

Belief Systems



Belief Systems

1. Define vocabulary terms

Belief Systems

Vocabulary

Practice 1: *Getting Familiar*

Directions: From the list below **CIRCLE** any words that look familiar

belief system	Brahman	dharma	eightfold path
Five Pillars	four noble truths	hajj	Hegira
karma	Messiah	monotheism	nirvana
polytheism	reincarnation	sharia	Ten Commandments

belief system (n.)

- a set of ideas and practices that help explain the origins of life, what happens after people die, and how to live a good life

(note: all religions are belief systems, but not all belief systems are religions)

Brahman (n.)

- single unifying spirit in Hindu belief.

dharmā

- in Hinduism, the moral and religious duties that are expected of an individual.

eightfold path (n.)

- comprising eight aspects in which an aspirant must become practiced: right views, intention, speech, action, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, and concentration.

four noble truths (n.)

- the four central beliefs containing the essence of Buddhist teaching.

filial piety (n.)

- a virtue of respect for one's parents, elders, and ancestors in Confucianism

Five Pillars (n.)

- are five basic acts in Islam, considered mandatory by believers and are the foundation of Muslim life.

hajj (n.)

- the Muslim pilgrimage (religious journey) to Mecca that takes place in the last month of the year, and that all Muslims are expected to make at least once during their lifetime

Hegira (n.)

- The flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Median which was instrumental to the founding of the religion of Islam. Occurs in 622 CE, which dates the founding of Islam.

karma (n.)

- In Hinduism, actions in this life resulting from the consequences of a previous life's actions.

Messiah (n.)

- According to the Hebrew Bible, an anointed king who will lead the Jews back to the land of Israel and establish justice in the world. According to the Christians, the Messiah was Jesus Christ.

monotheism (n.)

- The belief in one god or goddess.

nirvana (n.)

- In Buddhism, union with universe and release from the cycle of death and rebirth.

polytheism (n.)

- The belief in many gods or goddesses.

reincarnation (n.)

- The rebirth of a soul into another body.
Hinduism and Buddhism share this belief.

Ten Commandments (n.)

- are a set of biblical laws relating to ethics and worship, which play a fundamental role in Judaism and Christianity

sharia (n.)

- The Islamic laws which regulates all aspects of life including, moral behavior, family life, business dealings, and government.

Practice: *Characterize*

Directions: Match the list of religions terms with the proper religion. Some terms may be used more than once.

Terms: Brahman, dharma, eightfold path, four noble truths, Five Pillars, hajj, Hegira, karma, Messiah, nirvana, reincarnation, sharia, Ten Commandments

Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism
Islam		Judaism

Belief Systems

- 1. Discuss founders and key writings of each belief system.**
- 2. Identify key beliefs of each major world religion and philosophy.**

Animism

Founder: - - -

Place: Africa/Asia

Time Period: Prehistory

Writings: - - -

Key Beliefs:

- all things have a spirit
- in some cases, ancestor worship



Cave painting from Lascaux, France.

Images was painted during Neolithic period.

Birds were believed by early peoples to be carriers of the soul.

Confucianism

Founder: Confucius

Place: China

Time Period: 500 BC

Writings: The Analects

Key Beliefs:

Five Relationships: every person has a specific place and duties to fulfill (next slide)

Jen: Human kindness

Li: Proper etiquette, strive to achieve perfect virtue.

Filial Piety: respect your elders

Xiao: Five Relationships

- According to Confucius, each person has a specific place in society and certain duties to fulfill. Confucius hoped that if people knew what was expected of them, they would behave correctly.
- Thus, the Five Relationships:
 - ❁ Between State and Citizen;
 - ❁ Between Father and Son;
 - ❁ Between Husband and Wife;
 - ❁ Between elder Brother and younger Brother;
 - ❁ Between Friends.
- * Wherein the inferior should always obey and respect the superior. But, in turn the superior should love the inferior.

