

# Abrahamic Religions, More Alike Than You May Think

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## **Overview:**

This lesson will present the basic tenets of three Abrahamic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It will encourage students to find the differences, but more importantly, similarities between the three religions.

## **Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- identify and describe the basic tenets of the three Abrahamic world religions
- identify differences between the three Abrahamic religions
- identify similarities between the three Abrahamic religions
- deduce that there are many similarities between the three religions

## **MI SS Standards:**

7 – W3.2.1 Identify and describe the core beliefs of major world religions and belief systems.

**Time Required:** 2 to 3 class periods

**Recommended Grade Level:** 7

## **Materials:**

- [Three Abrahamic Religions Chart](#) (1 copy per student)
- [Teacher's Key](#) to Three Abrahamic Religions chart
- [Religion Essay Planning Graphic Organizer](#) (1 copy per student)
- pencils
- chart paper (1 piece per 3 to 4 students)

## **Resources:**

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

## **Procedure:**

1. Ask students to name religions around the world. List them on the board. Ensure that they identify Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Tell students that we will be focusing on

those three.

2. Give each student a copy of the Three Abrahamic Religions chart or post an electronic copy on Google Classroom. Explain that as they watch the videos, they will record the important information.

(Some students at this age may have difficulty understanding what is important. I suggest stopping the videos when important info is presented to ensure students record that information.)

3. As a whole class, watch and discuss this video on Judaism, *What is Judaism?* Tell students to write down the important points as they are watching using the chart.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VAyIWxDQfk&t=228s> (17 minutes)

Ensure students recognize that Judaism includes

- an Abrahamic and monotheistic religion
- belief in supernatural
- moral responsibility
- prophets
- scriptures/holy book
- central theme of promoting peace

Please refer to the key for all the important information students will need.

4. As a whole class, watch and discuss this video on Christianity, *Christianity from Judaism to Constantine*. Tell students to write down the important points as they are watching using the chart.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG55ErfdaeY> (11 minutes)

Ensure students recognize that Christianity includes

- an an Abrahamic and monotheistic religion
- belief in supernatural
- moral responsibility
- prophets
- scripture/holy book
- central theme of promoting peace

Please refer to the key for all the important information students will need.

5. As a whole class, watch and discuss this video on Islam as a whole class, *Islam Explained*. Tell students to write down the important points as they are watching using the chart .

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XlvEymU-S4o&t=313s> (23 minutes)

Ensure students recognize that Islam includes

- an Abrahamic and monotheistic religion
- belief in supernatural
- moral responsibility
- prophets
- scriptures/holy book
- central theme of promoting peace

Please refer to the key for all the important information students will need.

6. After watching, discussing, and recording the important ideas from all three videos, put students in small groups. Give each group a piece of chart paper. Have them complete the [Abrahamic Religions Venn Diagram](#). Then fill in the info from their Three Abrahamic World Religion worksheet.
7. Lastly, have each group present their Venn diagrams. Highlight that there are many similarities.

### **Extension Activity:**

Have students write an argumentative essay to show there are more similarities than differences between the three Abrahamic religions. Use the graphic organizer to create the essay.

### **Evaluation:**

Evaluation will be done by reviewing the Three Abrahamic Religion charts and the Venn diagrams. The focus will be on student recognizing all the similarities including that all three religions are monotheistic,

- Abrahamic and monotheistic religion
- belief in supernatural
- moral responsibility
- prophets
- scriptures/holy book
- central theme of promoting peace

## Three Abrahamic World Religions

### Key

Belief System Name	Name of Deity	Founder · Location of origin · Date started	Sacred Text	Leadership	Basic Beliefs
<b>Judaism</b>	Monotheistic God (Yahweh)	Abraham Middle East  No consensus possibly around 3000 years ago	Hebrew Bible, known as the Torah.  The Talmud contains stories, laws, medical knowledge, debates about moral choices, etc. It also includes a series of debates or interpretations of passages of the Torah.	Rabbis	People in this religion generally believe that... · There is only one God, who watches over and cares for his people. · God loves and protects his people, but also holds people accountable for their sins and short-comings. · Persons serve God by studying the Torah and living by its teachings. Jewish sacred texts have little to say about what happens after death. It is more focused on actions than on beliefs.

Belief System Name	Name of Deity	Founder · Location of origin · Date started	Sacred Text	Leadership	Basic Beliefs
<b>Christianity</b>	Monotheistic One God, and The Trinity holds that there are three in	St. Paul founded it based on his interpretation of	Bible Includes the Torah, Old Testament,	Clergy (Pope,	People in religion generally believe that... There is o

	<p>one and one in three aspects of God: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Ghost</p>	<p>Jesus Christ's life and mission</p> <p>In and around Jerusalem in Judea</p> <p>30 CE</p>	<p>and the Gospels and New Testament (accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and St. Paul's mission amongst Jews and Gentiles)</p>	<p>priests and ministers)</p>	<p>God, who over and over his people Jesus Christ the son of He died to humanity His death resurrection eternal life possible for others. · The Commandments are a guide to moral behavior (thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not murder) There are many beliefs within the larger Christian religion about life after death Christians generally believe there is an afterlife, and the worthy go to Heaven and are rewarded, while the unworthy go to Hell. There is disagreement, however, about who is worthy and who is unworthy. The Cross is a symbol of crucifixion</p>
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					Jesus Chr represents love for hu in dying fo sins.
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Belief System Name	Name of Deity	Founder · Location of origin · Date started	Sacred Text	Leadership	Basic Beliefs
<b>Islam</b>	Monotheistic Allah	founded by Muhammad in Arabia in the early 7th century CE	The sacred scripture of Islam is the Qur'an which contains God's revelations to Muhammad. The sayings and deeds of the Prophet recounted in the sunna are also an important source of belief and practice in Islam.	imam	The religious obligations of Muslims are summed up in the Five Pillars of Islam, which include belief in God and his Prophet and his obligations of prayer, charity, pilgrimage and fasting. Often Muslims pray five times a day and join in communal worship on Fridays at the mosque.

## Essay Planning Graphic Organizer

Plan your essay using this graphic organizer.

Thesis (topic and stance)

Why? Because...

Reason #1

Example

Explanation (Why? How? So what?)

Reason #2

Example

Explanation: (Why? How? So what?)

What is the counter claim?

Counter claim

Example

Explanation:

Conclusion: (Don't forget to restate your thesis in a new way!)



## Three Abrahamic World Religions

Directions: Fill in the chart as you watch the videos.

Belief System Name	Name of Deity	Founder · Location of origin · Date started	Sacred Text	Leadership	Basic Beliefs
<b>Judaism</b>					

Belief System Name	Name of Deity	Founder · Location of origin · Date started	Sacred Text	Leadership	Basic Beliefs
<b>Christianity</b>					

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Belief System Name	Name of Deity	Founder · Location of origin · Date started	Sacred Text	Leadership	Basic Beliefs
<b>Islam</b>					