

Guide to Reading

Section Preview

The spatial interaction of cultures can spread new ideas, establish trading relationships, cause wars, and build political partnerships.

Content Vocabulary

- culture (p. 76)
- language family (p. 76)
- ethnic group (p. 77)
- culture region (p. 77)
- cultural diffusion (p. 78)
- culture hearth (p. 78)

Academic Vocabulary

- similar (p. 76)
- major (p. 78)

Places to Locate

- Egypt (p. 78)
- Iraq (p. 78)
- Pakistan (p. 78)
- China (p. 78)
- Mexico (p. 78)

Reading Strategy

Organizing As you read about global cultures, complete a graphic organizer like the one below by listing the world culture regions.



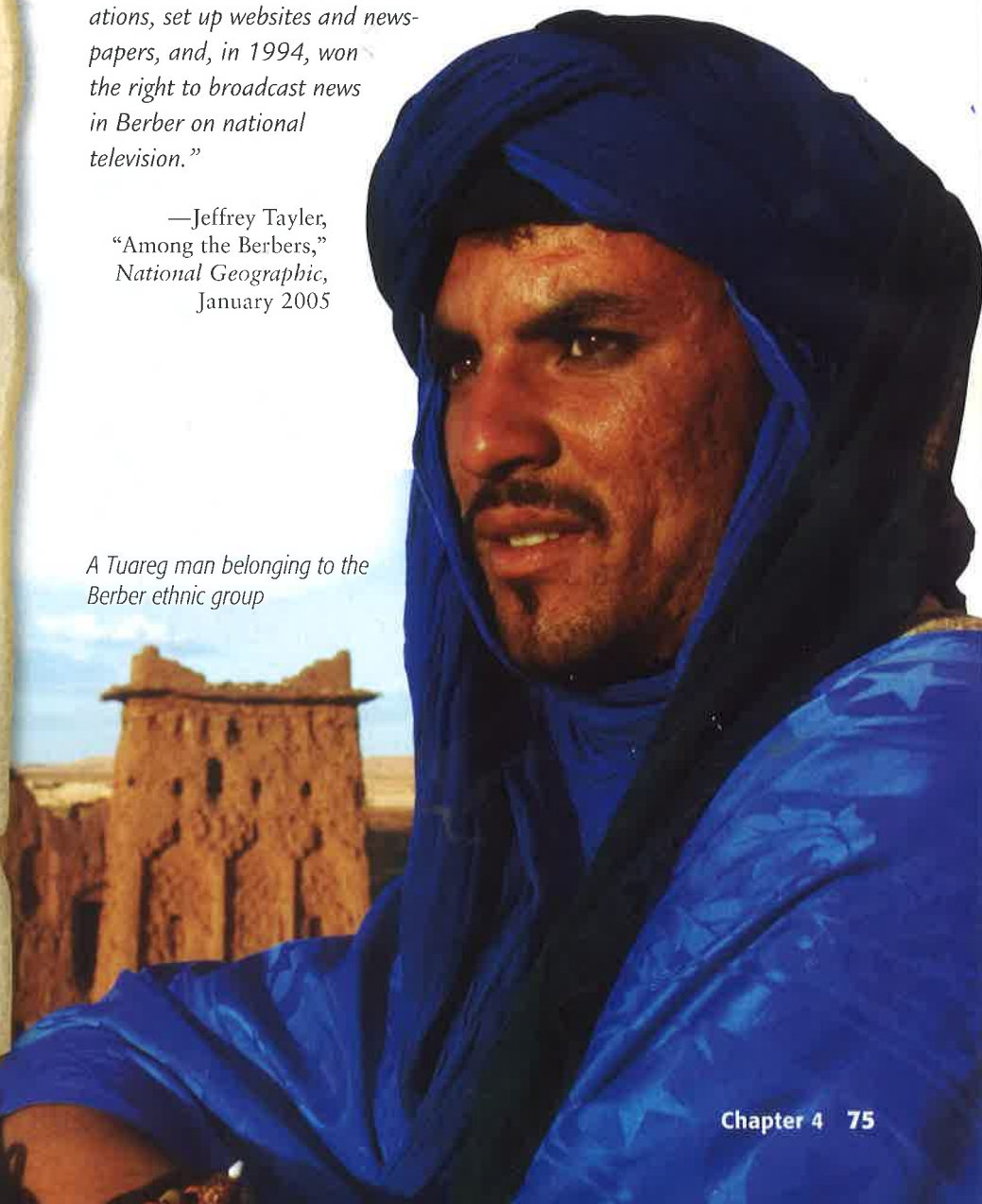
The world's people organize communities, develop their ways of life, and adjust to the differences and similarities they experience. Many people struggle to maintain some elements of their traditional cultures while establishing ties with the global community.

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VOICES AROUND THE WORLD

“... Berber struggle for cultural recognition has grown stronger over time. The urban Berbers leading this revival movement are intellectuals who use French, a language they associate with culture and human rights, rather than Arabic, which they despise as the language of their oppressors. But the language they're really pushing is Tamazight, or Berber. During the last decade of Hassan II's rule (which ended with the monarch's death in 1999), they founded Berber language and cultural associations, set up websites and newspapers, and, in 1994, won the right to broadcast news in Berber on national television.”

—Jeffrey Tayler,
“Among the Berbers,”
National Geographic,
January 2005

A Tuareg man belonging to the Berber ethnic group



Elements of Culture

MAIN Idea Geographers divide the Earth into culture regions, which are defined by the presence of common elements such as language and religion.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU What language do most people in your community speak? Read to learn how language is important to a culture's development.

Geographers study **culture**, the way of life of a group of people who share **similar** beliefs and customs. A particular culture can be understood by looking at language, religion, daily life, history, art, government, and the economy.

Language

Language is a key element in a culture's development. Through language, people communicate information and experiences and pass on cultural values and traditions. Even within a culture, however, there are language differences. Some people may speak a dialect, or a local form

of a language that differs from the main language. These differences may include variations in the pronunciation and meaning of words.

Linguists, scientists who study languages, organize the world's languages into **language families**—large groups of languages having similar roots. Seemingly diverse languages may belong to the same language family. For example, English, Spanish, and Russian are all members of the Indo-European language family.

