

Great Religions of the World

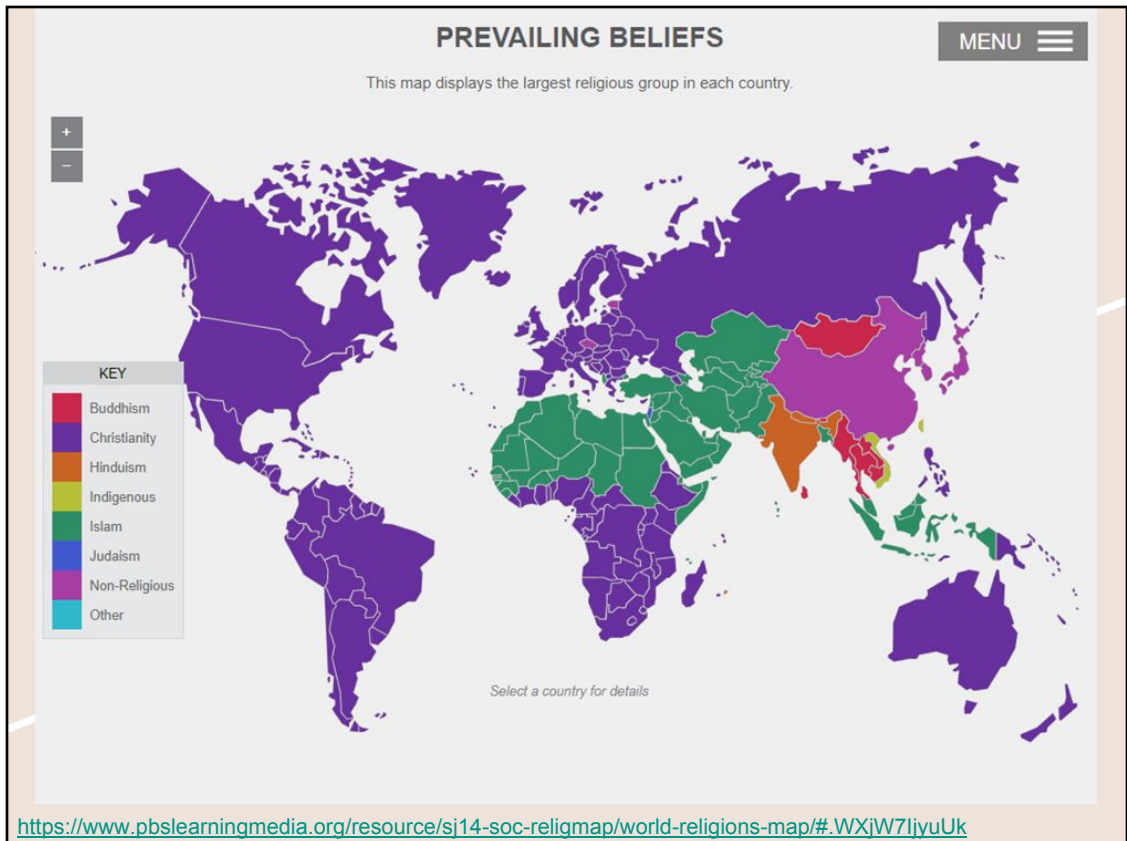
What
Questions
do religions
answer?

- How did we get here?
- What controls nature?
- What happens after we die?

