

World Religions Webquest

WebQuest Description: Students explain the origins beliefs and spread of the major world religions.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Social Studies

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Introduction

This morning when I arrived at school I noticed that someone had turned on the lights in our classroom. I was very confused as to how this could have happened, so I slowly crept inside the door. Much to my surprise I was not alone. 3 strange looking creatures were sitting on my desk! I screamed, and they hid under the desk. Apparently I can be scary looking in the morning too! After a few seconds, one brave alien stuck one eye out from behind the desk. Then all of the aliens made themselves visible and greeted me by saying: "Hello lady earthling. We are here on a quest. Recently our super alien technology has allowed us to pick up signals from this thing you call the "History Channel". One night we were watching this "History Channel" and they talked about a thing called "religion". We do not have that on planet Purpalurpagus. Can you please explain the different religions to us. We want to choose the best one, but cannot do that without knowing about each one. Can you help us? I knew you would not let us down! Click on the "Task" page to see what to do next.

Tasks

We have to help these aliens. They are really interested in 6 of our world religions. In your groups, research your religion by clicking on the websites to answer the questions given to you at the beginning of class. After all questions have been answered, create a poster, brochure, commercial to teach the aliens about your assigned religion. Be sure your poster answers the following questions:1.) What is the religion's origin? (Who, when, where and why)2.) How did the religion spread and to what places?3.) Where do most followers of this religion live?4.) What are the basic practices/beliefs of this religion include the holy text?5.) What special Holidays do followers of this religion observe?

Process

Go to the websites to answer the questions for your group's assigned religion.

Buddhism Website 1: Click on Buddhism Website 1 to answer.1. Who was the founder of Buddhism? 2. When did the founder of Buddhism live?3. What happened when the founder of Buddhism went "in Search of Understanding"?4. What are the 4 noble truths of Buddha's teaching?5. What is Karma?6. Explain the Buddhist cycle of rebirth.

Website 2: Click on Buddhism Website 2 to answer.1. To where do Buddhists travel on a pilgrimage?2. Where are the Buddha's words written down?3. How far east did Buddhism spread? Why did it spread?4. Who is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism?5. What are two types of Buddhist temples?

Christianity Website 1: Click on Christianity Website 1 to answer.Christianity at a Glance﻿1. Explain who Jesus was and what he means to Christianity.2. What are the 3 elements of God that Christians believe in?3. Where do Christians primarily worship and what is their holy text?History: The Disciples4. Who were the Disciples and why were they important to the ministry of Jesus?﻿Subdivisions﻿5. Name 3 subdivisions of Christianity?Website 2: Click on Christianity Website 2 to answer.1. Which event commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert?2. What are celebrations centered around?3. How was the Christian Church created?4. What was the central message and style of Jesus' teaching?5. How did Christianity begin?

Islam Website 1: Click on Islam Website 1 to answer.Festivals and Celebrations/Sacred Spaces​​1. What is the hajj?2. How many times a day do most Muslims pray?3. What is a mosque? Describe the common features.4. What do followers of Islam abstain from making images of Muhammad or Allah?5. Describe Islamic Art.Basic Beliefs1. Who is Allah? Who is Muhammad?2. What is "monotheism"?3. When did Islam begin?4. How many people worldwide practice Islam?5. What are the two major factions of Islam?6.What are the 6 major beliefs shared by followers of Islam?7. What are the 5 pillars of Islam?8. What is the name of the Islamic holy book?

Judaism Website 1: Click on Judaism Website 1 to answer.1. What are the common features of synagogues?2. Who leads Jewish worship services?3. Who is Abraham and why is he significant to Judaism? Draw his family tree.4. What is the Jewish concept of "God's Law"?Website 2: Click on Judaism Website 2 to answer.1. Why is the Star of David a symbol for Judaism?2. What is the model for Jewish moral thought?3. What is the Diaspora?4. About how many Jews are there today?5. Where do about 2/3 of Jews live?6. Which Jewish holiday commemorates the Exodus (departure from Egypt)?

Hinduism Website 1: Click on Hinduism Website 1 to answer.Sacred Spaces1. What is a Hindu place of Worship called?2. What are Hindu temples built for? How are they decorated?3. Where besides temples do Hindus commonly worship?4. What is significant about the Ganges River to followers of Hinduism?Basic Beliefs1. When and where did Hinduism begin?2. What are the names of the sacred texts of Hinduism?3. How many people are followers of Hinduism worldwide?4. What is the fundamental teaching of Hinduism?5. What does "yoga" mean and why is it important to Hinduism?6. Who is Brahman?7. What is reincarnation?8. What is the name of the behavioral code that individual followers of Hinduism follow?​Confucianism Website 1: Click on Confucianism Website 1 to answer.1.) Where did Confucianism originate?2.) How many people practice Confucianism worldwide?3.) Why do some people argue that Confucianism is not a religion?4.) Who founded Confucianism and how did he get his name?5.) How are Confucianism and

Chinese history related?6.) What text is used in Confucianism?​ Website 2: Click on Confucianism Website 2 to answer.﻿1.) What 5 basic virtues did Confucius teach?2.) How do followers of Confucianism feel about worship and afterlife?3.) Why did Confucius give up his government job?4.) What did the Jen principle represent?5.) How many people practice Confucianism today?

Evaluation

Group Project:It is timeto put your knowledge to use to help the aliens. Working with the otherstudents in your group, make a poster that explains to the aliens the answersto the 5 important questions youwere given at the beginning of the assignment. Be creative! Try and displaythis information in a colorful and fun way. Be sure to include at least three pictures. Here are the fiveimportant questions .) What is the religion's origin? (Who, when, where and why)2.) How did the religion spread and to whatplaces?3.) Where do most followers of this religionlive?4.) What are the basic practices/beliefs of thisreligion include the holy text?5.) What special Holidays do followers of thisreligion observe?

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

Conclusion

Teacher Page

Standards

Credits

Other