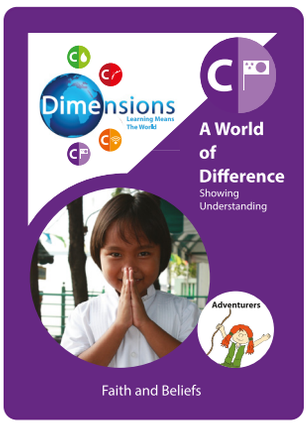
Adventurers - A World of Difference



Buddhism

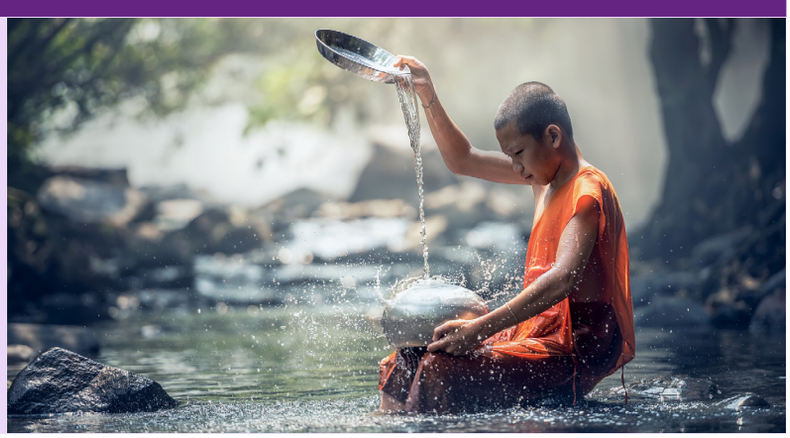
"A World of Difference" is a thematic unit based around world religions. It looks at the following faiths:- Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism, examining aspects such as places of worship, holy books, core beliefs and important festivals.

Key Facts and Figures

Buddhism developed out of Hinduism. It was started in Nepal 2,500 years ago by Gautama Buddha.

Key Places

Buddhist temples have been built to represent the five elements: fire, air, earth, water, wisdom.
There are different types of temples, but Buddhists do not have to go to the temple to worship.
Many Buddhists have a shrine in their house, with incense, candles and a statue of Buddha.
Buddhist nuns and monks live in monasteries.



Key Book

The Buddhist holy book is the Tripitaka – a huge volume, which is a collection of Buddha's sayings. It is written in Pali (very similar to the language Buddha spoke).

Key Festivals

Wesak (Buddha Day) is the celebration of Buddha's birth, death and enlightenment. It is celebrated on the first full moon in May.

Key Beliefs

Buddhists want to get rid of suffering and there are five moral principles which they try to live by:-

1. Do not hurt or kill
2. Do not steal
3. Be faithful in relationships
4. Do not lie
5. Do not take drugs or drink alcohol

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Vocabulary

Buddha	an Indian prince who lived a life of luxury but wanted to understand why there was so much suffering in the world
Buddhist	someone who follows the teachings of Buddha
Enlightenment	when you understand something
Meditation	to be still and calm and focus your mind on a particular thought or object
Monastery	a building where a community of monks live together
Moral	related to right and wrong behaviour
Reincarnation	to be reborn after death
Shrine	a place for worship that is holy
Temple	a building for religious practice
Tripitaka	Buddhist holy book
Wesak	the most important Buddhist festival

Concept Flow

- To know the origins of the Buddhist faith
- To learn how and where Buddhists worship
- To know about the Buddhist holy book
- To learn about important Buddhist festivals
- To understand Buddhist core beliefs

My Notes / Questions

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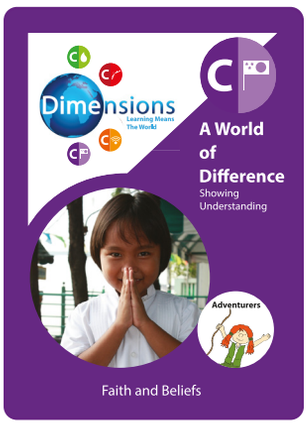

Christianity

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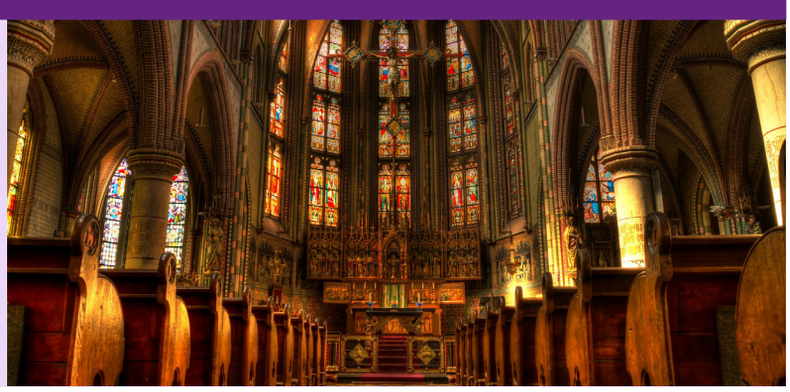
Key Facts and Figures

Christianity is the largest religion in the world, with over 2 billion followers. It focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, whom Christians believe to be the Son of God.
Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the Middle East over 2,000 years ago.

