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| **Strands** | World Religions; Story of the Church; | | | |
| **Stage of Development** | Junior Secondary Yr 8 | **Created** 2023 | | **Review** 2026 |
| **Focus** | This unit examines and compares the 5 major religions of the world: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. It compares the beginnings, core teachings and practices of each. It seeks to work through each religion addressing common questions. It considers a variety of faith celebrations and the impacts on the lives of the people of each faith. The unit finishes with a research activity into a festival of one of these religions. (The unit was originally created for a semester. It is possible to reframe the unit for a term, by selecting specified religions). | | | |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding**   * What we can learn about other main World Religions? * How is Christianity similar to/different from other main World Religions? * What are the big questions we can ask about a Religion? | | **Religious Studies Skills & virtues**  Critical thinking  The Story of the Church  Respect and understanding | |
| **Additional Resources** | World Religions booklet | | This booklet has been compiled by the teachers at St Marks Anglican Community School | | |
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(This unit was prepared using material developed by Stewart Shattock and teachers of St Marks Anglican Community School, Hillary’s, WA).

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| **1** | **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Introduction) | What is a religion?  What are the main religions around the world?  Where do the main religions exist around the world?  What is the challenge of Relativism between cultures ? | 10min  10min  10 mins  10 mins  10mins | Introductory activity:  Introductory Class discussion of questions: “What makes a religion?”, “What role does it play in our society?” and “Why are people religious?”  Classroom activity: On-line Survey  Students undertake an on-line survey which opens up their thinking about the major religions of the world.  Explain the purposes of the unit:  Students consider an overview of the main world religions and how they have grown in peoples around the world.  View: Video examines the idea of “moral relativism” between different cultures, in contrast to the idea of “absolute truth.”  Classroom activity:  Complete the questions on the ASC Activity sheet “What is Religion?” (Or work through the booklet lesson 1) | **ASC PPT WR1** (Slides 1-3)  **ASC PPT WR1** (slide 4)  **ASC PPT WR1** (slide 5-7)  **ASC PPT WR1** (slides 8-12)  **ASC PPT WR1** (slides 13-15)  **WR1 - What is Religion?** |
| **2** | **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (What do you know?) | What do you think you know about the main World Religions?  What big questions can we ask in a comparison of the main World Religions?  How have the main World Religions grown throughout history? | 30min  5min  5 mins | Classroom activity:  Using the Booklet for notes, brainstorm what you think you know about each of the major World Religions. PPT raises 5 major knowledge areas :   * Who is God? * What is the sacred book? * Universe, God and People? * Death judgement and Heaven? * How should I live/Festivals? * Important people/dates?   This is also an opportunity to consider what questions you would like answers to.  View: Review the Animation showing the way the main world religions have grown throughout history.  Reflection: Record a personal reflection about how you react (what you are thinking and what you are feeling) in response to this overview of many different religions? | **ASC PPT WR1** (slides 16-25)  **WR2 - What Do You Know?**  A**SC PPT WR1** (slide 26) |
| **3** | **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (Who is God?) | What is God like?  What is Monotheism?  What is Polytheism?  Who were the gods of ancient Greece? | 5min  10min  10min  15min  5mins | Introductory Activity:  Introductory discussion: “Is there anything too hard for God?”  Examine:  **Monotheism** - One God (Christian)  Introduce the concept of MONOTHEISM. Lok at the three main historical Christian creeds, which are attempts to define who our Christian God is? Look more closely at **The Nicene Creed**  Examine: **Polytheism** - Many Gods (Greek)  Introduce the concept of POLYTHEISM.  Explore the Family Tree of the Greek Gods (First generation TITANS; Second generation OLYMPIANS).  Classroom activity:  Read about the Greek Gods. Using Slide 9, write up note about the Greek Gods. Compare the different ideas about God.  Collect the ideas on classroom whiteboard.  Classroom activity: Kahoot | **ASC PPT WR2** (slides 2-3)  **ASC PPT WR2** (slides 4-5)  **ASC PPT WR2** (slides 6-8)  **ASC PPT WR2** (slides 9-11)  **ASC PPT WR2** (slide 12) |

