

## Year 7 Knowledge Organizer 1—Comparative Religion

Religion is thought to have begun about 70,000 years ago.. It developed as humans became curious about themselves and the world around them..

They began asking questions like:-

What controls the movement of the sun and moon in the sky?

What controls the seasons?

What happens after we die?

This led to them being concerned about how they deal with their dead, burying tools and personal items with them indicating a belief in an after-life and showing respect for their ancestors.

Communities developed beliefs about the supernatural and the spiritual, ritual practises and ideas of what is right or wrong.

At first spirits were thought of as not only in humans but also animals, rivers, mountains, rocks, trees, and the weather. This is called ANIMISM.

People believed that they could talk to spirits and influence them.

Spirits turned into Gods and Gods when tribes formed nations became amalgamated to be bigger Gods with shared beliefs and rituals associated with them and becoming a Religion binding groups together.

### Key Terms

**Animism** - Belief that spirits are not only in humans but also animals, rivers, mountains, rocks, trees, and the weather

**Theism** Belief in a God

**Atheism** - No belief in a God

**Agnosticism** - Not sure whether there is a belief in God or not

**Polytheism** - Belief in many Gods

**Monotheism**—Belief that there is only one God

### The 6 main Religions of the world

**Christianity**—Christians—2.3 Billion followers– started in Palestine

**Islam**– Muslims—1.8 billion followers– started in Arabia

**Hinduism**– Hindus—1.1 billion– started in India

**Buddhism**– Buddhists—500 million—India

**Judaism**—Jews—14.5 million—started in Palestine/Israel

**Sikhism**—Sikhs—27 million—India

### Symbols of the main world faiths

CHRISTIANITY  
LATIN CROSS



ISLAM  
CRESCENT AND STAR

HINDUISM  
OM LETTER



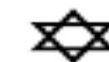
BUDDHISM  
DHARMACHAKRA

TAOISM  
YIN AND YANG



SHINTO  
TORII GATE

SIKHISM  
KHANDA



JUDAISM  
STAR OF DAVID

'The major religions have no relevance to people in the 21st century'. Evaluate this statement considering arguments for and against.

### FOR

- People are becoming more secular (non religious) in Britain
- People use science to explain things that used to be explained by religion

### AGAINST

- People still attend religious buildings, celebrate religious festival, use religious based dating systems, mark important life stages with a religious ceremony and turn to advice from religious leaders over a range of ethical issues.
- 5 out of 6 people in the world are religious.
- 60% of people in Britain describe themselves as Christian in the 2011 census.