

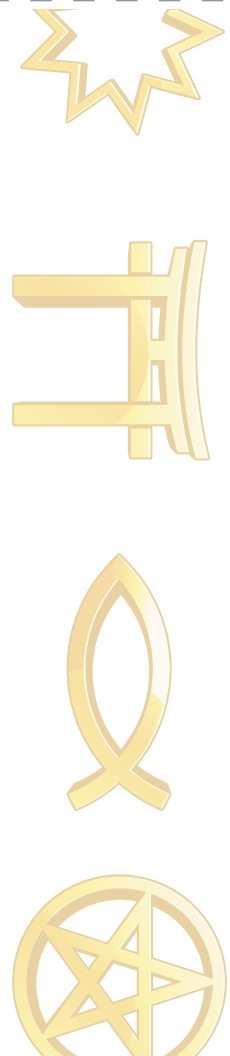
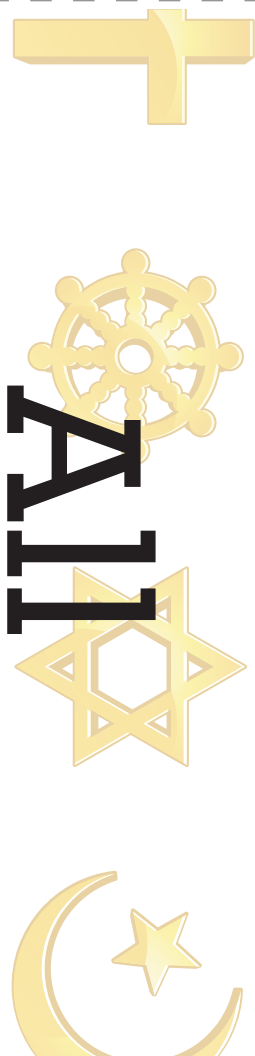


All About Religions

Assemble *All About Religions* by cutting along the designated lines. Secure with staples. Encourage students to draw their interpretations of the different beliefs in the blank boxes.



All About Religions



A long time ago, people asked questions about the world. They started to believe certain answers. Those answers led to different religions. A religion is a set of beliefs that people share. These beliefs help us figure out how life works.

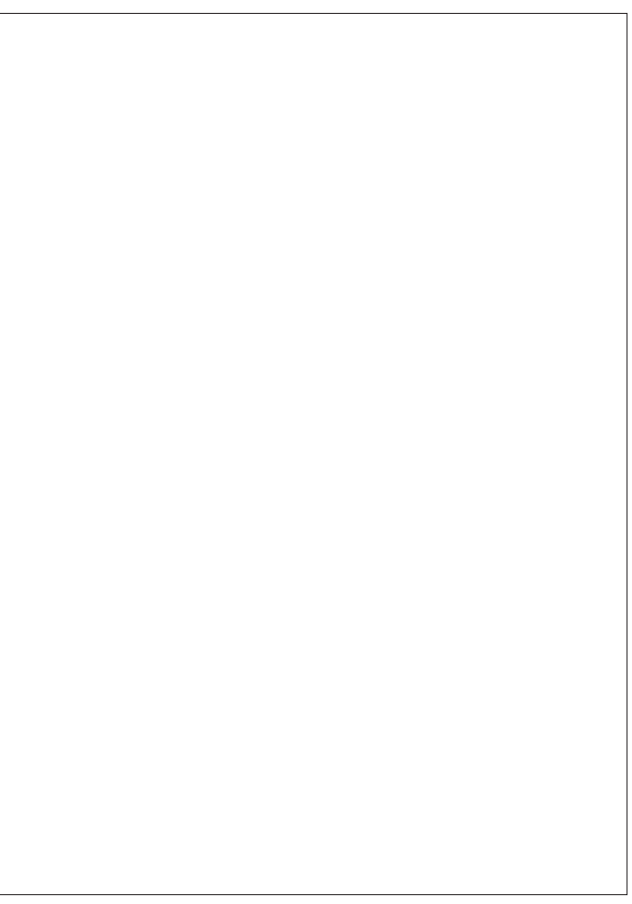
Some people follow the same religion as their families. Other people choose a different religion. Many people do not believe in any religion at all. It's fun to learn about the different beliefs of our friends!

