

World Religion Day (January 18, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? World Religion Day invites us to discover different religions and reflect on the values they share, such as respect and peace.

Who? This day is for everyone, regardless of their religion... or even if they don't practice any religion at all.

Where? It is celebrated in many countries, especially in schools, communities, and educational settings.

When? This day is observed on the third Sunday of January—in 2026, January 18.

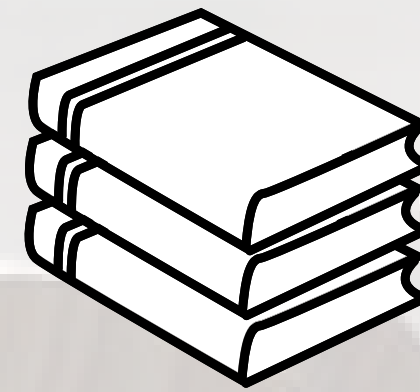
Why is it important? Because better understanding religions helps us better understand others and live together respectfully.

For this activity, your goal will be to further develop your knowledge of the major religions on Earth.



OBJECTIVES

- Discover the main religions practiced around the world
- Recognize common religious symbols
- Locate religions on a world map
- Search for reliable information using digital tools
- Compare simple data (numbers, places, holidays)



SUBJECTS

• Social Studies / Geography

- Reading and interpreting a world map
- Locating cultural phenomena on a global scale

• English

- Reading instructions
- Understanding informational texts
- Searching for information in an online encyclopedia

• General Knowledge

- Exploring religious beliefs and traditions
- Discovering cultural diversity



COMPETENCIES

- Read and interpret visual documents (maps, symbols)
- Research and select relevant information
- Compare cultural realities on a global scale
- Justify an answer using observed evidence



DURATION

- About 60 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Show an image depicting several religious symbols.
- Ask the students:
 - "Do you recognize any of these symbols?"
 - "What do you think the symbols are used for?"
- Allow the students to share their ideas before beginning the activity.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — The World Map of Religions. Observation of a world map of religions and answer four questions using Wikipedia or Vikidia.

Q1 — True.

Q2 — Hinduism

Q3 — Islam

Q4 — Thailand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar.

STEP 2 — Religions and Symbols. Research of information on Wikipedia or Vikidia about religious symbols and answers to five questions.

Q5 — Crescent and star → Islam

Q6 — Star of David → Judaism

Q7 — Om → Hinduism

Q8 — Cross → Christianity

Q9 — Wheel (dharma) → Buddhism

STEP 3 — Major religions: essential information! Filling of a table on some elements of major religions on Wikipedia or Vikidia.

THE MAJOR RELIGIONS ON EARTH

	Number of Believers	Holy City	Important Celebration
Christianity	2,4 billion	Rome, Jerusalem	Easter, Christmas
Islam	1,9 billion	Mecca, Medina	Aid el-Fitr
Buddhism	500 million	Lumbini, Bodh Gaya	Vesak
Judaism	15 million	Jerusalem	Yom Kippour
Hindouism	1,2 billion	Varanasi	Diwali

