

Christianity

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. The life and death of Jesus of Nazareth inspired a new religion called Christianity.
2. Christians believe that Jesus's acts and teachings focused on love and salvation.
3. Jesus's followers taught others about Jesus's life and teachings.
4. Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire by 400.

Key Terms and Places

Messiah a great leader the ancient Jews predicted would come to restore the greatness of Israel

Christianity a religion based on Jesus's life and teachings

Bible the holy book of Christianity

Bethlehem a small town where Jesus was born

Resurrection Jesus's rise from the dead

disciples followers

saint a person known and admired for his or her holiness

Section Summary

JESUS OF NAZARETH

Many people thought Jesus was the **Messiah**, a leader who would bring back Israel's greatness. The life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth are the basis of a religion called **Christianity**. Stories about Jesus's life are in the **Bible**, the holy book of Christianity.

Jesus was born in the town of **Bethlehem** and spent much of his life in Nazareth. Jesus had many followers. But his teachings challenged the authority of Roman leaders. According to the Bible, they tried and executed Jesus around AD 30. Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead. They refer to this as the **Resurrection**. They believe that Jesus next appeared to his **disciples**, or followers. He gave them instructions about how to pass on his teachings. Then he rose up to heaven.

Why was Jesus tried and executed?

What do Christians believe happened after Jesus died?

Section 2, *continued*

JESUS'S ACTS AND TEACHINGS

According to the Bible, Jesus performed miracles. He told many parables, stories that taught lessons about how people should live. Jesus taught people to love God and love other people. Jesus also taught about salvation, or the rescue of people from sin.

Since Jesus's death, people have interpreted his teachings in different ways. As a result, different denominations, or groups, of Christianity have developed.

Underline two of Jesus's major teachings.

JESUS'S FOLLOWERS

After Jesus's death, his followers continued to spread his teachings. The disciples Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote the Gospels, which are found in the New Testament of the Bible. Paul spread Jesus's teachings throughout the Mediterranean. After his death, Paul was named a **saint**. A saint is a person known and admired for his or her holiness.

Why do you think Paul was named a saint?

THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

Christianity spread quickly. Roman leaders arrested and killed some Christians who refused to worship the gods of Rome. Some emperors banned Christianity. Christians often had to worship in secret. Local leaders called bishops led each community. The bishop of Rome, or the pope, came to be viewed as the head of the Christian Church.

Christianity continued to spread throughout Rome. Then the Roman emperor Constantine converted to Christianity. He lifted the bans against the practice of the religion. Christianity eventually spread from Rome all around the world.

Circle the name of the emperor who converted to Christianity.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Understanding Cause and Effect Write a letter to Paul explaining the long-term effects of his ministry.

Judaism

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Hebrews' early history began in Canaan and ended when the Romans forced them out of Israel.
2. Jewish beliefs in God, justice, and law anchor their society.
3. Jewish sacred texts describe the laws and principles of Judaism.
4. Traditions and holy days celebrate the history and religion of the Jewish people.

Key Terms and Places

Judaism the Hebrews' religion

Canaan where Abraham settled on the Mediterranean Sea

Exodus a journey of the Hebrews out of Egypt, led by Moses

monotheism the belief in one and only one god

Torah the most sacred text of Judaism

rabbis religious teachers of Judaism

Section Summary

EARLY HISTORY

The Hebrews appeared in Southwest Asia sometime between 2000 and 1500 BC. Their religion was **Judaism**. According to the Bible, the Hebrews are descended from Abraham. The Bible says that God told Abraham to lead his family to **Canaan** on the Mediterranean Sea. Later, some Hebrews moved from Canaan to Egypt.

The Hebrews were enslaved in Egypt. A leader named Moses helped the Hebrews get their freedom. He then led them on a journey out of Egypt called the **Exodus**. The Bible says that God gave Moses two stone tablets on a mountain called Sinai. A code of moral laws called the Ten Commandments was written on the tablets.

The Hebrews reached Canaan, or Israel. Israel eventually split into two kingdoms—Israel and Judah. The people of Judah became known as Jews. Invaders conquered Israel and Judah and sent the Jews out of Jerusalem as slaves. When the invaders

Circle the name of the man who the Bible says is the ancestor of the Hebrews.

Section 1, *continued*

were conquered, some Jews returned home. Some moved to other places. This scattering of Jews outside of Israel is called the Diaspora.

What is the Diaspora?

JEWISH BELIEFS

Jews share several central beliefs. One of these is **monotheism**. Jews believe that there is one and only one God. Ideas of justice and righteousness are also important. Finally, the Jews believe in following religious and moral laws. These include those found in the Ten Commandments.

Underline the definition of monotheism.

