



The Kids Book of WORLD RELIGION



Educator Resource Activity Poster



SPEAKING AND LISTENING

The Musical Side

Music plays a large part in many worship services. As a class, listen to a variety of music from a cross section of religions. How are the different sounds meant to affect the listener? Are they mostly serious, sad or joyful? Ask your class to see if they can find examples of “religious music” in what they listen to today.

Religious music includes Gregorian chants, Black American spirituals, Russian Orthodox choirs (Christian); hymns from India (Sikh or Hindu); songs with drumming accompaniment (African or Native North American) and chants by Tibetan monks (Buddhist).



Festival of Foods

Many festivals would not be complete without special foods to mark the occasion. What do Muslims eat when Ramadan is over? What do Sikhs serve in a gurdwara? What are the special foods Jews eat at Passover? What would you get to eat at a Chinese New Year festival? Invite people from one or more religious groups in your community to teach your class how they make some of their special festival foods. Or hold a food festival in the classroom and have your students bring in some of their favorite holiday foods from home.



WRITING

East Meets West

Many activities such as yoga, tai chi, meditation and dragon-boat racing came to the West from Eastern religions. Have each student choose an activity and learn about it. Ask them to create a “how-to” book on their activity. They should include a brief history and explain how the activity relates to the religious beliefs that it stems from.



Hall of Fame

Ask your students to write a short profile of a religious leader they admire.

The leader may be famous or someone the student knows personally. They should briefly describe their chosen person’s life and achievements, and explain what makes them think that he/she is an admirable leader. They should include photos or drawings with their profile

Travel Brochure

In small groups, have your class create travel brochures for people who are interested in going on a religious pilgrimage. They should design the front panel and give the brochure a title. Inside, they will need to include a map of the route, a description of the pilgrimage and advice about the weather, what to pack, where to eat and where to stay (camping, hotels, etc.) Have them make the brochures as informative as possible, but allow them to use their imagination, too!



Popular pilgrimage destinations include Mecca in Saudi Arabia (the Muslim “Hajji”); Benares on the Ganges River in India (Hindu) or World Youth Day (Roman Catholic, location changes).

ART, DECORATION AND ARCHITECTURE

Ask each student to write about the art, decoration or architecture from one of the world’s religions. They should illustrate it with their own drawings or photos they’ve collected. Examples include a statue of Buddha, a Christian stained glass window or a Native North American carved mask.

Then invite your students to create their own works of art based on the religion they’ve chosen, such as a Diwali lamp or a small totem pole. Take photographs of their crafts and include them in their finished articles.



DESIGN

A Year of Festivities

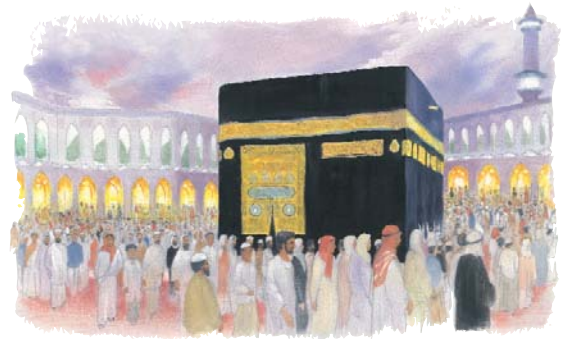
Divide your class into groups and have them create a calendar showing the major festivals of the world's religions. The students can draw a festival picture to adorn the top half of each calendar page.

Then as a class, learn about as many other religious festivals as you can. Add the name of each festival and the religion to which it belongs on the right date in the calendar. Include a line explaining what the festival means to followers of the religion.



Mapping Sacred Places

Using the map on this poster as a guide, have your students draw their own maps of the world. Ask them to label the continents, countries and cities where sacred places can be found, including at least one site for each of the world's major religions. The sacred places may be natural (mountains and rivers) and/or architectural (buildings for worship such as churches and temples). Have the students make drawings of each place on the map. Or have them make separate illustrations, number them and mark the number to the corresponding spot on their maps.



Symbols and Clothing

Ask each student to design a colorful poster showing a wide variety of religious symbols or religious clothing from religions around the world. Have them research their topic and write a short explanation of what each symbol or article of clothing means to the followers of that religion.



DRAMA AND MEDIA

Storytelling for Radio

Share some of the myths and stories from religious traditions with your class. The stories can come from ancient religions (Greek, Roman, Egyptian), African or North American Native traditions, or one of the major world religions. Working in groups, have them present one myth aloud for a "radio broadcast," interpreting the story in their own words. When assigning parts, don't forget to include the role of a narrator.

Examples include the story of Rama and Sita (Hindu); the story of Siddhartha Gautama, founder of Buddhism; a Native North American creation myth and the story of Joseph and his many-colored coat (Jewish).



