



# Europe's Monotheistic Religions

Judaism, Christianity, & Islam

## STANDARDS:

**SS6G10 Describe selected cultural characteristics of Europe.**

b. Identify the major religions in Europe: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

# Monothéism

- While Europe is home to many religions, Judaism, Christianity, & Islam are major religions practiced there.
- These religions have some similarities and even a common history.
- Followers of each also practice **monothéism**, a belief in one god.

# Similarities

- All three believe in one god (monotheistic).
- They all started in Southwest Asia.
- They can trace their roots to Abraham as the father of their faith.
- Jerusalem, Israel is the holiest city in the world for Jews and Christians, and the third holiest city for Muslims.
- All three have an important messenger and book of teachings.

# Jerusalem, Israel



# Judaism

# Judaism

- Followers of Judaism are called Jews.
- Judaism was founded by Abraham around 2000 BCE.
- Jews believe that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
- The Jewish holy book is the Torah, which is the oral and written laws of the Jews.

# Moses



# The Torah



# Judaism

- Jews believe that they descended from Abraham and Sarah, the first people to worship Yahweh (God).
- Abraham lived at least 3,700 years ago in what is now Iraq.



## Abraham & Sarah

# Judaism

- Jews worship in synagogues and temples.
- They believe that a messiah (savior) will lead them to the Promised Land.
- “What is hateful to you, do not to your neighbor.”  
How do you feel about this?



Largest Synagogue in Europe

# Judaism

- Small populations of Jews have lived in Europe for centuries.
- Today, most European Jews live in the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and other former-Soviet Union countries.
- There are about 15 million followers of Judaism today.

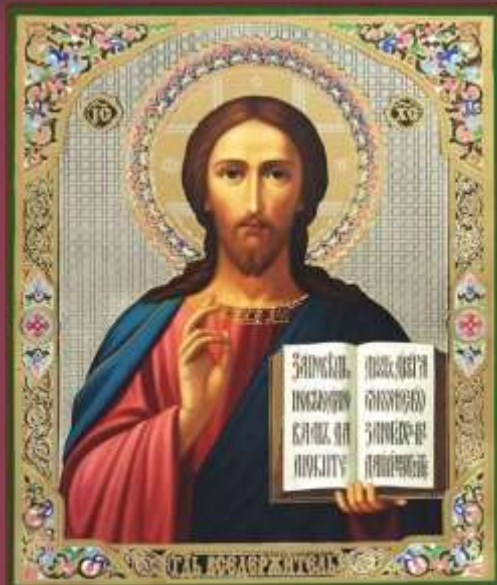


Christianity

# Christianity

- Christianity actually has its roots in Judaism.
- Christians believe in Jesus, who preached a new religion of love and kindness around 30 CE.
  - Christians believe that Jesus was the messiah (savior).

# Depictions of Jesus





# Christianity

- The Bible is the main holy book for Christians.
- It consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament.



# Christianity

- Christians are grouped by many denominations.
  - Examples include Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and Protestantism.
- All denominations of Christians follow the teachings of Jesus.
- Christians worship in churches, cathedrals, and chapels.

# Cathedral in Milan, Italy



# Christianity

- Christianity is the dominant religion in Europe.
- The majority of Catholics live in the southern region in France, Spain, & Italy.
- More Protestants live in northern countries like Germany and the United Kingdom.
- Most Eastern Europeans (including Russians) practice Eastern Orthodox Christianity.
- There are about 2.1 billion Christians today.

The image features a vibrant, multi-colored zigzag pattern in shades of green, yellow, orange, and purple. In the center, there is a large teal oval with a white border. Inside this oval, the word "Islam" is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font with a yellow outline and a slight drop shadow.

Islam

# Islam

- Islam began around 610 CE in Southwest Asia.
- In Arabic, *Islam* means “surrender” to the will of Allah (God).
- Followers of Islam are called Muslims, and the founder is Muhammad.
- Muslims believe that Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet of Islam.
  - Other prophets include Abraham, Moses, & Jesus.

