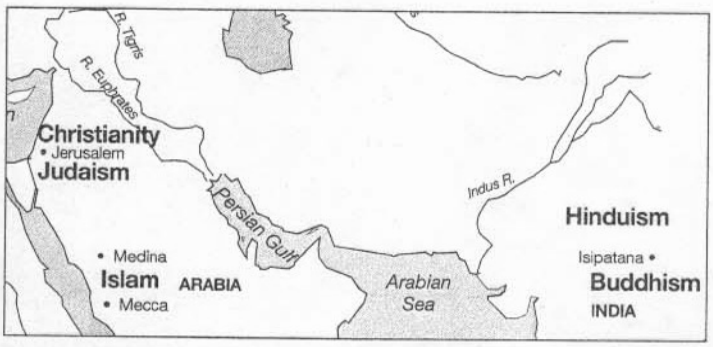
Name: _____ Date: _____ BETA

Mr. Ott / Global History & Geography

The Emergence and Spread of Belief Systems

FIVE GREAT RELIGIONS					
	Buddhism	**Christianity**	**Hinduism**	**Islam**	**Judaism**
FOUNDERS	Siddhartha Gautama, known as Buddha	Jesus Christ	Unknown	Mohammed	Abraham and Moses
PLACE AND DATE OF ORIGIN	Northern India about 500 B.C.E.	Palestine about 30 C.E.	India before 1500 B.C.E.	Arabia 622 C.E.	Palestine about 2000 B.C.E.
HOLY BOOKS		Holy Bible (Old & New Testaments)	The Vedas	Koran	Torah
SYMBOLS	Wheel of life	Cross		Crescent	Star of David
BASIC BELIEFS	Right thinking, speech, and action lead to ***enlightenment***	***Salvation*** of the souls of those who have faith in Christ	***Reincarnation***; good or bad fortune (***karma***) comes from good or bad behavior	One God, Mohammed his prophet; five obligations for the Faithful	One God, who gave the law to his people

The development of belief systems is a major theme in human history. Belief systems are the structures that groups or individuals create in order to fulfill their religious faith. The table shows five of the world's principal belief systems. As the map indicates, they all originated in southwest or southern Asia. These five religions evolved over a relatively short space of time—between 2000 B.C.E. and 622 C.E. ***The Coach*** uses two chapters to cover this historical period, but these religions are treated together here so that they may be compared.



12 **Which three major religions originated in the Middle East?**

- **A** **Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam**
- **B** **Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam**
- **C** **Christianity, Hinduism, and Judaism**
- **D** **Christianity, Islam, and Judaism**

13 **Unlike the other major religions, Hinduism**

- **A** **has no holy books**
- **B** **stresses belief in one God**
- **C** **was founded after the end of the Neolithic period**
- **D** **was not developed by anyone that we can identify**

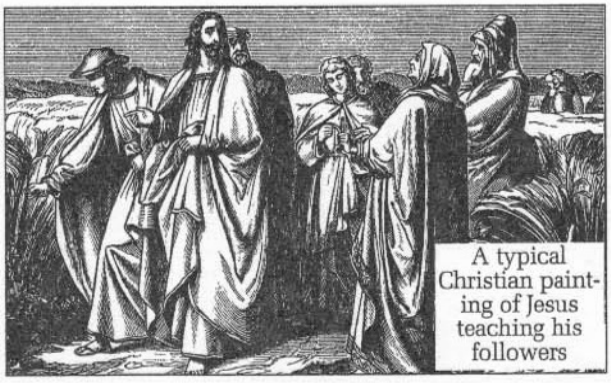
Judaism and Christianity

Judaism is the faith of the Jewish people. It is based upon a compact between God and the ancient Israelites that is described in the Bible. In return for worshiping Him only and obeying His laws, God promised special honor to the Jewish people and a homeland in Canaan (Palestine).

