AP Human Geography

Comparative Religions Project

This project asks students to produce a summary of evidence concerning six of the world’s major belief systems. This project will help you develop a good study resource to review for both the semester exam and the AP exam in the spring.

1. Prepare an informational fact sheet for Judaism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. Include answers to the following questions on each information sheet.
   1. What is the point of origin?
   2. How did the religion/philosophy spread?
   3. Where is this tradition most influential today?
   4. How many followers are there worldwide?
   5. Is this a monotheistic or polytheistic tradition?
   6. Who is/are the main/major deity(ies)?
   7. Who founded this faith? When?
   8. What do the followers call their scriptures or holy book(s)?
   9. How is the religious leadership organized?
   10. What are the basic beliefs of the religion/philosophy?
   11. What sects of the religion/philosophy have developed over time?
2. Cultural diffusion is about encounters and interactions among people. Select two of the traditions that you have researched and **examine the ways in which these religions have encountered and interacted with each other.** Your essay should describe the **initial encounter**, the **nature of the interaction** and the **ways in which the relationship changed over time.** Present your ideas in an essay of no more than 2 pages. You may not compare Judaism to Christianity.
3. Your textbook and the companion website: <http://www.adherents.com> are useful for general information, but you will need to consult additional resources. Prepare an annotated bibliography citing the sources you consulted for this project. Your bibliography must include reference to two books in addition to your text, two specialized dictionaries or encyclopedias, and two websites. The annotation is a brief two or three sentence statement about how you used each source in your research.

Bonus:

Complete part 1 for one of the following belief systems:

Taoism, Jainism, Shinto, Sikhism, Baha’i, Zoroastrianism

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Judaism | Confucian | Hinduism | Buddhism | Christianity | Islam |
| Point of  origin? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| How did it  spread? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Where  influential  today? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| # followers  worldwide? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mono/ Poly  -theistic? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Major  deity(ies)? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Founder?  When? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Name holy  scriptures? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leadership  organized? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Basic beliefs? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sects created  over time? |  |  |  |  |  |  |