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| **4**  **5** | **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (Christianity 1)  **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (Christianity 2) | What is Christianity?  What is the Christian doctrine of the Trinity?  What is the Bible?  What is the Christian story of creation of the universe?  How is the message of the Cross central to Christianity?  How do you live a Christian life?  What are the essential practices and devotions in living a Christian life?  How can I learn more about the Christian life? | 5min  30min      5min  5min  30min  5min | View: the video “Falling Plates”  ‘**Christianity on a Page’**: **ASC** **PPT WR3** For an explanation of each of these main ideas of the Christian faith, you can either: ++ View the short explanatory video provided OR  Watch the BBC program ‘*My Life, My Religion: Christianity*”-26m  #1)“Who is God?” – the Trinity  View: Bible Project video “*How Is God Both One and Three?”*  #2)“Sacred Text” **-** the Bible  View: Bible Project video “*What is the Bible?”*  #3)“The Universe” - The Story of Creation  View: Saddleback Kids video “*Creation (Genesis 1-2)”*  #4) “Death” - The Message of the Cross  #5) “Key People / Dates” – Jesus /Martin Luther / Pope Francis  Extension: Activity: Kahoot  Introduction: Discuss Slide1 challenge “what does God require of you?” in Micah 6:8  Classroom Activity: #5) Research Bible on “How Should I Live?”– The quotes are in the **ASC PPT Christianity2** (Slides 2-11). The headings are in your **ASC** **Booklet p8** 1) Match the quotes to the list of headings.   * Deeds * Telling Others * Church * Communion * Baptism * Prayer   #6) Main Festivals  Write your answers in your **ASC Workbook** under these headings Wk5  Reflection: If you are looking for more information, follow any of the “helpful links” provided on Slide 11 | **ASC PPT WR4** (slide 3)  **ASC PPT WR4** (slides 4-10)  **ASC video** (What is the Bible? - 6mins)  **ASC Video** ([Creation (Genesis 1-2)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu7BCZTgDs&t=8s) - 3mins)  **ASC Booklet - p8**  **ASC PPT WR4 (slides 2)**  **ASC PPT WR4 (slides 3-10)**  **ASC PPT WR4 (slides 11)** |
| **6** | **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (Judaism 1) | How is Judaism similar to/different from Christianity?  What do you know about Judaism?  What are the central elements of Judaism? | 5min  5min  15min  20min  5min | Introduction: Briefly outline the main comparisons between 2 Western, monotheistic religions – See **ASC Booklet** top **p9**  Classroom Activity1: Examine some central symbols of Judaism, and their meaning  Classroom Activity2: Complete the craft activity of creating a “Star of David”  View: BBC series *“My Life My Religion: Judaism*” (28mins)  Take notes on some key terms under the headings in the **ASC booklet p9.**  Extension: View: “**I met Messiah**” (5mins) - a powerful personal story of Jewish man who converted to Christianity. | **ASC PPT WR4 (Slide3)**  **ASC PPT WR4 (Slides4-7)**  **ASC PPT WR4 (Slides8-10)**  **ASC PPT WR4 (Slides11-12)**  **ASC Booklet wk6**  **ASC PPT WR4 (Slide13)** |
| **7**  **8**  **9**  **10**  **11**  **12**  **13**  **14**  **15**  **16**  **17** | **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (Judaism 2)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Judaism 3)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Islam 1)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Islam 2)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Islam 3)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Hinduism 1)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Hinduism 2)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Hinduism 3)  **WORLD RELIGIONS** (Buddhism 1)  **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (Buddhism 2)  **WORLD RELIGIONS**  (Final comparison  and review) | What can we learn about a religion: Judaism?  What are the main teachings of Judaism?  Who are some significant people of Judaism?  How is the Hebrew language important in the Bible?  How does the Hebrew language work?  What is a Synagogue?  How does Judaism impact the daily life of Jewish people?  How is Islam similar to/different from Christianity?  What do you know about Islam?  What is a Mosque?  What are the main features of Islam?  What can we learn about a Religion: Islam?  