I'm Dawa. My family and I live in Boston.

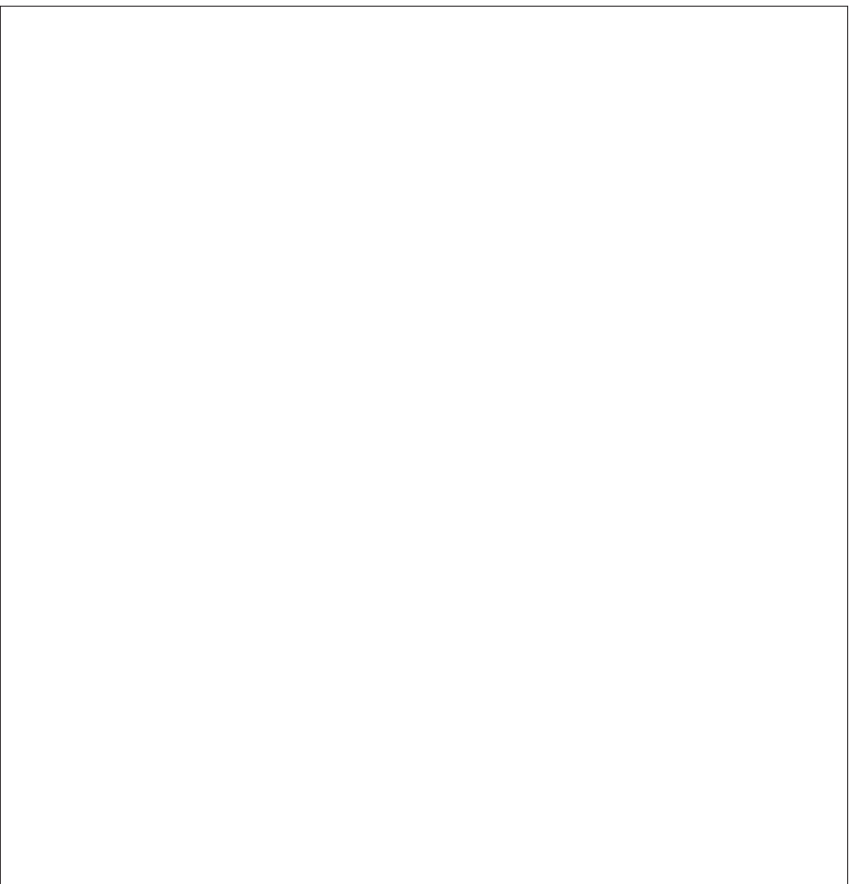
We are Buddhists. Buddhism is a religion that began in India. It is based on the teachings of the Buddha. We do not believe in a God, but we do pray in a temple called a vihara. A lama leads our prayer. We read from a holy book called the Tipitaka.

We believe in karma. Karma is a belief that what we do in this life decides our next life. We also believe in reincarnation.

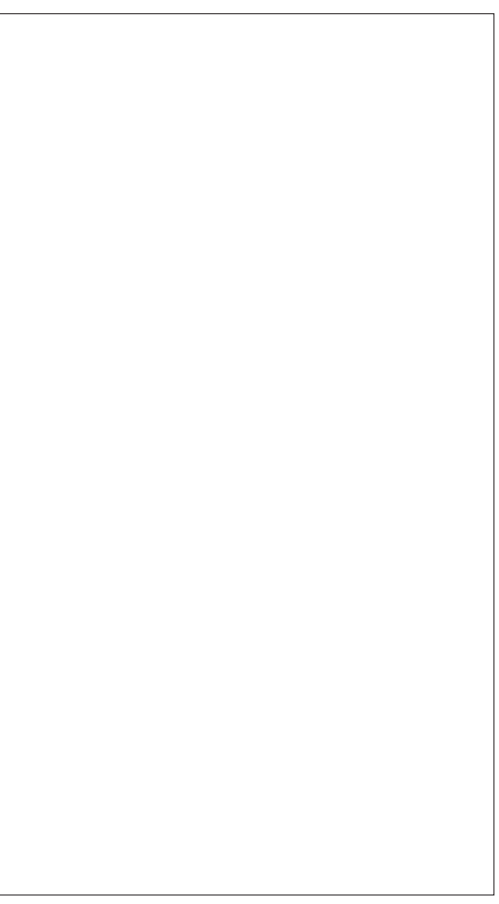
Our main holidays are Buddhist New Year and Vesak. My parents often wear plain robes to show that they live simple lives.



