World Religions
Location of Religions around 1500
Location of Religions Today

The Religions of the World

The distribution of major religions of the world today
Who founded Hinduism?
Hinduism’s Founder is Unknown

- Founder Unknown
- Oldest Religion
Where was Hinduism located around 1500?
Hinduism was located in India around 1500.
Where is Hinduism located today?
Hinduism is still concentrated in India today.
What are some of Hinduism’s beliefs and customs?
Hindus...

- Bathe in the **Ganges River** for purification
- Believe the soul never dies
- Believe in **reincarnation**
- Believe in **Karma**
- Believe in doing virtuous acts, **dharma**, (adherence to duty)
- Believe in enlightenment - **Moksha**
Reincarnation
Karma

You Dump it... You Drink it!

Learn Your ABC...

Atomic  Biological  Chemical

What goes around comes around
The term **dharma** (Sanskrit: *dhárama*, Pāli *dhamma*), is an Indian spiritual and religious term, that means one's righteous duty or any virtuous path in the common sense of the term. A Hindu's dharma is affected by a person's age, class, occupation, and gender. In Indian languages it can be equivalent simply to *religion*, depending on context. The word *dharma* translates as *that which upholds or supports*, and is generally translated into English as *law*.

The various Indian religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, have all accorded a central focus to dharma and advocate its practice. Each of these religions emphasizes Dharma as the correct understanding of reality in its teachings.[2] In these traditions, beings that live in accordance with Dharma proceed more quickly toward *dharma yukam*, *moksha* or *nirvana* (personal liberation). The antonym of dharma is *adharma* meaning unnatural or immoral.

In traditional Hindu society, dharma has historically denoted a variety of ideas, such as Vedic ritual, ethical conduct, caste rules, and civil and criminal law. Its most common meaning however regarded two principal ideals; namely, that social life should be structured through well-defined and well-regulated classes (*varna*), and that an individual's life within a class should be organized into defined stages (*ashrama*, see *dharmsastra*.)

Dharma also refers to the teachings and doctrines of the founders of Buddhism and Jainism, the Buddha and Mahavira. In Buddhist philosophy, dhamma/dharma is also the term for "phenomenon".
What are three of Hinduism’s main deities (Gods)?
Hinduism’s – Deities

- **Brahma**
  - The Creator

- **Vishnu**
  - The Protector

- **Shiva**
  - The Destroyer of Evil
Is Hinduism monotheistic or polytheistic?
Hindus believe in many forms of one God. This has led to Hinduism being described as both monotheistic and polytheistic.
What are Hinduism’s sacred texts?
Two of Hinduism’s sacred texts are the Vedas and the Upanishads.

- The Vedas
- The Upanishads
What are some Hindu symbols?
Hinduism’s Symbols

- Aum
- Bindi
- Lotus
- Swastika
Om (also spelled Aum) is a Hindu sacred sound that is considered the greatest of all mantras.

The syllable Om is composed of the three sounds a-u-m (in Sanskrit, the vowels a and u combine to become o) and the symbol's threefold nature is central to its meaning. It represents several important triads:

- the three worlds - earth, atmosphere, and heaven
- the three major Hindu gods - Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva
- the three sacred Vedic scriptures - Rg, Yajur, and Sama

Thus Om mystically embodies the essence of the entire universe. This meaning is further deepened by the Indian philosophical belief that God first created sound and the universe arose from it. As the most sacred sound, Om is the root of the universe and everything that exists and it continues to hold everything together.
One of the most recognizable items in Hinduism is the **bindi**, a dot worn on women's foreheads. It is a form of the **tilak**, a symbolic mark worn by many Hindu men and women, but has less religious connotations than other tilaks.

Traditionally, the bindi is worn on the forehead of married Hindu women. It symbolizes female energy and is believed to protect women and their husbands. Bindis are traditionally a simple mark made with the paste of colored sandalwood, sindoor or turmeric. The bindi is most commonly a red dot made with vermillion.

In addition, the bindi is a way of accentuating the third eye, the area between the eyebrows where attention is focused during meditation. Men and women often apply a **tilak** after a **puja** ritual or on other religious occasions as a way of invoking religious feelings, concentration and focus. Sometimes a woman's bindi represents sectarian affiliation, like the men's tilak, but this is less common.

More recently, the bindi has become primarily a decorative accessory and is worn by unmarried girls and non-Hindu women. It is also no longer restricted in color or shape, and self-adhesive bindis made from felt in various designs and colors are common. Bindi styles often vary by the area of India in which they are worn.
In Hinduism, the **lotus** (Sanskrit: *padma*) primarily represents beauty and non-attachment. The lotus is rooted in the mud but floats on the water without becoming wet or muddy. This symbolizes how one should live in the world in order to gain release from rebirth: **without attachment** to one's surroundings.
The swastika is an ancient symbol that has been found worldwide, but it is especially common in India. Its name comes from the Sanskrit word *svasti* (*sv* = well; *asti* = is), meaning good fortune, luck and well-being.

