

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn about the history of the three monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) (“Abrahamic Faiths”).
2. Identify the Hebrew and Arabic days of the week and months of the year.
3. Create a poster board containing similarities and differences of the Abrahamic Faiths (i.e., pictures, list of facts, etc.).

Materials

1. Children of Abraham (Ibrahim) by Farhat Qazi (handout)
2. Arabic Lunar Months (handout)
3. Hebrew Lunar Months (handout)
4. Arabic Days of Week (handout)
5. Hebrew Days of Week (handout)
6. Flash cards
7. Poster Board
8. Kahoot (quizzes to be created by teachers)

Learning Goals

To have a better understanding of the history of the Abrahamic Faiths and the days and months of the Hebrew and Arabic calendars.

Assessment

At the end of the session, the teachers will evaluate the students' understanding of the three monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) which are often called "Abrahamic Faiths," and their role in history, through testing and quizzes.

Children of Abraham (Ibrahim)

By: Farhat Qazi

Ancestral Connection

The three major monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam (sometimes referred to as the Abrahamic religions), share the following common ancestral origins, connections and traits:

- All originated from the Palestine/Arabian Peninsula, with Jerusalem being the holy city to all three;
- All have a Prophet who received messages from God and share common beliefs in some of the Prophets¹;
- All have sacred (scripture) writing in a form of a Holy Book;
- All have a choral tradition of chanting/singing;
- All believe and worship one God and the same God but have different names for the same God according to their own tradition; and
- All believe in resurrection and the concept of Hell and Heaven and in the Day of Judgment.

Prophet Noah

Prophet Noah² was born in Mesopotamia and is one of the most prominent prophets of the Abrahamic religions. Jews, Christians, and Muslims believe in Noah and his Ark and the accounts of the story of Noah are very similar in these religions. Noah preached to his people for approximately 950 years to convince them to believe in one God and one God only. He conveyed God's promise of reward if they were righteous and the message of divine punishment. But Noah's people rejected him and called him a madman. Noah said that he preached to his people day and night, private and public, but they turned away even more. When Noah's hope was lost with his people, he invoked God for help to punish non-believers who misled many and who would mislead those who believed in one God.

Noah was told by God to seek safety, along with his small group of followers. God instructed Noah how to build an Ark in which he, his sons and their wives, together with male and female creatures would be saved from the flood. When Noah was building the Ark, people passing by him were making fun of him, saying that his Ark will be floating in the desert. Why does he need to build an ark (boat) in a dry land? Noah looked at them and sighed knowing they would know soon.

By the order of God, water began to gush from the surface of the earth and the sky started pouring heavy rain. Before the flood was unleashed, Noah boarded the Ark along with his people and creatures and sailed to safety. All the nonbelievers were struck by the storm including one

¹ A prophet is an individual who has the divine power to speak to God and deliver God's message or teachings to guide humanity.

² Nuh in Arabic.

of Noah's sons, Cannon, who did not believe his father's warning about the flood and God's punishment. He told Noah that he will climb the mountain to avoid the flood. But the flood washed away the mountains and everything on the land and everyone who denied Noah was drowned. The earth was cleansed. This was one of the most severe punishments in the history of mankind from God for the nonbelievers. After the flood ended, his Ark landed on the mountain of "Al-Judi" or Ararat.



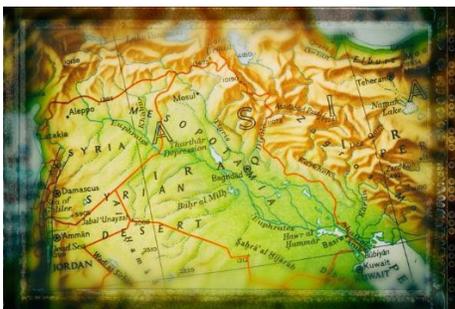
Image of Noah's Ark

Explorers claim they found Noah's Ark's remains in the mountains of Ararat, in what is now eastern Turkey (true location of Ark subject to debate).

Noah's sons, Ham, Shem, and Japheth, left the Ark and developed nations on the promise land on Earth. All tribes, nations and cultures are related to these three men. All of Noah's sons were kings of their times; however, Shem was more spiritual and carried Noah's message throughout his life. Abraham is the descendant from Shem (some believe Abraham is approximately the ninth-generation direct line of descendant from Shem). Judaism, Christianity, and Islam trace back to a common origin of Abraham and Noah's son Shem.

Prophet Abraham

Abraham (who is called "Ibrahim" in Arabic tradition) was born almost 4,000 years ago in the Mesopotamia city of Ur of the Chaldea also known as Babylonia or Babylon (located in current Iraq). "Mesopotamia" is a Greek word that means "land between the "rivers." Mesopotamia is a region of southwest Asia between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.



Abraham was born in the house of idolaters. His father was a well-known idol sculptor. Muslims believe that Ibrahim's father's name was Aazar, which most likely derived from the Syriac Athar, and is further known as Terah in the Torah, the Hebrew Bible.

Abraham had a spiritual awakening and understanding from a very young age. He was granted wisdom from God at an early age and he refused to worship idols, which made his father very angry.

Abraham respectfully argued and disagreed with his father's beliefs that the stone and wooden statues he is making with his own hands, who can't see, can't speak and can't hear, cannot be his God. Abraham believed that there is a higher power, a higher being than these statues who is keeping the whole universe intact. But Abraham was unable to convince his father.

After this conversation, Abraham left his father's house and the country and started his journey to the city of Haran in the region of Ur. He then traveled to Palestine and Egypt and finally settled in Cannon between Syria and Egypt with his wife Sarah.

