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| **Religion** | **Hinduism** | **Buddhism** | **Christianity** | **Islam** | **Sikhism** |
| **Year(s) established** | c. 2500-1500 B.C. | 520 B.C. | 33 A.D. | 622 A.D. | 1400s A.D. |
| **Founder** |  | (prince) | (founders of Christian church) | (Prophet) | Guru Nanak  (combination of Hinduism & Islam) |
| **Number of Followers & Size** | 1 billion (3rd largest) | 376 million (4th largest) | 2.2 billion (1st largest) | 1.6 billion (2nd largest) | 23 million (5th largest) |
| **Holy Book(s)** | (Books of Knowledge) |  | (Bible) |  |  |
| **Language(s) of Holy Book(s)** |  |  |  |  | Punjabi |
| **Core Beliefs** | Karma & reincarnation; the 5 principles & 10 Disciplines | The 4 Noble Truths &  Eightfold Path | Accept Jesus as the son of God & Baptism |  | Karma & reincarnation; truthful living & equality |
| **Holy Cities / Places** | Varanasi, India & Tirthas (pilgrimage centers) | Nepal: Lumbini  India: Bodh Gaya, Sarnath & Kusinara |  | Jerusalem, Mecca & Medina | Amritsar, India  (the Golden Temple) |
| **Religious Symbol(s)** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Monotheistic or Polytheistic** |  |  |  |  | Monotheistic |
| **Name of Deity / Deities** | Brahma (creator), Shiva (destroyer) & Vishnu (preserver) |  | God, Jehovah (Latin),  Jesus Christ (Messiah) | Allah (in Arabic) | Waheguru  **Translation:** “Wonderful teacher” |
| **Place(s) of Worship** | Temple or home shrine | Temple or meditation hall | Church, Cathedral, Chapel, Temple or Basilica | Mosque | Gurdwara (“gateway to the guru”) |
| **Religious Leaders** |  |  | Priest, Preacher, Pastor, Minister, Reverend, Pope, etc. | Sheikh (Sunni) & Imam (Shia) |  |
| **Holy Day of Week (or Sabbath – day of rest)** | None – personal meditation daily | None – personal meditation daily |  |  | Many Sikhs visit a Gurdwara daily |
| **Holidays (Holy Days)** | **Diwali** – Festival of Lights  **Holi** - Festival of Colors | Buddha Day & Buddha's Enlightenment | Christmas, Good Friday & Easter | Ramadan, Eid al-Adha &  Eid al-Fitr | Birthdays of gurus, Sikh New Year, Diwali & Holi Festival |
| **Goal or Purpose** | Moksha**:** | Escaping the cycle of rebirth to attain “Nirvana” | Know, love & serve God | To attain paradise after death | To escape cycle of reincarnation in order to become one with God |