The Five Major World Religions



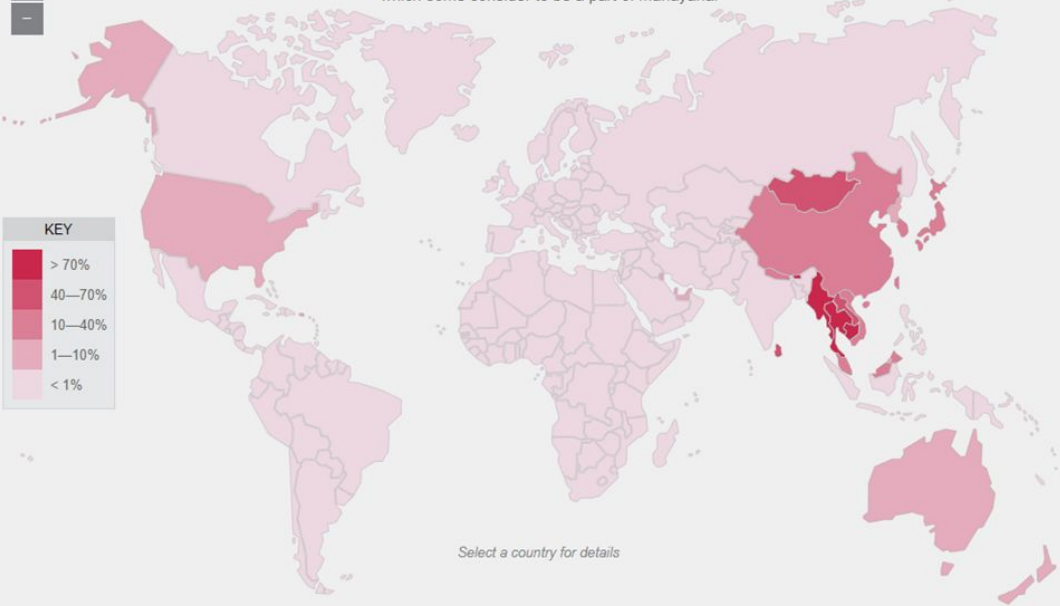
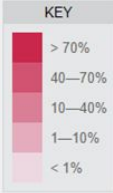
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6dCxo7t_aE



BUDDHISM

MENU 

Most Buddhists identify with one of three primary denominations, or branches—Theravada; Mahayana, which includes the traditions of Pure Land, Zen, Nichiren Buddhism, Tibetan Buddhism, Shingon, and Tiantai; and Vajrayana, which some consider to be a part of Mahayana.

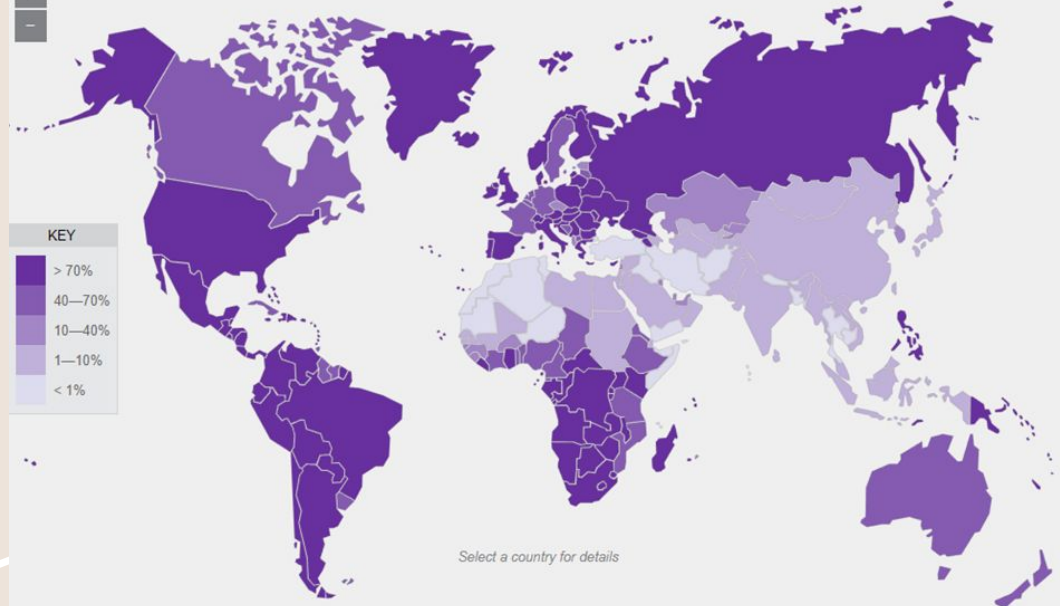
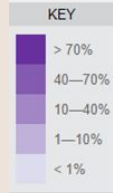


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CHRISTIANITY

MENU 

Most Christians identify with one of three primary denominations, or branches—Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and Protestantism—or a Restorationist group such as Evangelicals, Adventists, Mormons, or Jehovah's Witnesses.