The first five books of the Bible are known as the **Torah**. They describe the early history of the Israelites and the religious and ethical laws received by the prophet **Moses** at Mount Sinai. The Torah teaches that man is made in God's image and is therefore uniquely precious. It stresses that people have a commitment to obey the law and to work with God for the betterment of mankind. Other books of the Bible describe the teachings of prophets who, acting as God's spokesmen, urged the Israelites to remain faithful to Him or be punished.

The Jews were driven from Palestine first by the Assyrians and Chaldeans, and then, following an unsuccessful rebellion in 132 C.E., by the Romans. After this latter exile, communities of Jews were scattered around the Mediterranean and the Middle East. But they continued to study the Torah in home and in special schools called **yeshivas**. Between 200 and 500, learned **rabbis** wrote commentaries on the Torah. The **Talmud** is a collection of these writings.

Jesus was a Jew who was raised in Palestine. He preached that God was forgiving and compassionate when people repented of their sins, and that people should behave with loving kindness towards each other. Jesus claimed that he was the son of God, and the followers of Jesus believed he was the **messiah**, the savior of the Jews. This troubled Roman rulers who feared he might cause political unrest. Accordingly, he was crucified in 33 C.E.; but Christians believe that he rose from the dead after three days.



A typical Christian painting of Jesus teaching his followers

While Jesus lived, his followers were Jews who remained within Judaism. After his death, the apostle **Paul** spread his message among **gentiles**. He preached that God sent Jesus to bring **salvation** to mankind. Paul preached to small Christian communities (after his death, Jesus was known as Christ) in the Mediterranean world; the apostle **Peter** allegedly set up a church in Rome. Many Christians including Paul and Peter were **martyred** (killed for their beliefs). But the faith became legal in the Empire in 322 and spread throughout Europe. European missionaries later spread the teachings of Christianity through Asia, America, and other parts of the world.

15A Identify one belief shared by Judaism and Christianity.

_____

_____

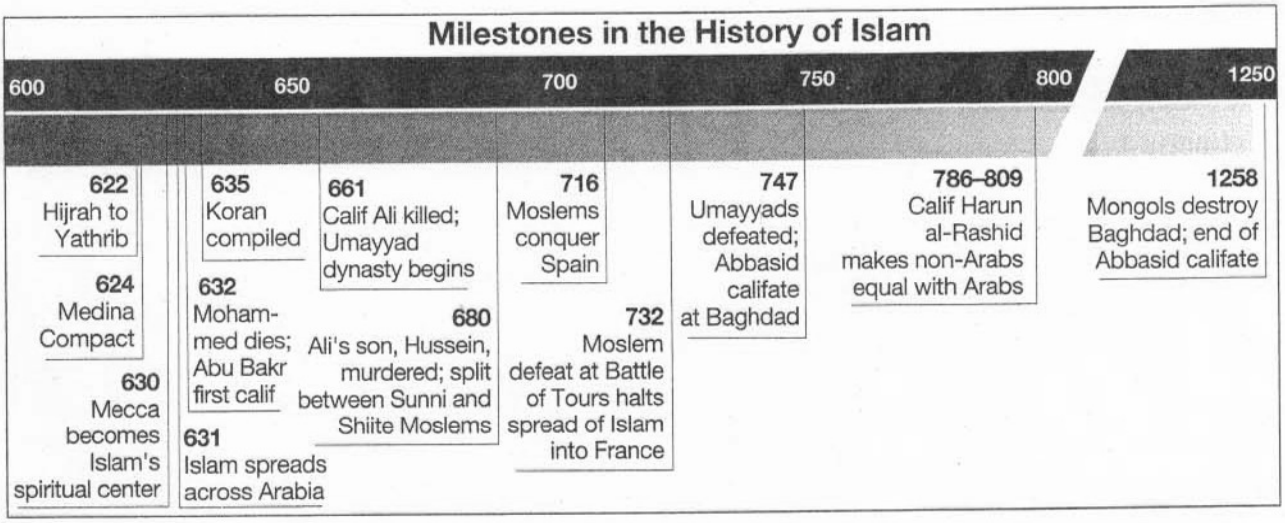
15B What did the Apostle Paul tell people about Jesus?

