

Why Do Religions Have Different Distributions?

Rubenstein, pp. 178-191

● ORIGIN OF RELIGIONS

1. Complete the table below describing the origins and branches of the major universalizing religions.

	CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM	BUDDHISM
Year of Origin			
Founder			
Major branches and main belief of each branch			

2. Regarding Hinduism:

- a. How was its origin different than universalizing religions?
- b. When did it originate?
- c. Where did it originate?
- d. What two ancient peoples beliefs blended to form Hinduism?

● DIFFUSION OF RELIGIONS

3. Give 4 explanations for the diffusion of Christianity.

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.

4. Give 3 ways in which Islam spread.

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

5. Give 2 reasons for the expansion of Buddhism.

- i.
- ii.

6. How did other religions diffuse, and how are the ethnic religions affected by other religions?

a) How did the Bahai Religion diffuse?

b) How and why did Sikhism diffuse?

c) How did Christianity affect the ethnic religions in Africa?

d) How did Buddhism affect Shintoism in Japan?

7. Regarding Judaism:

a. How is its distribution very different from other ethnic religions?

b. What was the diaspora?

c. How were most Jews treated as they lived among other nationalities?

d. What is the origin of the term ghetto?

● HOLY PLACES

8. What is a pilgrimage?

9. Read (pp. 185-188) List and describe the Holy Places of the following religions

BUDDHIST HOLY SITES

ISLAMIC HOLY SITES

HINDU HOLY SITES

11. What is a cosmogony?

- THE CALENDAR

12. What is the most prominent feature of the calendar in ETHNIC religions?

13. What is the principle purpose of the calendar in UNIVERSALIZING religions?

14. Why is the Jewish calendar an ethnic calendar instead of a universalizing one?

15. What is the solstice?

16. Both the Jewish and the Muslims use a lunar calendar, yet in a different way and with very different results. Explain.

17. How is the date of Easter related to physical geography (the natural world) through the calendar?

18. Why do different Christian branches celebrate Easter on different days?

19. How is this similar to Buddhism's major holidays?