



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
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Demographics and School Holidays

According to the Wall Street Journal story “Muslims Press for School Holidays in New York City,” 10 percent of the students in New York schools are Muslim.

Find the religious composition of your own community, town, or state. You can find this data through either the Religion by Location Index, compiled by the Web site Adherents.com, or the Pew Center <http://people-press.org/>. (If you live in a major metropolitan area, you will be able to find data specific to where you live. If you live in a smaller town, you may only be able to find data for your state.) Using the data you find, complete the following table:

Religious Composition of _____

Religion	Percentage of Population
Protestant	
Roman Catholic	
Jewish	
Muslim	
Hindu	

1. Does the data you collected affect your thinking about school holidays? Why or why not?

2. Do you think that the percentage of students from different religious traditions should affect which days schools are closed? Why or why not?