WRAPPING UP

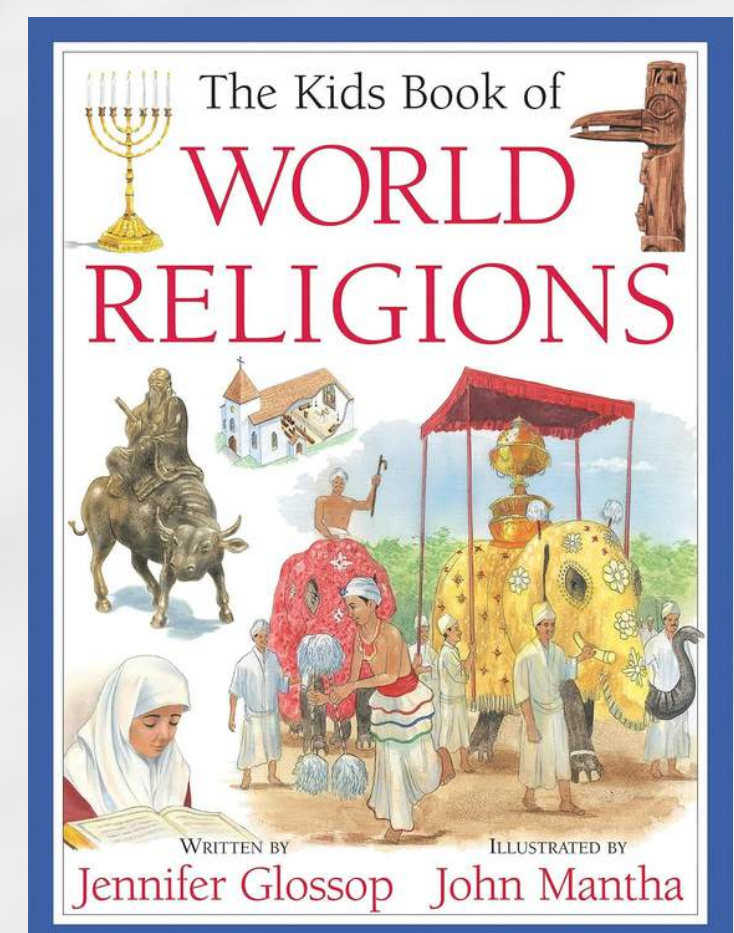


- Review what the students have learned about world religions.
- Discuss the importance of respecting beliefs.
- Emphasize that better understanding others helps us live together more harmoniously.

FURTHER EXPLORATION



 Jennifer Glossop & John Manth. *The Kids Book of World Religions*. Kids Can Press



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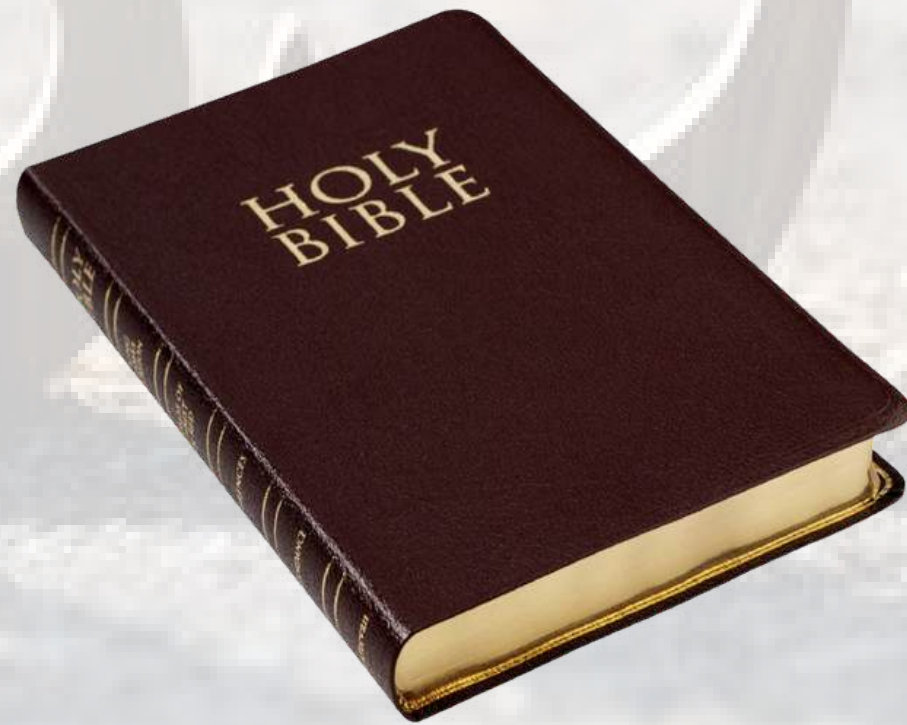
One religion, one book

You now know a lot more about the major religions of the world!