The swastika is most commonly used as a charm to **bring good fortune** (in which case the arms are bent clockwise), but it has a variety of religious meanings as well.

The auspicious symbol of the swastika is **very commonly used** in Hindu art, architecture and decoration. It can be seen on temples, houses, doorways, clothing, cars, and even cakes. It is usually a major part of the decoration for festivals and special ceremonies like weddings.

The **Nazis** adopted the swastika because it was understood as an Aryan symbol indicating racial purity and superiority. (The Nazis propogated a historical theory in which the early Aryans of India were white invaders.) There may also be a connection with the swastika's magical connections, for Hitler and other Nazi leaders were keenly interested in the occult.
Who are the spiritual leaders in Hinduism?
Hinduism’s - Leadership

Spiritual Gurus/ Holy Men/ Spiritual Teacher
Who is the founder of Buddhism?
Siddhartha Gautama is Buddhism’s founder.
Where did Buddhism begin?
Buddhism began in India and then spread to other parts of Asia.
Which Indian ruler was instrumental in the spread of Buddhism?
Asoka (Ashoka) played a key role in spreading Buddhism all over Asia and to parts of Africa (Egypt) and Europe (Greece).

He built thousands of monasteries and sent out many missionaries including his own children.
What are some of Buddhism’s beliefs?
Buddhists believe in...

- The Four Noble Truths
- The Eightfold Path
- Enlightenment
- Karma
- Dharma
The Four Noble Truths

Suffering is universal
The origin of suffering is attachment
The cessation of suffering is attainable
Path to the cessation of suffering is detachment

www.maitthri.com
Online Buddhist Bookstore
The Eightfold Path
What are some of Buddhism’s sacred texts?
The Tripitaka (Pali Canon) and the Sutras are some of Buddhism’s sacred texts.
What are some Buddhist symbols?
Buddhism’s - Symbols

www.thebigview.com/buddhism/mudra.html
Who are the spiritual leaders in Buddhism?
Monks and Nuns are part of Buddhism’s Leadership.
Who founded Judaism?
Abraham is the founder of Judaism.

The 12 Sons (Tribes) of Israel:
- Gad
- Ashe
- Dinah
- Rueben
- Simeon
- Levi
- Judah
- Issachar
- Zebulan
- Joseph
- Benjamin
- Dan
- Naphtali
What is Judaism’s sacred text?
The Torah is Judaism’s sacred text.

• The **Torah** is the first five books of Tanach (known to Christians as the Old Testament): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. It is the written record and beliefs of the Hebrews.
Where was Judaism located around 1500?
The Jewish population was concentrated in the Middle East and Europe around 1500.
Where is Judaism located today?
Today the Jewish population is concentrated in Israel, Europe, and North America.
Where is Israel?
Israel is where the Jewish people trace their origins.
What are some Jewish symbols?
Judaism’s Symbols
Who is the founder of Christianity?
Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity.
What is Christianity’s sacred text?
The Holy Bible is Christianity’s sacred text.
What are some of the beliefs of Christianity?
Christians believe...

- that Jesus is the son of God
- in life after death in heaven or hell
- in the Old and New Testaments
Where was Christianity located around 1500?
Christianity was concentrated in Europe and the Middle East around 1500.
Where is Christianity located today?
Today Christianity is concentrated in Europe and North and South America.
What are some Christian symbols?
Christian Symbols
Who is the founder of Islam?
Muhammad is the founder of Islam.
Where did Islam begin?
Islam began on the Arabian Peninsula.
Where was Islam located around 1500?
Around 1500, Islam was concentrated in parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia.
Where is Islam located today?
Islam is concentrated in parts of Asia, Africa, and southern Europe.
What is Islam’s sacred text?
The Qur'an (Koran) is Islam’s sacred text.
What are some of Islam’s beliefs?
Muslims believe...

• that there is only one God
• that Muhammad was the final prophet
• in the Five Pillars
  – Profession of Faith
  – Prayer 5 Times a Day
  – Giving of Alms (charity)
  – Fasting during Ramadan
  – Pilgrimage to Mecca
The Five Pillars of Islam:

1. Shahadah (Testimony of Faith)
2. Salah (Prayer)
3. Zakah (Almsgiving)
4. Sawm (Fasting)
5. Hajj (Pilgrimage to Mecca)
Mecca and Medina are two important cities to Muslims.
The Kaaba
What are some of Islam’s symbols?
Muslim Symbols

The color green

Rub el Hizb: Five Pointed Star

Allah in Arabic

Shahada: Profession of Faith