What is the history of Islam?  What are the main teachings of Islam?  What are the sacred texts of Islam?  Are God and Allah the same?  How can Islam be misunderstood?  How do you view the differences between Islam and Christianity?  What is Halal? How is it important in Islam?  What do you know about Hinduism?  How is Hinduism similar/different to Christianity?  What are some of the major concepts of Hinduism?  What is Reincarnation?  What is ‘the Cycle of life’?  What can we learn about a Religion: Hinduism?  What are the main features of Hinduism?  How does Hinduism describe their God/s?  What are the sacred texts of Hinduism?  How does Hinduism explain Creation?  How does Hinduism regard death?  How does Hinduism celebrate life?  Who are some famous Hindus?  What do you know about Buddhism?  How is Buddhism similar/different from Christianity?  How did Buddhism begin with the prophet, Siddharta Gautama?  What are the main “Truths” of Buddhism?  What can we learn about a Religion – Buddhism?  Who is God in Buddhism?  What are the sacred texts of Buddhism?  How does Buddhism explain Creation?  How does Buddhism regard death?  How does Buddhism celebrate life?  Who are some famous Buddhists?  How can we be sure Christianity is true?  What do Christians believe?  How is Christianity different from other religions?  How do you think Christianity compares to other religions?  What do you think and why? | 5min  25min  15min  5min  15min  10min  15min  5min  10min  30min  15min  10min  10min  10min  15min  10min  10min  5min  5min  10min  30min  5min  35min  10min  40min  5min  5min  10min  30min  5min  40min  5min  10min  10min  10min  10min | Review: **ASC** **PPT WR5 (slide3)** What are the central elements of Religion - Judaism?    Explore: **Judaism on a Page** #1)“Who is God?” – Yahweh #2)“Sacred Texts” **-** the Torah    View: ‘Holy Books of the Torah’ (6mins)  #3)“The Universe” - (slide11) #4) “Death” - (Slides 12-14) #5) “Key People / Dates” – Abraham/Moses/David (Slides 15-17)  Fill in answers on each page of ASC booklet  Introduction:  Intro to the Hebrew language – “Shema”/Listen (3mins)  **OR**  “Yhwh”/Lord (4mins)  Classroom activities:  Learn about the Hebrew alphabet - p  Learn about the SHEMA (Jewish prayer) – p  View: “Holy Cribs: The Synagogue” (10 mins)  Read: “JUDAISM Visiting a Synagogue” –  Use the notes to complete questions in your ASC booklet on  ‘Synagogue’ and “Kosher food’  Introduction: Briefly outline the main comparisons between Islam and Christianity (both are Monotheistic, but quite different) – See **ASC Booklet** top **p9**  View1: “*Holy Cribs: Mosque*” (8mins) Sites of the most famous beautiful Islamic Mosques around the world.  Make notes in your ASC Workbook Wk10  View3: A brief video of the Australian Lakemba Mosque in NSW (2mins)  Explore:  View: BBC series *“My Life, My Religion: Islam*” (28mins)  Make notes from the program in your ASC booklet on the key concepts of Islam – Wk9  Explore:  **Islam on a Page**  #1) “Who is God/Allah?” –  View#1: “*How Islam Began*” (8mins) – a brief history of Islam  Make notes in your ASC Workbook Wk10  #5) “Key People/Dates” – Prophet Mohammed  Make notes in your ASC Workbook Wk10    #2) “Sacred Text” - the Qur’an (Koran)  View#2: “*Islam: The Qur’an*” (10mins)  Make notes in your ASC Workbook Wk10  Reflection:  What are the similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam?  Make notes in your ASC Workbook Wk10  Introduction: How is Islam sometimes regarded (and misunderstood) in Australia? **(NB: this is a complex topic and needs to be handed sensitively. It’s important to view the Videos beforehand to anticipate any issues that may arise).**  View#1: “*Muslim Hate in Australia: Social Experiment*” (4:28mins)  View#2: “*From Jihad to Jesus*” (8mins)  Fill in answers on each page of ASC booklet  View: A Dialogue between Christianity and Islam (9mins)  Between John Dickson and Diaa Mohamed (2012)  Explore: Islamic Food and Culture  Make notes in your ASC workbook on the significance of Halal in Islam  Reflection: Take time to write a reflection in your ASC workbook at the conclusion of these lessons on Islam. What are your thoughts and feelings about this challenging topic now?  Introduction: What do You know about Hinduism?  Explain: Hinduism is very different - polytheistic religion. Briefly concepts of Brahman / enlightenment / reincarnation.  It helps students to have some explanation first, in your own words.  Explore: Some key terms   1. Samsara and Moksha – View: “*What is Samsara?”*   2) Dharma – View: “*What is Dharma?”*  3) Atman and Brahman – Is this the idea of Soul?  \*\* Make notes in your ASC Workbook Wk12 under the headings provide  Introduction: Review the 6 “Main Ideas” you can know about a Religion. This will shape the study from here.  View: BBC “*My Life, My Religion: Hinduism*” (29 mins)  Make notes in your ASC Workbook Wk13 - under the headings provided  Explore: **Hinduism on a Page**  #1)“Who is God?” – Brahman  View: “*Who is Ganesh?”* (3 mins)  Make Notes in your ASC Workbook Wk14- under the headings provided    Explore: **Hinduism on a Page (cont) …**    #2)“Sacred Texts” **-** Shruti and Smriti  #3)“The Universe” -  View: “*Hindu Creation Story*” (3 mins)  #4) “Death”  #5) “Life and Festivals” - including “4 Goals of Life” - sacred cows in Hinduism - Hindu temples (Mandirs) - Festivals: Diwali, Holi  View: [What Is Diwali and How Is It Celebrated? - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VtMwjW6Gzqs)  #6) Key People – Mahatma Ghandi  Make notes about each of these concepts in your ASC workbook Wk14 under the headings provided  Introduction: Look at the picture of the Buddhists monks in meditation. What do know of the life of a Buddhist monk? Are there Buddhist temples in Australia?  Explain:  How Buddhism began in India (560BC), with the founding prophet, Siddharta Gautama.  Briefly concepts: “3 Universal Truths”, “4 Noble Truths” and “The 8-Fold Path”.  It helps students to have some explanation first, in your own words.    View: BBC documentary “*The Life of Buddha*” (49 mins). See **Slide 8** for specific focus, if time is short.  Makes notes in your ASC Workbook under the headings provided.  Extension Activity: Read through “*Buddhism: an Overview*” from th**e ASC resource** “*World Religions and Cults*”.  Make notes in your ASC Workbook on facts of Buddha’s Life    Introduction: Review the 6 “Main Ideas” you can know about a Religion. This will shape the study from here  Explore: **Buddhism on a Page**  #1) “Who is God?” – Buddha was not a God  #2) “Sacred Texts” - Pali Canon manuscripts (Teachings of Buddha)  #3) “The Universe” - Nature of Suffering (slide12)  #4) “Death” - Reincarnation/Enlightenment (Slide 13)  #5) “Life and festivals” - The three “Jewels” of Buddhism:   * 3 Universal Truths * 4 Noble truths * Eightfold Path   #5) “Key People” – Siddhartha Gautama/Dalai Lama (Slides 18-19)  Make notes about each of these concepts in your ASC workbook Wk16 under the headings provided.  Introduction: Read Notes in your **ASC Workbook Wk17** (p29) – about the central and unique claim of Christianity  Explore:  Follow the link on your ASC Workbook p29 to the article summing up Christianity.  Make notes in your ASC workbook about the 4 main points  Explore:  Follow the link on your ASC Workbook p29 to the article summing up how Christianity is different from other religions.  Reflect:  In your ASC workbook, write a reflection which expresses your own conclusions about the comparisons between Christianity religions  Extension: Complete the Crossword in your ASC Workbook p30, which captures the some of the concepts of the “5 Main Religions” | **ASC PPT WR5 (slides 3)**  **ASC** **PPT WR5 (slides 4-10) ASC Booklet wk7**    **ASC PPT WR5 (slides 11-17)**  **ASC Booklet wk7**  **ASC PPT WR6 (slide 3)**      **ASC Booklet wk8**  **ASC WR**  **ASC Booklet Wk 9**  **ASC PPT WR11 (slide 3-9)**  **ASC PPT WR11 (slide 3)**  **ASC WR** “Booklet WR Islam”  **ASC PPT WR11 (slides 11-15)**  [**Jesus a prophet of Islam?**](https://www.publicchristianity.org/jesus-a-prophet-of-islam-diaa-mohamed/) [**Diaa Mohamed -** Centre for Public Christianity](https://www.publicchristianity.org/jesus-a-prophet-of-islam-diaa-mohamed/)  [**What is Halal? What Halal Means - American Halal (halalfoundation.org**](https://halalfoundation.org/insights/what-is-halal/)**)**  **ASC PPT11 (slide 3)**  **ASC PPT11 (slides 4-5)**  **ASC PPT11 (slides 6-11)**  **ASC PPT12 (slide 3)**  **ASC PPT12 (slide 12)**  **ASC PPT12 (slides 13-15)**  **ASC PPT13 (slides 16-18)**  **ASC PPT13 (slide 19)**  **ASC PPT13 (slides 20-23)**  **ASC PPT13 (slides 24-31)**  **ASC PPT14 (slide 32)**  **ASC PPT14 (slide 33)**  **ASC PPT14 (slide 34)**  **ASC PPT115 (slides 3-5)**  **ASC PPT15 (slides 3-7)**  **ASC PPT15 (slides 8)**  **ASC PPT15 (slides 9-19)**  **ASC PPT15 (slide 9-10)**    **ASC PPT15 (slide 11)**  **ASC PPT15 (slide 12)**  **ASC PPT15 (slide 13)**  **ASC PPT15 (slide 14-18)**  **ASC PPT15 (slide 18-19)**    **ASC PPT16 (slide 1-4)**  **ASC PPT16 (slide 7-8)**  **ASC PPT16 (slide 9)**  **ASC WR 17** |

| **Lesson** | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | **Resources** |
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