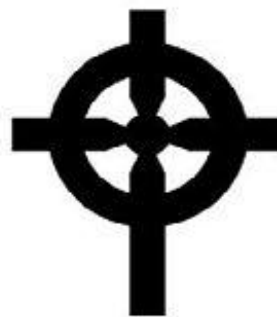
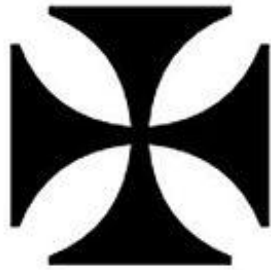


World Religions

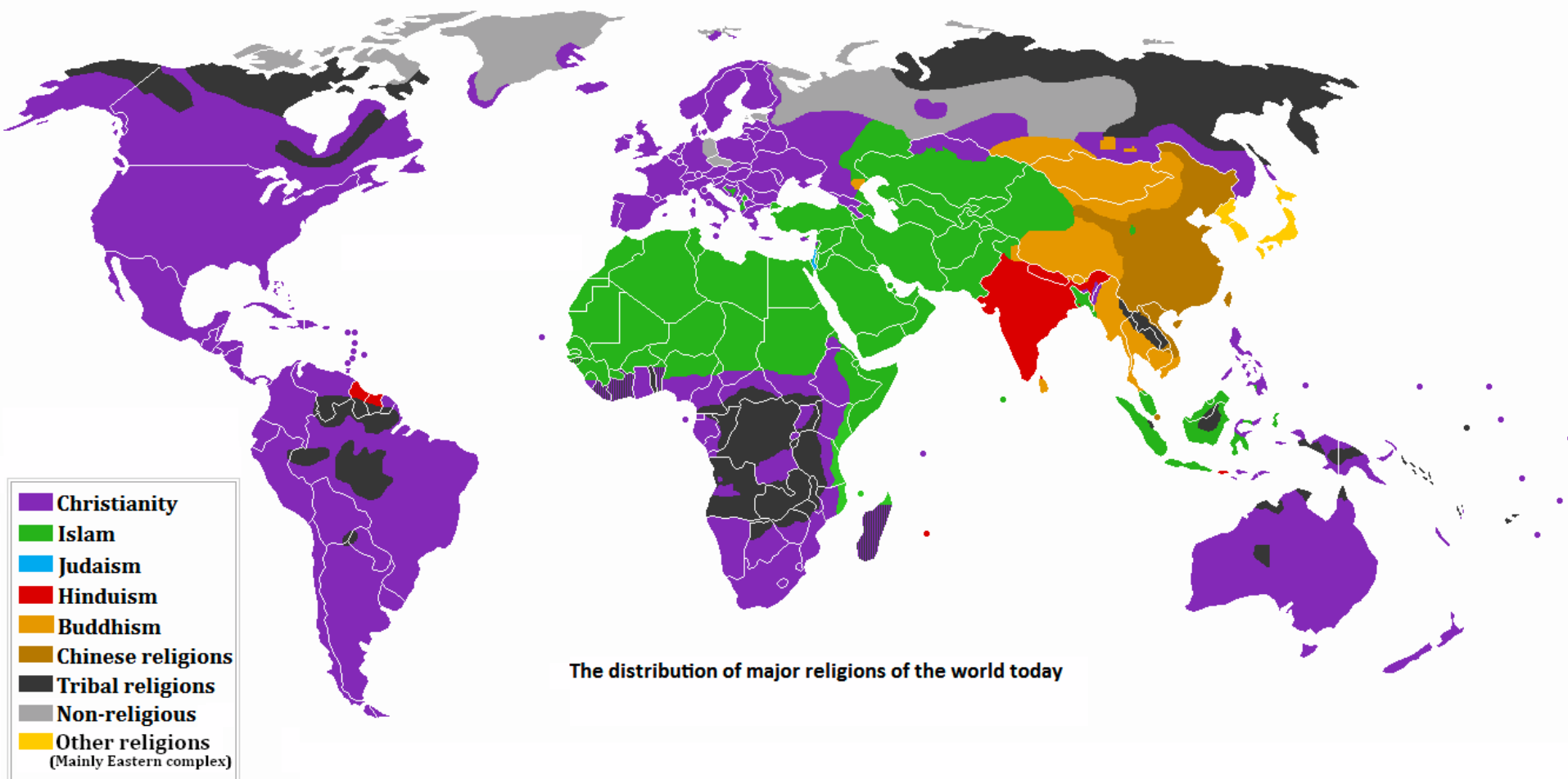


Location of Religions around 1500



Location of Religions Today

The Religions of the World



Who founded Hinduism?