RESOURCES

Internet Sites*

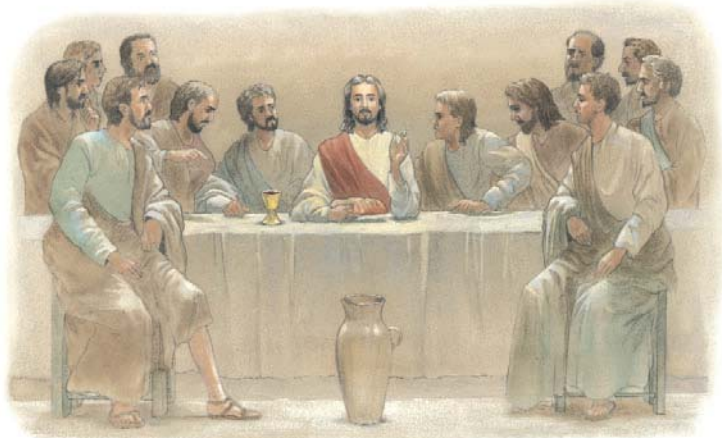
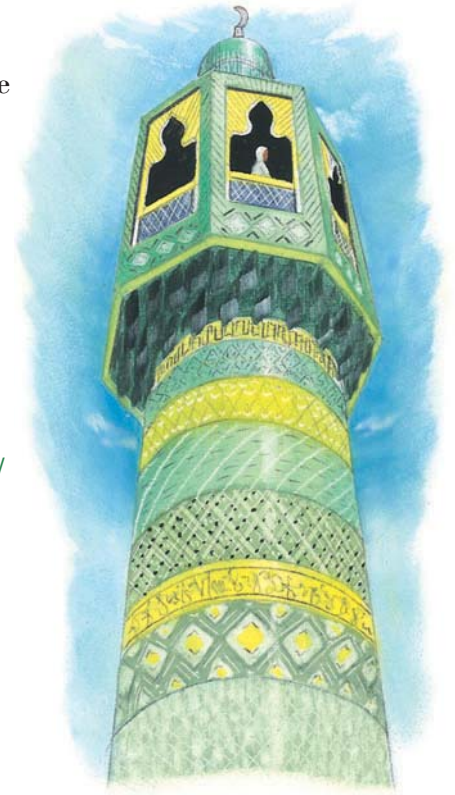
This site gives an up-to-date section on religious festivals called “Calendar and Holidays”. It also offers a detailed overview of nine of the world’s major religions.

<http://infoplease.lycos.com/ipa/A0113529.html>

To look up current dates of religious holidays and festivals, try these sites

<http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

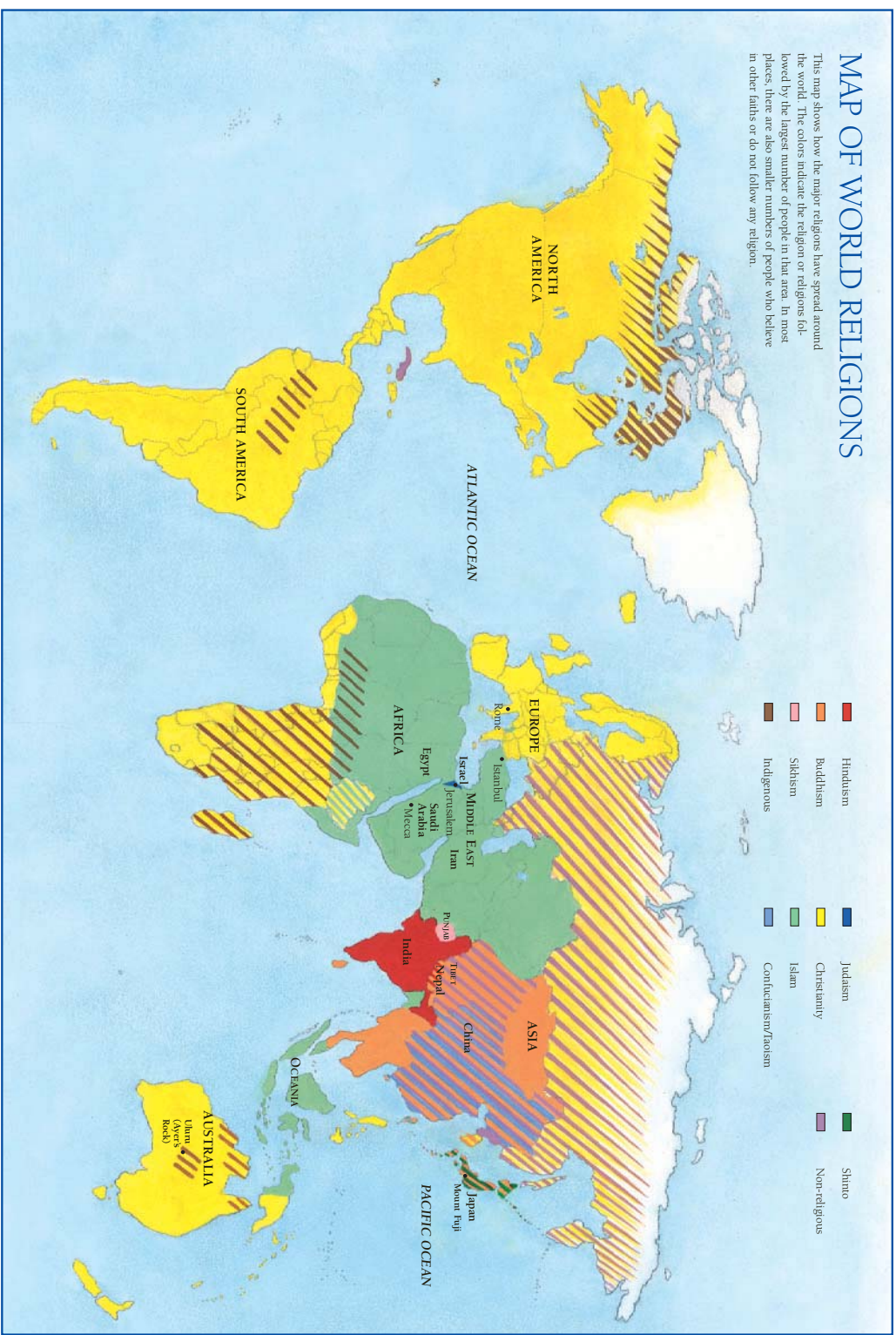
<http://www.support4learning.org.uk/shap/>



* Please note that the web site addresses listed were visited and were accurate at the time of printing, however we cannot guarantee that the sites will offer the exact information needed or that the domain sites will not change. Please remind children to always surf the Internet with an adult, and never to give out personal information.



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