He went to the mountains and spent a lot of time looking at the sun and the moon. He observed the alternating cycles of day and night and the shooting stars searching for the truth. Finally, God spoke to him. The Monotheistic belief was then introduced in the Polytheistic society, which is often known as the Abrahamic religion.

After Abraham married Sarah, many years passed before Sarah realized that she was barren and could not have any children. Abraham married Hagar³. Hagar was Abraham's second wife and she gave him the good news that she was expecting a child.

Abraham took Hagar to the wilderness and left her there all alone when she was pregnant. While in the wilderness, Hagar gave birth to Ishmael⁴, Abraham's eldest son. According to some Jewish traditions, Sarah demanded Abraham to expel Hagar because of jealousy when Hagar became pregnant, as Sarah was barren. According to Muslim tradition, Prophet Abraham took Hagar to the wilderness out of obedience to the command of God.

Then God spoke to Prophet Abraham and informed him that he would give Sarah children too and she would not be barren anymore. Sarah became pregnant at an old age and gave birth to Isaac⁵.

Abraham's sons Ismael and Isaac both later became prophets.

According to Abrahamic tradition, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)⁶ was a descendant of Prophet Ishmael.

³ Hajar in Arabic.

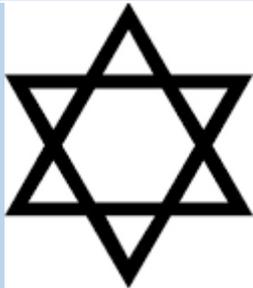
⁴ Ismail in Arabic.

⁵ Ishaq in Arabic.

⁶ "Peace be upon him" is a customary phrase attached to the prophets of Islam.

Also according to Abrahamic tradition, there was a prophecy from Prophet Isaac's lineage for thousands of years till the time of Moses⁷ and Jesus⁸ then the prophecy was transferred to the son of Ishmael to the last Prophet, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who was from Ishmael's lineage.

Commonality

Religion Name	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Word for "God"	Yahweh	God, Lord, Father	Allah
Prophet	Moses	Jesus	Muhammad (PBUH)
Parents of Prophet	Amram and Jochebed	Virgin Mary (Maryum in Arabic tradition)	Abdullah and Aminah
Holy Book Name	Torah	Bible	Quran
Day of Observance	Saturday	Sunday	Friday
Prayer Customs ⁹	3x per day (mandatory)	No mandatory prayer times	5x per day (mandatory)
Place of Worship	Synagogue	Church	Mosque (Masjid)
Religious Days	Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah	Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Palm Sunday	Ramadan (a fasting month), Eid-al-Fitar, Eid-al-Adha
Symbol			

⁷ Musa in Arabic.

⁸ Issa in Arabic.

⁹ Judaism—Three prayers are mandatory in the Jewish tradition, but optional prayers can be performed at any time. Christianity—There are no mandatory prayer times, but prayers are encouraged at any time.

Islam—Five prayers are mandatory in Islamic tradition, but optional prayers can be performed at any time

Sons of Ibrahim (Abraham)

I am Moses
I am Jesus
I am Muhammad (PBUH)
Remember, they were sons of Ibrahim

They all went separate directions
to spread the same message
the message of Ibrahim
Truth, Faith, Salvation, Harmony and Divinity
Remember, they were sons of Ibrahim

Walking away from challenges is not the solution
Face them as Moses did with the Pharaoh
as Jesus did with the cross
and as Muhammad did with Abu Jahl
Just like their father faced Nimrod
Remember, they were sons of Ibrahim

Love and evil cannot coexist
They all carry the same message
Believing in one God
the day of judgement
humanity and justice for all
Remember, they were sons of Ibrahim

Peace cannot be created
until we are united without hindrance
We are strangers with
shared peace, love and care
cultivating the love of God
Remember, they were sons of Ibrahim.

Life goes on
with the strong ties of yesterday
Make yesterday's path
a path of unity
Remember, they were sons of Ibrahim

Written by Farhat Qazi

Suggestion: Poem composed in original music (during music class) and performed in a group recital in the assembly on the day of "The Children of Abraham Day." (The first Friday of December every year.)

ARABIC DAYS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY = AHAD	MONDAY = ISNIN
TUESDAY = SELASA	WEDNESDAY = RABU
THURSDAY = KHAMIS	FRIDAY = JUMMAH
SATURDAY = SABTU	

ARABIC LUNAR CALENDAR

1st MONTH = MUHARRAM	2nd MONTH = SAFAR	3rd MONTH = RABI AL-AWWAL
4th MONTH = RABI AL-THANI	5th MONTH = JUMADA AL-ULA	6th MONTH = JUMADA AL- THANIYAH
7th MONTH = RAJAB	8th MONTH = SHA BAN	9th MONTH = RAMADAN
10th MONTH = SHAWWAL	11th MONTH = DHU AL-QA DAH	12th MONTH = DHU AL-HIJJAH

HEBREW DAYS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY = RISHON	MONDAY = SHENI
TUESDAY = SHLISHI	WEDNESDAY = REVI'I
THURSDAY = CHAMISHI	FRIDAY = SHISHI
SATURDAY = SHABBAT	

HEBREW LUNAR CALENDAR

1st MONTH = NISSAN	2nd MONTH = IYAR	3rd MONTH = SIVAN
4th MONTH = TAMMUZ	5th MONTH = AV	6th MONTH = ELUL
7th MONTH = TISHREI	8th MONTH = CHESHVAN	9th MONTH = KISLEV
10th MONTH = TEVET	11th MONTH = SHEVAT	12th MONTH = ADAR