Paths Across Asia

Trace how four religions changed and grew.

SS24.8.4c "Analyze the evolution of religion in Asia, including the growth of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a change or growth in each of the four religions, then circle a person, group, or practice linked to each change.

Ideas, Travelers, and Communities

1. Imagine a traveler visiting northern India around 500 BCE. Religious life was changing, not starting from nothing. Older Vedic traditions, with sacred hymns and rituals, had helped shape what later became Hinduism. Over time, Hindu thinkers explored ideas such as karma and rebirth, while people honored many deities in different ways. In the same region, Jain teachers stressed nonviolence toward living things and self-discipline. Siddhartha Gautama, known as the Buddha, taught a path to end suffering. Both Jainism and Buddhism attracted followers who questioned the importance of costly rituals.

2. As centuries passed, these traditions changed through travel and local support. In the third century BCE, Emperor Ashoka supported Buddhism, and monks and merchants later carried its teachings along trade routes into Central, East, and Southeast Asia. Translating Buddhist texts helped new communities study them. Hindu traditions also spread by sea to Southeast Asia, where rulers and local communities built temples and adapted beliefs to local customs. In medieval India, devotion to particular deities became an important path for many Hindus. Jainism grew through teachers and merchant communities but remained centered mainly in India.

3. In the late 1400s, Guru Nanak began teaching in Punjab, a region where Hindu and Muslim communities lived. Sikhism developed into a distinct religion through the teachings of Nanak and nine later Gurus. Sikhs emphasized devotion to one God, honest work, and sharing with others. The Gurus built communities and established practices such as *langar*, a free shared meal open to all. Their followers gathered around places of worship and a growing body of sacred teachings. Unlike Buddhism, which spread widely across Asia, Sikhism first grew mainly in Punjab.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Hindu traditions change from their Vedic roots?

2. What helped Buddhism move beyond India, and how did that affect its reach?

3. How did Jainism's geographic growth differ from Buddhism's, and what helped Jainism grow?

4. How did the Gurus help Sikhism grow beyond Guru Nanak's first teachings?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing how two religions in the passage developed. Explain when or where each began, name one factor that helped each grow or change, and finish with a similarity or difference supported by the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Paths Across Asia

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.4c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a change or growth in each of the four religions, then circle a person, group, or practice linked to each change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Hindu traditions change from their Vedic roots?	**Vedic hymns and rituals helped shape Hinduism. Later, Hindu thinkers explored karma and rebirth, and devotion to particular deities became important for many Hindus.**
2	What helped Buddhism move beyond India, and how did that affect its reach?	**Ashoka supported Buddhism, while monks and merchants carried its teachings along trade routes. It spread into Central, East, and Southeast Asia.**
3	How did Jainism's geographic growth differ from Buddhism's, and what helped Jainism grow?	**Jainism remained centered mainly in India, while Buddhism spread widely across Asia. Teachers and merchant communities helped Jainism grow.**
4	How did the Gurus help Sikhism grow beyond Guru Nanak's first teachings?	**Nanak and nine later Gurus developed Sikh teachings and built communities. Practices such as langar brought followers together.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Hinduism grew from older Vedic traditions in India, and over time many followers practiced devotion to particular deities. Sikhism began in Punjab in the late 1400s with Guru Nanak's teachings about one God, honest work, and sharing. Hindu traditions traveled by sea to Southeast Asia and adapted to local customs, while Sikh Gurus built communities through practices such as the shared meal called langar. Both changed as people put religious ideas into practice, but the passage describes Hindu traditions spreading farther from their region of origin.

Accept other accurate pairs of religions. The label should connect a factor to each religion's growth or change and support its comparison with passage evidence.