Hinduism's Founder is Unknown

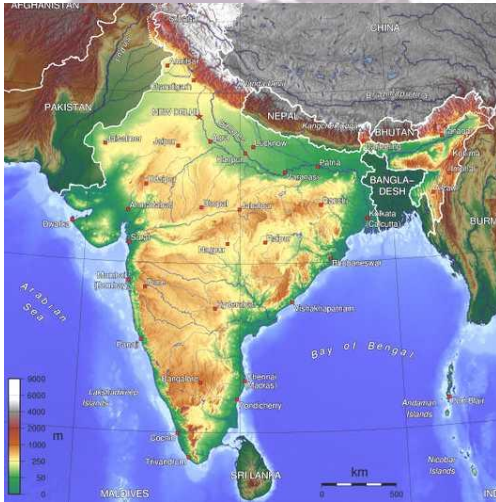
- Founder Unknown
- Oldest Religion



Where was Hinduism located
around 1500?

Hinduism was located in India around 1500.

India



Where is Hinduism located today?

Hinduism is still concentrated in India today.



What are some of Hinduism's beliefs and customs?

Hindus...

- Bathe in the **Ganges River** for purification
- Believe the soul never dies
- Believe in **reincarnation**
- Believe in **Karma**
- Believe in doing virtuous acts, **dharma**,
(adherence to duty)
- Believe in enlightenment - **Moksha**

Ganges River Purification

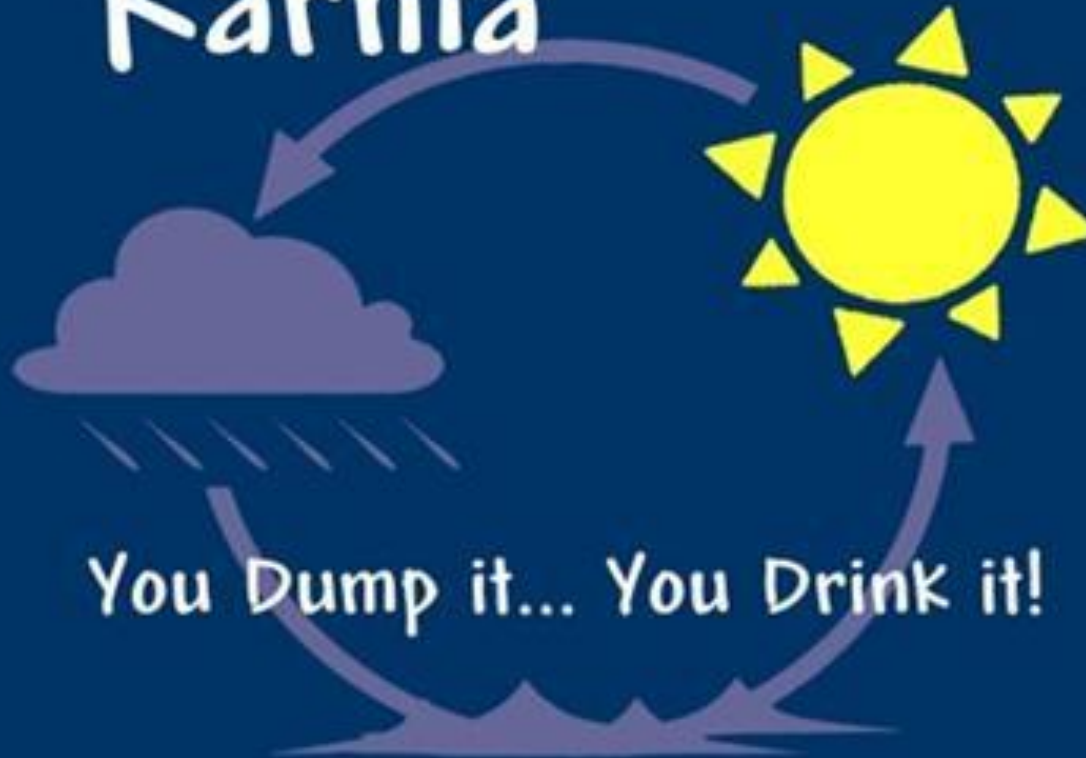


Reincarnation



Karma

Karma



LEARN YOUR ABC...



