Unit 7.1 What is Religion, & What Role does it play in Culture?

Where did they originate & how did they diffuse?

Information contained in the worksheet, not just the blanks, is important, but the worksheet alone does not replace the need for a careful reading of the text, (pgs.193-212)

Field Note: Dying and Resurrecting

Religion in the Soviet Union under communism was a threat because they said, "Religions cause _____________" setting ______________ against _______________, so the official policy was _______________. Many religious practices went _______________.

The Soviet policy to diminish differences between _______________ & _______________ failed when the Soviets drew boundaries for _______________ control, separating _______________ groups within small areas. The Christian Armenian enclave, Nagorno-Karabakh was completely surrounded by Muslim _______________.

The Muslim exclave, _______________ was separated from Azerbaijan by _______________. The _______________ plan worked only as long as the _______________ controlled both republics. When they became independent states _______________ strife broke out. With the fall of communism in Russia, there was a rapid rise of resurgence of religion from the underground. Churches were rebuilt and religion made a comeback. Religion can be a strong _______________ force, but it can also divide and foster _______________.

What is Religion and What Role Does it Play in Culture?

Religion has diffused across cultural barriers and language barriers through _______________, _______________, _______________, and _______________.

• Religion is marked by _______________ (veils, yarmulke), personal _______________ (beards, choice of foods) and is manifested in different ways: worship of the souls of _______________, belief in one or more _______________, rituals and practices used during both waking and sleeping hours. Some religions practice rituals that mark important events like: _______________ & _______________, attainment of _______________ or _______________. A common ritual is _______________.

• _______________ is now common in some societies, where organized _______________ has become less significant in the lives of most people, yet religious influences are still evident in the determination of the work week, what is eaten (or not eaten), where you shop and what you may (or may not) buy.

• _______________ is a major influence in handling _______________, taking care of the _______________, and promoting the arts, and advancing _______________ knowledge.

• _______________ has also blocked _______________, encouraged _______________ of dissidents, supported _______________ and _______________, and condemned _______________ to an inferior status.
Where Did The Major Religions of the World Originate, and How Do Religions Diffuse?

- ___________ - worship a single deity; ___________ - more than one (e.g. Hinduism – thousands); ___________ - inanimate objects possess spirits and should be revered.

- ___________ - an early monotheistic religion which developed in SW Asia (Parsi in India from Ch 4)

- Four major hearths of religion and philosophy by 500 BCE, ___________ philosophy along the S. Mediterranean Sea, ___________ from S. Asia along the Indus River (Pakistan), ___________ in the E. Mediterranean, and the ___________ philosophies from the Huang He River Valley

- The two religions with the largest number of followers ___________ & ___________ were both influenced by ___________ and ___________ philosophy.

- ___________ religions – Christianity, Islam, Buddhism belong in this category; adherents actively seek converts (sometimes referred to as global religions or universalizing religions).

- ___________ religions (cultural) – Hinduism, Judaism, Shintoism, … particular to one distinct group of people; generally do not seek converts & are spatially concentrated (Judaism is the exception – the Jews are scattered mostly due to forced and voluntary migration, but not for seeking converts).

- **Syncretic religions** – elements from different cultural and religious sources combine (e.g. Shintoism – a mix of Buddhism and local Japanese religions & Sikhism – a mix of Hinduism and Islam).

- **Atheist** - the belief in no deity; **Agnostic** - unsure of the existence of a god.

- **Secularism** – indifference to or rejection of organized religion; ethical and moral standards should only apply to life on Earth (became more widespread in the Christian realm after the Reformation when the Catholic Church, which controlled politics, science, farming, …, was reduced in power).

### Hinduism

Hinduism has no founder, creed, all-encompassing written text, or single authority, and ranks third in numbers of adherents. Hindus do not separate religion/faith from other aspects of life, for them it is an inextricable part of their existence.

- The entire universe is part of the Divine – the universe is part of ___________ (a supreme spirit, but not a being, that permeates everything), however, it shows itself in many forms, which is why it is often considered to be a ___________ religion.

- Its fundamental doctrine is ___________, which deals with the transferability of the soul. The principle of ___________ is a cornerstone of Hinduism; an eternal cycle ending through a union with Brahman.

- The ___________ ___________, which is dominant in India, locks people into particular social classes, and imposes many restrictions on the lower castes. Good deeds & adherence to the faith lead to a higher level in the next life; bad behavior leads to a lower level in the next life.

- ___________, Indonesia remains a Hindu outpost, serving as a
refuge for Hindu holy men, nobles and intellectuals from the 16th c. when Islam took ___________, which still has many architectural remnants of its Hindu age.

- Since Hindu doctrines include the belief that constructing temples or shrines bestows merit on the builder so the cultural landscape is inundated with them. Temples should be in a comfortable place for easy access for their gods. This makes a distinctive cultural landscape.

**Buddhism**
- Founded by Prince ____________, the heir to a wealthy kingdom of what is now Nepal. He was upset by the poverty caused by the Hindu castes.
- Often referred to as the ___________ (enlightened one), he received his vision when he sat under the Bodhi (awakening) tree. He was perhaps the first Indian religious leader to speak out against the ____________ system, and believed that enlightenment could be attained by anyone through knowledge.
- Buddhists believe that enlightenment would come through ___________; elimination of ____________, ____________, & ____________; complete __________; and never hurting a __________ or __________.
- Emperor _________ became a convert and sent ________________ to carry Buddha’s teachings to distant lands.
- Although Buddhism began in ____________, it has relatively few followers today, with most followers in ____________, SE Asia, ____________, & ____________.
- Two major branches, ______________ (practiced mainly in ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________) spending much time in meditation and worship, AND ________________, a monastic faith (practiced in ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________).
- The cultural landscape contains pagodas and shrines that are often bell-shaped (to protect burial mounds); statues of the Buddha may also be seen (with the classic cross-legged pose).