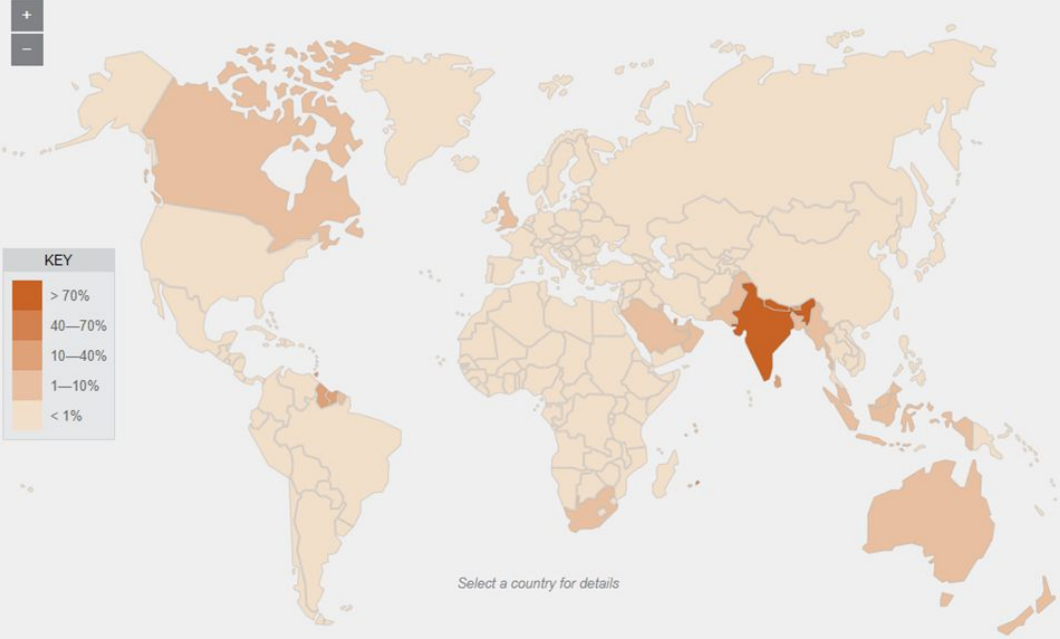


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HINDUISM

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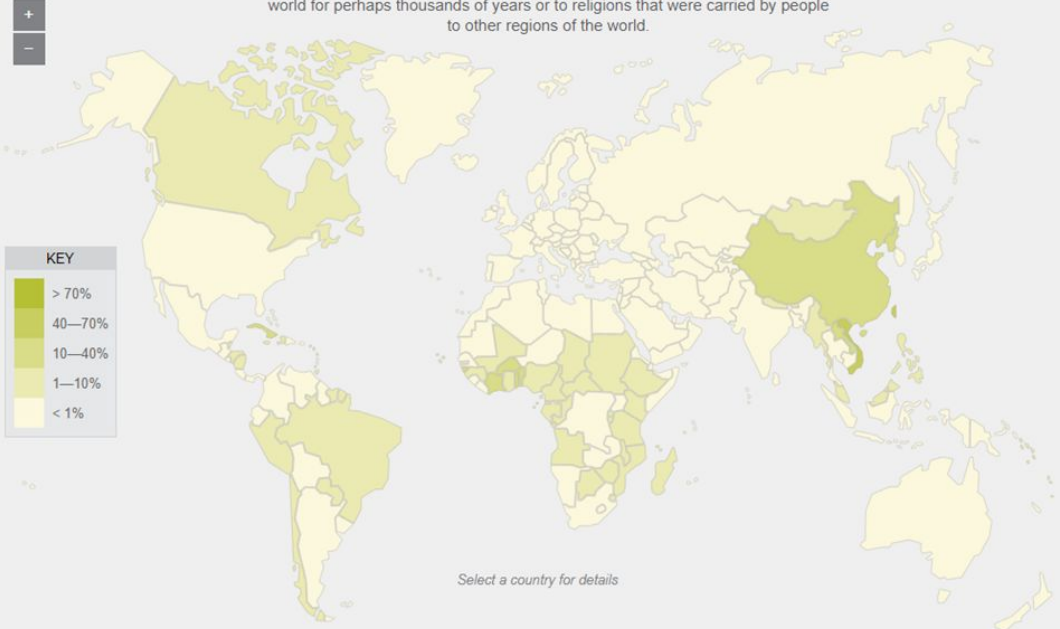
Most Hindus identify with one of four primary denominations, or branches—
Vaishnavism, Shaivism, Shaktism, and Smartism.



