

HHS World Studies

World Religions: Religion Map Activity

Name: _____

Date: _____ Period: _____

Related Concepts:

- **Cultural Diffusion:** the spreading of ideas or products from one culture to another.
- **Hearth:** the place of origin in which an idea or product originates; core

Objective: to create a map that shows the **diffusion** and **hearths** of major world religions

Skills: reading and analyzing maps; identifying countries and landmarks

Directions:

- 1) Read each review of the religions below; the underlined words are directional and locational hints for step 2!
- 2) THEN follow the "ON YOUR MAP" instructions to annotate the create a map that displays the diffusion of the major world religions.

Origins of Hinduism

Hinduism is the predominant religion in South Asia and the oldest major world religion. Hinduism is formed of diverse tradition and has no single founder. Hinduism is the world's third largest religion with more than a billion adherents and approximately 1 billion live in India. Hinduism started in India around 4,000 years ago in 1500 B.C.E.. From India it diffused to Nepal, and then travelled throughout the world including other areas in Southeast Asia and into the island of Bali in Indonesia.

→ ON YOUR MAP: Use a orange colored pencil to identify the hearth (label with a large dot) of Hinduism and to trace the spread into India and Bali.

Origins of Judaism

Judaism is a monotheistic religion that was founded around 1000 BCE by the prophet Abraham. Both Islam and Christianity find their roots in Judaism; Jesus was born a Jew, and Muhammad traced his ancestry to Abraham. Jews consider themselves to be God's "chosen" people. Judaism began when Abraham migrated from Ur (in present day Iraq) to Canaan. The Bible says the Hebrews migrated to Egypt from Canaan because of drought and famine. After Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt, they traveled across the Sinai Peninsula and through the desert, eventually returning to Canaan. Once re-established in Canaan, they spread north and south and built kingdoms. In 738 B.C., the kingdom were overtaken by Babylonian empires and the Jewish kingdoms lost control of Canaan. In 70 CE, the Romans forced Jews out of the Middle East into Europe - some went to Northern Africa and Asia- this dispersal of the Jews is called the *diaspora*. Historically, Jews were persecuted and forced to live in ghettos, city areas set up by law to be inhabited only by Jews in many European countries.

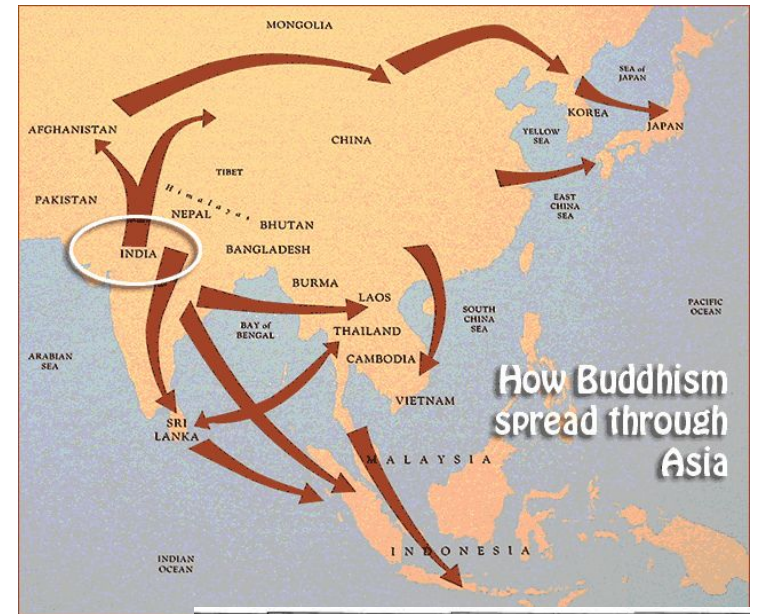
→ ON YOUR MAP: Use a blue colored pencil to identify the hearth (label with a large dot) of Judaism and to trace the spread from the Middle East, to Egypt, to the diaspora. Textbook pages to help: p. 77 Map to help: "Jewish Diaspora, A.D. 70-500"