Key Places

Most Christians worship in churches. These can be big old buildings, people's homes, even schools and cinemas! 'Church' also means a gathering of Christians.
Christians sing, pray, read and learn about the Bible at church.



Key Book

The Christian holy book is the Bible. It is made up of 66 smaller books and split into two parts:-
The Old Testament is the Jewish scriptures, written before Jesus' birth.
The New Testament is about Jesus' life and explains that God sent his son to mend the broken relationship between people and God.

Key Festivals

Christmas (in December) is the celebration of Jesus' birth.
Easter is the celebration of Jesus dying and coming back to life and is always celebrated in the spring.

Key Beliefs

Christians believe that there is only one God but that this one God consists of three "persons" - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
They believe that God made the world and sent his Son into the world to mend the broken relationship between people and God, which had been caused by human wrong-doing. Christians believe that they now have the Holy Spirit as God's presence on earth.
Christians believe that Jesus was the Messiah, as promised in the Old Testament.

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Vocabulary

Bible	the book of sacred writings accepted, by Christians, as coming from God
Christian	a person that has faith in Jesus Christ and believes in the teachings in the Bible
Church	an organised body of believers that meet together to worship, also the name for the building they worship in
Christmas	celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ
Crucifixion	the death of death of Jesus on a cross
Easter	celebration of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection
God	the creator and ruler of the universe
Jesus	the son of God
Resurrection	Jesus Christ was raised from the dead three days after his death
Parables	a simple story told to teach a lesson
Worship	a deep respect and love for God

Concept Flow

- To know the origins of the Christian faith
- To learn how and where Christians worship
- To know about the Christian holy book
- To learn about important Christian festivals
- To understand Christian core beliefs

My Notes / Questions

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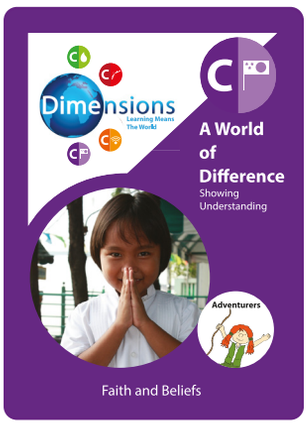

Hinduism

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Key Facts and Figures

Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world. More than 80% of people in India are Hindus. The Hindu religion started in India over 4,000 years ago.

Key Places

Hindus worship at their household shrine every day.
Once a week, Hindus meet at the Mandhir (temple). The temples are dedicated to different gods.

Key Book

The Hindu holy books are the Vedas. They are one of the oldest texts in the world and are written in the ancient language of Sanskrit. The Vedas have stories, songs, poems and instructions all about how to live.

Key Festivals

The most important festival is Diwali, the Festival of light, the Hindu New Year. It lasts for five days. Hindus fill their homes with lights and have fireworks and feasts.

Key Beliefs and Gods

For Hindus, what you do is more important than what you believe.
Hindus have millions of deities, but they believe in one supreme god - Brahman.
Hindus also believe in reincarnation.

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Vocabulary

Aum	the main symbol of Hinduism
Brahman	Hindu supreme god who can be found in everything
Diwali	the Hindu festival of light, marking the Hindu new year
Hindu	a person who believes in Hinduism and follows its teachings
Karma	good or back luck, depending on a person's actions
Lotus	an anciet symbol used an example of beauty and purity
Mandir	the building where Hindus go to worship
Reincarnation	when a person's soul returns after death to live in a new body
Shrine	a place set up for worship to their gods

Concept Flow

- To know the origins of the Hindu faith
- To learn how and where Hindus worship
- To know about the Hindu holy book
- To learn about important Hindu festivals
- To understand Hindu core beliefs

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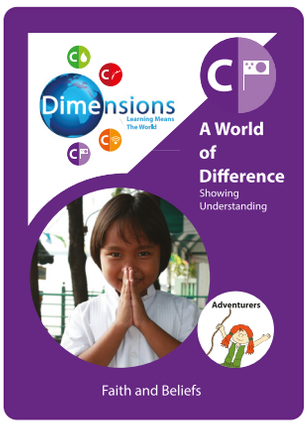

Islam

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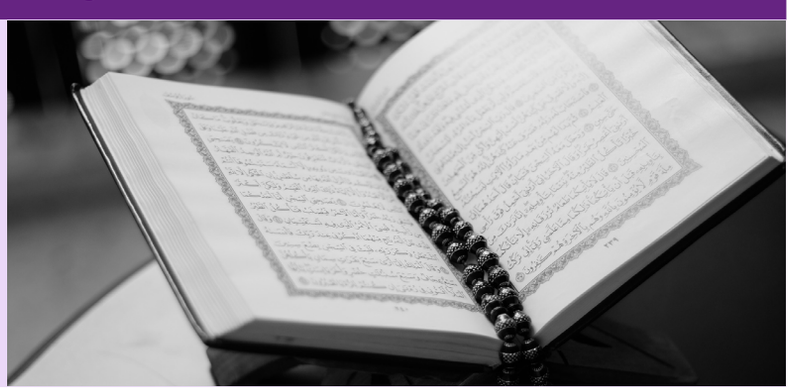
Key Facts and Figures

Islam began in Mecca and Medina at the beginning of the 7th century and was founded by the Prophet Muhammad.
It is the second largest religion in the world, with 1.6 billion followers.

