

# The Major World Religions

**Directions: Read pp. 282-296 and answer the following questions.**

1. Define religion.
2. Using the pie chart "World Population's Religious Affiliations" on p. 282, determine how many people belong to each of the five major religions and how many do not. (To calculate these figures, multiply 6.2 billion by the percentage for each religion.)

Christianity: \_\_\_\_\_

Islam: \_\_\_\_\_

Hinduism: \_\_\_\_\_

Buddhism: \_\_\_\_\_

Judaism: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Nonreligious: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Use the pie charts on pp. 282-283 to answer the following questions.
  - Which area of the world is overwhelmingly Muslim?
  - Which country has the most "officially nonreligious" subjects?
  - Which country mostly practices Judaism?
  - Which country is mainly Hindu?
  - Which area of the world has the most Buddhists?
  - Which continent is almost equally divided between Muslim and Christian?
  - Which three areas of the world are overwhelmingly Christian?
4. Where do most Buddhists live today?
5. What were Buddha's teachings known as?
6. According to Buddha, what was the key to happiness?

7. According to Buddha, how was this achieved?
8. What is the largest religion in the world?
9. What is Christianity based upon?
10. What are the three major branches of Christianity?
11. How many different Protestant denominations are there in the United States?
12. What is the world's oldest religion?
13. Are Hindus monotheistic or polytheistic?
14. Which river is considered sacred by the Hindus?
15. What are the oldest Hindu scriptures called?
16. Islam is based upon the teachings of whom?
17. What are the followers of Islam known as?
18. How do Muslims show their devotion?
19. What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

20. What are the two major branches of Islam?

21. During which month do Muslims fast from dawn to sunset?

22. What is the name for the Muslim community leader who conducts the prayers in a mosque?

23. How many times per day do Muslims pray?

24. What was the first major religion to teach the existence of only one God?

25. From where do the basic laws and teachings of Judaism come?

26. What is another name for the Star of David?

27. At what age do Jewish girls enter the adult religious community?

At what age do Jewish boys enter the adult religious community?

28. What is the name for the Jewish house of worship?

29. What is the most sacred site for Jews?

30. What are the three branches of Judaism?