Religions of Southwest Asia
What do you ALREADY know?

- Age of religion
- Founder/Important People/Prophets
- Holy Text(s)
- Beliefs
- Laws/guidelines
- Views on Jesus
- Holy Places
- Places of Worship
Three religions originated in this region:

• Judaism
• Christianity
• Islam
**Timeline of Abrahamic Religions**

**1,400 BCE**
- Torah Establishes the Jewish Religion
- Israel Enters Recorded History with a Pantheon of Gods

**600 BCE**
- Old Testament Writers switch from Polytheism to Monotheism
- Belief “ONE GOD” starts

**4 BCE**
- “Birth” of Jesus gives rise to Christianity

**610 AD**
- Preachings of Mohammed start the Islamic Faith

---

**Nonreligious** → **Confucianism** → **Secular Humanism**

- Animism
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Islam
- Sikhism

- 2000 BC
- 1500 BC
- 525 BC
- 446 BC
- 30 AD
- 610 AD
- 1496 AD
- 18th Century
Spread of Religion over Time

http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/history-of-religion.html
JUDAISM: Size of Religion

- Judaism is the 12th largest religion in the world.
- There are 14 million followers.
Monotheistic

Abraham was the first monotheist, a person who believes in only one God.
Abraham's Genealogy

HAGAR

Ishmael

12 Arabian Tribes

Muhammad (570 AD) (Islam)

ABRAHAM (Judaism)

Ishmael

12 Arabian Tribes

12 Tribes of Israel

Hebrews & Jesus (1 AD) (Judaism) (Christianity)

SARAH

Isaac

Jacob

Esau

Muhammad (570 AD) (Islam)
Views of Jesus

- prophet
- Messiah/Christ/Savior
- Son of God

an ordinary Jew
- NOT the Messiah (false Messiah)
- NOT Son of God

- prophet
- Messiah/Christ/Savior
- NOT the son of God
Jerusalem

Western Wall (wailing wall)
- Last remaining wall of Judaism’s 1st/2nd temple

Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Jesus’ crucifixion (death) & burial

Dome of the Rock/Al Aksa Mosque
- Muhammad made a night journey to heaven
Temple Mount as the place where God chose the Divine Presence to rest; it was from here the world expanded into its present form and where God gathered the dust used to create the first man, Adam.
Jewish Diaspora

North Africa

Israel

“Promised Land”

“Canaan”

“Palestine”
Western Wall
all that’s left of the 2nd Jewish temple
JUDAISM:
Founder / Important People / Prophets

• **Abraham** was the founder

• The **Hebrews** are the people who are descended from Abraham and his grandson **Jacob**

• **Moses** was the man who lead the Jews out of slavery in Egypt. He received the **Ten Commandments** on Mt. Sinai
The Faith of Abraham.
Moses parts Red Sea

Moses receives 10 Commandments
The Exodus

**Traditional Route of the Exodus**

- Nile Delta
- Quail/Manna
- Egypt
- Mt. Sinai
- Sinai Peninsula
- Great Sea (Mediterranean)
- Jericho Canaan
- Mt. Sinai
- Red Sea

**12 Spies**
Sacred Text

• **Torah**: the first five books in the Hebrew scriptures.

• **Tanakh**: the rest of the Old Testament

• **Talmud**: explanation of the Tanakh.
10 Commandments
Country of Origin:
Israel / Canaan
the forced scattering of Jewish people from their homeland by foreign invaders
(ex. Babylonians, Mongols, Romans)
Anti-Semitism

hatred, mistreatment, or discrimination against Jewish people
Jewish View of Jesus:

- Jews see Jesus as either a false messiah (savior) or a good teacher.
- NOT the son of God
Main Beliefs:

The 10 Commandments

1. I am God, the only God.
2. Only pray to God.
3. Use God’s name only at special times.
4. Every week, celebrate a day of rest, peace and happiness.
5. Care about your parents.
7. Protect your family.
8. Do not steal.
10. Do not get jealous.
Jewish Beliefs cont. . .

- **Sabbath** (holy day) = Saturday
- **Dietary laws** – rules saying what foods they can eat & how they are prepared (ex. no pork)
- **Yom Kippur** – holiday asking for God’s forgiveness for sins
Place of Worship/Holy Places

Synagogue/Temple
Jews go to the synagogue on the Sabbath (Saturday).

Jerusalem
- HOLIEST PLACE for Jews
- first and second temples
- Western Wall of the second temple
Christianity: Size of Religion

- Christianity is the largest religion in the world.
- There are 2.4 billion followers.

NOTE: Total adds up to more than 100% due to rounding and because upper bound estimates were used for each group.

© 2005 www.adherents.com
Anno Domini = “In the year of our Lord”
Abraham’s Genealogy

HAGAR

Ishmael

12 Arabian Tribes

Muhammad (570 AD) (Islam)

ABRAHAM (Judaism)

SARAH

Isaac

Jacob

Esau

Jews & Jesus (1 AD) (Christianity)

12 Tribes of Israel

Muhammad (570 AD) (Islam)

Jews & Jesus (1 AD) (Christianity)
Jesus was the founder.

