

Culture and Ethnicity:

Ethnic Group- a group which shares common characteristics such as language, physical features, customs, and traditions.

Religious Group- A group which shares a common belief system but are not necessarily in the same ethnic group.

o Africa Ethnic Groups and their religions:

- o Arab- in Africa, most Arabs are Islamic, but can also be Christian or practice traditional religions.
- o Ashanti- Practice Traditional religions- golden stool, sun gods etc. They mix both supernatural beliefs with spiritual beliefs.
- o Bantu- practice traditional religion, but are primarily focused on ancestor worship
- o Swahili- Islam is the main religion practiced, but they also have some traditional practices.

o Middle East (Southwest Asia)

- o Arabs- most Arabs living in Southwest Asia are Islamic. Some, however, can also be Christian.
- o Persians- LIVE IN CURRENT DAY IRAN. Religion is primarily Shia Islam, but you can also see some Zoroastrianism.
- o Kurds- main religion is Sunni Islam. Some practice Zoroastrianism and Christianity.

Religion:

Africa Religion:

- o Three major religions include Christianity, Islam, and Traditional Religions (Ancestor Worship and belief in Supernatural powers).
- o Often traditional beliefs (Animism) are combined with Christianity.
- o Most of North Africa is Islamic because of its close ties with Southwest Asia.

Southwest Asia:

- o Three Main Religions are practiced. Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.
- o All 3 are MONOTHEISTIC- belief in one God
- o All believe that Abraham is their father.

Abraham (Patriarch)

- Sarah Hagar
- Isaac Ishmael
- ↓ ↓
- Judaism Islam

Christianity

Savior- Jesus (was a Jew)
Holy Worship Place- Church

Major Symbol- Cross

Islam

God- Allah (Arabic name for God)
Messenger or Prophet- Muhammad (Also do not believe Jesus is the savior)
Holy Place of Worship- Mosque
Sacred text- Koran

Islam has TWO SECTS : Sunni vs. Shia When Muhammad died, they began to argue over who should succeed him

Sunni believe any one showing good merit can lead the mosque, while the Shia believe it must be in the direct line of Muhammad's family.

Judaism

Savior- "The Messiah" – they believe Jesus is a prophet, not their savior.

Holy Book- Torah

Holy Place of Worship- Synagogue

Major Symbol- Star of David

Holy Site- Wailing Wall in Israel/Temple Mount (base of original temple built by Solomon).

Jerusalem

EAST ASIAN RELIGIONS: Three major religions are Buddhism, Hinduism, and Shinto. Also has a PHILOSOPHY involving Confucianism

Buddhism

- Religion was founded by Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) India
- Basic beliefs are that people should try to follow the Middle Way or Path.
- Has FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS- Life is full of suffering; We suffer because we desire. We must realize our desires, and must stop desiring to achieve happiness.
- In order to stop desiring, one must meditate and follow the Eightfold Path (CMEWASTU – Concentration, Mindfulness, Work, Action, Speech, Thought, and Understanding)
- Major symbol is the Lotus Flower and Wheel of Reincarnation.
- Believe that you can be reborn again into a new life (Reincarnation)
- Heaven is called Nirvana (What you imagine it to be)
- Place of worship is the Monastery or temple. Can also have individual meditation rooms in their homes and other places.