ATOMIC



BIOLOGICAL



CHEMICAL

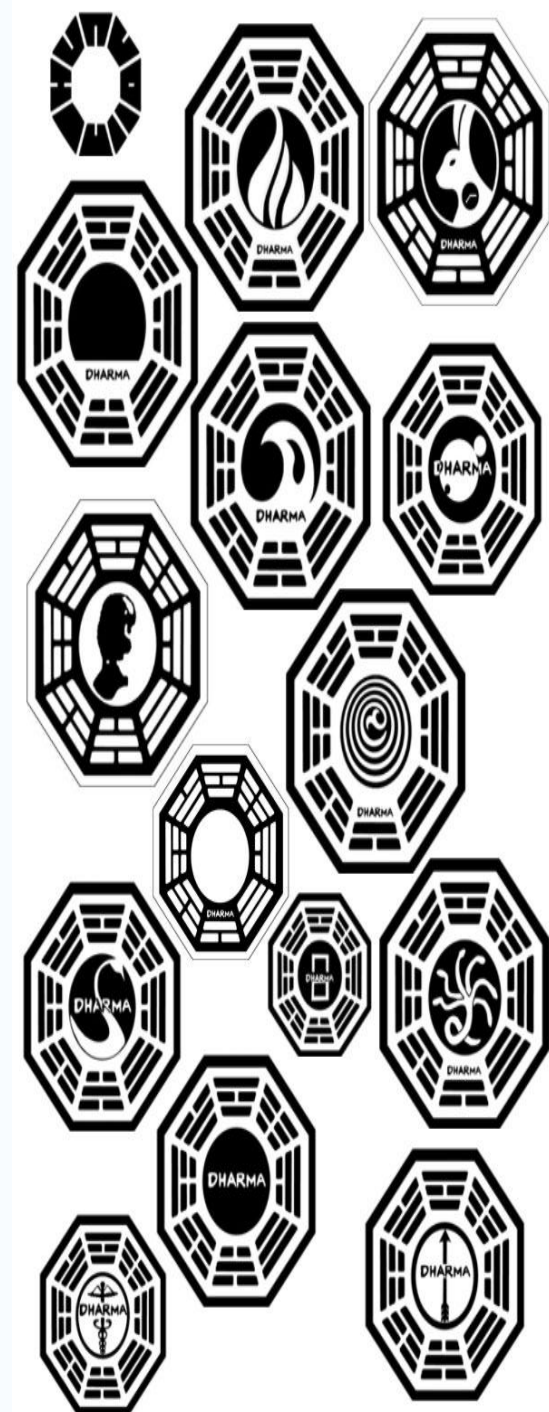
What goes around comes around

The term **dharma** (Sanskrit: [dhárma](#), [Pāli dhamma](#)), is an Indian spiritual and [religious](#) term, that means one's righteous duty or any virtuous path in the common sense of the term. A [Hindu](#)'s dharma is affected by a person's age, class, occupation, and gender. In [Indian languages](#) it can be equivalent simply to *religion*, depending on context. The word *dharma* translates as *that which upholds or supports*, and is generally translated into English as *law*.

The various Indian religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism, have all accorded a central focus to dharma and advocate its practice. Each of these religions emphasizes Dharma as the correct understanding of reality in its teachings.^[2] In these traditions, beings that live in accordance with Dharma proceed more quickly toward *dharma yukam*, [moksha](#) or *nirvana* (personal liberation). The antonym of dharma is [adharma](#) meaning unnatural or immoral.

In traditional Hindu society, dharma has historically denoted a variety of ideas, such as [Vedic](#) ritual, ethical conduct, caste rules, and civil and criminal law. Its most common meaning however regarded two principal ideals; namely, that social life should be structured through well-defined and well-regulated classes ([varna](#)), and that an individual's life within a class should be organized into defined stages ([ashrama](#), see [dharmasastra](#).)

Dharma also refers to the teachings and doctrines of the founders of Buddhism and Jainism, the Buddha and [Mahavira](#). In Buddhist philosophy, dhamma/dharma is also the term for "[phenomenon](#)".



Moksha



What are three of Hinduism's
main deities (Gods)?

Hinduism's – Deities



Shiva

The Destroyer of Evil



Brahma

The Creator



Vishnu

The Protector

Is Hinduism monotheistic or polytheistic?