INDIGENOUS RELIGIONS

MENU 

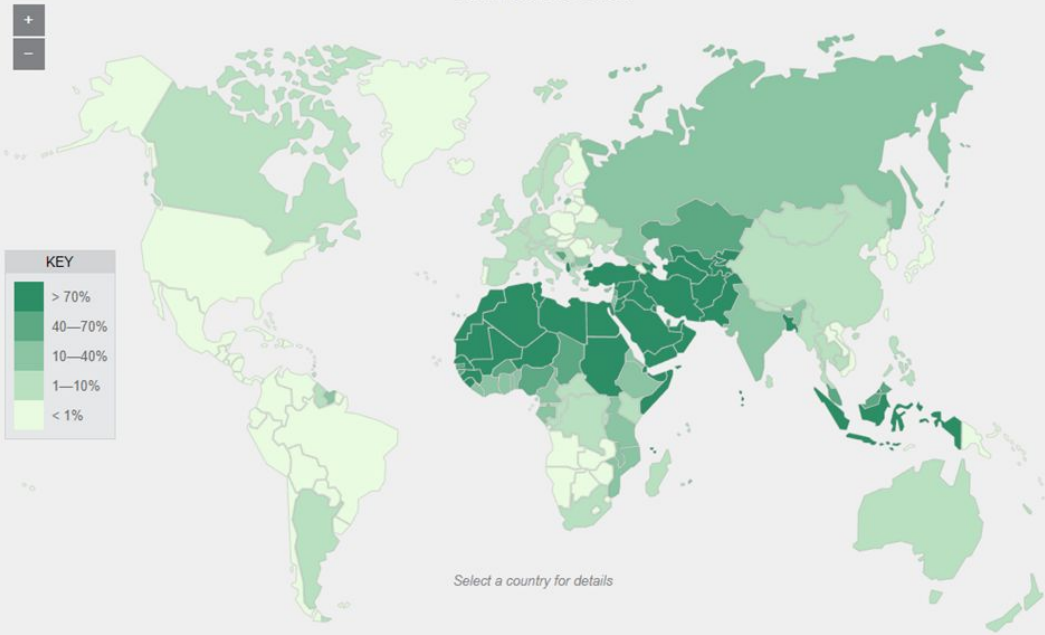
Variably called "indigenous," "local," "folk," and "ethnic," this category refers to religions practiced by tribes of people that have lived in the same region of the world for perhaps thousands of years or to religions that were carried by people to other regions of the world.



ISLAM

MENU 

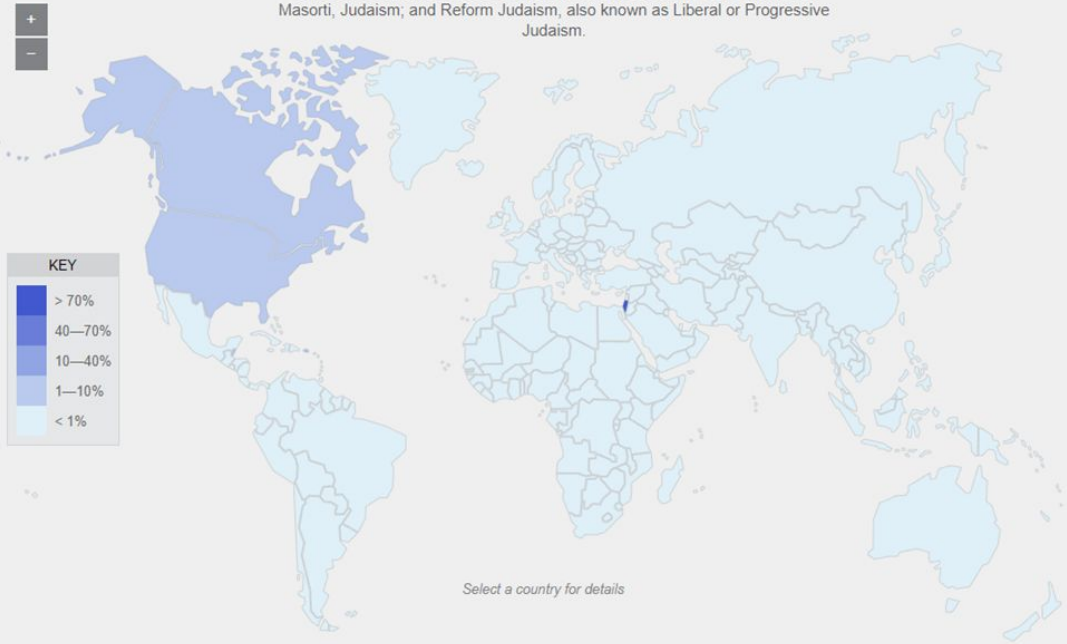
Most Muslims identify with one of three primary denominations, or branches—
Sunni, Shia, and Sufism.