Origins of Buddhism

Buddhism is a path of practice and spiritual development leading to insight into the true nature of life. It is most practiced the regions of East Asia, South East Asia and some parts of South Asia. Buddhism was founded by Prince Siddhartha, around 6th century BCE, the heir to a wealthy kingdom of what is now **Nepal**. He was upset by the poverty caused by the Hindu castes. The Buddha (enlightened one) was the first prominent Indian religious leader to speak out against Hinduism's caste system. The Buddha received enlightenment as he sat under the Bodhi (awakening) tree and he believed that enlightenment could be attained by anyone through knowledge. After its' founding, Buddhism began to spread **southwards** from its place of origin in the **Himalayas in Nepal to Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China** and other south-eastern Asian countries. It also moved **northwards** into the Himalayan kingdoms **Tibet, Mongolia and other parts of Central Asia**, and also into **China, Korea and Japan**. Buddhism was spread through missionaries, monks, and traders and merchants along the Silk Roads from eastern India into East and Southeast Asia. The movement of goods and trade helped Buddhism become the most widespread religions of East Asia.

→ ON YOUR MAP: Use a **brown colored pencil** to identify the **hearth** (label with a large dot) of Buddhism and to trace the spread from Nepal into other regions of Asia.
Map to help: "How Buddhism spread through Asia"

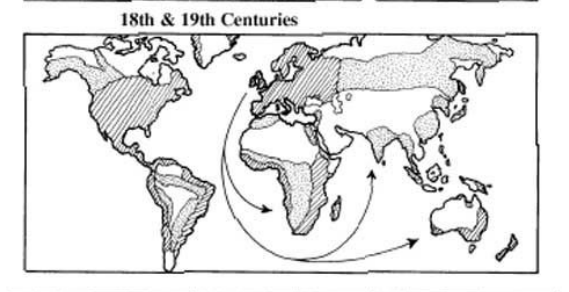
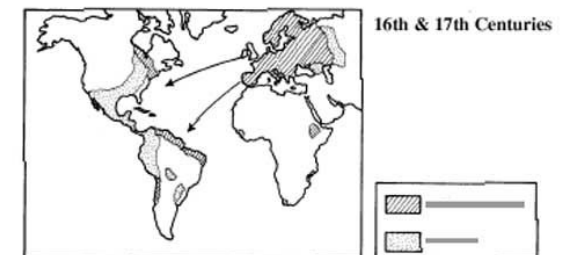
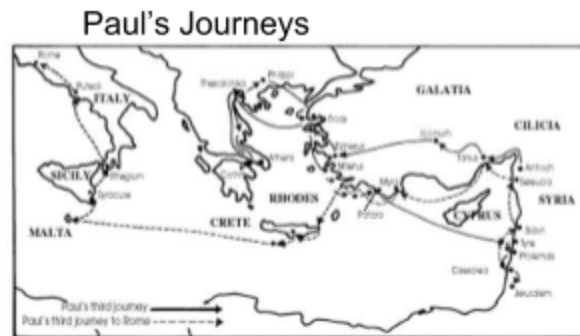


Origins of Christianity

Christianity has about two billion adherents and is the world's most geographically widespread religion. It is the largest and most widespread of the world religions. Christians believe in one God and his son, Jesus, was the promised Messiah, delivering salvation to all people. As converts to Christianity increased, the religion spread. The most influential early missionary was Paul, who lived in what today is **Israel**. A **missionary** is someone who does religious work in foreign lands. Paul traveled the coastal lands of the Mediterranean Sea to spread Christianity and in the 4th century. It was legalized in the Roman Empire by Constantine the Great and by 300 CE had become the accepted religion of **Rome** and then spread throughout the empire. Christianity then diffused through the **rest of Europe**. It then diffused through the relocation of people and colonization to **North America, South America, Sub Saharan Africa, Australia, Madagascar, India, and New Zealand**.

→ ON YOUR MAP: Use a **red colored pencil** to identify the **hearth** (label with a large dot) of Christianity and to trace the spread from Israel/Palestine into other regions of the world,

Textbook pages to help: p. 171 Map to help: use "Paul Journeys", "16th & 17th Centuries," and "18th & 19th Centuries"



Title of your map: _____

Your Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

KEY

<input type="checkbox"/>	Hinduism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddhism
<input type="checkbox"/>	Judaism	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christianity