Taoism/Daoism

Founder: Lao Tze

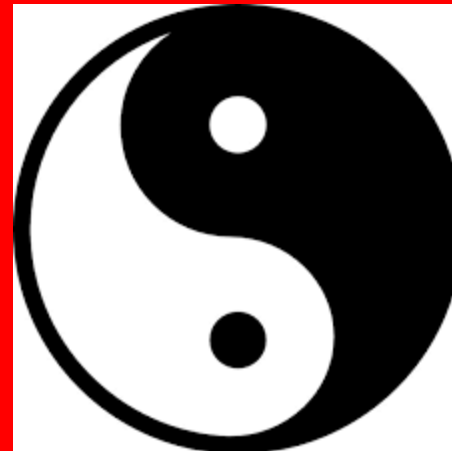
Place: China

Time Period: 500 BC

Writings: The Way of Virtue, Zhuange-zi

Key Beliefs:

- Tao: The “way” of the universe**
- Yin/Yang: Balance between forces in nature**



Legalism

Founder: Han Fei

Place: China

Time Period: 233 BC

Writings: Han Feizi

Key Beliefs:

- the nature of man is evil
- in order to achieve order there needs to be strict laws and harsh punishments
- strength is rulers greatest virtue

Selection from the *Han Feizi*

“Hardly ten men of true integrity and good faith can be found today, and yet the offices of the state number in the hundreds. If they must be filled by men of integrity and good faith, then there will never be enough men to go around; and if the offices are left unfilled, then those whose business it is to govern will dwindle in numbers while disorderly men increase. Therefore the way of the enlightened ruler is to unify the laws instead of seeking for wise men, to lay down firm policies instead of longing for men of good faith. Hence his laws will never fail him, and there is no felony or deceit among his officials. ...”

Han Fei (author) suggests that one cannot staff a bureaucracy by looking for wise and good men. What alternative does he suggest? Is his alternative realistic?

Buddhism

Founder: Siddhartha Gautama

Place: India

Time Period: 500 BC

Writings: Tripitka – “Three Baskets of Wisdom”

Key Beliefs:

Four Noble Truths:

1. All life is suffering
2. Suffering is caused by the desire for things that are illusions
3. The way to eliminate suffering is to eliminate desire
4. Following the Eightfold Path will help people overcome desire

Eightfold Path: Right – views, intentions, speech, conduct, livelihood, effort, mindfulness, mediation

Nirvana: union with the universe and release from the cycle of death and rebirth (reincarnation)



"He who recognizes the existence of suffering, its cause, its remedy, and its cessation has fathomed the four noble truths. He will walk in the right path.

Right views will be the torch to light his way. Right aspirations will be his guide. Right speech will be his dwelling-place on the road. His gait will be straight, for it is right behavior. His refreshments will be the right way of earning his livelihood. Right efforts will be his steps, right thoughts his breath; and right contemplation will give him the peace that follows in his footprints."

The Buddha – The Sermon at Benares

Hinduism

Founder: no founder

Place: India

Time Period: 3000 BC

Writings: Upanishads, Vedas, Ramayana

Key Beliefs:

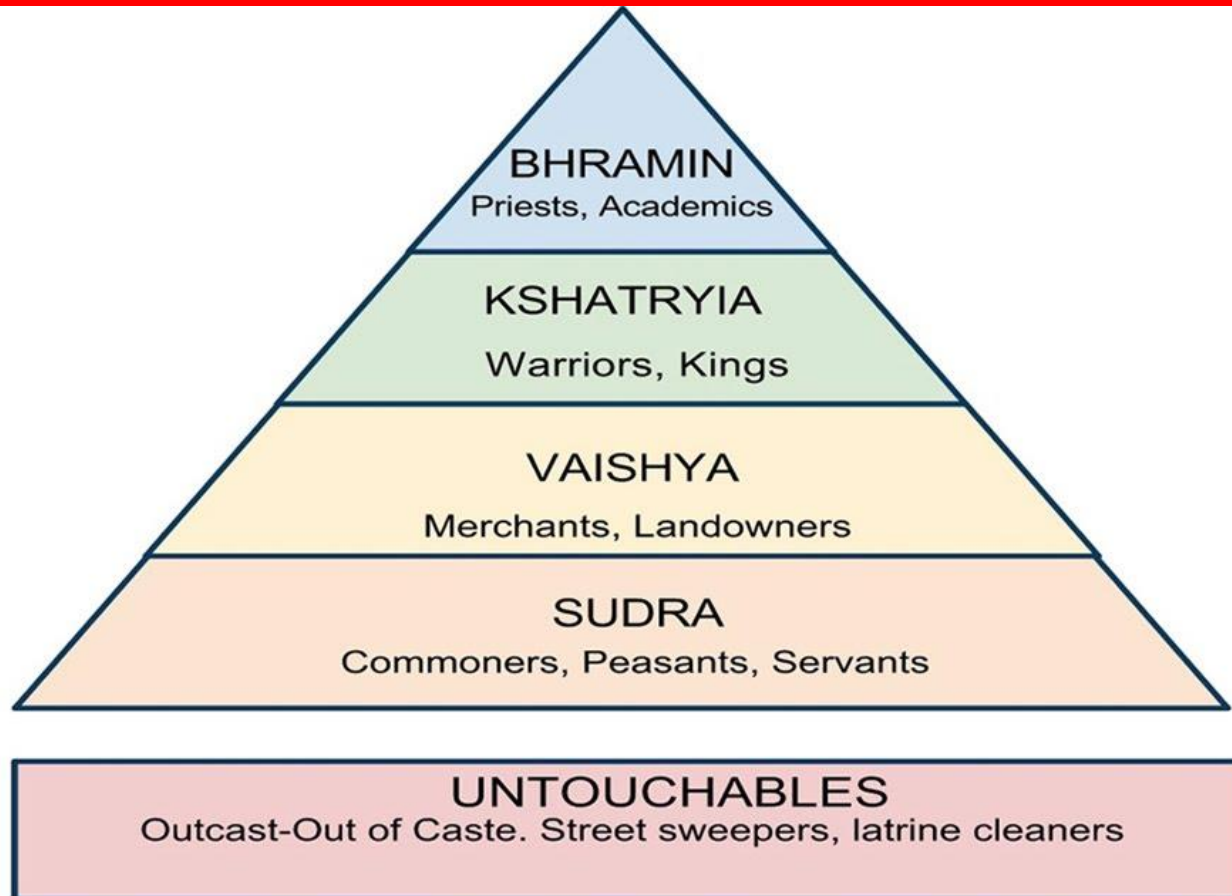
Brahman: universal spirit, goal of life is to receive union with Brahman

Reincarnation: need to separate yourself from desires, reborn, higher level each time

Karma: deeds that affect next life

Dharma: moral and religious duties that are expected of an individual

Caste: good Karma you can move up in class in next life
(No Social Mobility – cannot change social class)



Caste System And Dalit

Shintoism

Founder: mixture of cultures

Place: Japan

Time Period: 500 BC

Writings: Kokiji, or *Record of Ancient Matters* and Nikong, or *Chronicles of Japan*.

Key Beliefs:

Kami: Everything has a spirit and people need to be in touch with this spirit

- ancestor worship



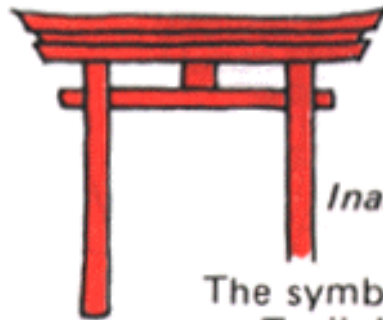
A

Komainu : the stone dogs which face each other at the entrance to shrines, guarding the precincts. One dog always has its mouth open and is called *A*, while the other has its mouth closed and is called *Un*.



吽

Un



Inari style - torii

The symbol of a shrine is its gate, or *Torii*. It represents the division between the everyday world and the divine world.



Hishaku
(ladle)

Water

Chōzuya: the small pavilion near the main hall with water and ladles. People come here to wash their hands and rinse out their mouths before going to the main hall to pray.



The main sanctuary of
Tōshōgū Shrine

The *jinja*, or shrine, is where believers in Japan's indigenous religion, *Shintō*, go to worship. *Shintō* originated in ancient peoples' fears of demons and supernatural powers, and their worship of these.

It has no written body of doctrine, but it is Japan's main religion and is practiced widely through ceremonies and festivals.

Source: Japan National Tourism Organization

Monotheistic Religions

Judaism

Founder: Abraham, Moses

Place: Middle East (Israel)

Time Period: 2000 BC

Writings: Torah, Talmud

Key Beliefs:

Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make yourself any graven image. For I am the Lord your God
3. shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and mother
6. You shall not commit murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not witness falsely against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's things

Judaism Facts



Jewish followers refer to God as Yahweh.

