

World Religions Pacing Guide

	A	B	C
1	Unit and Time	Targets	Readings
2	Primal Religions 1 Week	1. Describe core beliefs, practices and characteristics of primal and Native American religions.	“Native Americans and their Religions” by Sam Gill
3		2. Describe several reasons these groups are misunderstood by members of other religions,	
4		3. Distinguish between burial practices of the Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon. Describe what we learn from their rituals.	
5		4. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of using oral traditions to pass down religious beliefs.	
6		5. Describe the primary characteristics of primal peoples of the following regions: the Americas, Sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Australia.	
7		6. Explain the special role of the shaman.	
8			
9	Hinduism 2 weeks	1. Identify the six historical periods of Hinduism and their primary characteristics.	“Hinduism in India and in America” by Gerald James Larson
10		2. Describe the levels of and importance of the caste system in the development of Hindu beliefs and practices; recognize the difference between caste and social class.	
11		3. List the religions that grew out of Hinduism.	
12		4. Describe how the religious practices of Hindus demonstrate their central beliefs and desire to achieve moksha; list the four stages of life.	
13		5. Describe the features of and importance of the major deities such as Brahman, Shiva, Vishnu and Ganesh.	
14		6. Recognize the importance of ritual bathing and the Ganges River to the Hindus; list and explain several features.	
15		7. List the four primary Aryan contributions to the early Hindu culture and belief.	
16		8. Explain the significance of the Vedas, the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads.	
17		9. Explain the reason for the importance of the cow in Hinduism.	
18		10. Describe the Hindu response to Muslim occupation and tolerance.	

World Religions Pacing Guide

	A	B	C
1	Unit and Time	Targets	Readings
19		11. Discuss the importance of Hinduism to Ghandi and the importance of Ghandi to Indian history.	
20		12. Identify significance of Indus River Valley civilization to development of Hinduism.	
21			
22	Buddhism 2 Weeks	1. Identify the origin, primary location and basic beliefs of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Shinto.	“Buddhism in the World and in America” by Malcolm David Eckel
23		2. Explain the significance of Siddhartha Gautama, his four sights, the Four Noble Truths, including the Eightfold Path.	
24		3. List the five moral precepts of Buddhism.	
25		4. Explain Buddhist ideas about deity or deities.	
26		5. Define Mahayana and explain how it is a radical reinterpretation of the Buddha’s teachings; identify regions in which it predominates.	
27		6. Identify the focus of Pure Land Buddhism.	
28		7. Explain Zen (Ch’an) Buddhism, including its origins, ideas and influence;	
29		8. Explain Theravada Buddhism, including its origins, ideas, influence; identify regions in which it predominates.	
30		9. Explain Shinto and identify the region in which it predominates.	
31			
32	Judaism 3 Weeks	1. Identify the key beliefs of Judaism and distinguish between the Jewish God and those of polytheistic faiths.	
33		2. Identify contributions of key Jewish biblical leaders: Abraham, Moses, King David, King Solomon.	
34		3. Describe the importance of the following holidays: Passover, Sukkot, Rosh Hoshana, Yom Kippur, Hanukkah, Days of Awe, Shabbat.	
35		4. Explain the importance of the temple in Jerusalem, the role of the sacrifice there, its destruction by the Romans in 70 C.E., and its rebuilding.	
36		5. Describe several effects of Jewish life as a result of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem.	
37		6. Explain where Jewish pilgrims go to complete their journey.	

World Religions Pacing Guide

	A	B	C
1	Unit and Time	Targets	Readings
38		7. Describe the Diaspora and the eventual formation of the state of Israel in 1948.	
39		8. Explain the significance of bar and bat mitzvahs.	
40		9. Distinguish between the written and the oral Torah and explain the importance and purpose of the Mishnah, the Jerusalem Talmud and the Babylonian Talmud.	
41		10. Distinguish between segregationist and integrationist Judaism and describe Hasidic Judaism, Yeshiva Judaism, Orthodox Judaism, Reform Judaism, and Conservative Judaism. Classify each type as either segregationist or integrationist.	
43			
44	Christianity 3 Weeks	1. Identify the main beliefs of Christianity that all believers embrace, including salvation through belief in Christ, holy communion, baptism, belief in the afterlife.	Three chapters-- Catholicism, Orthodoxy and Protestantism in the World and in America
45		2. Recognize and describe the significance the Protestant Reformation.	
46		3. Identify the similarities and differences among Protestantism, Catholicism, and Orthodox churches including differences in their worship.	
47		4. Describe the importance of witnessing about one's faith in Christianity.	
48		5. Identify the tensions between the Roman Catholic Church and many American Catholics.	
49		6. List the seven Catholic sacraments.	
50		7. Describe the reason for the Great Schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church.	
51		8. Identify the importance of Cyril and Methodius to the Slavic peoples and the Slavic church.	
52		9. List which countries in Eastern Europe allied with the pope and which did not after the Great Schism.	
53		10. Identify the causes of and the result of the iconoclasm controversy of the 8 th and 9 th centuries.	

World Religions Pacing Guide

	A	B	C
1	Unit and Time	Targets	Readings
54		11. Recognize the theological tension between faith and good works, especially as discussed during the Reformation.	
55			
56	Islam 3 weeks	1. Identify common beliefs of Muslims, Christians and Jews and describe the way Muslims perceive Christian and Jewish leaders.	
57		2. Summarize and explain the importance of the Five Pillars of Faith.	
58		3. Describe how Sunnis' and Shiites' beliefs about leadership differ.	
59		4. Recognize that most Muslims are not Arabs.	
60		5. Identify and explain the numerous roles Muhammad played historically.	
61		6. Identify the importance of 622 C.E. in the Muslim calendar.	
62		7. Identify the multiple meanings of jihad and the reasons some Muslims are misunderstood by some Americans.	
63		8. Summarize the events in Muhammad's life that led up to his prophecy.	
64	Fringe Religions	1. Student project in which they research a fringe religion (out of the mainstream or fewer members). Examples include Seventh-Day Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Science and Paganism.	Chapter depends on which group student chooses.
65			
66	All readings taken from World Religions in America, Fourth Edition, editor Jacob Neusner.		
67	Additional readings are used, and titles are available upon request.		