- **Abraham**
  - founder of Judaism
  - **Hebrews** come from Abraham & his grandson **Jacob**
    - Jesus was Hebrew
- **Roman Emperor Constantine**
  - was the first world leader to convert to Christianity (AD 312)
  - helped to spread Christianity throughout Europe
CHRISTIANITY

HOLY BOOK/SACRED TEXT

• The Bible: Old and New Testament
• Old Testament = history of Judaism
• New Testament = story of Jesus’ life, his teachings, and the teaching of his disciples and other important Christians (ex. Paul).
Country of Origin: Israel / Palestine
View of Jesus:

• son of God

• prophet
  (messenger of god)

• Messiah/Christ
  (savior; God appointed leader who brings a new, better world)

• As part of the Trinity (father, son, & holy ghost), Jesus is considered a part of God

God the Father (top), and the Holy Spirit (represented by a dove) depicted above Jesus.
Main Beliefs:

**monotheistic** (worship only one god)

**The 10 Commandments**

1. I am God, the only God.
2. Only pray to God.
3. Use God’s name only at special times.
4. Every week, celebrate a day of rest, peace and happiness.
5. Care about your parents.
7. Protect your family.
8. Do not steal.
10. Do not get jealous.
CHRISTIANITY

IMPORTANT EVENTS

- Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** in 4 B.C.
- Jesus was crucified in 30 AD (he was about 34).
- Christians were persecuted until 313 A.D. They were treated this way because they did not worship Roman gods and goddesses.
- Christianity was made legal in 313 A.D. with the help of the Roman Emperor Constantine. This helped the religion spread throughout Europe.
CHRISTIANITY

Holy Places/Place of worship

• Christians worship in buildings called churches or cathedrals

• Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Palestine (Israel).

• Jerusalem is where Jesus was crucified and buried.
ISLAM: Size of Religion

- 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest religion in the world
- 1.5 billion followers
Anno Domini = “In the year of our Lord”

- 2000 BC
- 1000 BC
- 1 AD
- 1000 AD
- 2000 AD

1400 years ago

600 AD
Islam

FOUNDER

• Muhammad (Mohammed) is the founder of Islam.

• He claims to be the final prophet, or messenger, of God.

• Abraham and his son Ishmael built the Ka’aba in Mecca. They are also considered the fathers of the Muslim people.
Abraham's Genealogy

HAGAR

Ishmael

12 Arabian Tribes

Muhammad (Islam)

ABRAHAM (Judaism)

Isaac

Jacob

12 Tribes of Israel

Jews & Jesus (Christianity)

SARAH

Esau

Jacob

Isaac
Islam’s View of Jesus:

• Muslims see Jesus as prophet (messenger of God).

• NOT the son of God
Qu’ran (Koran)

- Muslims see it as the final & complete word of God
- contains much of the **Old Testament** (Judaism) and the **New Testament** (Christianity).
BASIC BELIEFS:

Five pillars of Faith – guidelines for Muslims

1. **Shahada** - belief in **one God**, Muhammad is his prophet
2. **Salat** - **pray 5 times** daily towards Mecca
3. **Zakat** - giving of **charity**
4. **Sawan** - **fasting** during the holy month of Ramadan
5. **Hajj** - **pilgrimage** to the city of Mecca, the birthplace of Muhammed
What about these required prayers?

The mandatory prayers performed 5 times a day:
* dawn
* noon
* late afternoon
* sunset
* before going to bed

Wash before praying.

Face Mecca and use a prayer rug.
ISLAM  Basic Beliefs

Dietary laws

• No pork
• No alcohol
The call to prayer by the *muezzin* in the *minaret*.

Pray in the *mosque* on Friday.
Those who complete the pilgrimage can add the title *hajji* to their name.
Mosques are the buildings in which Muslims worship.
Country of Origin: **SAUDI ARABIA**
1. **Mecca** (Saudi Arabia)
   - Muhammad’s birth
   - Ka’aba

2. **Medina** (Saudi Arabia)
   - where Muhammad and his followers fled during the *Hijrah*.

3. **Jerusalem** (Israel)
   - Dome of the Rock
   - where Muhammad made a night journey to heaven
The *hajj* (pilgrimage to Mecca) is an important aspect of Islam.

*Millions travel to Mecca each year!*
Ka’aba
(Mecca, Saudi Arabia)
Dome of the Rock

Muslim Quarter: Jerusalem
Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, Israel – where Muhammad made a night journey to heaven
Don’t get confused!

• All 3 Middle Eastern Religions are **monotheistic**

• Christians believe in god as a **trinity** (father, son, holy spirit) and that Jesus was god’s **son**

• Muslims believe that Muhammed was god’s **messenger** (not son)

• All 3 share the same foundation through the lineage of **Abraham**