Paths of Belief

Trace origins, movement, and present-day concentrations

GHW.2.1 "Map the development over time of world religions from their points of origin, and identify those that exhibit a high degree of local and/or international concentration."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each religion's place of origin and circle places where its followers are especially concentrated today. Number the stages of Buddhism's spread in the order they happened.

Where Religions Began and Where They Spread

1. Hindu traditions developed over many centuries in the Indian subcontinent, especially in areas that are now India. Ideas and practices spread within South Asia and later traveled with migrants to places such as East Africa, Britain, and the Caribbean. Today, most Hindus live in India, making Hinduism strongly concentrated in one part of the world despite its global communities. Judaism began among the ancient Israelites in the eastern Mediterranean. After centuries of migration and exile, Jewish communities formed across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Today, the largest Jewish populations are in Israel and the United States.

2. Buddhism began in the northern Indian subcontinent around the fifth century BCE. It first reached Sri Lanka and parts of Central Asia, then spread along trade routes into China. From China, it traveled to Korea and Japan. It also grew across mainland Southeast Asia. Buddhist populations are especially significant in several East and Southeast Asian countries, although practices differ greatly by place. Christianity began in Roman Judea in the first century CE. It spread around the Mediterranean, then across Europe. Beginning in the 1500s, migration and European empires carried it to the Americas. Later growth in sub-Saharan Africa made it a major religion there too.

3. Islam began in the Arabian Peninsula in the seventh century CE. Within a century, it had spread across North Africa and into parts of West and Central Asia. Over later centuries, merchants, scholars, and rulers helped carry it farther, including to South Asia and Southeast Asia. Today, large Muslim populations live across these regions, with Indonesia home to more Muslims than any other country. These patterns show why origin and present distribution are different questions: Hinduism remains heavily concentrated near its birthplace, while Christianity and Islam extend across many continents. No religion is confined to one route or one country; movement continued after the periods described here.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Trace Hinduism from its origin to one place migrants carried it. Where are most Hindus concentrated today?

2. Starting at its origin, list three later places Buddhism reached in the order described in the passage.

3. How did Christianity's distribution change from its origin to the present? Name its origin and two later regions.

4. Compare the present-day concentration of Judaism with the international spread of Islam. Use places from the passage as evidence.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose Hinduism or Islam. Write four sentences tracing its origin, two later stages of spread in order, and its present-day concentration. Explain whether its distribution is mostly regional or spans several continents.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each religion's place of origin and circle places where its followers are especially concentrated today. Number the stages of Buddhism's spread in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Trace Hinduism from its origin to one place migrants carried it. Where are most Hindus concentrated today?	**Hindu traditions developed in the Indian subcontinent and later traveled to places such as East Africa. Most Hindus live in India today.**
2	Starting at its origin, list three later places Buddhism reached in the order described in the passage.	**Buddhism began in the northern Indian subcontinent, reached Central Asia, then China, then Korea. Other valid sequences follow the order given in the passage.**
3	How did Christianity's distribution change from its origin to the present? Name its origin and two later regions.	**Christianity began in Roman Judea and spread through regions including Europe and the Americas. It later became a major religion in sub-Saharan Africa as well.**
4	Compare the present-day concentration of Judaism with the international spread of Islam. Use places from the passage as evidence.	**The largest Jewish populations are in Israel and the United States. Large Muslim populations extend across North Africa, West and Central Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Islam began in the Arabian Peninsula in the seventh century CE. It spread across North Africa within a century, then reached Southeast Asia over later centuries. Today, large Muslim populations live in North Africa, West and Central Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia. Its distribution spans several continents rather than staying near its birthplace.

Accept any accurate route supported by the passage, including different places named within the same stage of spread. For the open task, check that the two later stages appear in the passage's chronological order.