

Beliefs on the Move

Trace how belief systems spread and changed ancient societies.

SS.6.G.4.4 "Map and analyze the impact of the spread of various belief systems in the ancient world."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the place where each belief system began, underline the people or routes that helped it spread, and number each effect of its spread.

Ideas Travel Far

- ① Belief systems traveled when people traveled. Buddhism began in northern India after Siddhartha Gautama taught about suffering and a path to freedom. Merchants and monks carried Buddhist ideas along trade routes through Central Asia to China. From China, teachings and texts reached Korea and Japan. Rulers sometimes supported monasteries, which gave travelers shelter and copied sacred writings. As Buddhism spread, artists built stupas and carved statues. Local people also blended Buddhist practices with older traditions, creating different forms of Buddhism in each region.
- ② Christianity began in Judea in the eastern Roman Empire. After Jesus' death, followers such as Paul traveled by sea and on Roman roads, sharing the faith in cities around the Mediterranean Sea. Christian communities welcomed members from many backgrounds, which helped the religion grow. At first, some Roman officials persecuted Christians. In the fourth century CE, Emperor Constantine supported Christianity, and later emperors made it the empire's official religion. Churches became centers of worship, charity, learning, and political influence across parts of Europe and the Mediterranean.
- ③ Islam began in the Arabian Peninsula in the seventh century CE. Muslim merchants, scholars, and armies helped carry the religion into Southwest Asia, North Africa, parts of Europe, and South Asia. Arabic became a major language of government and scholarship in many Muslim-ruled lands. Cities such as Baghdad grew as centers where scholars studied mathematics, medicine, astronomy, and religious law. Trade linked Muslim communities across long distances. Islam spread in different ways, including trade, teaching, and conquest, and communities in different places kept some local customs while sharing a faith.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Buddhism and Christianity each use travel networks to spread? Give one detail for each belief system.

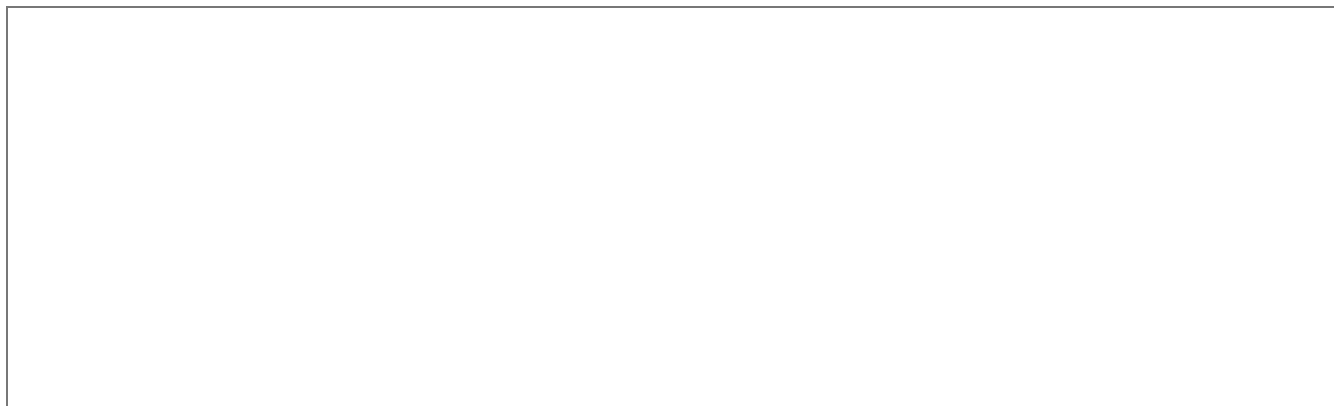
2 How did support from rulers affect Buddhism and Christianity?

3 Choose one effect of Islam's spread on places or people. Explain how that effect changed society.

4 What evidence shows that belief systems changed as they spread to new regions? Use Buddhism or Islam.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In the box, draw a simple route map for Buddhism. Label northern India, Central Asia, China, and either Korea or Japan, then draw arrows to show the spread. Add one label naming an impact of Buddhism's spread.



PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the place where each belief system began, underline the people or routes that helped it spread, and number each effect of its spread. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Buddhism and Christianity each use travel networks to spread? Give one detail for each belief system.	Buddhism spread when merchants and monks used trade routes through Central Asia to China. Christianity spread when followers traveled by sea and on Roman roads to Mediterranean cities.
2	How did support from rulers affect Buddhism and Christianity?	Some rulers supported Buddhist monasteries, which sheltered travelers and copied sacred writings. Constantine supported Christianity, and later emperors made it the Roman Empire's official religion.
3	Choose one effect of Islam's spread on places or people. Explain how that effect changed society.	Islam's spread made Arabic a major language of government and scholarship in many Muslim-ruled lands. It also helped cities such as Baghdad become centers of learning.
4	What evidence shows that belief systems changed as they spread to new regions? Use Buddhism or Islam.	Local people blended Buddhist practices with older traditions, creating different forms of Buddhism. Muslim communities also kept some local customs while sharing Islam.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Northern India → Central Asia → China → Korea and Japan. Impact label: Monasteries sheltered travelers and artists built stupas and statues.

Accept a route beginning in northern India and moving through Central Asia to China, then to Korea or Japan. The impact label may name monasteries, copied sacred writings, art, or blended local traditions.