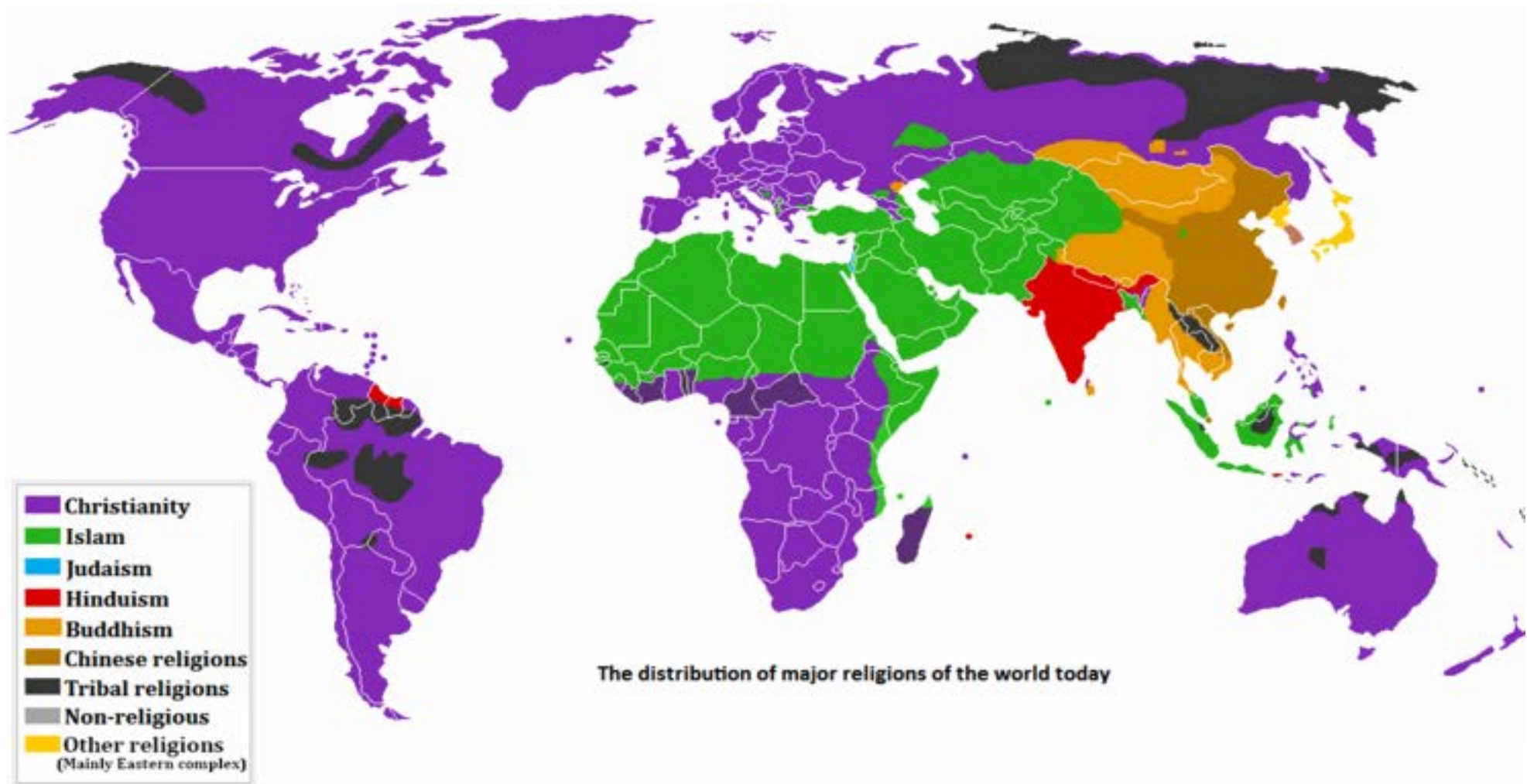
### RESOURCES FOR TEACHER BACKGROUND NOTES:

