

Faiths of a Region

Compare Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Southwest Asia.

SS7G8.c "Compare and contrast the prominent religions in Southwest Asia (Middle East): Judaism, Islam, and Christianity."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show a similarity among the religions, circle details that show a difference, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three sacred texts. These marks will help you compare the religions.

Three Faiths, Shared Region

- ① Judaism developed among the ancient Israelites in Southwest Asia. Jewish people believe in one God and follow teachings in the Torah, their sacred text. The Torah includes laws and stories that guide religious life. A synagogue is a place where Jews gather for worship, study, and community events. The Sabbath, observed from Friday evening to Saturday evening, is a special time for rest and worship. Jerusalem is important to Judaism because of its long religious history.
- ② Christianity grew from the teachings of Jesus, a Jewish teacher who lived in the region during the first century. Christians believe in one God and see Jesus as the Christ, or Messiah. The Bible is Christianity's sacred text. Churches are places where Christians worship, pray, learn, and serve others. Christians celebrate holidays such as Christmas and Easter. Jerusalem is also important to Christians because events in Jesus' life took place there. Christianity later spread far beyond Southwest Asia.
- ③ Islam began in the Arabian Peninsula in the seventh century. Muslims believe in one God, called Allah in Arabic, and believe Muhammad received God's messages. These messages are recorded in the Quran, Islam's sacred text. A mosque is a place for prayer and community gathering. Muslims pray five times each day and observe Ramadan, a month of fasting from dawn to sunset. Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam connects to Jerusalem and shares roots with earlier traditions, but its sacred text and central religious practices differ.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What belief about God is shared by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam?

2 Compare the sacred texts of Judaism and Islam. Name each religion's sacred text.

3 How is Jerusalem connected to all three religions in the passage?

4 Contrast one regular religious practice in Islam with the Sabbath practice in Judaism.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences comparing Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. In sentence 1, state one feature all three share. In sentence 2, contrast Judaism and Christianity by using their sacred texts or places of worship. In sentence 3, explain one Islamic practice that differs from a practice described for Judaism or Christianity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show a similarity among the religions, circle details that show a difference, and number 1, 2, and 3 beside the three sacred texts. These marks will help you compare the religions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What belief about God is shared by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam?	All three religions believe in one God.
2	Compare the sacred texts of Judaism and Islam. Name each religion's sacred text.	Judaism's sacred text is the Torah. Islam's sacred text is the Quran.
3	How is Jerusalem connected to all three religions in the passage?	Jerusalem is important to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
4	Contrast one regular religious practice in Islam with the Sabbath practice in Judaism.	Muslims pray five times each day and observe Ramadan by fasting from dawn to sunset. Jews observe the Sabbath from Friday evening to Saturday evening as a special time for rest and worship.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

All three religions believe in one God, and Jerusalem is important to each. Judaism uses the Torah and gathers in synagogues, while Christianity uses the Bible and gathers in churches. Muslims pray five times daily, while Jews observe the Sabbath as a time for rest and worship.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately use details from the passage. For the open response, check for exactly three sentences, one shared feature, a Judaism and Christianity contrast, and an accurate Islamic practice comparison.