

World Religions



Educator's Guide

Infobase's **World Religions** is an online resource that helps students explore the important role religion plays in history, society, the arts, science, and literature. Religion is both a great unifier and a great divider, affecting politics and geography through its influence on laws, governments, and the creation of nations. **World Religions** will provide students with easy access to a wealth of information that explores religion and spirituality in an objective manner, from the ceremonies of the first practitioners to the elaborate rituals of today. This valuable resource will engage and inform students and help them to think critically about their world and the impact religion has played throughout time.



World Religions promotes religious literacy and cross-cultural understanding. Expertly researched, written and edited, **World Religions** explores how religion plays an important role in the lives of individuals and in global cultures. Students and educators will appreciate the clear, concise information in this reference database, as they examine, compare and contrast the similarities and differences of religions around the world.

World Religions will help students:

- ✓ research and understand the basics of various religions around the world
- ✓ to better understand historical context based on various religions
- ✓ understand the impact that religion has had on history
- ✓ utilize critical thinking skills and compare and contrast different religions
- ✓ to be conscious of the role religion plays in the arts, literature, culture and global studies.



Content:

World Religions is rich in sources that contribute to the core content of this database. Our impressive list of content includes many proprietary, multi-volume encyclopedias and reference books. This database contains:

- ✓ over 30,710 articles from more than 200 books
- ✓ over 460 primary sources
- ✓ 1,888 images
- ✓ 2,599 video clips
- ✓ 3,366 historic events (from timelines)

Amazing visuals and images bring content to life and offer an engaging experience for students and researchers.

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Highlights and features include:

- **Intuitive Home Page** provides quick access to searching database
- **Featured Videos** offers a quick glance at videos highlighted each month
- **Featured Sacred Music** includes music and music videos of various religions
- Custom **Featured Slideshows** have been created offering a visual introduction to key topics and themes
- **Featured Maps and Graphs** include historical and population maps, graphs, illustrations, site plans, religious symbols and more
- **At-a-Glance** provides quick access to additional areas of religious study including *Select 21st- Century Religious Leaders, Religious Founders, and Select Religious Texts*
- **Browse Resources** on the *Home Page* offer direct access to: *Complete Sacred Texts, Fact Files, Holidays & Observances Calendar, Primary Sources, Slideshow Overviews, Timelines, Topics A to Z, and Videos*
- Editorially curated **Topic Centers** boast specially selected content on 15 living religions, with core content for students and researchers to learn and understand each religion
- **Religion in the News** offers real-time, relevant searchable newsfeed from World-Wide Religious News on more than 200 countries, with information on geography, people and culture, weather, climate, history, government, and society, maps, flags, facts and figures, images, and articles
- **Primary Sources** include hundreds of documents and introductions that provide context and background-perfect for document-based learning and strengthening critical-thinking skills
- **Holiday and Observances Calendar** call out special events and topics for educators to use for planning and class discussions
- **Curriculum Tools** provide great usage and research tips for students and educators – these include: *Analyzing Primary Sources, Avoiding Plagiarism, Writing a Research Paper* and more
- **Videos, Images and Original Maps** and Charts bring spiritual traditions from around the world to life



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Special Feature:

Topic Centers offer an organized overview on 15 living religions. Each *Topic Center* includes information on a specific religion with comprehensive articles, content and materials that help students and researcher learn more about and understand that religion. Links to core essays, primary sources, complete sacred texts, fact files, terms, timelines, videos and more. The Topic Centers are great to use as study guides and entry points into the content.



Some features you shouldn't miss...

- Dynamic citations in MLA, Chicago, and Harvard formats
- Tag “clouds” for all content
- Convenient A to Z topics lists
- Searchable by Common Core, national, state, provincial, IB and College Board AP standards
- Google Sign-In; Download to Google Drive, Google Translate
- Search Assist technology
- Read Aloud
- Persistent record links
- Searchable Support Center with live help chat
- Cross-searchable with any combination of Infobase **History Research Center** databases to which your institution subscribes.

Projects and Ideas for Educators – using **World Religions**:

Use the content in **World Religions** to enrich and enhance the study of world religions. Religion plays a significant role in history and society, and thus the National Council for Social Studies strongly encourages study about religions as an essential part of the social studies curriculum. **World Religions** complements the social studies curriculum by teaching the historical context in which each religion was founded and in which it exists today.

Compare and Contrast...

- ✓ The exclusive, editorially curated *Topic Centers* in **World Religions** are structured identically, allowing for easy comparison of all living religions. This approach emphasizes diversity within and among religions across time, while also showing similarities and common ideologies. The at-a-glance Fact Files in each *Topic Center* are particularly useful for comparative analysis. Ask students to use these tools to compare and contrast 2-3

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religions. Have students display their findings in a creative way (i.e. a chart or a Venn diagram, etc.). Start a class discussion as students share their findings.

- ✓ Inspiring students to understand the role that religion has played in history and particularly in some key historic events will help increase religious literacy. Using **World Religions** ask students to compare and contrast two historic events where religion or religious beliefs played a key role. Have students write an essay and explain how and why religion was a factor.

Create...

- ✓ Using **World Religions**, ask students to select "Holidays & Observances Calendar" on the Home Page under *Browse Resources*. Have students select a holiday and design and based on the information provided, create a poster for that event. Ask students to make sure that they include symbols, historic details, and additional information about the event, (including the religion and geographical location, on the poster. Hang the posters around the room and start a class discussion!
- ✓ Split your class into groups, and using content and the *Time Lines* feature in **World Religions**, assign each group a continent from around the world, and ask them to create a map of the content assigned, noting various religions prevalent in that part of the world. Have student use poster board or poster-sized paper. Have each group color-code religions on the map and explain the basis of each religion on color-coded index cards that match their poster. Discuss some of the key historic events of each region and what role religion could have played.

Critical Thinking Skills

- ✓ Ask students to write an essay on the general role religion has played in areas like Art, History, Music and Literature. Have students use **World Religions** for their research.

Visual Learning- How effective are databases and video in learning?

Online resources are a great way to promote and improve learning. They help to stimulate the thought process and allow students to understand a concept, idea, or process with visual input.

Did you know...?

- ✓ Approximately 65 % of the population are visual learners
- ✓ The brain processes visual information 60,000 times faster than text.
- ✓ 90% of information that comes to the brain is visual.
- ✓ Visual aids in the classroom improve learning by up to 400%.
- ✓ A stimulating environment for a child can make the difference between a 25% greater ability to learn or 25% less in an environment with little stimulation.

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Additional notes:

Did you know? *National Council for the Social Studies* re-affirms that study about religions should be an essential part of the social studies curriculum. Knowledge about religions is not only a characteristic of an educated person but also necessary for effective and engaged citizenship in a diverse nation and world.

Source: www.socialstudies.org/positions/study_about_religions

Your Feedback ...Please!

Your feedback is important to us. Tell us how you like **World Religions** and share with us the ways you integrate this resource into your lessons. We love to hear your feedback—positive or suggestions for improvements.

Please email: onlinesales@infobaselearning.com and put “**World Religions feedback**” on the “Subject” line of your email.

Thank you for your support of our products!