

7 MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS



WHAT DEFINES A RELIGION?

- A religion consists of supernatural power or powers that are regarded as the creators and maintainers of the universes
- Religion establishes beliefs and values that define how people worship the divine being or divine forces
- All 7 major world religions are defined by 3 types:
 - **Monotheistic**: belief in ONE god (mono=1)
 - **Polytheistic**: belief in MANY gods (poly=many)
 - **Animistic**: belief in divine forces in nature (anima-soul)

RELIGION SPREADING

- Religion is a form of cultural diffusion
 - Spreading of new ideas
- Converts are people who give up their former beliefs for a new religion
- Some religions actively seek to convert followers
 - At times uses acts of violence
- Some religions are found in isolated parts of the world that center their beliefs around their surrounding (animism)




JUDAISM

SYMBOL	
WHO DISCOVERED RELIGION?	Abraham, Moses
WHEN	3,000 B.C.
WHERE	Israel
HOLY BOOK(S) / HOUSE OF WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Torah, Talmud• Synagogues
MAJOR DIVISION	Orthodox, Conservative, Reform
FOLLOWERS	Jews; 14 Million
BASIC BELIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monotheistic• Jews are the chosen people of God, must follow his laws• Jerusalem / Israel are holy land


CHRISTIANITY

SYMBOL	
WHO DISCOVERED RELIGION?	Abraham, Jesus
WHEN	30 A.D.
WHERE	Israel
HOLY BOOK(S) / HOUSE OF WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Testament (Judaism), New Testament (Stories of Jesus)• Church
MAJOR DIVISION	Catholic, Protest, Orthodox
FOLLOWERS	Christians; 2 Billion
BASIC BELIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monotheistic• Jesus Christ is the son of God• Death and resurrection• Came to redeem mankind from sin• Ten Commandants

ISLAM

SYMBOL	
WHO DISCOVERED RELIGION?	Abraham, Mohammad
WHEN	620 A.D.
WHERE	Arabian Peninsula
HOLY BOOK(S) / HOUSE OF WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quran, Hadith• Mosque
MAJOR DIVISION	Sunni, Shia
FOLLOWERS	Muslims, 1.3 Billion
BASIC BELIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monotheistic• There is no god but Allah, and Muhammad is the messenger of God• Five Pillars of Islam

HINDUISM


SYMBOL	
WHO DISCOVERED RELIGION?	Ancient priests of India
WHEN	5,000-3,000 B.C.
WHERE	India
HOLY BOOK(S) / HOUSE OF WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vedas• Temple
MAJOR DIVISION	Numerous schools and traditions
FOLLOWERS	Hindus, 900 Million
BASIC BELIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polytheistic• <u>Reincarnation</u> (rebirth)• <u>Karma</u>-a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences• Ultimate Goal-oneness with “Brahman” (God, Reality)

BUDDHISM



SYMBOL	
WHO DISCOVERED RELIGION?	Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)
WHEN	500 B.C.
WHERE	Northern India
HOLY BOOK(S)/ HOUSE OF WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tripitaka• Monastery
MAJOR DIVISION	Mahayana, Theravada
FOLLOWERS	Buddhist, 360 Million
BASIC BELIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polytheistic• Life is suffering, caused by wanting things, caused by ignorance• Reincarnation and Karma• <u>Dharma</u>- is the path of righteousness and living one's life according to the codes of conduct• 8-Fold Path allows escape to <u>Nirvana</u> -state in which there is neither suffering, desire, nor sense of self, and the subject is released from the effects of karma and the cycle of death and rebirth. It represents the final goal of Buddhism

