

Date: _____

Religion in the Middle East

Origins of Religions

- First forms of religion were polytheistic.
- Most today are monotheistic.
- Three monotheistic religions were founded in the Middle East.
 - Judaism, Christianity, & Islam.

Judaism

- Most ancient form of monotheism.
- Followers are descendants of Abraham who made an agreement with God (Yahweh-Hebrew) to follow his laws.
- Holy Book: Torah
- Hebrews , or Jews, set up the Kingdom of Israel in 1025 B.C.
- In later centuries the Jews were conquered and many Jews were forced to leave the region and fled to many countries around the world.
- Beliefs: Ten Commandments.
- In the 1800s many European Jews returned where Judaism began.



Christianity

- Grew out of Judaism.
- Followed by those who believed Jesus was the savior, or chosen by God to help them.
- Both Jews & Romans worried about Jesus' teachings .
- Holy book: Bible- New & Old Testament
- In 33 A.D. he was tried & executed by the Roman Authorities.



- Beliefs: Ten Commandments but also stories of Jesus in the New Testament.
- In time Christianity spread to Europe and around the world. Currently largest religion in the world.

Islam Video Questions:

- 1) Muhammed believed he was a messenger of God.
- 2) He revealed the beginnings of the teachings of the Koran to his followers.
- 3) What city became the religious center for Muslims?
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

Islam

- Founded around 610 A.D.
- Followers believe Muhammad was a prophet of God (Allah-Arabic).
- Holy Book-Koran, Or Qur'an gives Muslims a link to their past and contains Muhammad's teachings.
- Beliefs: 5 Pillars of Islam
- Islam is the most popular religion of the Middle East and 2nd most popular in the world.