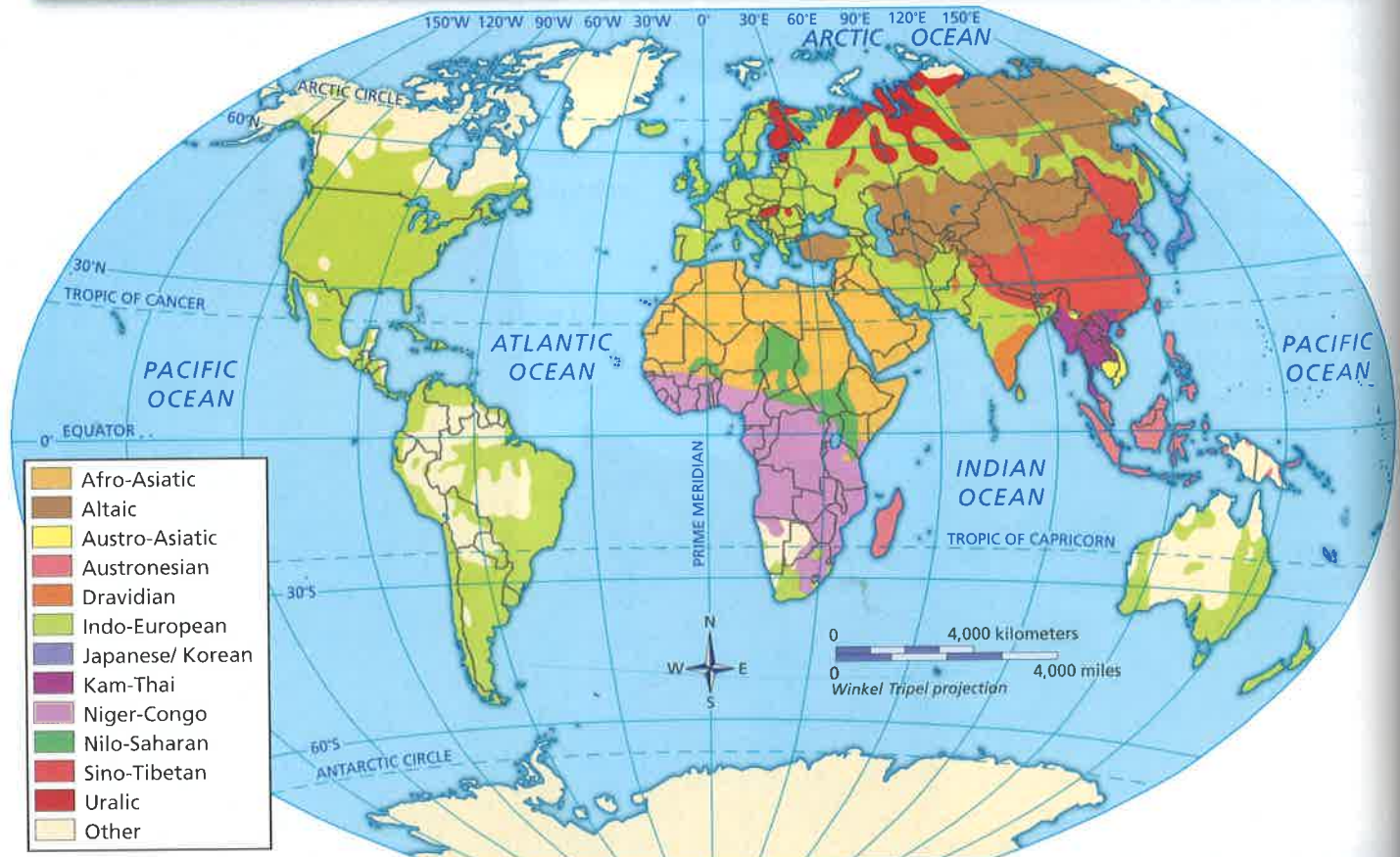
Religion

Religious beliefs vary significantly around the world, and struggles over religious differences can be a source of conflict. In many cultures, however, religion enables people to find a sense of identity. It also influences aspects of daily life, from the practice of moral values to the celebration of holidays and festivals.

Throughout history, religious symbols and stories have shaped cultural expressions such as painting, architecture, and music. The feature on pages 80–99 discusses world religions.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

World Language Families



Social Groups

A social system develops to help the members of a culture work together to meet basic needs. In all cultures the family is the most important group. Most cultures are also made up of *social classes*, groups of people ranked according to ancestry, wealth, education, or other criteria. Moreover, cultures may include people who belong to different ethnic groups. An **ethnic group** is made up of people who share a common language, history, place of origin, or a combination of these elements.

Government and Economy

Governments of the world share certain features. For example, each maintains order within the country, provides protection from outside dangers, and supplies other services to its people. Governments are organized by levels of power—national, regional, and local—and by type of authority—a single ruler, a small group of leaders, or a body of citizens and their representatives.

When examining cultures, geographers look at economic activities. They study how a culture utilizes its natural resources to meet human needs. They also analyze the ways in which people produce, obtain, use, and sell goods and services.

Culture Regions

To organize their understanding of cultural development, geographers divide the Earth into culture regions. Each **culture region** includes countries that have certain traits in common. They may share similar economic systems, forms of government, and social groups. Their histories, religions, and art forms may share similar influences. The map below shows the culture regions you will study in this textbook.

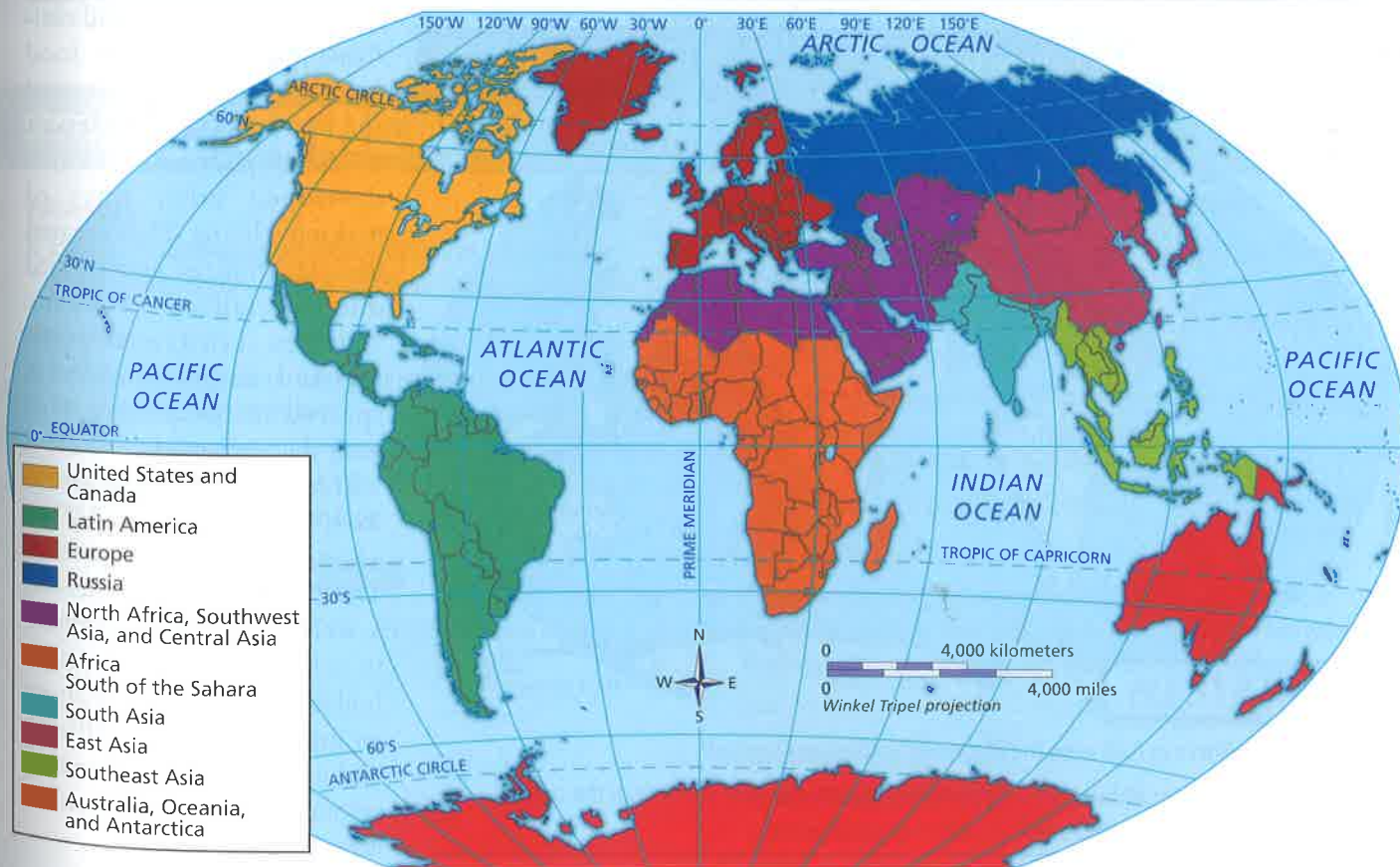
READING Check **Place** Why are social groups important to the development of a culture?