#### SPREAD OF BUDDHISM

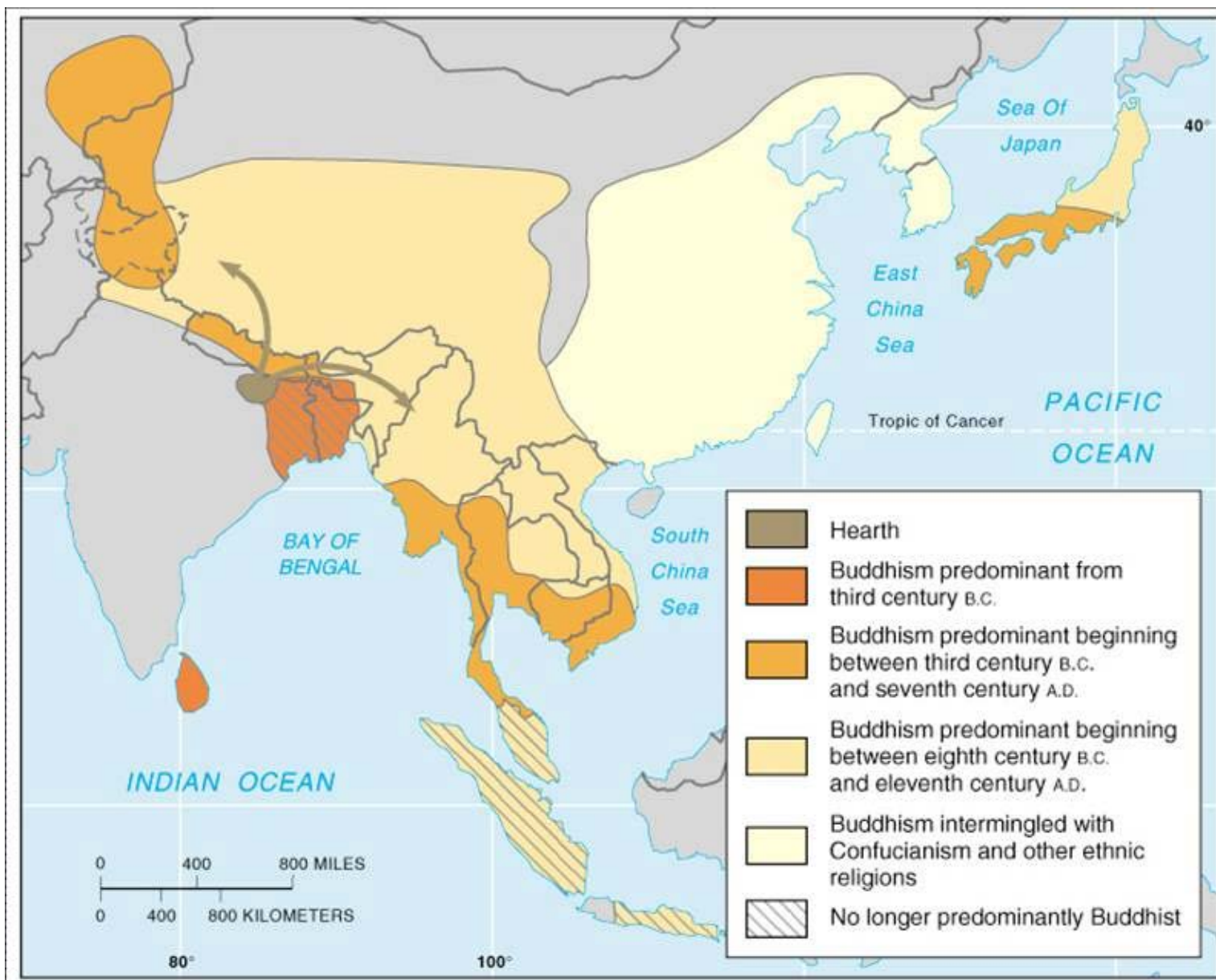
- <http://www.onmarkproductions.com/html/schools-three-vehicles.shtml>
- <http://www.berzinarchives.com/web/en/archives/e-books/unpublished-manuscripts/historical-interaction/pt1/history-cultures-01.html>
- <http://coexist101.wordpress.com/2009/02/20/atlas-of-the-worlds-great-religions-what-people-believe-in/>
- **Hinduism**
- <http://www.worldreligions.psu.edu/maps-hinduism.htm>
- <http://www.patheos.com/Library/Hinduism/Historical-Development/Missions-Spread-Changes-Regional-adaptations.html>