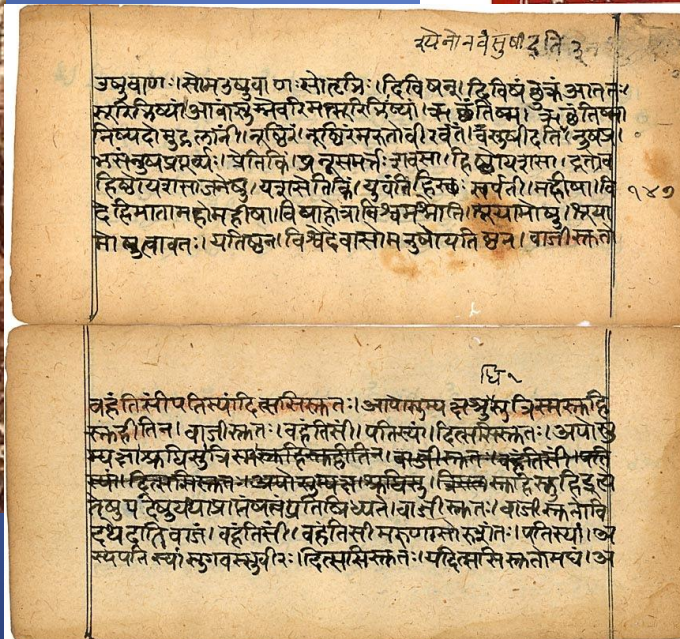
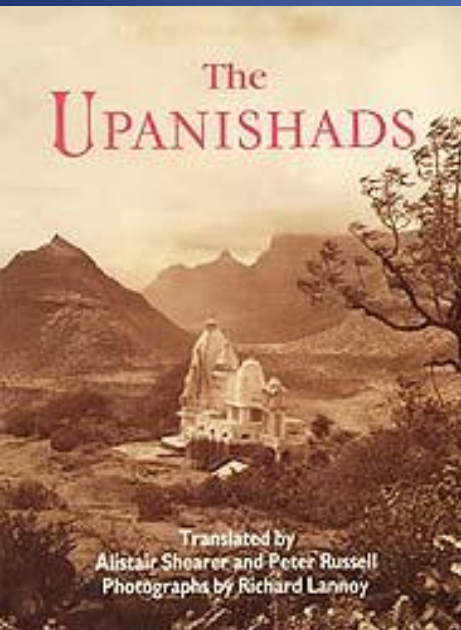
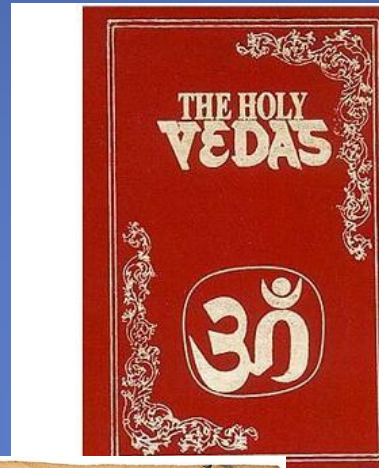
Hindus believe in many forms of one God. This has led to Hinduism being described as both monotheistic and polytheistic.



What are Hinduism's sacred texts?

Two of Hinduism's sacred texts are the Vedas and the Upanishads.

- The Vedas
- The Upanishads



MS 2163
Kumaravisnumitracarya, Rigvedapratisakhyparsadavyakhya. India, 17th c.

What are some Hindu symbols?

Hinduism's - Symbols

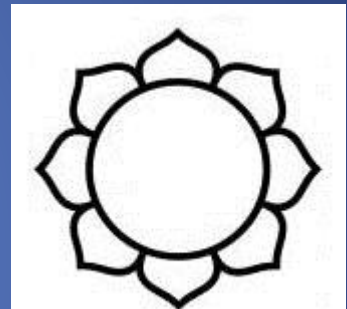
Aum



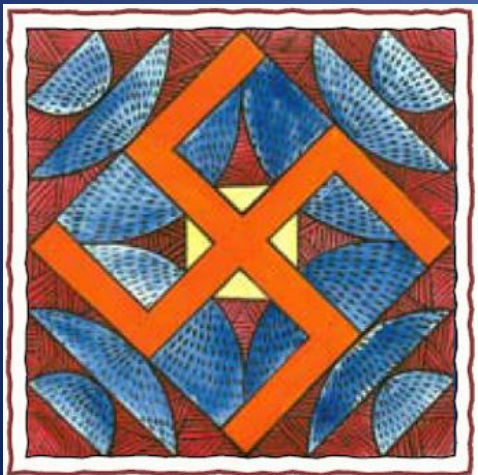
Bindi



Lotus



Swastika



- **Om** (also spelled **Aum**) is a Hindu sacred sound that is considered the greatest of all mantras.
- The syllable Om is composed of the **three sounds** a-u-m (in Sanskrit, the vowels a and u combine to become o) and the symbol's threefold nature is central to its meaning. It represent several important triads:



the three worlds - earth, atmosphere, and heaven
the three major Hindu gods - Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva
the three sacred Vedic scriptures - Rg, Yajur, and Sama

Thus Om mystically embodies the **essence of the entire universe**. This meaning is further deepened by the Indian philosophical belief that God first created sound and the universe arose from it. As the most sacred sound, Om is the root of the universe and everything that exists and it continues to hold everything together.

One of the most recognizable items in Hinduism is the **bindi**, a dot worn on women's foreheads. It is a form of the [tilak](#), a symbolic mark worn by many Hindu men and women, but has less religious connotations than other tilaks.

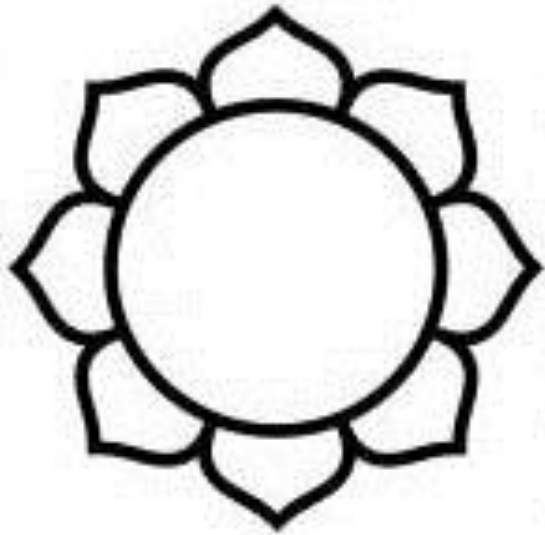
Traditionally, the bindi is worn on the forehead of married Hindu women. It symbolizes female energy and is believed to protect women and their husbands. Bindis are traditionally a simple mark made with the paste of colored sandalwood, sindoor or turmeric. The bindi is most commonly a red dot made with vermilion.

In addition, the bindi is a way of accentuating the third eye, the area between the eyebrows where attention is focused during meditation. Men and women often apply a [tilak](#) after a [puja](#) ritual or on other religious occasions as a way of invoking religious feelings, concentration and focus. Sometimes a woman's bindi represents sectarian affiliation, like the men's tilak, but this is less common.

More recently, the bindi has become primarily a decorative accessory and is worn by unmarried girls and non-Hindu women. It is also no longer restricted in color or shape, and self-adhesive bindis made from felt in various designs and colors are common. Bindi styles often vary by the area of India in which they are worn.



In Hinduism, the **lotus** (Sanskrit: *padma*) primarily represents beauty and non-attachment. The lotus is rooted in the mud but floats on the water without becoming wet or muddy. This symbolizes how one should live in the world in order to gain release from rebirth: **without attachment** to one's surroundings.

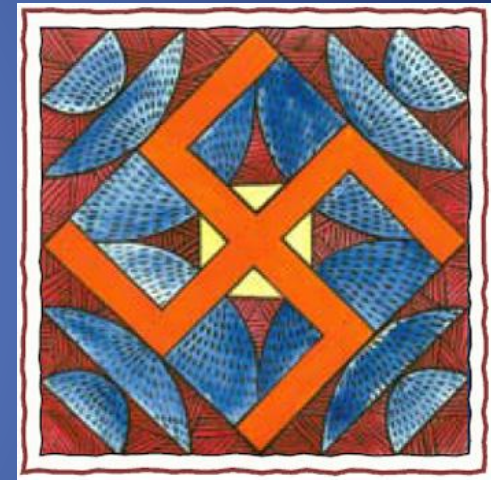


The swastika is an ancient symbol that has been found worldwide, but it is especially common in India. Its name comes from the Sanskrit word *svasti* (*sv* = well; *asti* = is), meaning good fortune, luck and well-being.

The swastika is most commonly used as a charm to **bring good fortune** (in which case the arms are bent clockwise), but it has a variety of religious meanings as well.