_____

_____

_____

_____



In 613, an Arab named **Mohammed** began preaching in the city of Mecca. He taught that there was one God whom everyone should worship and obey, that those who believed in God were equal, that the rich should share their wealth with the poor, and that God judged people according to their deeds. Most Meccans opposed these ideas, so Mohammed and his followers went to Yathrib which became the center of Islam under its new name, Medina. In the Medina Compact, Mohammed decreed that the community would be ruled by the law and scriptures he had received from God (they were later recorded in the **Koran**). As judge and commander, he would settle all disputes.

Islam spread first to Mecca, then across Arabia, and then throughout the Middle East and beyond. The murder of the fourth calif and his son (Mohammed's descendant) by the troops of the Umayyad calif caused a deep division within the faith. A majority of Moslems (**Sunni**) believed that any devout Moslem could serve as calif. The **Shiites** stressed the spiritual aspects of leadership and insisted that only Mohammed's descendants could be califs. The division continues today; the Shiites, who live mainly in Iran and Iraq, stress suffering and martyrdom as the hallmarks of Islam.

The Koran teaches similar moral values to Judaism and Christianity: kindness to others and condemnation of cruel and criminal behavior. It decrees that the word of Mohammed is law in private and public life and it lists the Five Pillars of Islam, the five duties all Moslems must follow:

- Faith in one God, the God of Christians, Jews, and Moslems, whose prophets include Moses and Jesus, and the last and greatest of them, Mohammed
- Prayer offered five times a day in the direction of Mecca
- Alms-giving to the poor
- Fasting during the month of Ramadan
- Annual pilgrimage to Mecca (the **hajj**)

The Koran also includes laws relating to diet, family life, and property ownership.

16 Which event was the most important for Shiite Moslems?

A Mohammed's journey to Medina

B the murder of Ali and his son

C the spread of Islam beyond the Middle East

D the victory of the Abbasids

Section Review: The Ancient World

Part A

The documents below indicate how the people of ancient and classical civilizations viewed life and the society in which they lived. Examine each document and answer the question that follows it.

Document 1

What is good in a man's sight is evil for a god,
What is evil to a man's mind is good for his god.
Who can comprehend the counsel of the gods in heaven?
The plan of a god is deep waters, who can fathom it?
Where has befuddled mankind ever learned what is a god's conduct?

"The Epic of Gilgamesh," composed between 3000 and 2000 B.C.E.

1. What view of life is being expressed here?

_____

_____

Document 2

And Moses went up unto God, and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain saying: "Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel:...if ye will hearken unto My voice indeed, and keep My covenant, then ye shall be Mine own treasure from all peoples; for all the earth is Mine; and ye shall be unto Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

The Book of Exodus, chapter 19, verses 3-6, composed in about 1250 B.C.E.

2. What beliefs would you expect that the ancient Israelites had from this passage?

_____

_____

Document 3

We are called a democracy, for the administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few. But while the law secures equal justice to all alike in their private disputes, the claim of excellence is also recognized; and when a citizen is in any way distinguished, he is [selected for] public service...as the reward of merit. Neither is poverty a bar, but a man may benefit his country whatever may be the obscurity of his condition...A spirit of reverence pervades our public acts; we are prevented from doing wrong by respect for authority and for the laws...

A funeral oration delivered by Pericles during the Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.E.)

3. What values does Pericles hold most highly?

_____

_____

Document 4

Hour by hour resolve firmly, like a Roman and a man, to do what comes to hand with correct and natural dignity, and with humanity, independence, and justice. Allow your mind freedom from all other considerations. This you can do, if you will approach each action as though it were your last...See how little a man needs to master, for his last days to flow on in quietness and piety.

—Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations*, about 170 C.E.

4. How would you expect Marcus Aurelius to respond if his troops were defeated in battle?

_____

_____

Part B

Summarize how attitudes towards life and society changed between 2500 B.C.E. and 200 C.E. Include specific historical details and refer to the documents you analyzed in Part A.