Hello. My name is Sarah, and I'm an atheist. That means I don't believe in the existence of a god or gods. I live in Hartsell, Alabama. Sometimes people ask me if I believe in anything at all—and the answer is yes! Atheists have all kinds of different worldviews, but my family and I believe in the importance of friendship and honesty. I also love the beauty of nature and like to study science to learn more about the natural world.



My name is Maya. Last year, my family immigrated to the U.S. from India. We live in Michigan.



Hinduism is a collection of different Indian traditions that began in India in prehistoric times.

Hindus believe in many gods. We pray in a temple called a Mandir. Our services are led by a Brahmin or guru. We read from the Vedas.

My religion has taught me to believe that I will live many lives. Each life depends on how I act in my last life. This is called karma.

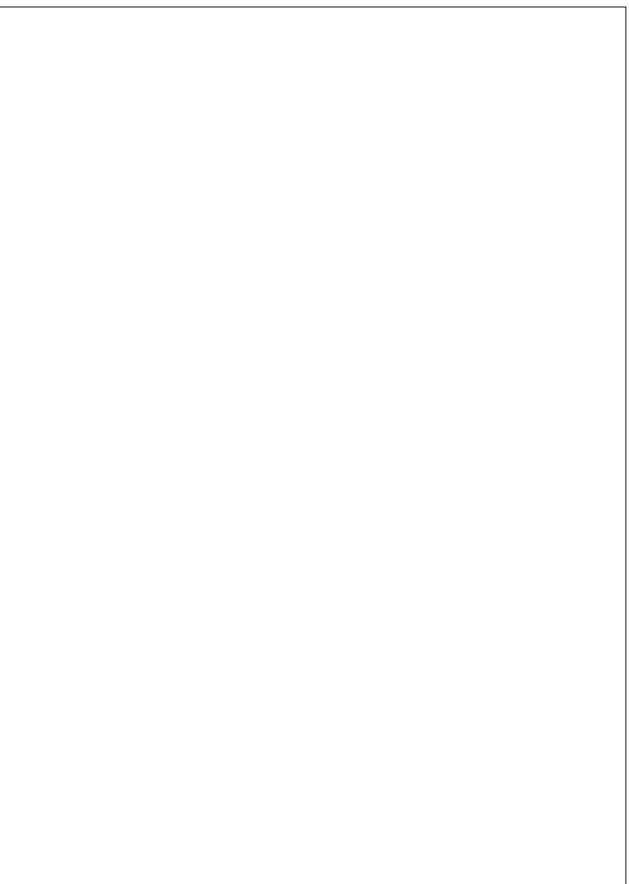
Our main holidays are Janmashtami and Diwali. My family is vegetarian, which means we don't eat meat. Many Hindus are vegetarians.

I am Warsi. I live in Washington, D.C., with my father, his new wife and my half-sister.

We believe in Islam, so we are called Muslims. Islam began in Saudi Arabia and it is based on the teachings of Muhammad. We believe in one God called Allah. We pray in a mosque. Our prayers are led by an imam. Our holy book is the Quran.

Muslims like me believe in Five Pillars. The Five Pillars are faith, prayer, giving to others, fasting, and going to Mecca.

Our main holiday is called Ramadan. We don't eat pork.

