|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Judaism** | **Christianity** | | **Islam** | |
| Where is it found? | Jerusalem, Israel  5th largest, 12.5 million | Every world continent  Largest in world, 2.2 billion | | Middle East, N. Africa, Asia  2nd largest, 1.6 billion | |
| Who is the Founder? | Abraham: began belief in 1 God  Moses: laws, Egypt | Jesus of Nazareth  Jewish prophet whose teaching created New Test. | | Muhammad  Arabic prophet whose teachings created Quran | |
| When did it start? | 3,500 years ago | 2,000 years ago | | 1,400 years ago | |
| What are their holy books? | Torah: old testament of Bible | Holy Bible | | Quran  Also believe in Torah and Bible but think Quran is newest message from God | |
| What are their places of worship called? | Synagogue  Call God YAHWEH | Church  Call God GOD | | Mosque  Call God Allah | |
| What are their religious leaders called? | Rabbis | Priest, Pastor, Minister, Father, etc (depends on which denomination) | | Imam (Arabic for leader) | |
| What are some of their important holidays? | Hannukah: 8 day celebration with gifts and candles  Passover: celebrate Moses leading Hebrew slaves out of Egypt | Christmas: celebrate Jesus’ birth  Easter: celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from death | | Ramadan: a holy month in Islam where Muslims do not eat or drink during the day time, pray longer and more often, and study the Quran to work on their spiritual selves. | |
| What are some of their beliefs and practices? | Monotheism: belief in 1 god  (first monotheist religion)  10 commandments  613 Mosaic Laws-laws of Moses, some Jews follow all these laws  Do not believe Jesus was Messiah | Monotheism (same God as the Jews)  Jesus is Son of God and people get salvation (saved) through Him  Heaven and hell  Forgiveness from God and towards other people  Treat others well  Go to Church, pray, and study the bible | | Monotheism (same God as Jews and Christians)  Believe in God’s Word (books), Heaven and Hell, and God’s prophets  Believe Muhammad is last prophet of God  Practices: pray 5 times a day, give $ to poor, pilgrimage (visit) holy city of Mecca, and Fasting (not eating) during holy month of Ramadan | |
|  | **Buddhism** | | **Hinduism** | |
| Where is it found? | Southeast Asia  4th largest, 400 million | | India  3rd largest, 1 billion | |
| Who is the Founder? | Siddhartha Gutama  The Buddha | | No single founder | |
| When did it start? | 2,500 years ago | | 4,000 years ago | |
| What are their holy books? | Tipitaka:  The teachings of the Buddha | | Vedas and Upanishads | |
| What are their places of worship called? | Pagodas and Stupas (temple styles)  Do not worship a God but think Buddha is special | | Mandirs (temples)  Worship many Gods and Goddess | |
| What are their religious leaders called? | Monks | | Pujari | |
| What are some of their important holidays? | Vesak: Buddha’s birthday  Songkran: Spring Festival | | Holi- spring festival; lite bonfires, colored powder  Diwali-New Years Festival (5 day) | |
| What are some of their beliefs and practices? | * Don’t worship a god * Believe in karma and reincarnation * Think all life is suffering * Follow eightfold path regarding good thoughts and behaviors   Meditation: relaxing the mind  Nonviolence: do not harm any living thing  Vegetarian: do not eat meat | | Reincarnation-reborn when you die based on your karma  Karma- Your actions in life affect you in this life and the next  Puja is worship (prayer, hymns, offerings)  Yoga- combination of breathing, stretching, and meditation (thought) exercises to stay spiritually healthy | |