JUDAISM

MENU 

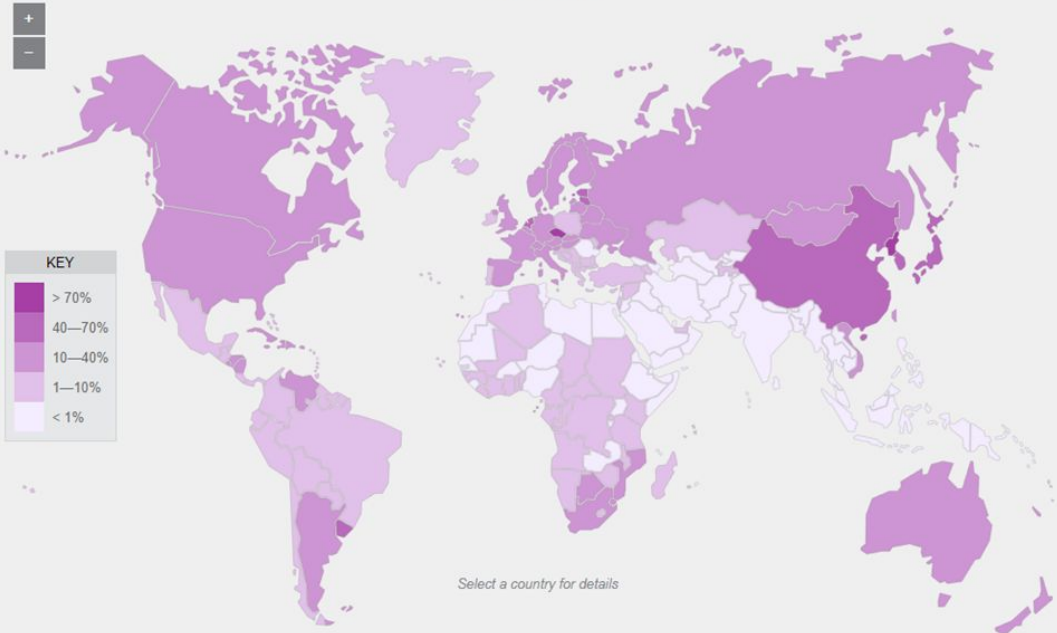
Most Jews identify with one of three primary denominations, or branches—
Orthodox Judaism, a subset of which is Hasidic Judaism; Conservative, or
Masorti, Judaism; and Reform Judaism, also known as Liberal or Progressive
Judaism.



