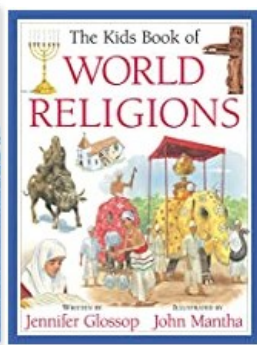
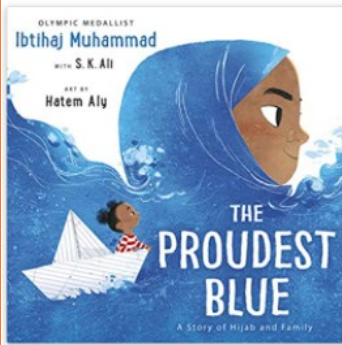


Theme Overview

“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.

Recommended Reading...



Access books online for free through Hampshire School Library Service. Ask your child's teacher for their barcode/login information.

What we should know...

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.

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

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.

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.

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 BOOK

The Hindu holy books are the Vedas.
The Christian holy book is the Bible.
The Buddhist holy book is the Tripitaka.
The Muslim holy book is called the Qu'ran.
The most important part of the Jewish holy book is called the Torah.

KEY PLACES

Jews worship God in a synagogue.
Muslims meet to worship together at a mosque.
Buddhist temples have been built to represent the five elements; fire, air, earth, water, wisdom.
Most Christians worship in churches.
Hindus worship at their household shrine everyday. Once a week, Hindus meet at the Mandhir.

Key Festivals

The most important festival is Diwali, the festival of light, the Hindu New Year.
Christians celebrate Christmas, which is the celebration of Jesus' birth.
Wesak is the celebration of Buddha's birth, death and enlightenment.
Ramadan is a very important festival for Muslims.
Pesach (Passover) is a very important festival for Jewish people.



Key Beliefs—a summary

Jews believe that there is only one God.

All Muslims try to carry out the five 'pillars' of Islam.

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

Christians believe that there is only one God but that this God consists of three 'persons' - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

For Hindus, what you do is more important than what you believe.

Key Vocabulary you should discuss with your child

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 bad luck, depending on a person's actions

Christian—a person that has faith in Jesus Christ and believes in the teachings in the Bible

Resurrection—Jesus Christ was raised from the dead three days after his death

Worship—a deep respect and love for God

Buddha—an Indian prince who lived a life of luxury but wanted to understand why there was so much suffering in the World

Enlightenment—when you understand something

Meditation—to be still and calm and focus your mind on a particular thought or object

Allah—the Muslim name for God

Mecca—a holy city in Saudi Arabia where Muslims face to pray five times a day

Prophet—a person who speaks for God on earth

Bar-mitzvah—a ceremony to mark a Jewish child becoming an adult

Hanukkah—the Jewish festival of light

Passover—a special meal eaten to remember how God brought the Jews out of Egypt

Concept Flow

- To know the origins of five different faiths
- To learn how and where these faiths worship
- To know about their holy books
- To learn about important festivals
- To understand the core beliefs of the five different religions

Please talk to your children about the information on this sheet. The more children discuss their learning the more likely they are to embed the learning to their memory. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.