Spiritual leaders of Judaism are called Rabbis.

Jewish places of worship are called synagogues.

The Torah consists of the five books of Moses (Old Testament in Christianity).

Although Hanukkah is an important Jewish holiday it was not part of the Hebrew Scriptures because it is meant to celebrate an event that occurred after the Scriptures were written. It celebrates the victory over the Syrian-Greek rulers of Jerusalem by the Maccabees, and the Temple's rededication in 164 BCE.

There are approximately 14,000,000 Jewish people in the world today.

The religious symbol of Judaism is the Star of David.

In order for food to be Kosher it cannot contain pork - Jewish followers do not eat pork.

Christianity

Founder: Jesus of Nazareth

Place: Judea (Israel)

Time Period: 30 AD

**Writings: Old and New Testament
(Bible)**

Key Beliefs:

Ten Commandments



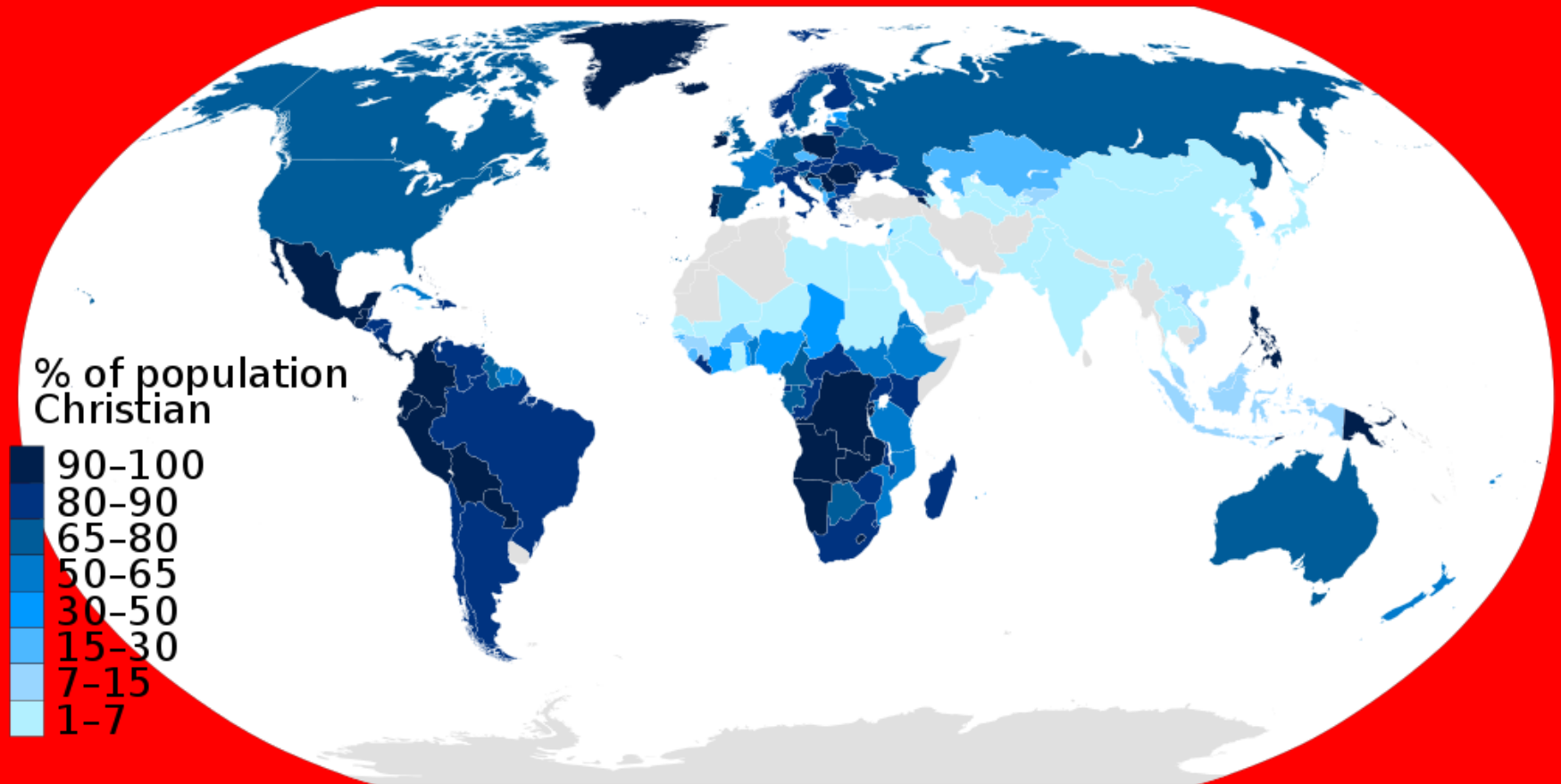
Statue of Christ
overlooking Rio
de Janeiro