NON-RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

MENU 

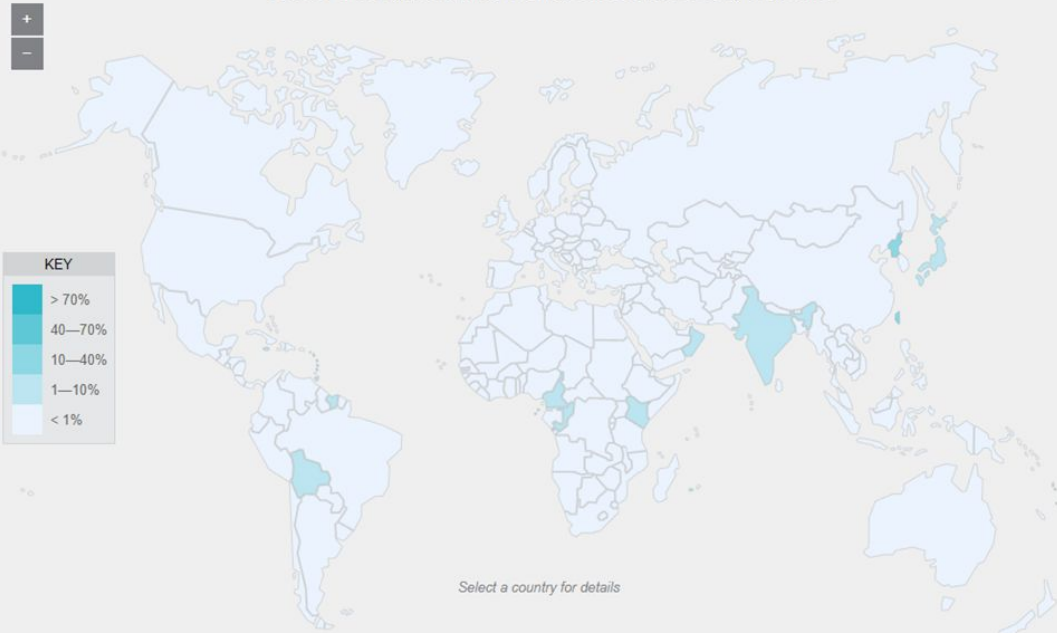
Non-religious people include Atheists, Agnostics, and those holding no religious affiliation.



OTHER RELIGIONS

MENU 

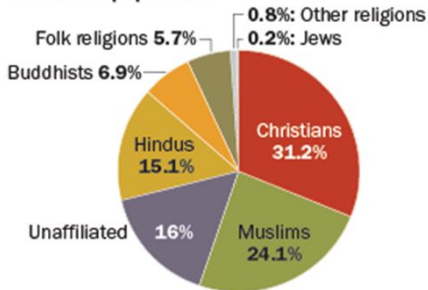
This category includes Bahá'ís, Jains, Pagans, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Unitarians, Wiccans, Zoroastrians, and many other faiths.



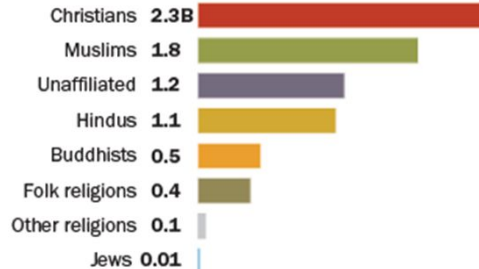
Religions by the Numbers

Christians are the largest religious group in 2015

% of world population



Number of people in 2015, in billions



Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections. See Methodology for details.
"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Categorizing Religion

- **Ethnic:** the religion of a particular people or culture (e.g., Judaism, Shinto, Hinduism)
 - ◆ tend to be localized and do *not* actively seek converts
- **Universal:** a religion which sees its message as true for all people (e.g., Christianity, Islam, Buddhism)
 - ◆ have spread throughout the world and tend to be very large in population, have actively sought converts from many cultures

Categorizing Religion

- **Theistic:** focus on a personal God (mono) or gods (poly-) (god = supernatural "person," spirit being)
 - ◆ most common in western religions
- **Non-Theistic:** Ultimate Reality or ultimate goal of the religion does not involve a personal god (impersonal Ultimate Reality) (force or energy)
 - ◆ found mostly in the eastern religions

Categorizing Religion: The Different Sides of Religion

- **Western:** Religions that developed west of the Urals (e.g. in the Near East and Europe):
 - ◆ Judaism
 - ◆ Christianity
 - ◆ Islam
- **Eastern:** Religions that developed east of the Urals (e.g., in India, China and Japan)
 - ◆ Hinduism
 - ◆ Buddhism
 - ◆ Confucianism

What do Religions Have in Common

- Birth Rites
- Death Rites
- Marriage Rites
- Place of Worship
- Rules of Worship