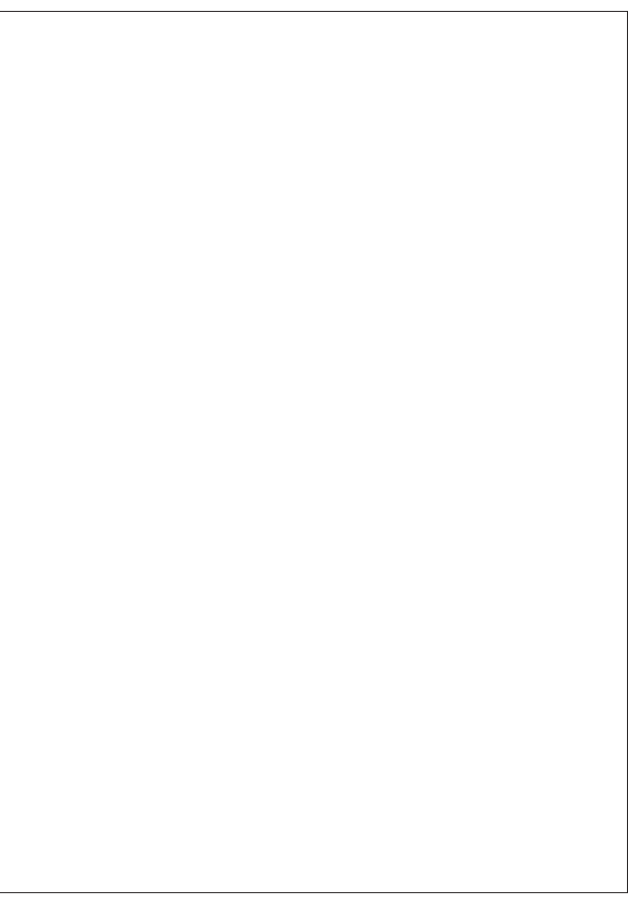


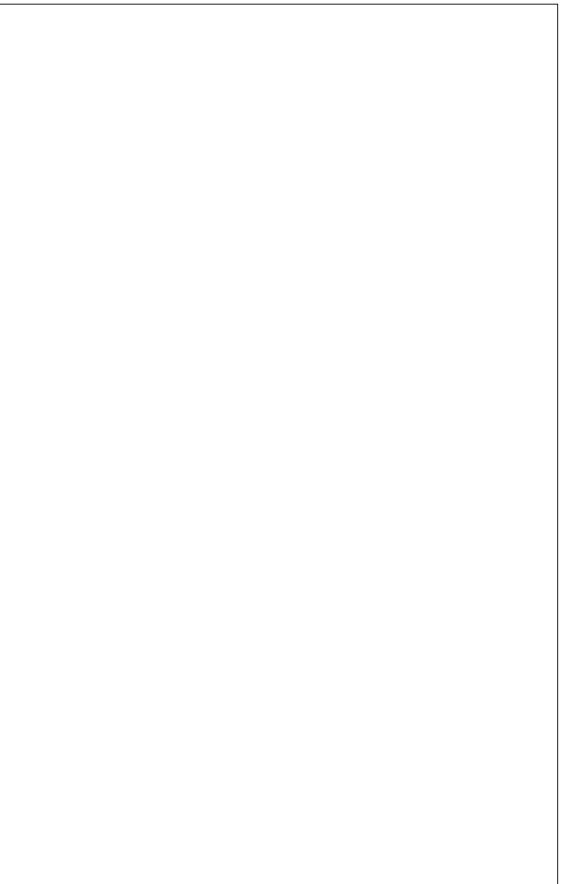
Shalom! I am Sadie. I live in Atlanta.

I am Jewish. Judaism is a religion that began in Israel. It is based on the teachings of Abraham and Moses. We believe in one God. We pray in a synagogue or Temple. The service is led by a rabbi. We pray from the Torah.

Jews believe that we should worship God and do just things for others. Our main holidays are Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Passover.

Our family is kosher, so we are not allowed to eat pork.