MAP STUDY

- Regions** In which culture regions do Indo-European languages predominate?
- Place** Do people within the same culture region necessarily speak the same language? Explain.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

World Culture Regions



Cultural Change

MAIN Idea Internal and external factors change cultures over time.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU Have you ever moved to a new town or made friends with someone who has just moved into your community? Read to learn how the movement of people can change cultures.

Internal factors—new ideas, lifestyles, and inventions—create change within cultures. Change can also come through spatial interaction such as trade, migration, and war. The process of spreading new knowledge from one culture to another is called **cultural diffusion**.

The Agricultural Revolution

Cultural diffusion has been a **major** factor in cultural development since the dawn of human history. The earliest humans were *nomads*, groups of hunters and herders who had no fixed home but moved from place to place in search of food, water, and grazing land. As the Earth's climate warmed about 10,000 years ago, many of these nomads settled first in hilly areas and later in river valleys

and on fertile plains. They became farmers who lived in permanent villages and grew crops on the same land every year. This shift from hunting and gathering food to producing food is known as the Agricultural Revolution.

By about 3500 B.C., some of these early farming villages had evolved into *civilizations*, highly organized, city-based societies with an advanced knowledge of farming, trade, government, art, and science.

Culture Hearths The world's first civilizations arose in **culture hearths**, early centers of civilization whose ideas and practices spread to surrounding areas. The map below shows that the most influential culture hearths developed in areas that make up the modern countries of **Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan, China, and Mexico**.

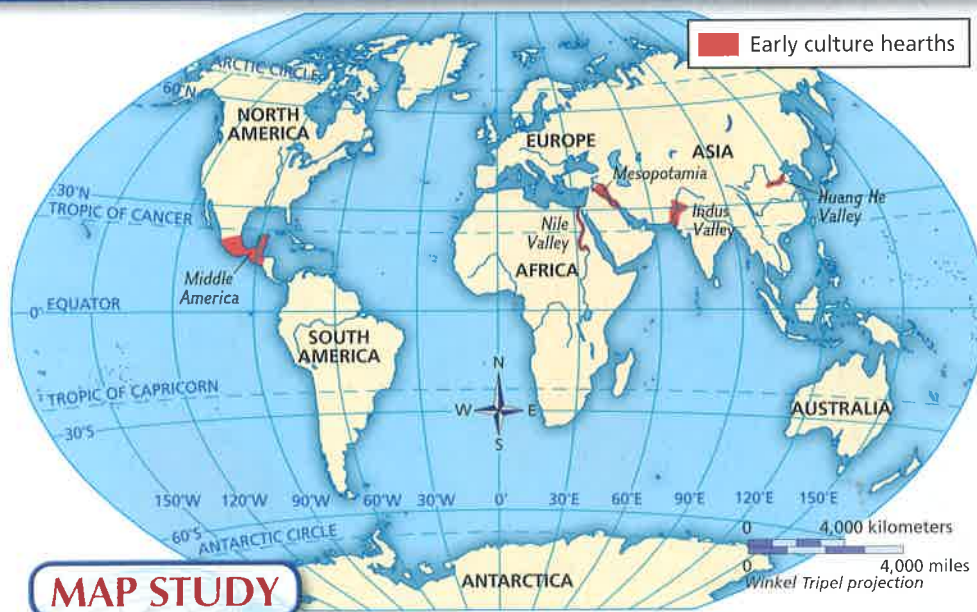
These five culture hearths had certain geographic features in common. They all emerged from farming settlements in areas with a mild climate and fertile land. In addition, they were located near a major river or source of water. The peoples made use of these favorable environments. They dug canals and ditches to irrigate the land. All of these factors enabled people to grow surplus crops.

Surplus food set the stage for the rise of cities and civilizations. With more food available, there was less need for everyone in a settlement to farm the land. People developed other ways of making a living. They created new technology and carried out specialized economic activities, such as metalworking and shipbuilding, that spurred the development of long-distance trade.

In turn, the increased wealth from trade led to the rise of cities and complex social systems. The people of a city needed a well-organized government to coordinate harvests, plan building projects, and manage an army for defense. Officials and merchants created writing systems to record and transmit information.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

World Culture Hearths



MAP STUDY

- 1. Location** Where in Asia were the first major settlements located?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** What kind of body of water do most of the culture hearths have in common?

Cultural Contacts Cultural contact among different civilizations promoted cultural change as ideas and practices spread through trade and travel. Migration has also fostered cultural diffusion. People migrate to avoid wars, persecution, and famines. In some instances, as in the case of enslaved Africans brought to the Americas, mass migrations have been forced. Conversely, positive factors—better economic opportunities and religious or political freedoms—may draw people from one place to another. Migrants carry their cultures with them, and their ideas and practices often blend with those of the people already living in the migrants' adopted countries.

Industrial and Information Revolutions

Cultural diffusion has increased rapidly during the last 250 years. In the 1700s and 1800s, some countries began to industrialize, using power-driven machines and factories to mass-produce goods. With new production methods, these countries produced goods quickly and cheaply, and their economies changed dramatically. This development, known as the Industrial Revolution, also led to social changes. As people left farms for jobs in factories and mills, cities grew larger.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Although geisha are part of traditional Japanese culture, their daily lives are connected to the modern world.



Movement How did the information revolution help connect cultures around the world?

At the end of the 1900s, the world experienced a new turning point—the information revolution. Computers now make it possible to store huge amounts of information and instantly send it all over the world, thus linking the cultures of the world more closely than ever before.

READING Check **Location** Where were the five earliest world culture hearths located?

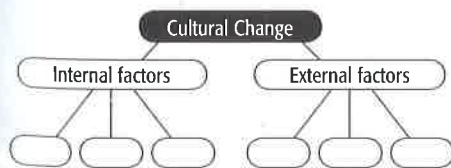
SECTION 2 REVIEW

Vocabulary

1. Explain the significance of: culture, language family, ethnic group, culture region, cultural diffusion, culture hearth.

Main Ideas

2. Describe the elements of culture geographers use to organize the world into culture regions.
3. What are the internal and external factors that change cultures over time? Use a web diagram like the one below to list factors that influence cultural change.



Critical Thinking

4. **BIG Idea** How do factors such as trade, war, migration, and inventions affect cultural change?
5. **Making Generalizations** Explain the factors that influence a country's ability to control territory.
6. **Identifying Cause and Effect** What cultural changes have resulted from the information revolution?
7. **Analyzing Visuals** Study the map of culture hearths on page 78. What factors influenced their location?

Writing About Geography

8. **Descriptive Writing** Use the Internet to find information about how various cultures view particular places or features. Then write an essay describing the similarities and differences you found.

Geography ONLINE

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

World Religions

GEOGRAPHY OF RELIGION

A religion is a set of beliefs in an ultimate reality and a set of practices used to express those beliefs. Religion is a key component of culture.

Each religion has its own special celebrations and worship styles. Most religions also have their own sacred texts, symbols, and sites. All of these aspects of religion help to unite followers regardless of where in the world they live.