The auspicious symbol of the swastika is **very commonly used** in Hindu art, architecture and decoration. It can be seen on temples, houses, doorways, clothing, cars, and even cakes. It is usually a major part of the decoration for festivals and special ceremonies like weddings.

The **Nazis** adopted the swastika because it was understood as an Aryan symbol indicating racial purity and superiority. (The Nazis propagated a historical theory in which the early Aryans of India were white invaders.) There may also be a connection with the swastika's magical connections, for Hitler and other Nazi leaders were keenly interested in the occult.



Who are the spiritual leaders in
Hinduism?

Hinduism's - Leadership

Spiritual Gurus/ Holy Men/ Spiritual Teacher



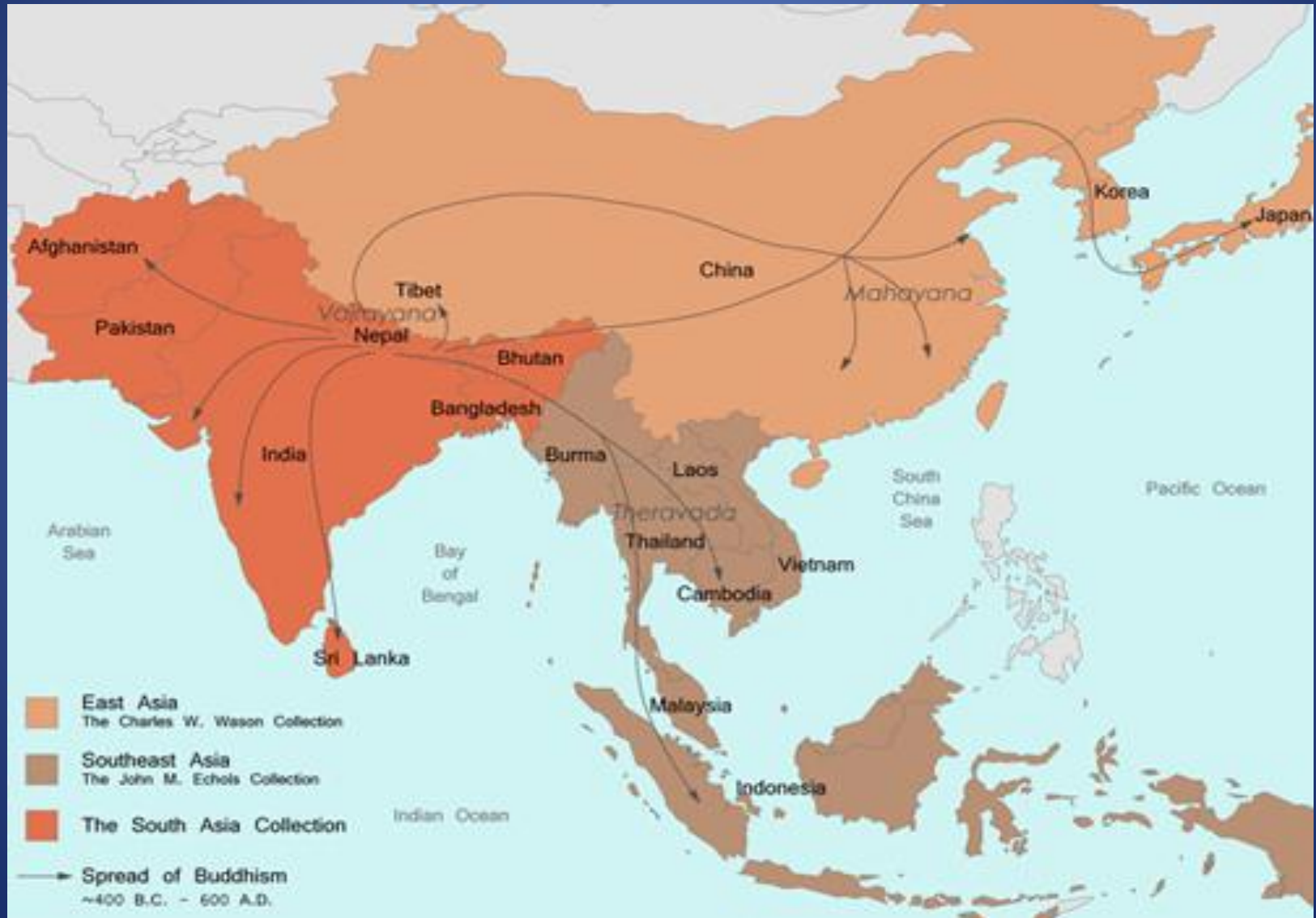
Who is the founder of Buddhism?

