Paths of Ideas

Compare where traditions began and how they spread.

MWH.C.1.1.A "Compare the origins and spread of the world's major religions and philosophies, including Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Confucianism, and Sikhism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each tradition's place of origin, and circle the words that show how it spread. Use your marks to compare its path with the others.

Ideas on the Move

1. Imagine tracing ideas along roads rather than drawing borders. Judaism developed among the ancient Israelites in the eastern Mediterranean. Exile and later migrations carried Jewish communities across the Mediterranean and beyond; communities also passed on teachings within families and synagogues. Hindu traditions developed over many centuries in South Asia, with no single founder. Trade and migration later brought Hindu practices to Southeast Asia and other regions. Both traditions began in particular regions, but each spread through the movement of people.

2. Buddhism began in northern South Asia with the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, around the fifth century BCE. Monks, travelers, and merchants carried it along trade routes into Central, East, and Southeast Asia. Confucianism arose from the teachings of Confucius in ancient China, also around the fifth century BCE. Its ideas about learning and public service spread chiefly through schools and government in China and neighboring East Asian societies. Both traveled beyond their starting places, but their main pathways differed.

3. Christianity began in the first century CE among Jews in the eastern Roman Empire, centered on Jesus's teachings. Missionaries and Roman roads helped it spread around the Mediterranean and later worldwide. Islam began in seventh-century Arabia through the teachings of Muhammad; trade, migration, and expanding Muslim states carried it across Africa and Asia. Sikhism began in Punjab in South Asia in the late fifteenth century with Guru Nanak. Migration later carried Sikh communities worldwide. Each movement crossed borders, but its origin and routes were distinct.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How were the origins and spread of Judaism and Hindu traditions alike and different?

2. Compare where Buddhism and Confucianism began and the main ways their ideas spread.

3. How did the origins and routes of Christianity and Islam differ?

4. Compare the role of migration in the spread of Judaism and Sikhism. Where did each begin?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum asks whether all traditions spread mainly by conquest. Write a four-sentence label comparing Confucianism and Sikhism: give each origin and route of spread, then use both examples to assess the claim.

Paths of Ideas

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each tradition's place of origin, and circle the words that show how it spread. Use your marks to compare its path with the others. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were the origins and spread of Judaism and Hindu traditions alike and different?	**Both began in particular regions and spread as people moved. Judaism developed among the ancient Israelites in the eastern Mediterranean and spread through exile and migration; Hindu traditions developed over centuries in South Asia and spread through trade and migration.**
2	Compare where Buddhism and Confucianism began and the main ways their ideas spread.	**Buddhism began in northern South Asia and spread along trade routes with monks, travelers, and merchants. Confucianism began in ancient China and spread chiefly through schools and government.**
3	How did the origins and routes of Christianity and Islam differ?	**Christianity began among Jews in the eastern Roman Empire and spread with missionaries and along Roman roads. Islam began in Arabia and spread through trade, migration, and expanding Muslim states.**
4	Compare the role of migration in the spread of Judaism and Sikhism. Where did each begin?	**Judaism began among the ancient Israelites in the eastern Mediterranean; exile and later migration carried Jewish communities abroad. Sikhism began in Punjab, and later migration carried Sikh communities worldwide.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Confucianism began in ancient China, and its ideas spread through schools and government into neighboring East Asian societies. Sikhism began in Punjab, and migration carried Sikh communities worldwide. Neither example shows conquest as its main route of spread. Their different routes show that institutions and the movement of people can carry ideas across borders.

Accept wording that accurately distinguishes each origin and route. For the museum label, look for four sentences that use both traditions to evaluate the claim rather than simply list facts.