TERMS

animism—belief that spirits inhabit natural objects and forces of nature

atheism—disbelief in the existence of any god

monotheism—belief in one God

polytheism—belief in more than one god

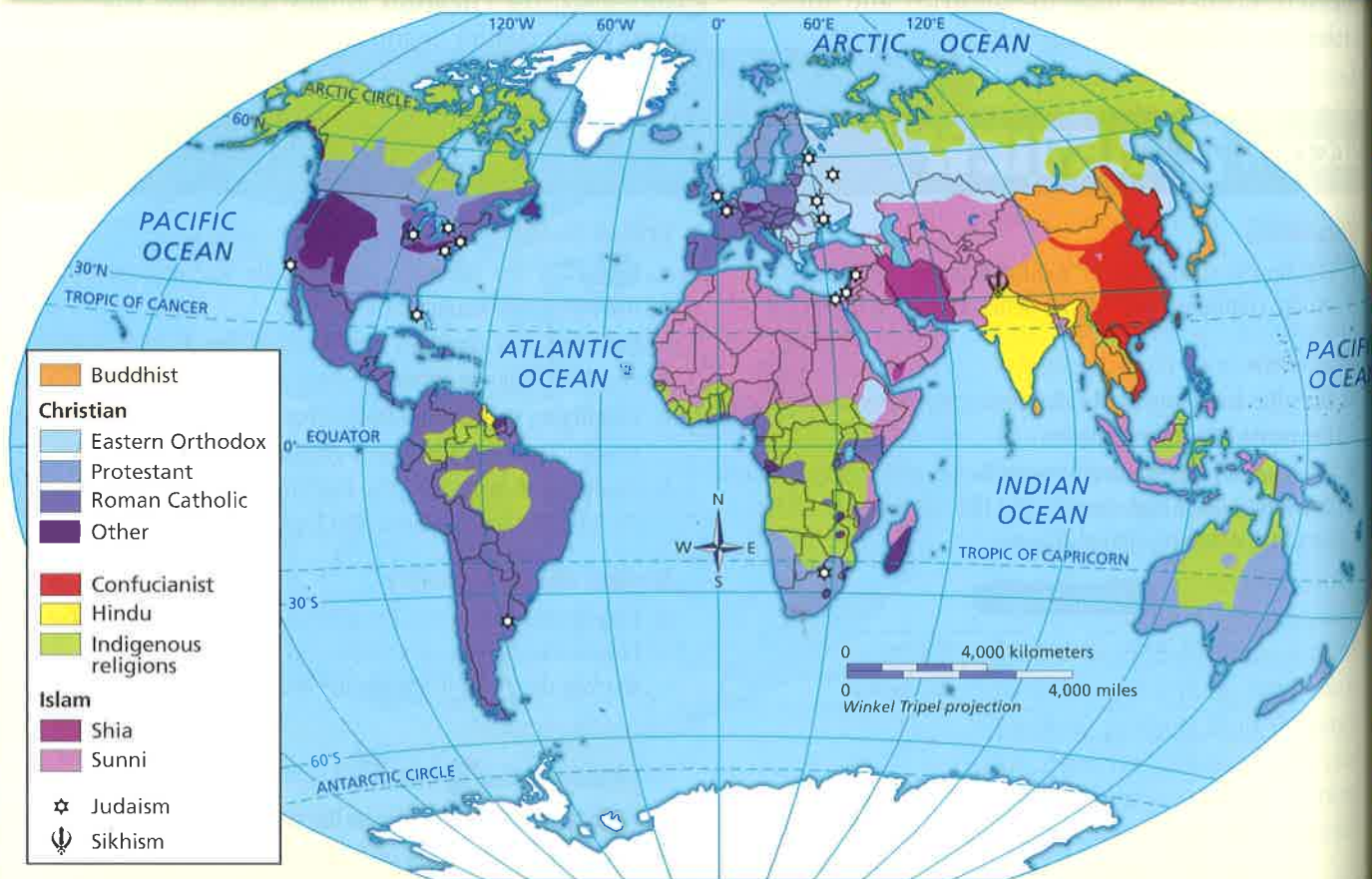
secularism—belief that life's questions can be answered apart from religious belief

sect—a subdivision within a religion that has its own distinctive beliefs and/or practices



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

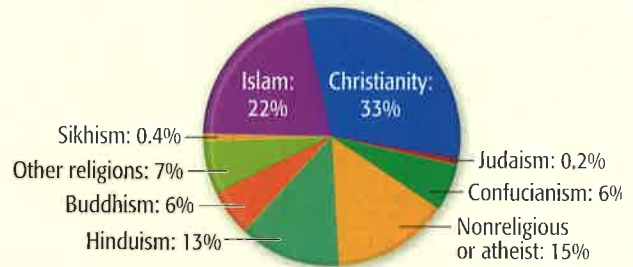
World Religions Today



We study religion because it is an important component of culture, shaping how people interact with one another, dress, and eat. Religion is at the core of the belief system of a region's culture.

The diffusion of religion throughout the world has been caused by a variety of factors including migration, missionary work, trade, and war. Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam are the three major religions that spread their religion through missionary activities. Religions such as Hinduism, Sikhism, and Judaism are associated with a particular culture group. Followers are usually born into these religions. Sometimes close contact and differences in beliefs have resulted in conflict between religious groups.

