Beliefs on the Move

Trace where traditions began and how they traveled

6-9.WG.1.4 "Investigate the historical origins, central beliefs, and spread of major religions and belief systems, including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Confucianism and Indigenous knowledge and belief systems."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, underline where each tradition began, circle one belief or value, and box a phrase showing how it spread or was passed on. Use your marks to compare the traditions.

Origins, Ideas, and Journeys

1. In ancient Israel, Judaism took shape among the Jewish people. Its teachings center on one God and a covenant, a relationship with duties. Jewish communities spread through migration and forced displacement, called the diaspora. Christianity began in Roman Judea in the first century CE, rooted in Judaism and Jesus's teachings. Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah; missionaries carried Christianity across the Roman Empire. In the seventh century CE, Islam arose in Arabia. Muslims believe in one God and follow the Quran, revealed to Muhammad. Trade and expanding empires carried Islam beyond Arabia.

2. Hinduism developed over centuries in South Asia without one founder. Many Hindus believe in karma, that actions have consequences across lives. Traders and migrants carried Hindu traditions to Southeast Asia. Buddhism began in northern India with Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, around the fifth century BCE. Buddhists seek to end suffering through the Eightfold Path. Monks and merchants carried Buddhism through Central Asia into East Asia. Sikhism began in Punjab, South Asia, with Guru Nanak in the late 1400s. Sikhs believe in one God and human equality. Migration spread Sikh communities worldwide.

3. Confucianism grew from the teachings of Confucius in China about 2,500 years ago. It stresses learning, respect within relationships, and responsible leadership. Teachers and government officials spread these ideas from China to Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. Indigenous knowledge and belief systems do not share one founder or birthplace. They arise within distinct communities over long periods. For example, Māori knowledge in Aotearoa New Zealand links people to ancestors and land. Polynesian voyagers brought their traditions to the islands, where generations passed them on through stories, ceremonies, and careful observation of the natural world.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where did Judaism and Christianity begin, and how did each spread beyond its birthplace?

2. What belief do Islam and Sikhism share? How did each spread?

3. How did Hinduism and Buddhism differ in their beginnings? Name one way each traveled beyond its place of origin.

4. How did Confucian ideas reach other countries, and how were Māori traditions passed to new generations?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two traditions from different paragraphs that you did not compare in the questions. In four sentences, compare where they began, a belief or value of each, and how each spread. Explain one similarity or difference you notice.

ANSWER KEY

Beliefs on the Move

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, underline where each tradition began, circle one belief or value, and box a phrase showing how it spread or was passed on. Use your marks to compare the traditions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where did Judaism and Christianity begin, and how did each spread beyond its birthplace?	**Judaism took shape in ancient Israel; Jewish communities spread through migration and forced displacement. Christianity began in Roman Judea; missionaries carried it across the Roman Empire.**
2	What belief do Islam and Sikhism share? How did each spread?	**Both teach belief in one God. Trade and expanding empires carried Islam beyond Arabia, while migration spread Sikh communities worldwide.**
3	How did Hinduism and Buddhism differ in their beginnings? Name one way each traveled beyond its place of origin.	**Hinduism developed over centuries in South Asia without one founder; traders and migrants carried it to Southeast Asia. Buddhism began in northern India with Siddhartha Gautama; monks and merchants carried it through Central Asia into East Asia.**
4	How did Confucian ideas reach other countries, and how were Māori traditions passed to new generations?	**Teachers and government officials spread Confucian ideas to Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. Māori traditions were passed on through stories, ceremonies, and observation of the natural world.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Christianity began in Roman Judea, and Christians believe Jesus is the Messiah. Missionaries carried Christianity across the Roman Empire. Buddhism began in northern India, and Buddhists seek to end suffering through the Eightfold Path. Monks and merchants carried Buddhism into East Asia, so both traditions traveled beyond their birthplaces with help from people on the move.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For the open task, check that the traditions come from different paragraphs, were not paired in a question, and are compared in four sentences.