JEWISH TEXTS

Judaism has several sacred texts. These contain the religion's basic laws and principles. The **Torah**, the first part of the Hebrew Bible, is the most sacred text. The Talmud is a set of laws, commentaries, stories and folklore. Jewish **rabbis**, or religious teachers, have studied these texts for centuries.

TRADITIONS AND HOLY DAYS

There are several Jewish traditions and holy days. Hanukkah and Passover are celebrations of historical events. The two most sacred Jewish holidays are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Rosh Hashanah celebrates the start of the new year. On Yom Kippur, Jews ask God to forgive their sins. This is the holiest day of the year for the Jews.

How is Jewish tradition preserved?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Conclusions Imagine you are a tour guide in a museum of Jewish history. Which part of the museum do you think that tourists might enjoy the most? Write a brief recommendation.

History of the Islamic World

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. Arabia is a mostly a desert land, where two ways of life, nomadic and sedentary, developed.
2. A new religion called Islam, founded by the prophet Muhammad, spread throughout Arabia in the 600s.

Key Terms and Places

Mecca birthplace of Muhammad

Islam religion based on messages Muhammad received from God

Muslim a person who follows Islam

Qur'an the holy book of Islam

Medina city that Muhammad and his followers moved to from Mecca in 622

mosque a building for Muslim prayer

Section Summary

LIFE IN A DESERT LAND

Arabia, in the southwest corner of Asia, is the crossroads for Africa, Europe, and Asia. Arabia is a mostly hot and dry desert of scorching temperatures and little water. Water is scarce and exists mainly in oases, or wet, fertile areas in the desert. Oases are key stops along Arabia's trade routes.

People developed two ways to live in the desert. Nomads moved from place to place. Nomads lived in tents and raised goats, sheep, and camels. They traveled with their herds to find food and water for their animals. They traveled in tribes, or groups of people. Tribe membership provided protection from danger and reduced competition for grazing lands.

Others led a settled life. Towns sprang up in oases along the trade routes. Merchants and craftspeople traded with groups of traders who traveled together in caravans. Most towns had a market or bazaar. Both nomads and caravans used these centers of trade.

Arabia was the trading crossroads for what three continents?

Why would a nomad prefer to travel in a tribe?

Section 1, *continued*

A NEW RELIGION

A man named Muhammad brought a new religion to Arabia. Much of what we know about him comes from religious writings. Muhammad was born in the city of **Mecca** around 570. As a child, he traveled with his uncle's caravans. As an adult, Muhammad managed a caravan business.

Muhammad was upset that rich people did not help the poor. He often went to a cave to meditate on this problem. According to Islamic belief, when Muhammad was 40, an angel spoke to him. These messages form the basis of a religion called **Islam**. A follower of Islam is called a **Muslim**. The messages were written in the **Qur'an** (kuh-RAN), the holy book of Islam.

Muhammad taught that there was only one God, Allah. The belief in one god was a new idea for many Arabs. Before this time, Arabs prayed to many gods at shrines. The most important shrine was in Mecca. Many people traveled to Mecca every year on a pilgrimage. Muhammad also taught that the rich should give money to the poor. But rich merchants in Mecca rejected this idea.

Slowly, Muhammad's message began to influence people. The rulers in Mecca felt threatened by him. Muhammad left and went to **Medina**. His house there became the first **mosque**, or building for Muslim prayer. After years of conflict, the people of Mecca finally gave in and accepted Islam.

Circle the name of Islam's prophet and founder.

Where did Muhammad first hear from an angel of God?

Why do you think the rich merchants disliked being told they should give money to the poor?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences If you lived in Arabia, would you choose a nomadic or more settled, sedentary life? Write a one-page description of what your life would be like.

History of the Islamic World

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. The Qur'an guides Muslims' lives.
2. The Sunnah tells Muslims of important duties expected of them.
3. Islamic law is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Key Terms

jihad literally means “to make an effort” or “to struggle”

Sunnah a collection of actions or sayings by Muhammad

Five Pillars of Islam the five acts of worship required of all Muslims

Section Summary

THE QUR'AN

After Muhammad died, his followers wrote down all of the messages he received from Allah. This collection of teachings became known as the Qur'an. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the exact word of God as it was told to Muhammad. Like the Jewish and Christian bibles, the Qur'an says there is one God (Allah). Islam teaches that there is a definite beginning and end to the world. On that final day, Muslims believe, God will judge all people. Those who have obeyed God's orders will be granted life in paradise. Those who have not obeyed God will be punished.

Muslims believe that God wishes them to follow many rules in order to be judged a good person. These rules affect the everyday life of Muslims. In the early days of Islam, these rules led to great changes in Arabian society. For example, owning slaves was forbidden.

Jihad (ji-HAHD) is an important Islamic concept. Literally, jihad means “to make an effort” or “to struggle.” It refers to the internal struggle of a Muslim trying to follow Islamic beliefs. It can also mean the struggle to defend the Muslim community

Circle the name of Islam's most important holy book.