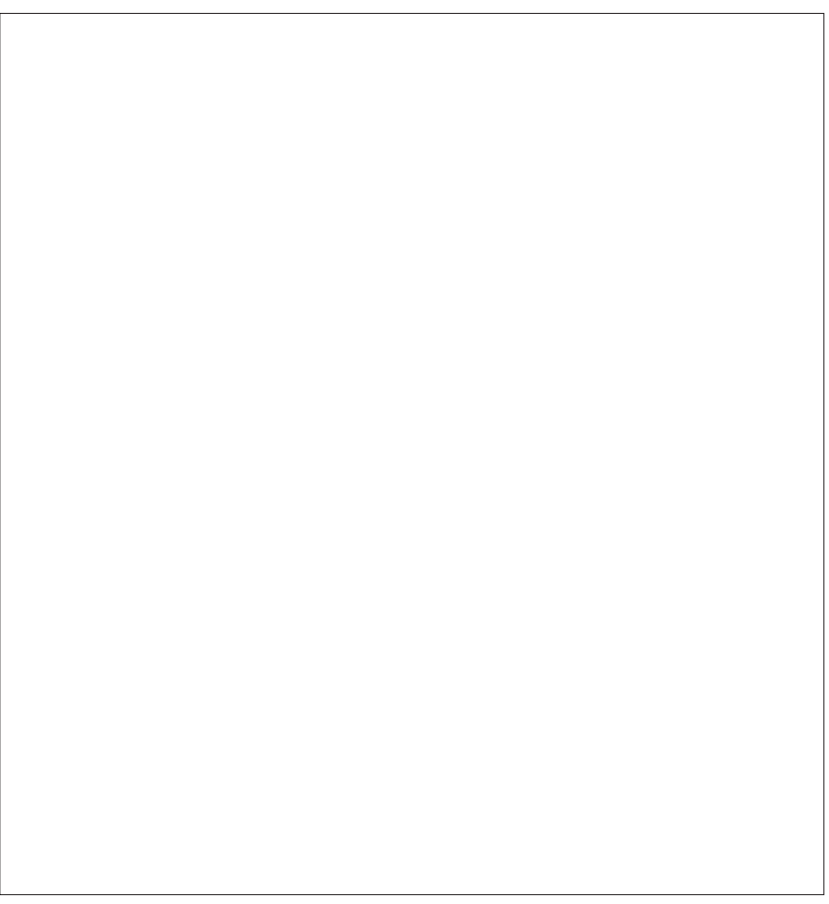
Hi. I'm Daan. I'm a Sikh. I live in Austin, Texas. Sikhism is a religion that began in India. It is based on the teachings of Guru Nanak. We believe in one God named Ik Onkar. We pray with other Sikhs in a gurdwara. We do not have a priest, but our holy book is the Guru Granth Sahib.

Just like other Sikhs, my mom and I spend a lot of time in the community caring for the poor and the sick.

We love to celebrate holidays like Gurburbs and Baisakhi. Some of my friends ask why I have a bun of hair on top of my head. I tell them it's because Sikhs do not cut our hair. The custom of not cutting hair is called Kesh.

My name is Rowan. I'm a Wicca. Wicca is an earth-based religion that began in England. We believe in a God that is sometimes a God and sometimes a Goddess. Unlike some other religions, we have no holy text. We feel close to nature and feel strongly about keeping nature safe. We feel so close to nature that we perform many of our rituals outdoors.

Most Wiccans like me mark eight holiday "sabbats" in the "wheel of the year."



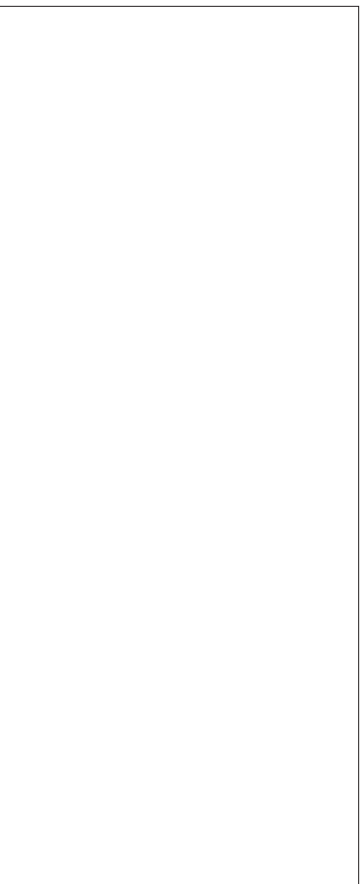
Hi! I'm John, and I am a Unitarian. Our religion began in the mid-sixteenth century when Christians of different sects formed together in the spirit of unity. They called themselves Unitarians.