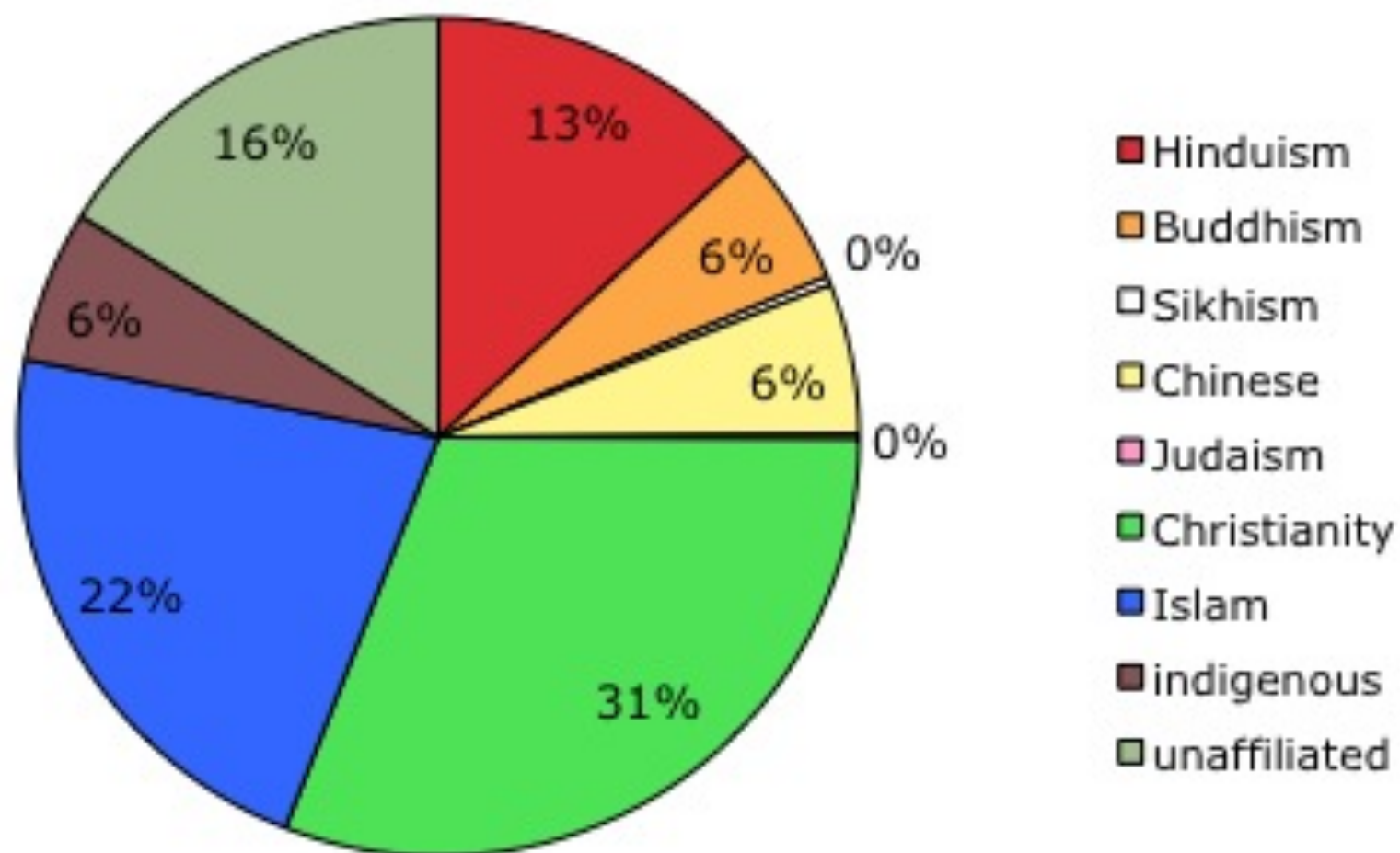
SIKHISM

SYMBOL	
WHO DISCOVERED RELIGION?	Guru Nanak
WHEN	1500 A.D.
WHERE	India, Pakistan
HOLY BOOK(S) / HOUSE OF WORSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adi Granth• Temple
FOLLOWERS	Sikhs; 23 Million
BASIC BELIEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monotheistic• Mixture of Islam and Hinduism• Believe in Reincarnation and Karma• Kesh - uncut hair and beard, as given by God, to sustain him or her in higher consciousness; and a turban, the crown of spirituality.• Kangha - a wooden comb to properly groom the hair as a symbol of cleanliness.• Katchera - specially made cotton underwear as a reminder of the commitment to purity.• Kara - a steel circle, worn on the wrist, signifying bondage to Truth and freedom from every other entanglement.• Kirpan - the sword, with which the Khalsa is committed to righteously defend the fine line of the Truth.

ANIMISM

- Retained tribal ethnic religion of people around the world
- Today adherents number at least 100 million
- Animists believe certain inanimate objects possess spirits or souls
 - Spirits live in rocks, rivers, mountain peaks, and heavenly bodies of water
 - Each tribe has its own unique characteristics
- Mostly found in Sub-Saharan Africa





World Religions

