

Intro to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

Lesson Author: Case Trevino

Overview:

In this project, students select and research a major religion, create summary posters with visuals, present findings to peers, and collaboratively build a Venn diagram highlighting commonalities and differences among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The process aims to foster collaborative learning and showcase shared elements.

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Complete research on one of the three major religions of Judaism, Christianity, or Islam, and to complete a project based upon what they have learned.
- Share their findings with a group of classmates in a way that provides an effective overview of their initial findings.

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.

6 – G4.1.3 Describe cultures of the region being studied, including the major languages and religions. 6 – G4.1.4 Explain how culture influences the daily lives of people.

Time Required: Minimum of four class periods (55 minute class periods).

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

Preparation:

Materials:

- Laptop
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Poster Paper
- Graphic Organizer/Note Taking Chart

Resources:

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

Procedure:

1. Students select a religion to complete research on before their main project. The students will have access to all three major religions but will complete a series of questions and topics to do research on only one religion at the moment. The students will need access to all three graphic organizers by the end of the lesson. Students will complete research on the religion they select and will need at least one day to complete their findings from the resources provided.
2. Students will then take their research findings and complete a mini poster that summarizes the research notes that they found. These posters will contain pictures that encapsulate the information they found and students can add small sentences to provide more information or context as needed. The students will then add colors and make them vibrant and visually appealing as needed. Students will require a minimum of two full class periods to complete these posters.
3. Students will then join with two other students who completed their research and posters and have one representative in each group for the major religions (One student will have research and a poster for Judaism, one for Christianity, and one for Islam). The students will then share their posters with other students and tell of the major characteristics of their religions. As students are presenting, the students listening will take notes using their incomplete graphic organizer from day one and complete notes for the other religions that they did not do their projects on. The goal is to have students learn more about the

religions that they did not do their projects on and take notes that reflect what they learned from their classmates. This process will take a minimum of less than a day to complete, within 30 minutes or less.

4. The students will have one final task that they will complete based on their findings. The students will then create a 3 way Venn diagram that will have information from Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The students will then complete this Venn Diagram based on their notes and make the connections between the religions while also noting differences that they include. The students will work together to note as many similarities and differences as possible and ultimately show that these religions have several differences but have much more in common than previously thought. This final part of the assignment will take between half a day or a full class period as needed. There can even be a debrief after the assignment to discuss what the students have learned with their groups.