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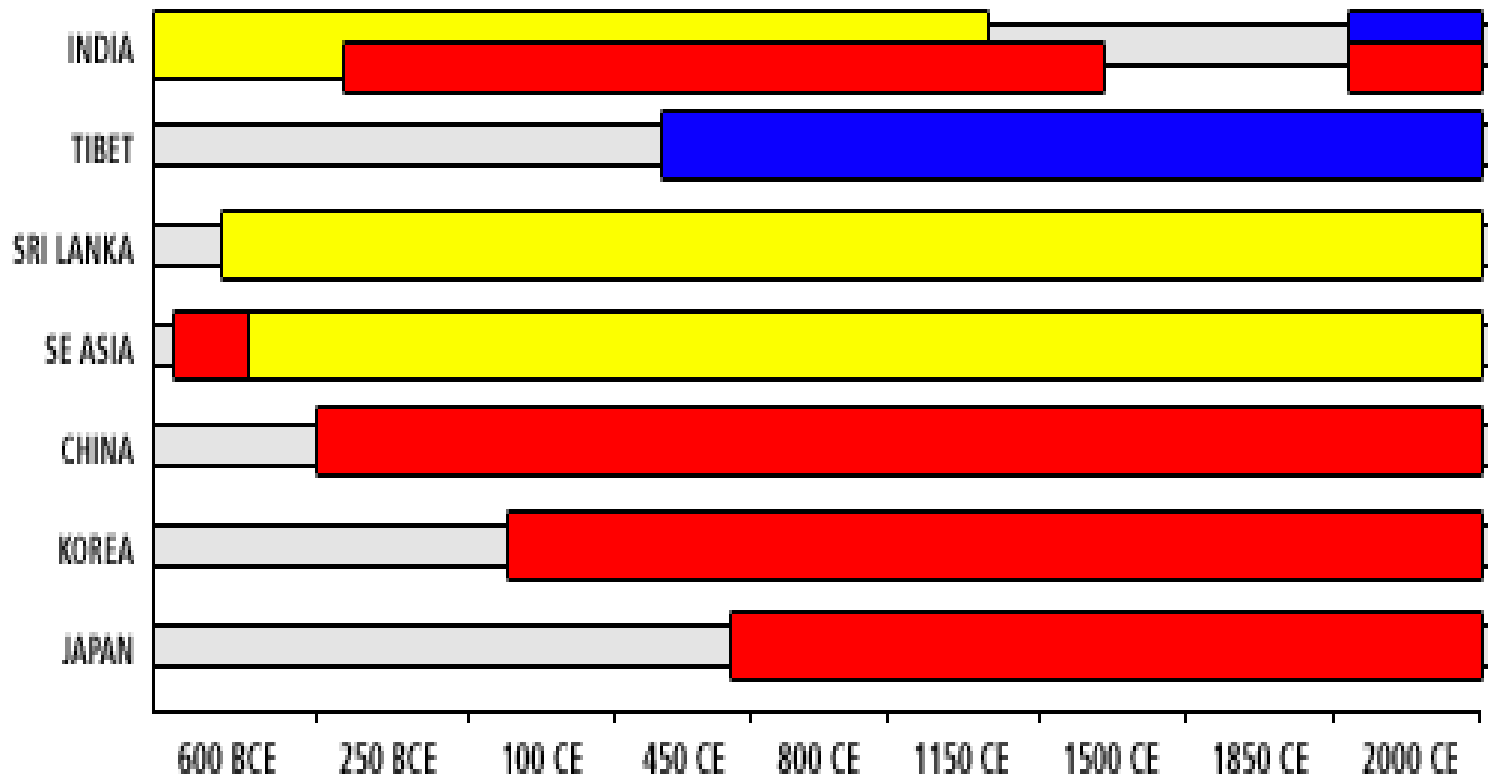


[http://chsweb.lr.k12.nj.us/kstokes/world%20history/whis2\\_classical\\_traditions.htm](http://chsweb.lr.k12.nj.us/kstokes/world%20history/whis2_classical_traditions.htm)



# The Geographical Spread of Buddhism in Asia

The Three Vehicles (Traditions): ■ Theravada ■ Mahayana ■ Vajrayana



Please Note: BCE = Before Common Era, CE = Common Era

<http://www.marxists.org/glossary/terms/b/u.htm>

	HINDUISM	BUDDHISM
FOUNDER	NO SPECIFIC PERSON	SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA
BEGINNING DATE	1500 BC	525 BC
PLACE OF ORIGIN	INDIA	INDIA
HOLY CITY	VARANASI ON THE GANGES RIVER	LUMBINI, NEPAL AND BODHGAYA, INDIA
BELIEFS	REINCARNATION, KARMA, YOGA, UNIVERSAL SPIRIT	REINCARNATION EIGHT FOLD PATH 4 NOBLE TRUTHS NIRVANA
HEROES/PROPHETS	NONE	NONE
HOLY BOOK	VEDAS BHADAVAD GITA	TRIPITAKA
LANGUAGE	VEDIC SANSKRIT	PALI CANON AND SANSKRIT
PLACE OF WORSHIP	TEMPLE/MANDIRA	TEMPLE/PAGODA
HOLY DAYS	DIWALI AND DUSSEHRA	VESAK AND DHARMA DAY
# OF FOLLOWERS	900,000,000	376,000,000

Country	Number of Buddhists
China	102 000 000
Japan	89 650 000
Thailand	55 480 000
Vietnam	49 690 000
Myanmar	41 610 000
Sri Lanka	12 540 000
South Korea	10 920 000
Taiwan	9 150 000
Cambodia	9 130 000
India	7 000 000

2006 <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-top-ten/world-top-ten-countries-with-largest-hindu-populations-map.html>

World Top Ten Countries With Largest Hindu Populations		
Country	Hindu Population	
India	755,135,000	
Nepal	18,354,000	
Bangladesh	15,995,000	
Indonesia	7,259,000	
Sri Lanka	2,124,000	
Pakistan	1,868,000	
Malaysia	1,630,000	
USA	1,032,000	
South Africa	959,000	
Myanmar	893,000	

	JUDAISM	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM	HINDUISM	BUDDHISM
FOUNDER					
BEGINNING DATE					
PLACE OF ORIGIN					
HOLY CITY					
BELIEFS					
HEROES AND PROPHETS					
HOLY BOOK					
LANGUAGE					
PLACE OF WORSHIP					
HOLY DAYS					