Major World Religions
I) Christianity

- World’s biggest religion.
  - 2.2 billion followers
- This monotheistic religion is based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth who later became known as Jesus Christ.
- Teachings are found in the Bible (holy book)
II) Islam

- Second most popular religion in the world with over a billion followers.
- A Muslim is a follower of Islam.
- The founder is a man named Muhammad who was born in 570 CE.
- Islam is a monotheistic religion and it’s followers worship Allah.
- The teachings of Islam are found in the Koran (holy book).
III) Hinduism

- Considered to be the oldest “living” religion in the world, since it began at least four thousand years ago.
- About 1 billion followers world-wide
- Hinduism is a huge collection of belief systems that have been influenced and changed over history.
  - Hinduism has no single founder or a central leader —because of this, people worship in VERY different ways.
- Teachings are found in the Vedas (holy book)
- Hindus believe God (Brahman) is all things in the world and can take various forms.
  - Because of this Hinduism is polythiestic.
IV) Buddhism

- The 4th largest religion in the world.
- Buddhism focuses on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama who was born around 563 BCE.
  - He was called “The Buddha”, or the enlightened one. Many Buddhas have existed.
- Buddhism is a religion that is not based on the idea of God—it’s more of a way of life, so it is actually a philosophy.
  - People who follow this religion live their lives in order to achieve enlightenment.
V) Judaism

- Judaism is around 3500 years old and is one of the oldest of the world's **monotheistic religions**.
- There are about 12 million followers around the world.
- Abraham is believed to be the father of the Jewish people.
- The story of Abraham is told in the Torah (holy book).
- The Jewish word for god is Yahweh.