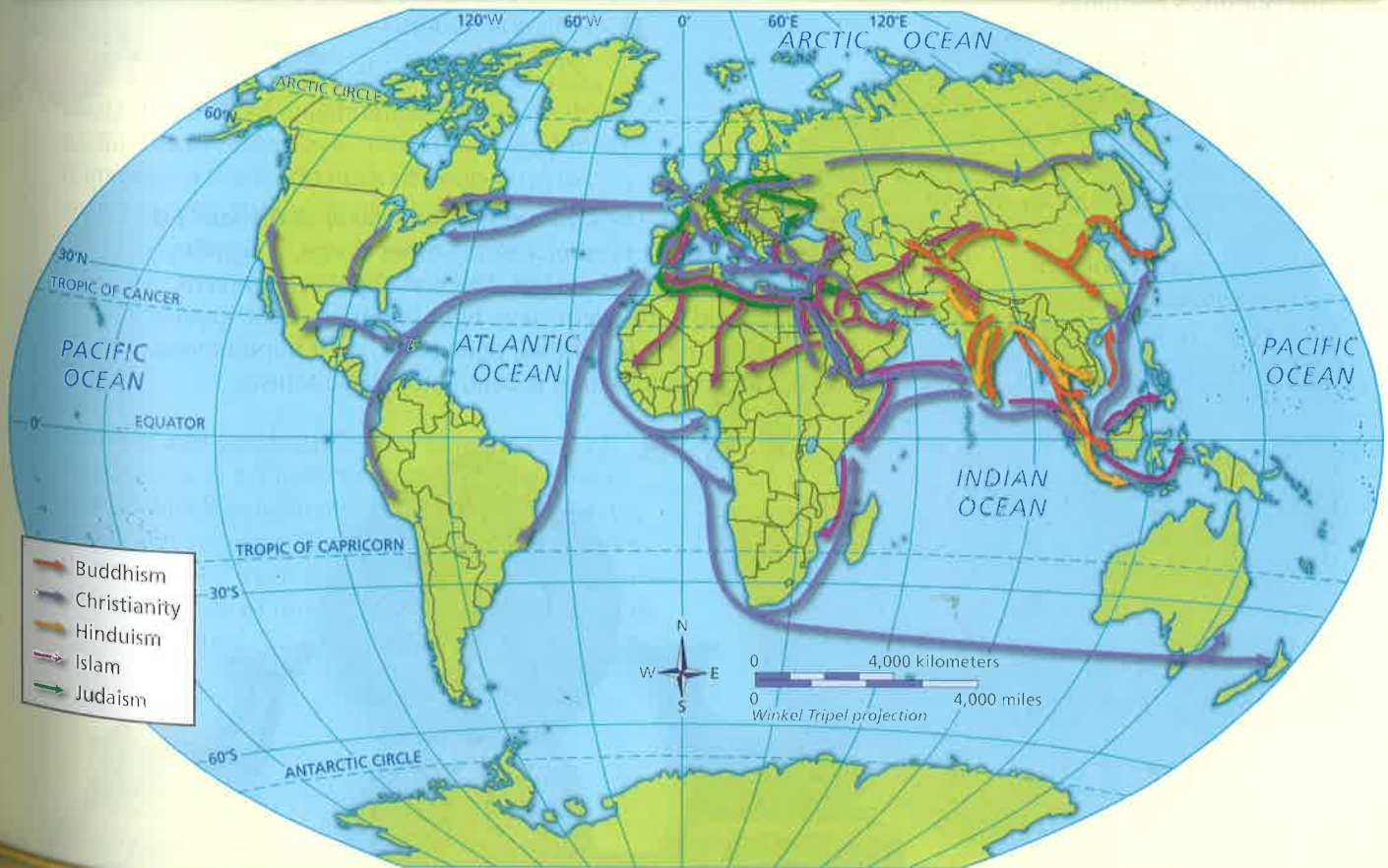
Percentage of World Population



Note: Total exceeds 100% because numbers were rounded.
Sources: www.cia.gov, The World Factbook 2006; www.adherents.com.



Early Diffusion of Major World Religions



BUDDHISM

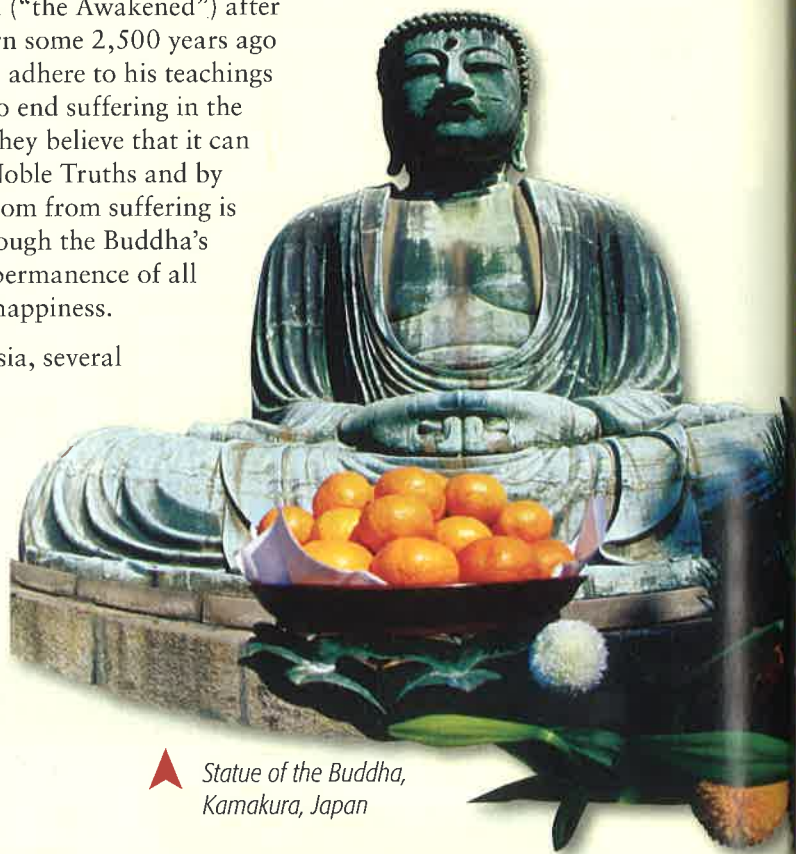
Siddhartha Gautama, known as the Buddha (“the Awakened”) after his enlightenment at the age of 35, was born some 2,500 years ago in what is now Nepal. The Buddha’s followers adhere to his teachings (dharma, meaning “divine law”), which aim to end suffering in the world. Buddhists call this goal Nirvana; and they believe that it can be achieved only by understanding the Four Noble Truths and by following the 4th Truth, which says that freedom from suffering is possible by practicing the Eightfold Path. Through the Buddha’s teachings, his followers come to know the impermanence of all things and reach the end of ignorance and unhappiness.

Over time, as Buddhism spread throughout Asia, several branches emerged. The largest of these are Theravada Buddhism, the monk-centered Buddhism which is dominant in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia; and Mahayana, a complex, more liberal variety of Buddhism that has traditionally been dominant in Tibet, Central Asia, Korea, China, and Japan.

Sacred Text For centuries the Buddha’s teachings were transmitted orally. For Theravada Buddhists, the authoritative collection of Buddhist texts is the *Tripitaka* (“three baskets”). These texts were first written on palm leaves in a language called Pali. This excerpt from the *Dhammapada*, a famous text within the Tripitaka, urges responding to hatred with love:

“Never in this world is hate
Appeased by hatred.
It is only appeased by love—
This is an eternal law.”

—*Dhammapada* 1.5



▲ *Statue of the Buddha,
Kamakura, Japan*

Sacred Symbol The *dharmachakra* (“wheel of the law”) is a major Buddhist symbol. Among other things, it signifies the overcoming of obstacles. The eight spokes represent the Eightfold Path—right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration—that is central for all Buddhists.





Sacred Site Buddhists believe that Siddhartha Gautama achieved enlightenment beneath the Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gayā, India. Today, Buddhists from around the world flock to Bodh Gayā in search of their own spiritual awakening.

Worship and Celebration The ultimate goal of Buddhists is to achieve Nirvana, the enlightened state in which individuals are free from ignorance, greed, and suffering. Theravada Buddhists believe that monks are most likely to reach Nirvana because of their lifestyle of renunciation, moral virtue, study, and meditation.



Christianity

Christianity claims more members than any of the other world religions. It dates its beginning to the death of Jesus in A.D. 33 in what is now Israel. It is based on the belief in one God and on the life and teachings of Jesus. Christians believe that Jesus, who was born a Jew, is the son of God and is fully divine and human. Christians regard Jesus as the Messiah (Christ), or savior, who died for humanity's sins. Christians feel that people are saved and achieve eternal life by faith in Jesus.

The major forms of Christianity are Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism. All three are united in their belief in Jesus as savior, but have developed their own individual theologies.

Sacred Text The Bible is the spiritual text for all Christians and is considered to be inspired by God. This excerpt, from Matthew 5:3-12, is from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

“ *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you. ”



Stained glass window depicting Jesus

Sacred Symbol

Christians believe that Jesus died for their sins. His death redeemed those who follow his teachings. The statue *Christ the Redeemer*, located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, symbolizes this fundamental belief.



Sacred Site The Gospels affirm that Bethlehem was the birthplace of Jesus. Consequently, it holds great importance to Christians. The Church of the Nativity is located in the heart of Bethlehem. It houses the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born.



Worship and Celebration Christians celebrate many events commemorating the life and death of Jesus. Among the most widely known and observed are Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. Christmas is often commemorated by attending church services to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As part of the celebration, followers often light candles.





CONFUCIANISM

Confucianism began more than 2,500 years ago in China. Although considered a religion, it is actually a philosophy. It is based upon the teachings of Confucius, which are grounded in ethical behavior and good government.

The teachings of Confucius focused on three areas: social philosophy, political philosophy, and education. Confucius taught that relationships are based on rank. Persons of higher rank are responsible for caring for those of lower rank. Those of lower rank should respect and obey those of higher rank. Eventually his teachings spread from China to other East Asian societies.