**Shintoism**
Buddhism mixed with a local religion in ____________ became Shintoism, an ____________ religion focused on _______ & _______.
The majority of ______________ observe both ______ & _______.

**Taoism & Confucianism – Chinese Philosophies**
- Taoism is attributed to ____________, (a contemporary of Confucius) who published the ____________ or “Book of the Way” which outlined his view – the best government is the ____________ government, and people should learn to live ___________.
- Taoism’s ____________ - the art and science of organizing living space to channel life forces in a favorable way are still utilized today.
- ____________ - a philosophy became the blueprint for the Chinese civilization. His writings, The Analects, published by his pupils, said the real meaning of life was in the ____________, not in some future existence. The ____________ became the focus of education in China for 2000 years.
- Confucianism diffused to ____________, ____________, & ____________
- Confucianism and Taoism are both entrenched in Chinese culture, and communist attempts to ban religion were not effective.
- Feng Shui ______________ have the responsibility for identifying suitable ____________, to leave the dead in perfect harmony with their natural surroundings.

**Judaism**
Judaism has its roots in the teachings of ____________ (from Ur in ancient Mesopotamia) who united his people to worship one God, and God agrees to protect his chosen people, the Jews.
- led the them from Egypt to Canaan, but the Jews split into two branches ____________ & ____________
- The Romans destroyed their holy city ____________, driving the Jews out and scattering them in the
- Today of all the 18 million Jews, 40.5% live in ____________, 40.2% live in ____________ followed by less than 5% in ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________, ____________. The desire for a homeland in the 19c. led to the ideology of the ____________. The events of the ________
campaign against the Jews persuaded many to adopt ____________, with a goal of a ____________, which became a reality in __________. Many Jews have moved to __________ since the Law of Return was passed in 1950

Christianity
Christianity can be traced to the same hearth as __________ in the eastern Mediterranean. Like __________ & ______, it begins with a single founder. For Christianity, the founder is Jesus of Nazareth, the son of God.

- Christianity split with __________ but is a __________ religion
- In 1054 the two divisions of the Christian Church, __________ (centered in Rome) and the __________ (centered in Constantinople) split in the Great Schism
- The __________ had major setbacks when the Turks defeated the Serbs in __________ in 1389 (the date of Franz Ferdinand’s assassinated), when the Turks took Constantinople in 1453 (fall of the Eastern Roman Empire), and under communism by the Soviet Union in the 20th c.
- The __________ claims the most adherents of all Christian denominations (more than __________)
- During the middle ages, the Church controlled sources of __________ and worked with __________ to rule much of Western Europe, but in the early 1300s division resulted in __________ three people claiming to be __________.
- The __________ challenged the practices of the church leaders, and created the third major branch of Christianity, and forced the Roman Catholic Church to counter with the __________.
- Today, Christianity is the largest and most widely dispersed religion with more than __________ billion adherents with some __________ million in Europe, __________ million in N & S America, about __________ in S. America, __________ million in Africa, and __________ million in Asia.
- Christianity spread through __________ and __________ diffusion in early times, but worldwide diffusion occurred during the era of __________. Today there are __________ denominations, many of which are __________ (purposeful spreading of religious teachings)

Islam
Like Judaism & Christianity, Islam, the youngest major religion, has a single founder, ____________, who believed Allah had already revealed himself through the prophets including Judaism’s __________ and Christianity’s __________, but Muhammad came to be viewed as the one __________ among Muslims. The sacred text is the __________

- The __________ of Islam include 1) repeated expressions of the __________ (shahado), 2) frequent __________ (in the direction of Mecca – Muhammad’s birthplace), 3) a month of __________ (Ramadan), 4) __________, and 5) at least one pilgrimage to __________ (hajj).
- __________, __________, and __________ are forbidden
- The __________ represent the largest sect of Islam. The __________ (or Shi’ah) represent around 13% of all Muslims and dominate __________. They believe that __________ are without sin and infallible and the sole sources of true knowledge.
- Islam spread west through __________ and __________ through N. Africa eventually extending from Morocco to __________ and from Turkey to __________, and through trade to __________. Recent diffusion has been a result of __________ - of __________ diffusion.
- Islam has __________ billion followers (2nd to __________) and is the __________ of the world major religions
- __________ has __________ million followers & more than __________ of Muslims live outside of SW Asia & N. Africa

Indigenous and Shamanist
- __________ - religions are local in scope, with reverence for nature. Each group has its own belief system
- __________ - is a community faith with followers look to their __________, a religious leader, teacher, healer, and visionary. They are small and usually isolated.

Secularism
Secularism - the indifference to or rejection of __________ affiliations and ideas

- The __________ banned the wearing of overt __________ in public schools.
- In many areas labeled __________ on the map, there is a decline of organized religion as a cultural force is evident. In strongly Catholic __________ & __________ many are dissatisfied with the papal teachings on __________.
- Participation in church activities has declined, even if they continue to be members. __________ has also weakened (shopping on Sunday)
- Religious traditions are strong in some regions of the US (Mormon, Evangelical) and worldwide some smaller religions are growing __________, __________, __________, and the __________.

Created by NWatson 2010