How do you think “jihad” came to mean “holy war?”

Section 2, *continued*

or convert people to Islam. The word has also been translated as “holy war.”

THE SUNNAH

Another important holy book in Islam is the **Sunnah** (sooH-nuh), a collection of Muhammad’s words and actions. The Sunnah spells out the main duties for Muslims. These are known as the **Five Pillars of Islam**. The first pillar is a statement of faith. The second pillar says a Muslim must pray five times daily. The third pillar is a yearly donation to charity. The fourth pillar is fasting during the holy month of Ramadan (rah-muh-dahn). The fifth pillar is the hajj (hajj), a pilgrimage to Mecca. The hajj must be made at least once in a lifetime.

The Sunnah also preaches moral duties that must be met in daily life, in business, and in government. For example, it is considered immoral to owe someone money or to disobey a leader.

Do Muslims believe that the Sunnah is the direct word of God?

What is the third pillar of Islam?

ISLAMIC LAW

The Qur’an and the Sunnah form the basis of Islamic law, or Shariah (shuh-ree-uh). Shariah lists rewards or punishments for obeying or disobeying laws. Shariah punishments can be severe. Shariah makes no distinction between religious and secular life. Most Islamic countries today blend Islamic law with a legal system much like that in the United States.

Is Shariah the only law used in Islamic countries?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Write a brief essay evaluating the differences and similarities between the two earlier religions of Judaism and Christianity with Islam. Focus not only on beliefs but also on practices and what social conditions might have influenced these practices in all the religions.

History of Buddhism

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Siddhartha Gautama searched for wisdom in many ways.
2. The teachings of Buddhism deal with finding peace.
3. Buddhism spread far from where it began in India.

Key Terms

fasting going without food

meditation the focusing of the mind on spiritual ideas

nirvana a state of perfect peace

missionaries people who work to spread their religious beliefs

Section Summary

SIDDHARTHA'S SEARCH FOR WISDOM

Not everyone in India accepted Hinduism. In the late 500s BC, a major new religion began to develop from questions posed by a young prince named Siddhartha Gautama (si-DAHR-tuh GAU-tuh-muh). Siddhartha was born to a wealthy family and led a life of comfort, but he wondered at the pain and suffering he saw all around him. By the age of 30, Siddhartha left his home and family to look for answers about the meaning of life. He talked to many priests and wise men, but he was not satisfied with their answers.

Siddhartha did not give up. He wandered for years through the forests trying to free himself from daily concerns by **fasting** and **meditating**. After six years, Siddhartha sat down under a tree and meditated for seven weeks. He came up with an answer to what causes human suffering. Suffering is caused by wanting what one does not have, wanting to keep what one likes and already has, and not wanting what one dislikes but has. He began to travel and teach his ideas, and was soon called the Buddha, or "Enlightened One." From his teachings sprang the religion Buddhism.

Why did Siddhartha leave his life of luxury?

Can you think of a form of human suffering not covered by one of Siddhartha's three categories? If so, state briefly what it is.

Section 3, continued

TEACHINGS OF BUDDHISM

Buddhism is based upon the Four Noble Truths. These truths are: Suffering and unhappiness are part of life; suffering stems from our desire for pleasure and material goods; people can overcome their desires and reach **nirvana**, a state of perfect peace, which ends the cycle of reincarnation; and people can follow an eightfold path to nirvana, overcoming desire and ignorance.

These teachings were similar to some Hindu concepts, but went against some traditional Hindu ideas. Buddhism questioned the need for animal sacrifice. It also challenged the authority of the Brahmins. The Buddha said that each individual could reach salvation on his or her own. Buddhism also opposed the caste system.

What is the name of the central teachings of Buddhism?

Buddhist texts often refer to "the compassionate Buddha." Why is this term appropriate?

BUDDHISM SPREADS

Buddhism spread quickly throughout India. With the help of Indian king Asoka, Buddhist **missionaries** were sent to other countries to teach their religious beliefs. Missionaries introduced Buddhism to Sri Lanka and other parts of Southeast Asia, as well as Central Asia and Persia. It eventually spread to China, Japan, and Korea. In modern times, Buddhism has become a major global religion.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Could you leave your family, home, and everything you know to preach what you believe to be a spiritual truth? You are preparing to follow the Buddha. Write a goodbye letter to your family explaining why you have chosen this life of sacrifice.

History of Hinduism

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. Indian society divided into distinct groups.
2. The Aryans formed a religion known as Brahmanism.
3. Hinduism developed out of Brahmanism and influences from other cultures.
4. The Jains reacted to Hinduism by breaking away.