▲ Students studying Confucianism, Chunghak-dong, South Korea



▲ The Analects

Sacred Text Confucius was famous for his sayings and proverbs. These teachings were gathered into a book called the *Analects* after Confucius's death. Below is an example of Confucius's teachings.

Confucius said:

“To learn and to practice what is learned time and again is pleasure, is it not? To have friends come from afar is happiness, is it not? To be unperturbed when not appreciated by others is gentlemanly, is it not?”

—The Analects



▲ **Sacred Symbol** Yin-yang, associated with both Confucianism and Daoism, symbolizes the harmony offered by the philosophies. The light half represents *yang*, the creative, firm, strong elements in all things. The dark half represents *yin*, the receptive, yielding, weak elements. The two act together to balance one another.



Sacred Site The temple at Qufu is a group of buildings dedicated to Confucius. It is located on Confucius's ancestral land. It is one of the largest ancient architectural complexes in China. Every year followers gather at Qufu to celebrate the birthday of Confucius.

Worship and Celebration Confucianism does not have a god or clergy, but there are temples dedicated to Confucius, the spiritual leader. Those who follow his teachings see Confucianism as a way of life and a guide to ethical behavior and good government.



ॐ HINDUISM

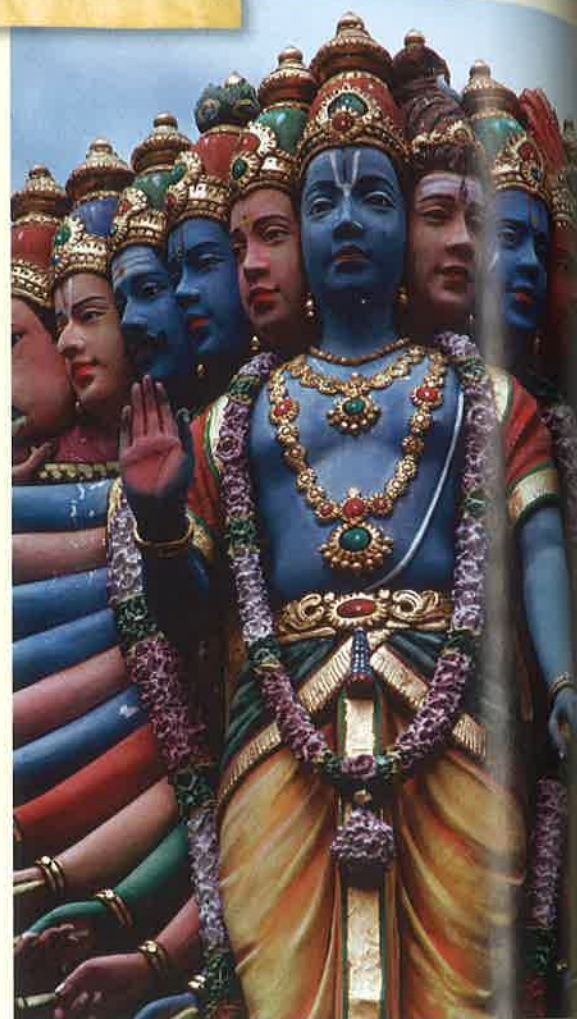
Hinduism is the oldest of the world's major living religions. It developed among the cultures in India as they spread out over the plains and forests of the subcontinent. It has no single founder or founding date. Hinduism is complex: it has numerous sects and many different divinities are honored. Among the more famous Hindu gods are Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva, who represent respectively the creative, sustaining, and destructive forces in the universe. Major Hindu beliefs are reincarnation, karma, and dharma.

Hindus believe the universe contains several heavens and hells. According to the concept of rebirth or reincarnation, which is central to their beliefs, souls are continually reborn. In what form one is reborn is determined by the good and evil actions performed in his or her past lives. Those acts are karma. A soul continues in the cycle of rebirth until release is achieved.

Sacred Text The Vedas consist of hymns, prayers, and speculations composed in ancient Sanskrit. They are the oldest religious texts in an Indo-European language. The Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda are the four great Vedic collections. Together, they make up one of the most significant and authoritative Hindu religious texts.

“Now, whether they perform a cremation for such a person or not, people like him pass into the flame, from the flame into the day, from the day into the fortnight of the waxing moon from the fortnight of the waxing moon into the six months when the sun moves north, from these months into the year, from the year into the sun, from the sun into the moon, and from the moon into the lightning. Then a person who is not human—he leads them to Brahman. This is the path to the gods, the path to Brahman. Those who proceed along this path do not return to this human condition.”

—The Chandogya Upanishad 4:15.5



▲ Statue of Vishnu



▲ **Sacred Symbol** One important symbol of Hinduism is actually a symbol for a sound. “Om” is a sound that Hindus often chant during prayer, mantras, and rituals.



Sacred Site Hindus believe that when a person dies his or her soul is reborn. This is known as reincarnation. Many Hindus bathe in the Ganges and other sacred rivers to purify their soul and to be released from rebirth.

Worship and Celebration Holi is a significant North Indian Hindu festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. As part of the celebration, men, women, and children splash colored powders and water on each other. In addition to its religious significance, Holi also celebrates the beginning of spring.



Islam

Followers of Islam, known as Muslims, believe in one God, whom they call Allah. The word *Allah* is Arabic for “the god.” The spiritual founder of Islam, Muhammad, began his teachings in Makkah (Mecca) in A.D. 610. Eventually the religion spread throughout much of Asia, including parts of India to the borders of China, and a substantial portion of Africa. According to Muslims, the Quran, their holy book, contains the direct word of God, revealed to Muhammad sometime between A.D. 610 and A.D. 632. Muslims believe that God created nature and without his intervention, there would be nothingness. God serves four functions: creation, sustenance, guidance, and judgment.

Central to Islamic beliefs are the Five Pillars. These are affirmation of the belief in Allah and his prophet Muhammad; group prayer; tithing, or the giving of money to charity; fasting during Ramadan; and a pilgrimage to Makkah once in a lifetime if physically and financially able. Within Islam, there are two main branches, the Sunni and the Shia. The differences between the two are based on the history of the Muslim state. The Shia believed that the rulers should descend from Muhammad. The Sunni believed that the rulers need only be followers of Muhammad. Most Muslims are Sunni.

Sacred Text The sacred text of Islam is the Quran. Preferably, it is written and read only in Arabic, but translations have been made into many languages. The excerpt below is a verse repeated by all Muslims during their five daily prayers.

*“In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate,
the Merciful,
Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the World,
The Compassionate, the Merciful,
Master of the Day of Judgment,
Only You do we worship, and only You
Do we implore for help.
Lead us to the right path,
The path of those you have favored
Not those who have incurred
Your wrath or
Have gone astray.”*

—The Quran



▲ The Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

The Quran ▼



Sacred Symbol Islam is often symbolized by the crescent moon. It is an important part of Muslim rituals, which are based on the lunar calendar.



◀ **Sacred Site** Makkah is a sacred site for all Muslims. One of the Five Pillars of Islam states that all those who are physically and financially able must make a hajj, or pilgrimage, to the holy city once in their life. Practicing Muslims are also required to pray facing Makkah five times a day.

Worship and Celebration Ramadan is a month-long celebration commemorating the time during which Muhammad received the Quran from Allah. It is customary for Muslims to fast from dawn until sunset all month long. Muslims believe that fasting helps followers focus on spiritual rather than bodily matters and creates empathy for one's fellow men and women. Ramadan ends with a feast known as Eid-al-Fitr, or Feast of the Fast.





Judaism

Judaism is a monotheistic religion. In fact, Judaism was the first major religion to believe in one God. Jews trace their national and religious origins back to God's call to Abraham. Jews have a covenant with God. They believe that God, who expects them to pursue justice and live ethical lives, will one day usher in an era of universal peace.