Unitarians believe in many different things. Many of us honor Jesus but some honor Moses or Buddha. We like to include everyone's beliefs!

Our religion is guided by seven principles. One of the principles is that every person has worth! We are also centered in blessings, hope, and service to others.

We pray in a congregation. A minister leads our services. We often read the Bible but not always. Unitarians like to learn from many different sacred texts.

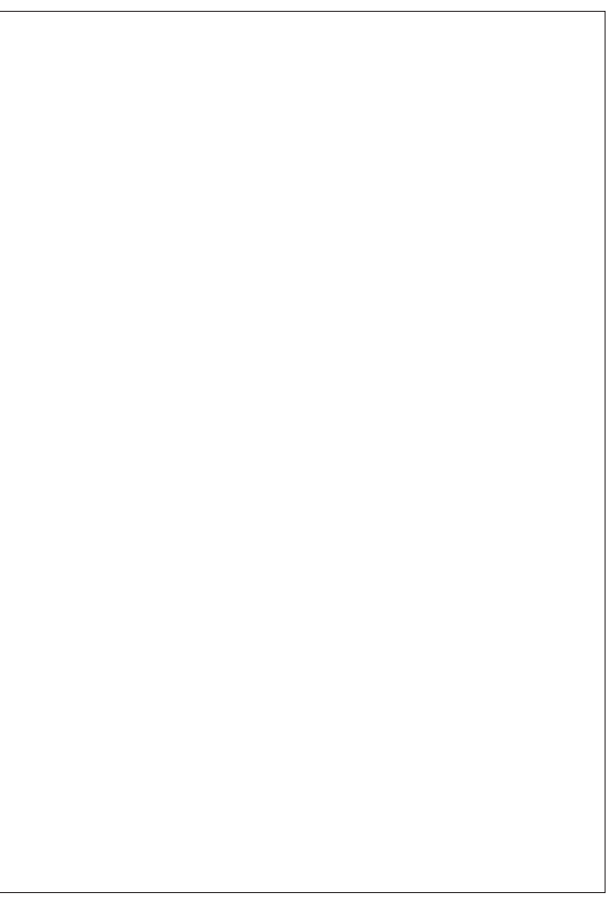
Many Unitarians celebrate holidays from several different faiths. My family celebrates Christmas, Passover and the Pagan winter solstice!



I am Banu, and I am a Zoroastrian. I live with my family in San Francisco. There aren't many Zoroastrians in our country, so I am always happy when someone wants to learn about our beliefs!

Our religion was started in Asia by a man named Zoroaster. He was the first to believe that there was just one God. We call our God Ahura Mazda. We believe that our purpose in life is to help God make the world a better place. We believe in good thoughts, good deeds and good words. Our holy book is the Gathas. We pray at fire temples.

We celebrate lots of fun holidays like Naw-Ruz, which is our new year.



Hello. My name is Patrick. I live with my grandmother and grandfather in Philadelphia.

I am Christian. Christianity is a religion that began in the Middle East.

My religion is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. I believe in one God.

I go to a church or chapel. Our services are led by a priest or minister. Our holy book is the Bible.

Christians believe that we should love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

I love celebrating Christmas and Easter! I don't eat meat on Fridays. My parents say it is to show that I am giving something up.

Learning about different religions and beliefs helps us understand everyone's lives and experiences. We all have our own special beliefs and traditions. Sometimes we believe the same way our friends do. Sometimes we believe differently.