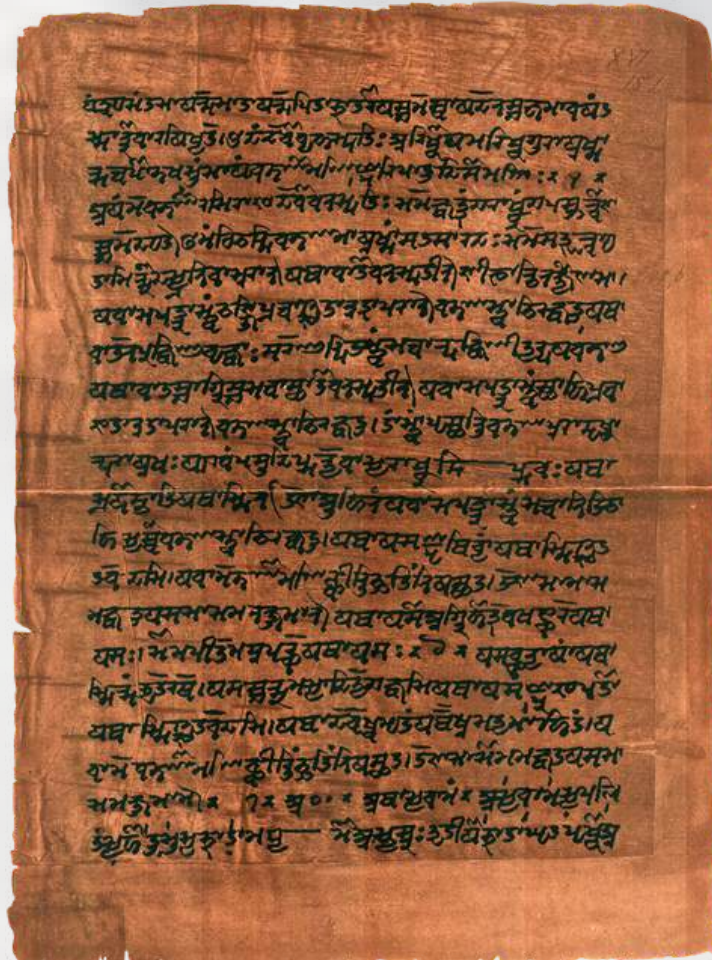
Each religion has its own symbol, holy sites... and also its own holy book! Could you match each holy book with its corresponding religion?



Torah



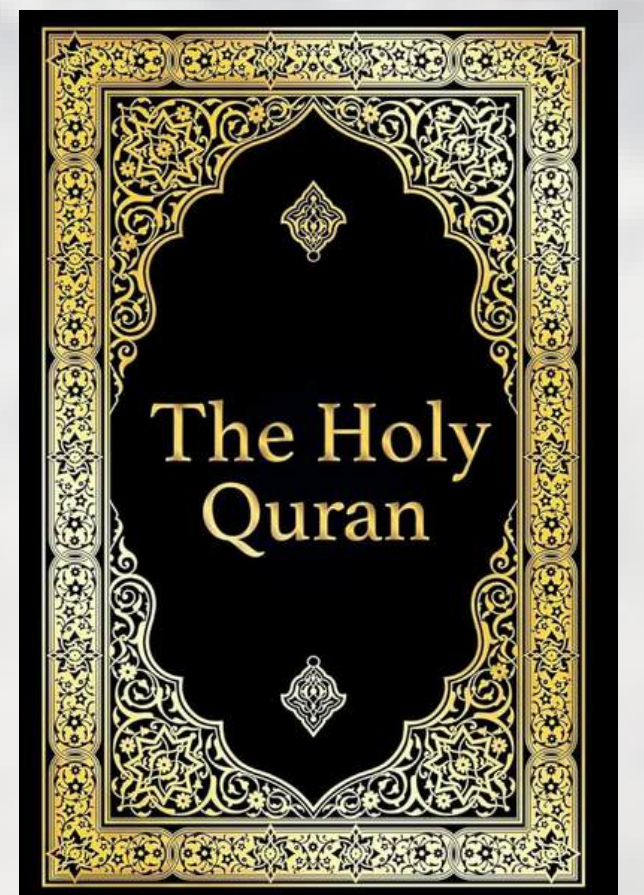
Bible



Vedas



Tripitaka



Quran