

Date: _____

Religions of India

Create your own notes by filling in the blanks. Use pages 628-629 in your Exploring Our World text to read about two religions founded in India.

Hinduism

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions and the third largest.

- ◆ Hindus worship thousands of deities but they believe they are all part of an eternal spirit called Brahman.
- ◆ They believe that every living being has a soul that wants to be reunited with Brahman.
- ◆ Reincarnation-the Hindu belief that their souls are reborn into a new body.
- ◆ Dharma-moral duties that Hindus believe they must perform to ensure their next lives are better.
- ◆ Karma- Hindus believe they must fulfill their duties because they will consequences in their next lives.
- ◆ They must fulfill their Dharma to have good Karma.

Buddhism

Buddhism was founded by a young prince named Siddhartha Gautama.

- ◆ Gautama gave up wealth and family in search of truth.
- ◆ He became known as the Buddha or Enlightened One.
- ◆ He thought the cause of suffering was that people are too attached to material things.
- ◆ He believed people needed to follow the Eightfold Path.
- ◆ By following this path people could escape suffering and reach Nirvana, a state of peace and joy.
- ◆ Buddhism was popular among people who were poor and spread to other areas of South Asia.

India's Many Religions- Use the chart on page 637 to complete the percentages of followers for each religion.

80.5 % Hindu

13.4 % Muslim

2.3 % Christian

1.9 % Sikh

0.8 % Buddhist

0.4 % Jain

0.7 % Parsi, Jewish or other

Other Religions of India- Turn to page 641 to read about other religions popular in India and South Asia.

Islam- is the 2nd largest faith in the region of South Asia.

- ◆ Islam was brought to India by invaders from the Middle East.
- ◆ Muslims and Hindus have sometimes clashed, but India has a secular or non-religious government so rights of all religions are protected by law.

Sikhism- was founded in the early 1500s.

- ◆ It teaches belief in one God and stresses doing good deeds to escape reincarnation and join with God.
- ◆ It combined beliefs of Hinduism and Islam. Hoped to end holy war between these two faiths.
- ◆ Many Sikhs want an independent state.

Jainism-has about 4 million followers in India.

- ◆ Jains reject all violence.
- ◆ They want to protect every living creature.