Key Terms

caste system a division of Indian society into groups based on a person's birth, wealth, or occupation

reincarnation the belief that the soul, once a person dies, is reborn in a new body

karma the effects that good or bad actions have on a person's soul

nonviolence the avoidance of violent actions

Section Summary

INDIAN SOCIETY DIVIDES

Aryan society was divided into social classes. There were four main groups, called *varnas*. The Brahmins (BRAH-muhns) were priests and were the highest ranking varna. The Kshatriyas (KSHA-tree-uhs) were rulers or warriors. The Vaisyas (VYSH-yuhs) were commoners, including farmers, craftspeople, and traders. The Sudras (soo-drahs) were laborers and servants.

Eventually a more complex **caste system** developed, dividing Indian society into many groups based on birth, wealth, or occupation. Castes were family based. If you were born into a caste, you would probably stay in it for your whole life. Life for the lower castes was difficult, but those who had no caste, called untouchables, were ostracized.

Rank the main groups of the Aryan social classes in order of importance, with one (1) being highest and four (4) being the lowest:

Brahmins
Sudras
Kshatriyas
Vaisyas

In ancient India, why was it important to belong to some caste?

BRAHMANISM

Because Aryan priests were called Brahmins, the Aryan religion became known as Brahmanism. Brahmanism was perhaps the most important part

Section 2, *continued*

of ancient Indian life, as shown by the high status of the priest caste. The religion was based on the four Vedas, writings that contained ancient sacred hymns and poems. Over time, Aryan Brahmins and scholars wrote their thoughts about the Vedas. These thoughts were compiled into Vedic texts. The texts described rituals, such as how to perform sacrifices, and offered reflections from religious scholars.

HINDUISM DEVELOPS

Hinduism is India's largest religion today. It developed from Brahmanism and other influences. Hindus believe that there are many gods, but all gods are part of a universal spirit called Brahman. Hindus believe everyone has a soul, or *atman*, and the soul will eventually join Brahman. This happens when the soul recognizes that the world we live in is an illusion. Hindus believe this understanding takes several lifetimes, so **reincarnation**, or rebirth, is necessary. How you are reborn depends upon your **karma**, or the effects of good or bad actions on your soul. In the caste system, those who have good karma are born to higher castes. Those with bad karma are born into lower castes or maybe even an animal.

What is the Hindu name for the soul?

Think about why you believe that the real world actually exists. Do you think you can prove that it does?

JAINS REACT TO HINDUISM

The religion of Jainism developed in reaction to Hinduism. Jains believe in injuring no life, telling the truth, not stealing, and not owning property. Jains also practice **nonviolence**, or *ahimsa*. This emphasis on nonviolence comes from the belief that everything in nature is part of the cycle of rebirth.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Do *ahimsa*, reincarnation, or karma have relevance in our society today? Pick one of these terms and write a one-page essay on how it may or may not be important in your life.

History of Confucianism

Section 4



MAIN IDEAS

1. Confucianism, based on Confucius's teachings about proper behavior, dramatically influenced the Song system of government.
2. Scholar-officials ran China's government during the Song dynasty.

Key Terms

bureaucracy body of unelected government officials

civil service service as a government official

scholar-official an educated member of the government

Section Summary

CONFUCIANISM

Confucianism is the name given to the ideas of the Chinese philosopher Confucius. Confucius's teachings focused on ethics, or proper behavior, of individuals and governments. He argued that society would function best if everyone followed two principles, *ren* and *li*. *Ren* means concern for others, and *li* means appropriate behavior. Order in society is maintained when people know their place and behave appropriately.

For a thousand years after his death, Confucius's ideas went in and out of favor several times. Early in the Song dynasty, however, a new version of Confucianism, known as Neo-Confucianism, was adopted as official government policy. In addition to teaching proper behavior, Neo-Confucian scholars and officials discussed spiritual questions like what made human beings do bad things even if their basic nature was good.

Conduct some research to find the title usually given in English to a book containing Confucius's ideas. Write that title here.

Before the Song dynasty, what religious belief probably had a negative effect on the popularity of Confucianism in China?

Section 4, continued

SCHOLAR-OFFICIALS

The Song dynasty took another major step that would affect the Chinese imperial state for centuries to come. The Song improved the system by which people went to work for the government. These workers formed a large **bureaucracy** by passing a series of written **civil service** examinations.

The tests covered both the traditional teachings of Confucius and related ideas. Because the tests were extremely difficult, students spent years preparing for them. Candidates had a strong incentive for studying hard. Passing the tests meant life as a **scholar-official**, whose benefits included considerable respect and reduced penalties for breaking the law.

The civil service examination system helped ensure that talented, intelligent people became scholar-officials. This system was a major factor in the stability of the Song government.

Name a well-known government division today that has a large bureaucracy.

Draw a picture of what you think a Song scholar-official might look like.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Write a short essay on the relation between the Song dynasty development of civil service and the Confucian ideals of *ren* and *li*.