

Name: _____

Day: _____ Hr: _____

Comparative Religions Brainstorming Sheet

Hinduism and Christianity

In today's world of mass media, it doesn't matter if you consider yourself a religious person, the topic of religion is on the news almost every day. The topics of abortion, prayers in school, fundamentalists and the "right wing" political machine all creep onto our evening news.

Globally, we hear about the Sunnis and Shiites fighting, jihads and the on-going conflict between Palestine and Israel. But what do we really know about these religions and what they truly teach? What makes a religion appealing to some and not to others? Over the next several days, we will be looking at World Religions and trying to understand their basic message and some general misconceptions about them.

To start, I need to gauge where to begin. How much do you know? It is okay if you know nothing at all... or if you are an expert! Please take a few minutes and complete as much of the worksheet below as you can. If you don't know an answer, that is fine – just leave it blank. You will not be penalized for blank or incorrect answers. This is simply a tool for me to assess how much you know (or how much you think you know) and for you to begin thinking about "the big picture" we will be covering over the next several days.

First of all, what is a world religion? There are thousands of different beliefs systems in the world, why aren't they all considered a world religion? Define world religion below:

	Hinduism	Christianity
Roughly how many people practice this faith globally?		
It ranks as the ____ largest religion in the world.		
Founded by		
Geographic starting place		
Current geographic concentration (where are most of its population located)		
Number of gods		
	Hinduism	Christianity
Considered Mono or polytheistic		

Basic religious ideas (doctrine) – what is the “gist” of the religion		
Ideas of heaven and hell		
How many religious texts?		
What are the religious texts called?		
What, if anything, does the religion (past or current) say about the social structure of a society?		

Excellent! When you have finished, turn your paper over. When everyone has finished, I will assign you into groups. Compare your answers with your peers. Feel free to fill in any blanks you may have, change your answers, or write down more than one possible answer.

When you have finished comparing your answers, we will discuss them as a class.