Key Places

Muslims meet to worship together at the mosque. They take off their shoes and face Mecca to pray.
There is a call to prayer five times a day from the mosque. The first of the five calls to prayer happens just before sunrise (usually around 5am) and the last between sunset and midnight (usually after 9pm).



Key Book

The Muslim holy book is called the Qu'ran. The text was revealed in stages to the Prophet Muhammad over 23 years, written in Arabic poetry and, when it is being recited aloud, Muslims must act respectfully. They should not speak, eat, drink or make any distracting noise.

Key Festivals

Ramadan is a very important festival for Muslims, and is known as "the month of mercy". During daylight, Muslims fast (do not eat or drink anything), to help them to focus on self-discipline and remembering the poor. At the end of Ramadan, there is a huge celebration feast, called Eid.

Key Beliefs

All Muslims try to carry out the five "pillars" of Islam:
1. Declaring their faith (Shahada)
2. Praying five times a day (Salat)
3. Giving money to charity (Zakah)
4. Fasting (Sawm)
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj)

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Vocabulary

Allah	a muslim name for God
Eid	the festival to celebrate the end of Ramadan and breaking the fast
Hajj	a pilgrimage to Mecca that muslims are expected to make atleast once in their lifetime
Mecca	a holy city in Saudi Arabia where muslims face to pray five times a day
Mosque	the building where muslims go to worship
Muhammad	the final prophet of Allah, responsible for starting the faith of Islam
Muslim	a person who follows the religion of Islam
Pilgrimage	a journey to a holy place
Prophet	a person who speaks for God on earth
Qur'an	the muslim's holy book written in arabic
Ramadan	a time when muslims dedicate themsleves to prayer and eat no food and drink no water during daylight hours

Concept Flow

- To know the origins of the Muslim faith
- To learn how and where Muslims worship
- To know about the Muslim holy book
- To learn about important Muslim festivals
- To understand Muslim core beliefs

My Notes / Questions

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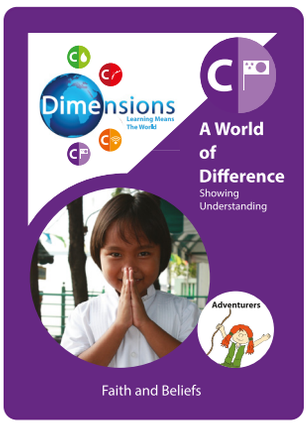

Judaism

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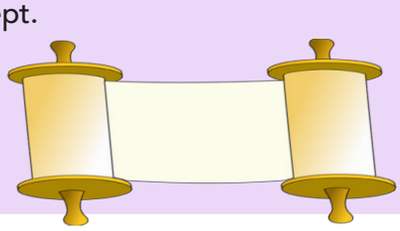
Key Facts and Figures

Judaism is the oldest religion in the world, but with the smallest number of followers, estimated to be somewhere in the region of 14 to 17 million.
It started in the Middle East with a covenant made between God and Abraham about 4,000 years

Key Places

Jews worship God at a synagogue. Men and women sit separately. The most important part of the synagogue is the Ark, where the Jewish holy book is kept.



Key Book

The most important part of the Jewish holy book is called the Torah. This is made up of the five books written by Moses (the first five books of the Old Testament). It is written in Hebrew and Jews believe it was given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai.
The Torah is so precious that it is never directly touched. It is kept wrapped up and a pointer is used to follow the text when reading it. Over the year, the whole scroll is read at the synagogue.

Key Festivals

Pesach (Passover) is a very important festival for Jewish people. It is when they remember God rescuing them from slavery in Egypt. It lasts for seven or eight days and families celebrate with a special, symbolic meal.
Other key festivals include **Hanukkah**, known as the Festival of Lights and **Sukkot**, which commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land.

Key Beliefs

Jews believe that there is only one God. They have a special agreement or covenant with God. In exchange for all the good that God has done for them, Jewish people keep God's laws and try to bring holiness into every aspect of their lives.

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Vocabulary

Abraham	the father of the Jewish religion
Bar-mitzvah	a ceremony to mark a Jewish child becoming an adult
Hanukkah	the Jewish festival of light
Moses	the most important prophet
Passover	a special meal eaten to remember how God brought the Jews out of Egypt
Rabbi	a teacher of the Jewish faith
Shabbat	a weekly day of rest to make time for God and family
Star of David	a six pointed star, a Jewish symbol
Synagogue	the building where jews go to worship God
Torah	the Jewish holy book
Yom Kippur	the most important Jewish festival, a day of fasting and praying

Concept Flow

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- To learn how and where Jews worship
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