Messiah: Jesus is the son of God

Holy Trinity: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit

Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation or
Chrismation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of
the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony

Christianity Worldwide



Christianity Facts

The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian denomination in the world today. Roman Catholics make up approximately half of the world's Christians.

There are approximately 800 million Protestant Christians worldwide today.

Christian places of worship include churches, chapels, cathedrals, basilicas, and meeting halls.

Christianity teaches that there are seven deadly sins including pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, anger, and sloth.

Although Christianity is the largest religion in the world, and practiced in many countries around the world, it is mainly practiced in North America, South America, and in Europe.

Aside from Jesus Christ, other prominent figures of Christianity include Jesus' mother Mary, Abraham, the Apostle Paul and John the Baptist

Islam

Founder: Mohammed

Place: Arabian Peninsula

Time Period: 622 AD

Writings: Koran/Qu'ran

Key Beliefs:

Five Pillars of Islam

1. **Confession of Faith**: The belief that "there is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is His prophet."
2. **Prayer**: must pray five times per day, facing towards Mecca.
3. **Charity**: Muslims must give alms to the poor, and support the local Mosque by donating a portion of their income.
4. **Fasting**: During the **Ramadan**, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, all Muslims must fast during daylight hours, except the very young or sick.
5. **Pilgrimage**: If possible financially, each Muslim must make a **hajj**, or holy pilgrimage, to the city of Mecca.

Jihad: struggle or strive to surrender one's will to Allah's will or a struggle or fight against the enemies of Islam.

Hegira: flight from Mecca to Medina

Other Info

Places of Worship: Muslims may gather to worship in temples called Mosques

Significant Religious People: The Caliph, or successor to the Prophet Mohammed; Imam, leader of prayers; and the Muezzin, or one who issues a call to prayer, causing the faithful to gather at the local Mosque.

Sects: Sunni, Shiite

Islam Facts

The word 'Islam' means 'submission' or surrender'.

The word 'Islam' in religious terms means 'surrender one's will to the true will of God to achieve peace'.

The Qur'an has 114 chapters (Suras).

Islam is a religion of peace and does not condone or promote terrorism or killing non-Muslims.

