know and be able to

RELIGION

KNOW
animism                      inhumation                      sect
autonomous religion         interfaith boundary                  secularism
branch                      intrafaith boundary                  shamanism
caste                       missionary                       solstice
cosmogony                   monotheism                       syncretism
denomination                pagan                           theocracy
diocese                     pilgrimage                      tribal religion
ethnic religion             polytheism                      universalizing religion
fundamentalism             religion                        Zionism
ghetto                      reincarnation
hierarchical religion       sacred space

BE ABLE TO
✓ identify the following characteristics of all major religions:
  • point of origin
  • method of diffusion
  • current distribution
  • landscape expression

✓ map the religious regions of the United States and account for the distributions and patterns.

✓ discuss the major branches, their origins, and their current distributions for the following religions:
  • Christianity
  • Islam
  • Buddhism

✓ distinguish between ethnic and universalizing religions (and provide examples):
  • different holy sites
  • different holy days
  • different methods of diffusion

✓ describe ways in which the environment influences religion and ways in which religions affect the natural environment.

✓ discuss various specific religious conflicts around the world in terms of the following:
  • religion vs. politics
  • religion vs. religion - interfaith conflicts
  • religion vs. religion - intrafaith conflicts
  • religion vs. secularism

CASE STUDIES
____________________________________________       ____________________________________________
____________________________________________       ____________________________________________
____________________________________________       ________________________________
**Animism** - Belief that objects, such as plants and stones, or natural events, like thunderstorms and earthquakes, have a discrete spirit and conscious life.
  Example:

**Autonomous religion** - A religion that does not have a central authority but shares ideas and cooperates informally.
  Example:

**Branch** – A large and fundamental division within a religion.
  Example:

**Caste** - The class or distinct hereditary order into which a Hindu is assigned according to religious law.
  Example:

**Cosmogony** - A set of religious beliefs concerning the origin of the universe.
  Example:

**Denomination** - A division of a branch that unites a number of local religious congregations in a single legal and administrative body.
  Example:

**Diocese** – The basic unit of geographic organization in the Roman Catholic Church.
  Example:

**Ethnic religion** - A religion with a relatively concentrated spatial distribution whose principles are likely to be based on the physical characteristics of the particular location in which its adherents are concentrated.
  Example:

**Fundamentalism** - Literal interpretation and strict adherence to basic principles of a religion (or a religious branch, denomination, or sect).
  Example:

**Ghetto** - During the middle Ages, a neighborhood in a city set up by law to be inhabited only by Jews; now used to denote a section of a city in which members of any minority group live because of social, legal, or economic pressure.
  Example:

**Hierarchical religion** - A religion in which a central authority exercises a high degree of control.
  Example:

**Inhumation** – The act of human burial
  Example:

**Interfaith boundary** – The boundaries between the world’s major faiths
  Example:

**Intrafaith boundary** – The boundaries within a major religion
  Example:

**Missionary** - An individual who helps to diffuse a universalizing religion.
  Example:

**Monotheism** – The doctrine or belief of the existence of only one god.
  Example:

**Pagan** - Follower of a polytheistic religion in ancient times.
  Example:
**Pilgrimage** - A journey to a place considered sacred for religious purposes.
Example:

**Polytheism** - Belief in or worship of more than one god.
Example:

**Religion** - An organized system of ideas about the spiritual sphere or the supernatural, along with associated ceremonial practices by which people try to interpret and/or influence aspects of the universe otherwise beyond their control.
Example:

**Reincarnation** – The belief that the soul lives on after death and is reborn in the form of a new body.
Example:

**Sacred Space** - Any space or area that has been dedicated to a sacred (holy) purpose; a place considered important in a particular religion.
Example:

**Sect** - A relatively small group that has broken away from an established denomination.
Example:

**Secularism** - A belief system that rejects religion, or the belief that religion should not be part of the affairs of the state or part of public education.
Example:

**Shamanism** - An animistic religion of northern Asia having the belief that the mediation between the visible and the spirit worlds is effected by shamans.
Example:

**Solstice** - Definition: Happens twice each year, when the tilt of Earth's axis is most inclined toward or away from the sun, causing the Sun's apparent position in the sky to reach its northernmost or southernmost extreme and resulting in the shortest and longest days of the year. Example: uh... The winter Solstice
Application: *The solstice has a special significance in some ethnic religions--pagans celebrate the winter solstice*
Example:

**Syncretism** - the combining of elements of two groups or features into a new cultural feature. In religion this could be the blending of different beliefs or traditions.
Example:

**Theocracy** - a state whose government is under the control of a ruler who is deemed to be divinely guided or under the control of a group of religious leaders.
Example:

**Tribal Religion** - Consists of ethnic or regional religious customs under the umbrella of an organized religion, but unique to a specific tribe.
Example:

**Universalizing religion** - A religion that attempts to appeal to all people, not just those living in a particular location.
Example:

**Zionism** - the movement to unite the Jewish people of the diaspora and to establish a national homeland. Originated in the 19th century and sought to establish and develop a Jewish nation in Palestine. Since 1948, its function has been to support the state of Israel.
Example: