

MONOTHEISM JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, OR ISLAM

Learning Objective: The students will

1. Identify key ideas of the three major monotheistic religions in the world.
2. Compare the key ideas of the three major monotheistic religions in the world

TEKS: WG.16B; WG.17B; WH.1B; WH.23A &B

Materials Needed: Sets of trading cards listing the key ideas of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam for groups of five or six students.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Review the key ideas of the three major religions- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
2. Divide the class into groups of five or six and give each group a set of the trading cards.
3. Have one person deal out all of the cards to the members in the group.
4. Instruct students to separate their cards into four groups: ideas that represent the Jewish religion, ideas that represent the Christian religion, ideas that represent the Islamic religion, and ideas that are representative of all three religions (there are four of these cards).
5. Explain to the students that they will begin a trading game with other students in the group in an attempt to create a set of cards that represent only one of the religions. Go over the following rules of the trading game:
 - They will be making “blind trades” (face down trades).
 - They can only trade one, two, or three cards at a time.
 - When the teacher signals, they **all** begin trading at the same time until one student thinks they have a complete set.
 - When a student thinks they have a complete set, they should call out, “Monotheism.”
 - At this time, all trading stops while the student reads his or her cards to check the answers.
6. Trading can continue until a set of cards for each religion has been completed and read aloud to verify that all cards are correctly matched to one of the three monotheistic religions.

7. Debrief the activity with the following questions:

- What is the most significant similarity between the three religions?
- What is the most significant difference between the three?
- How does this exercise help one understand conflicts the three religious groups have had throughout history?

Extension for GT/Pre AP: Have students research the history of the conflict of the three religions and make a time line of key events. Additionally, see if the students can create two more cards that could be shared by all three of the religions and two for each religion that highlight their differences.

Judaism Cards

1. Believes in one god—monotheism
2. Traces origins to Abraham
3. Believes that Jerusalem is a holy city
4. Believes in heaven, hell, and a judgment day
5. Uses the Torah as a holy book containing God's law
6. First given the Ten Commandments
7. Driven into exile from their holy land and dispersed throughout the Roman Empire
8. Highest holy day is Yom Kippur, which means "Day of Atonement"
9. Servants for the Egyptians until Moses led them back to the "Promised Land"
10. Their temple in Jerusalem was built by Solomon to glorify God
11. Goal of the religion is a moral life achieved by following God's laws
12. Believes they are God's "Chosen People"
13. Believes that Israel is their land, promised to them by God
14. Wailing Wall (the only remaining part of the temple in Jerusalem) is one of the holiest sites
15. Taken into captivity in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar
16. Persecuted by the Germans during World War II, resulting in the Holocaust
17. Believed that God would send them a Messiah to help them regain their promised land
18. Rejected Jesus as the Messiah and allowed the Romans to crucify him

Christianity Cards

1. Believes in one god—monotheism
2. Traces origins to Abraham
3. Believes that Jerusalem is a holy city
4. Believes in heaven, hell, and a judgment day
5. Believes in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible
6. Accepts that Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah
7. Attempted to regain the Holy Land during the Crusades
8. Highest holy days are Christmas and Easter
9. Divided into Catholic and Protestant sects
10. Goal of the religion is eternal life with God
11. Believes that the only way to eternal life with God is through acceptance of Jesus as a personal savior
12. Believes that anyone can convert to religion by accepting Jesus as a personal savior
13. Religious ideas spread by disciples such as Peter and Paul throughout the Roman Empire
14. Became the state religion of the Roman Empire in 380 AD
15. Believed that Jesus was resurrected to life three days after being crucified in Jerusalem by the Romans.
16. Persecuted by Romans because they refused to deny Jesus and worship the Roman gods
17. Has the most followers throughout the world
18. Primarily concentrated in Europe and the western hemisphere

Islam Cards

1. Believes in one god—monotheism
2. Traces origins to Abraham
3. Believes that Jerusalem is a holy city
4. Believes in heaven, hell, and a judgment day
5. Began with the revelation of Allah to Mohammed
6. Quran is the holy book of the religion
7. Believes that Jesus was a prophet like Mohammed
8. Formal name of the religion means “submission to the will of Allah”
9. Originated in the city of Mecca
10. Fastest growing religion in the world
11. Believes in prayer five times a day while facing Mecca
12. Fasts from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan
13. Believes in giving alms to the poor through a religious tax
14. Believes that one should make a pilgrimage to Mecca
15. Believes that one should testify that there is but one God, Allah
16. Split into two sects—Sunni and Shiites—over the leadership in the religion
17. Believes the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is the site where Mohammed ascended to heaven
18. Body of law, called the Shariah, is to guide followers in their daily lives.