

# **Monotheism: Making Connections Between the Three Abrahamic Religions**

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## **Overview:**

In this lesson, students will collaborate in small groups to research one of the 3 Abrahamic religions, Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources to gather information on the origins, basic beliefs and practices, prophets, religious symbols, etc. of one Abrahamic religion. Students will then individually create a one page mini-poster to display the information they have learned. Then, students will explore the other two Abrahamic religions by completing a Gallery Walk where they travel around the room, analyzing the information organized by their classmates, and recording it on a graphic organizer. Lastly, students will compare and contrast the three religions, making connections to historical significance and modern life.

## **Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

1. Use primary and secondary sources to research one Abrahamic religion (Judaism, Christianity, or Islam).
2. Identify key elements of one Abrahamic religion such as its origins, basic beliefs and practices, prophets, religions symbols, etc.
3. Create a mini-poster based on their research of one Abrahamic religion. 4. Interpret and record information on the remaining Abrahamic religions provided by their classmates.
4. Compare and contrast the three Abrahamic religions using a venn diagram.

**Recommended Grade Level(s):** 6th-7th grade

## **MI SS Standards:**

7 – W3.2.1 Identify and describe the core beliefs of major world religions and belief systems, including Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Sikhism and Islam.

7 – W3.2.2 Locate the geographical center of major religions and map the spread

through 1500 CE.

7 – H1.1.1 Compare and contrast several different calendar systems used in the past and present and their cultural significance.

7 – H1.4.1 Describe and use cultural institutions to study an era and a region. 7–

H1.4.2 Describe and use themes of history to study patterns of change and continuity.

7 – H1.4.3 Use historical perspectives to analyze global issues faced by humans long ago and today.

### **Time Required:**

4 class periods, approximately 55 minutes each.

### **Resources:**

- [3 Abrahamic Religions graphic organizer packet](#)
- [Abrahamic Religions Venn Diagram](#)
- [Abrahamic Religions One Pager Project Outline & Rubric](#)
- [Judaism overview](#)
- [Judaism Video](#)
- [Christianity overview](#)
- [Christianity video](#)
- [Islam overview](#)
- [Islam video](#)

### **Materials:**

- Pencil
- Computer
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Poster paper
- Venn diagram

### **Activities** (described as steps)

1. Students will either receive one Abrahamic religion to research using text-based information and/or video. They will use this research to identify and describe the origins, deity, founder, Prophets, basic beliefs, etc. of their assigned religion on the Abrahamic Religions Graphic Organizer.
2. Students will then complete a one page poster demonstrating their understanding of their Abrahamic religion.
3. After, students' projects will be displayed in the classroom for others to view. We will

then complete a gallery walk where students go from project to project, gathering information about the two Abrahamic religions they did not research.

4. Next, students will visit the posters made by their group mates to see the consistency between information shared by each classmate.
5. After gathering information on all of the 3 Abrahamic religions, the students will return to their seats and will discuss the following questions with their table partner: What were 2 similarities you noticed about the two religions you researched today compared to the religion you researched earlier? What were 2 differences you noticed between the religion you researched earlier and the two religions you researched today?
6. Then, the teacher will hand out the Abrahamic Religions Venn Diagram and have students compare and contrast all 3 Abrahamic religions with a partner. Remind students to use as many examples as possible when noting the similarities and differences among all 3 religions.
7. Next, the class will go over their Venn Diagrams and combine/condense ideas to show how similar the three Abrahamic religions are and discuss their links and evolution over time.

### **Evaluation:**

Brief writing assignment: Compare and Contrast the three Abrahamic religions, including at least 2 similarities and 2 differences.

### **Extension Activities:**

- Students could continue to research and explore the prevalence of one or all of these religions today and how they have changed over time.
- Students could share their findings in the form of a research paper, slideshow presentation, or physical project.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

## Abrahamic Religions One-Pager

Abrahamic religions share many common themes. They began and spread rapidly throughout the world during the Age of Empires. Their rapid spread was largely due to trade routes and maritime routes (trade by the sea). Many of these religions still have a profound influence on the world and its people today.

You will receive 1 of the following Abrahamic religions to complete a One-Pager on:

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

As part of this assignment, you will receive a 9 x 12 poster paper and draw out the important beliefs/ideas of the religion.

**Make sure to include the following information on your One Pager:**

- Name of Belief System
- Number or amount of followers
- Where largest percentage of followers exist
- Name and image of their Deity
- Name and image of the founder
- Location of origin (Map image)
- Date started
- How and to where it spread over time
- Sacred Text (Draw text)
- Leadership (Who leads the religion)
- Basic Beliefs (Illustrate core beliefs)
- Symbols/Icons

**You will later share this information with a small group of classmates in a jigsaw activity. You will teach each other about 1 of the 3 Abrahamic religions.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

## Abrahamic Religions One-Pager Rubric

	4	3	2	1
<b>Use of Preparation Time</b>	Student used allotted work time efficiently	Student used most of allotted work time efficiently	Student used work time with some off-task tendencies	Student did not use allotted time efficiently and was frequently off task
<b>Required Information (x2) 8 points total</b>	All required information is clearly visible and well defined on One-Pager.	All required information is visible on One-Pager.	Most required information is visible on One-Pager. Some may require more verbal explanation	The One-Pager is missing all or nearly all required information
<b>Effort and Organization</b>	The One-Pager is excellent in design, layout, and neatness	The One-Pager has a nice design, layout, and is neat	The One-Pager has several areas that need improvement in design, layout, or neatness	The One-Pager needs major improvement in design, layout, and/or neatness
<b>Graphics</b>	The pictures used are all clear, colored, and relevant	Most pictures used are clear, colored, and relevant	Some or few of the pictures are clear, colored, and/or relevant	The pictures used are not clear, colored, nor relevant

### Required Information Checklist:



- Name of Belief System
- Number or amount of followers
- Where largest percentage of followers exist
- Name and image of their Deity (god(s)/goddess(es))
- Name and image of the founder
- Location of origin (Map image)
- Date started
- How and to where it spread over time
- Sacred Text (Draw text)
- Leadership (Who leads the religion)
- Basic Beliefs (Illustrate core beliefs)
- Symbols/Icons

# Abrahamic Religions Organizer

Name of Belief System	Origin, Leaders, God(s)/ Goddesses	Location & Population	Basic Beliefs, Practices, & Worship	Role in Society, Symbols, & Icons
Judaism				

# Abrahamic Religions Organizer

Name of Belief System	Origin, Leaders, God(s)/ Goddesses	Location & Population	Basic Beliefs, Practices, & Worship	Role in Society, Symbols, & Icons
Christianity				

# Abrahamic Religions Organizer

Name of Belief System	Origin, Leaders, God(s)/ Goddesses	Location & Population	Basic Beliefs, Practices, & Worship	Role in Society, Symbols, & Icons
Islam				



## Abrahamic Religions Venn Diagram

**Directions:** Compare and contrast Judaism, Christianity, and Islam using the venn diagram below. Be sure to include as many similarities and differences as possible.