Over time Judaism has separated into branches, including Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist. Orthodox Jews are the most traditional of all the branches.

Sacred Text The Torah is the five books of Moses, which tell the story of the origins of the Jews and explain Jewish laws. The remainder of the Hebrew Bible contains the writings of the prophets, Psalms, and ethical and historical works.

“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.”

—Exodus 20:2



◀ The Torah scroll

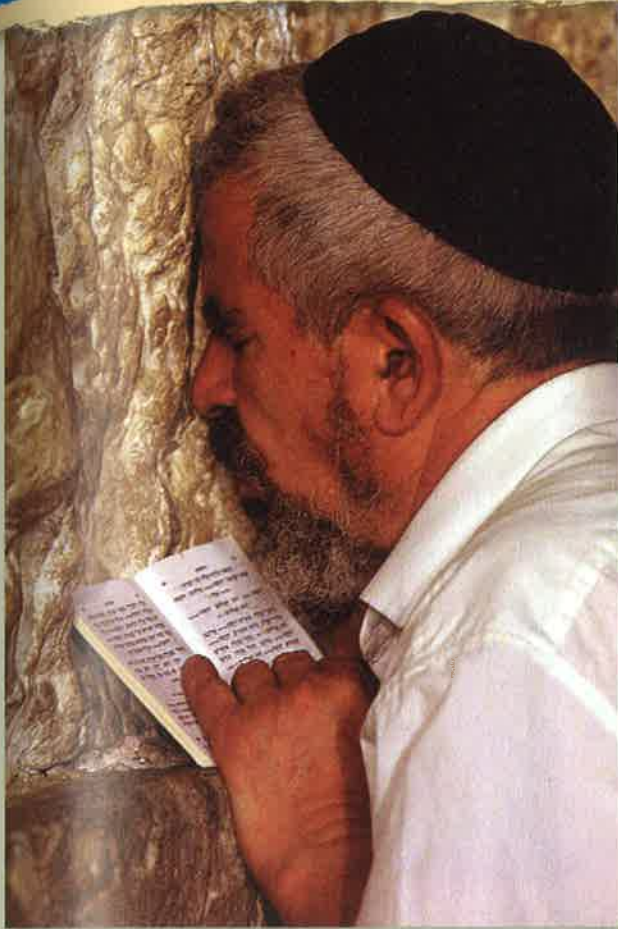


▲ El Ghriba Synagogue, Jerba, Tunisia

Sacred Symbol ▶

The menorah is used in the celebration of Hanukkah, commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem following the Maccabees' victory over the Syrian Greeks.





◀ **Sacred Site** The Western Wall is what remains of the structure surrounding the Second Jerusalem Temple, built after the Jews' return from the Babylonian captivity. It is considered a sacred spot in Jewish religious tradition. Prayers are offered at the wall morning, afternoon, and evening.

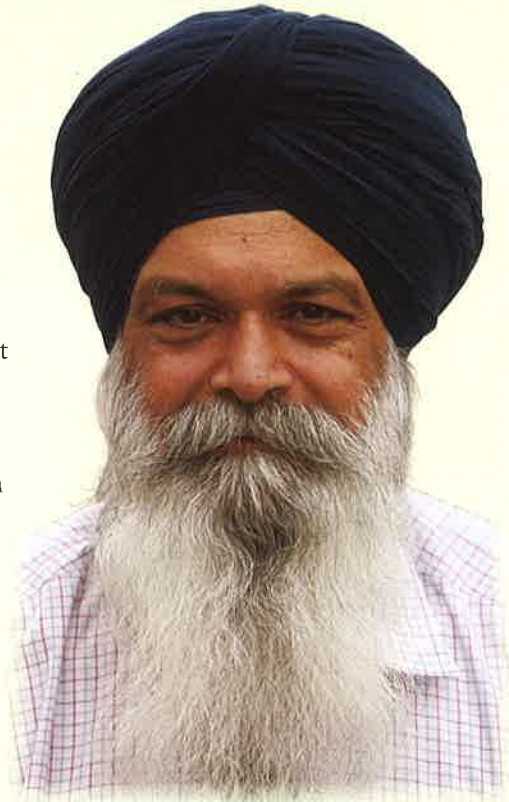
Worship and Celebration The day-long Yom Kippur service ends with the blowing of the ram's horn (shofar). Yom Kippur is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. During Yom Kippur, Jews do not eat or drink for 25 hours. The purpose is to reflect on the past year and gain forgiveness from God for one's sins. It falls in September or October, ten days after Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. ▼



Sikhism

Sikhism emerged in the mid-1500s in the Punjab, in northwest India, rising from the religious experience and teachings of Guru Nanak. The religion exhibits influences from Islam and Hinduism, but it is distinct from both. Sikh traditions teach that Nanak encountered God directly and was commissioned by Him to be His servant.

Sikhs (“students, disciples”) believe in one almighty god who is formless and without qualities (*nirguna*) but can be known through meditation and heard directly. Sikhism forbids discrimination on the basis of class, color, religion, caste, or gender. While 80 percent of the world’s 20 million Sikhs live in the Punjab, Sikhism has spread widely as many Sikhs have migrated to new homes around the world.



▲ Sikh man, Chapeltown, England



▲ The Adi Granth

Sacred Text The great authoritative sacred text for Sikhs is the Adi Granth (“Principal Book,” also known as the Guru Granth Sahib). Compiled from the mid-1500s through the 1600s, it includes contributions from Sikh gurus and from some persons also claimed as saints by Hindus and Muslims, such as Namdev, Ravidas, and Kabir.

“Enshrine the Lord’s Name within your heart. The Word of the Guru’s Bani prevails throughout the world, through this Bani, the Lord’s Name is obtained.”

—Guru Amar Das, page 1066



▲ **Sacred Symbol** The sacred symbol of the Sikhs is the *khanda*. It is composed of four traditional Sikh weapons: the *khanda* or double-edged sword (in the center), from which the symbol takes its name; the *cakkar* (disk), and two curved daggers (*kirpan*) representing temporal and spiritual power, respectively Piri and Miri.



Sacred Sites Amritsar is the spiritual capital of Sikhism. The Golden Temple (*Harimandir Sahib*) in Amritsar is the most sacred of Sikh shrines.

Worship and Celebration Vaisakhi is a significant Punjabi and Sikh festival in April celebrating the new year and the beginning of the harvest season. Celebrations often take place along riverbanks with participants dancing and wearing brightly colored clothes.