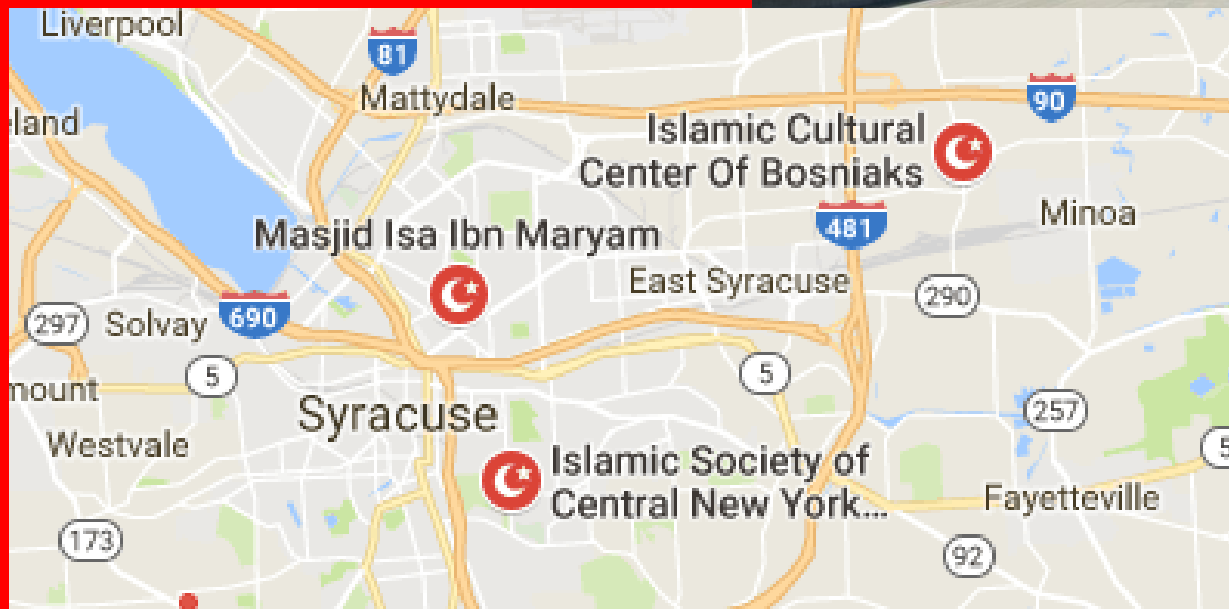
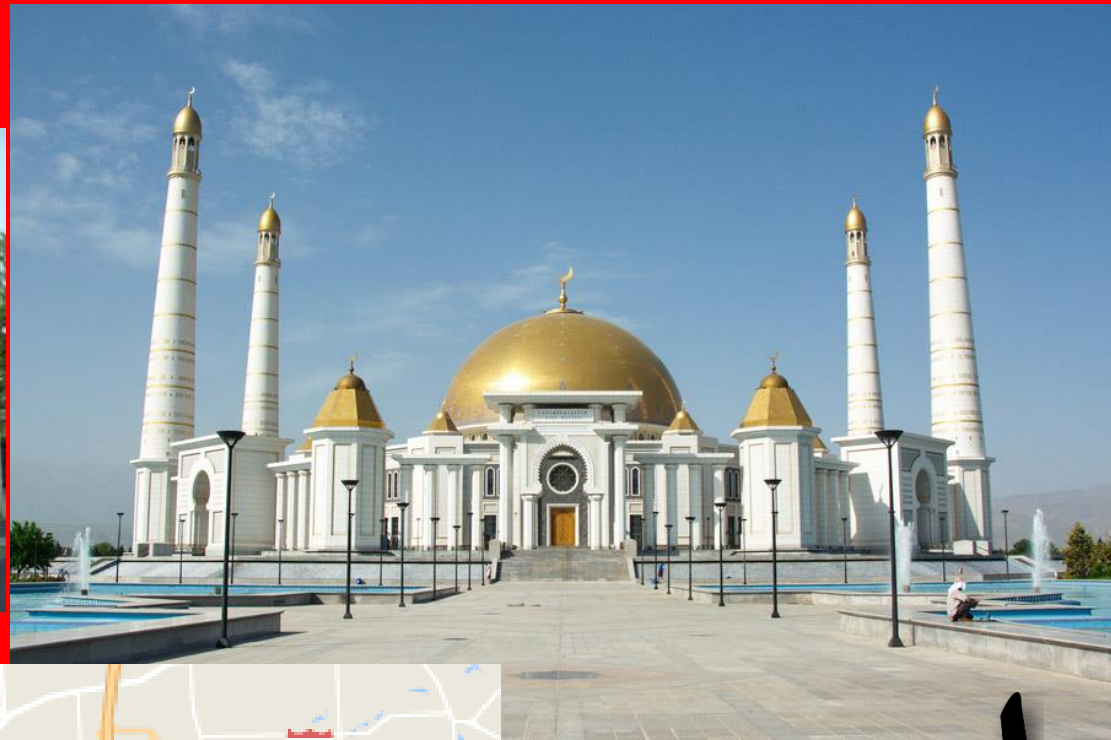
According to Islam, women should be treated with dignity. They should not be oppressed.

Women of the Islam faith wear head-covering hijabs to dress modestly to follow Allah's decree. The Virgin Mary, Mother Teresa, and Catholic nuns have also worn the same head-covering hijab.

Many of the extreme practices associated with Islam are not from true Islamic teachings, such as confining women to their homes or honor killings. These practices are forbidden in Islam but have been created out of ignorance or cultural traditions.

New mosque in Turkmenistan

Islamic Society of Central New York



Location of local mosques



Calligraphic representation of the word Allah