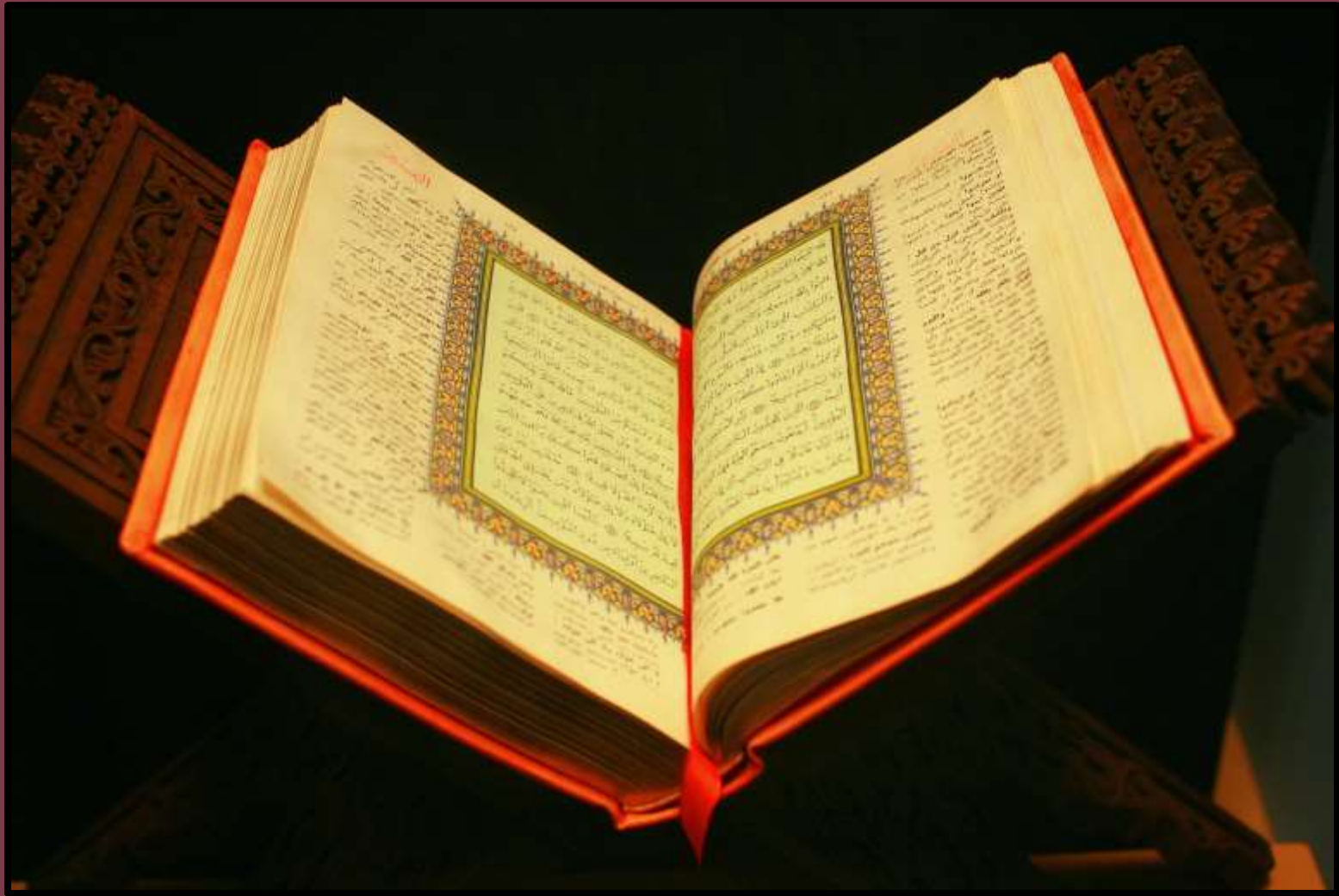




# Islam

- The Muslim holy book is the Qur'an (Koran).
- It states how people should live their lives.
- It describes the Five Pillars of Faith (obligations all Muslims must fulfill in their lifetime).

# The Koran



# Islam

Five Pillars of Faith:  
(the main duties of Muslims)

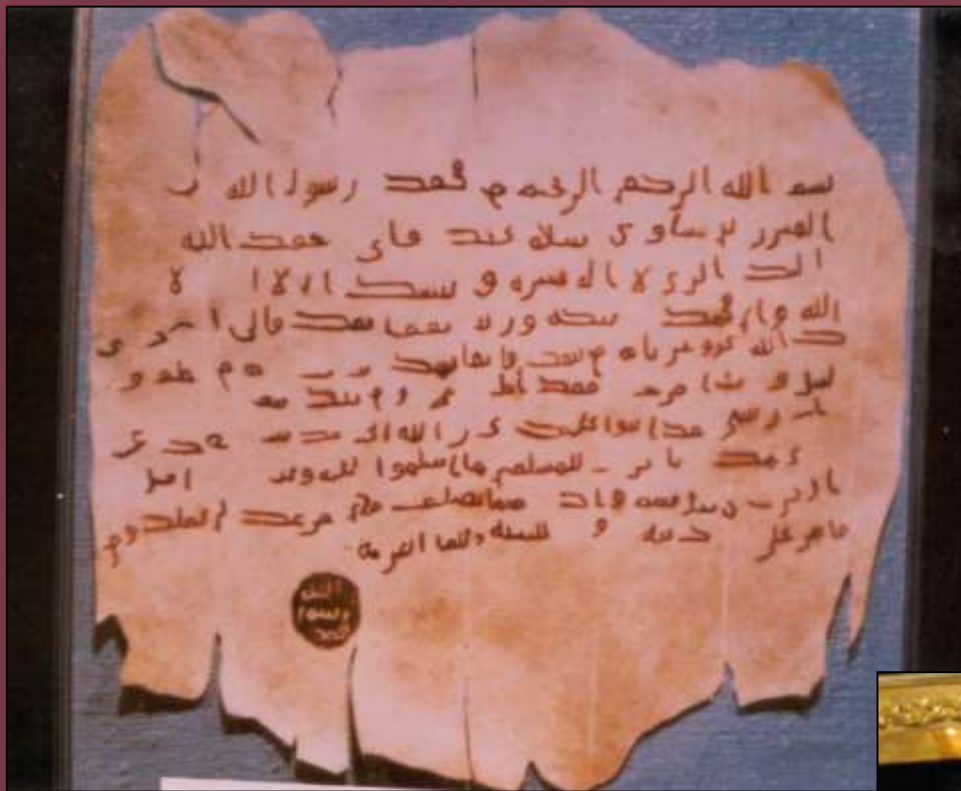
1. Belief in and submission to one God (Allah)
2. Pray five times a day towards Mecca
3. Giving to charity
4. Fasting during the month of Ramadan
5. Visit to Mecca once in a lifetime (Hajj)

# The Grand Mosque in Mecca



# Islam

- The two largest groups of Muslims are the Sunnis and the Shiites.
- The Sunnis account for about 90% of the world's Muslims.
- Many Muslims are immigrating to Western Europe, making Islam the fastest growing religion in Europe.
- Muslim populations are highest in France, UK, and Germany, and in Eastern European countries like Bosnia and Albania.
- Today, there are about 1.3 billion followers of Islam.



## Artifacts - Letters by Muhammad



## Artifacts - Muhammad's Clothes and Swords



# The Green Dome in Medina



Muhammad's grave lies under the Green Dome.