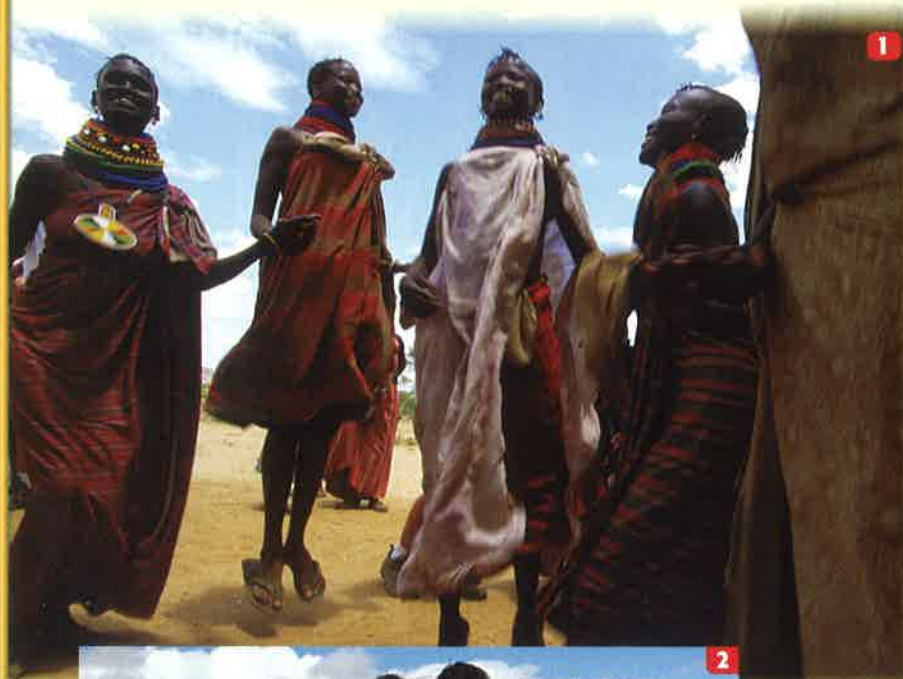


Indigenous Religions

There are many varieties of religious belief that are limited to particular ethnic groups. These local religions are found in Africa as well as isolated parts of Japan, Australia, and the Americas.

Most local religions reflect a close relationship with the environment. Some groups teach that people are a part of nature, not separate from it. Animism

is characteristic of many indigenous religions. Natural features are sacred, and stories about how nature came to be are an important part of religious heritage. Although many of these stories have been written down in modern times, they were originally transmitted orally.



1

Africa The continent of Africa is home to a variety of local religions. Despite their differences, most African religions recognize the existence of one creator in addition to spirits that inhabit all aspects of life. Religious ceremonies are often celebrated with music and dance.

1 These Turkana women from Kenya are performing a traditional jumping dance.

2 Rituals are an important part of African religions. These Masai boys are wearing ceremonial dress as part of a ritual.



2

3 Masks are a component of ritual and ceremony. This mask from Cameroon is used to celebrate harvest.



3



Japan Shinto, founded in Japan, is the largest indigenous religion. It dates back to pre-historic times and has no formal doctrine. The gods are known as kami. Ancestors are also revered and worshiped. Its four million followers often practice Buddhism in addition to practicing Shinto.

4 This Shinto priest is presiding over a ritual at a Japanese temple. These priests often live on shrine grounds.

5 Shinto shrines, like this one, are usually built in places of great natural beauty to emphasize the relationship between people and nature.



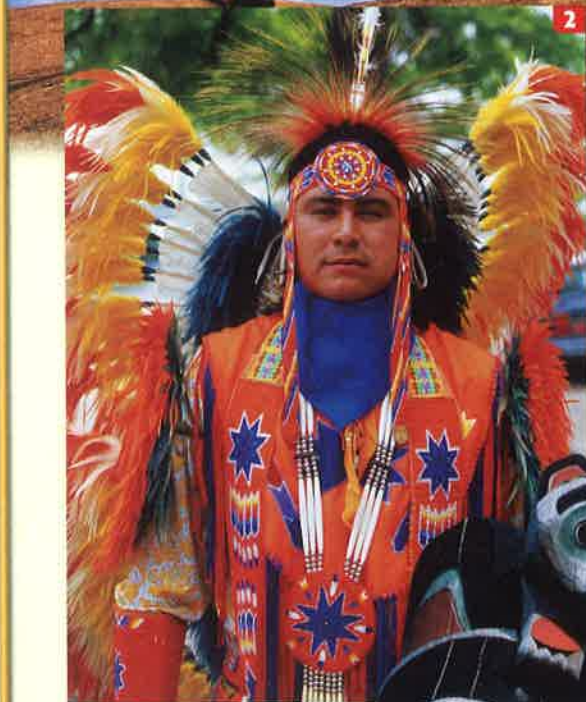
Australia The Australian Aboriginal religion has no deities. It is based upon a belief known as the Dreaming, or Dreamtime. Followers believe that ancestors sprang from the Earth and created all people, plant, and animal life. They also believe that these ancestors continue to control the natural world.

6 These Aborigine women are blessing a newborn with smoke during a traditional ritual intended to ensure the child's health and good fortune.

7 Aborigines, like these young girls, often paint their faces with the symbols of their clan or family group.



Indigenous Religions



Native Americans The beliefs of most Native Americans center on the spirit world; however, the rituals and practices of individual groups vary. Most Native Americans believe in a Great Spirit who, along with other spirits, influences all aspects of life. These spirits make their presence known primarily through acts of nature.

The rituals, prayers, and ceremonies of Native Americans are often centered on health and good harvest and hunting. Rituals used to mark the passage through stages of life, including birth, adulthood, and death, are passed down as tribal traditions. Religious ceremonies often focus on important points in the agricultural and hunting seasons. Prayers, which are offered in song and dance, also concentrate on agriculture and hunting themes as well as health and well-being.

1 Rituals are passed down from generation to generation. These Native Americans are performing a ritual dance in Utah.

2 There are many different Native American groups throughout the United States and Canada. This Pawnee is wearing traditional dress during a celebration in Oklahoma.

3 Totem poles, like this one in Alaska, were popular among the Native American peoples of the Northwest Coast. They were often decorated with mythical beings, family crests, or other figures. They were placed outside homes.

Assessment

Reviewing Vocabulary

Match the following terms with their definition.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. sect | a. belief that spirits inhabit natural objects and forces of nature |
| 2. monotheism | b. belief in one God |
| 3. polytheism | c. a subdivision within a religion that has its own distinctive belief and/or practices |
| 4. animism | d. belief in more than one god |
| 5. atheism | e. disbelief in the existence of any god |

Reviewing the Main Ideas

World Religions (pp. 80–81)

- Which religion has the most followers worldwide? Which has the fewest?
- Analyzing Visuals** Compare the maps at the bottom of pages 80 and 81. Which religions have spread throughout the world? What factors may have contributed to this spread?
- On a separate sheet of paper, make a table of the major world religions. Use the chart below to get you started.

Name	Founder	Geographic distribution	Sacred sites
Buddhism			
Christianity			
Confucianism			
Hinduism			
Islam			
Judaism			
Sikhism			
Indigenous			

Buddhism (pp. 82–83)

- According to Buddhism, how can the end of suffering in the world be achieved?
- What is Nirvana? According to Buddhists, who is most likely to achieve Nirvana and why?

Christianity (pp. 84–85)

- In what religion was Jesus raised?
- Why do Christians regard Jesus as their savior?

Confucianism (pp. 86–87)

- What is Confucianism based on? Why might some not consider it a religion?
- What does yin-yang symbolize?

Hinduism (pp. 88–89)

- What type of religion is Hinduism? Where did it develop?
- Describe reincarnation. What role do Hindus believe karma plays in this process?

Islam (pp. 90–91)

- What are the two branches of Islam? What is the main difference between the two groups?
- What role does Makkah play in the Islamic faith?

Judaism (pp. 92–93)

- What is the Torah?
- What is the purpose of Yom Kippur?

Sikhism (pp. 94–95)

- Where do most Sikhs live? Why?
- What other religions have contributed to the Adi Granth?

Indigenous Religions (pp. 96–98)

- Many of the sacred stories in local religions explain the creation of people, animals, and plant life. Why would religions feature such stories?
- Which of the indigenous religions has the largest membership?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Conclusions** How are major religions similar? How are they different?
- Analyzing Information** How do people's religious beliefs affect what people eat and how they dress?
- Making Inferences** How do religious beliefs influence a society's laws?

Problem-Solving Activity

- Research Project** Use library and Internet sources to research the role of food and food customs in one of the world's major religions. Create a presentation to report your findings to the class.