Siddhartha Gautama is Buddhism's founder.



Where did Buddhism begin?

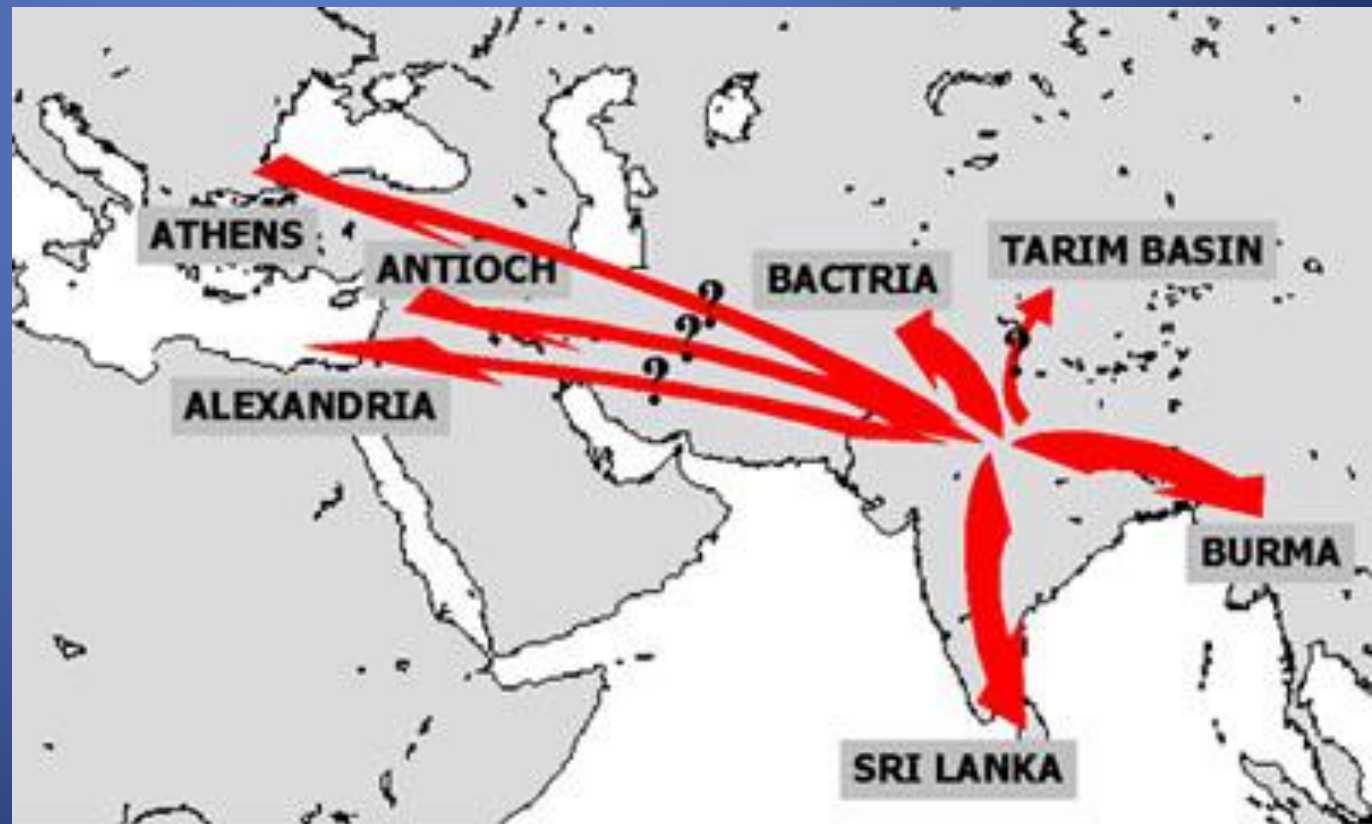
Buddhism began in India and then spread to other parts of Asia.



Which Indian ruler was instrumental
in the spread of Buddhism?

Asoka (Ashoka) played a key role in spreading Buddhism all over Asia and to parts of Africa (Egypt) and Europe (Greece).

He built thousands of monasteries and sent out many missionaries including his own children.



What are some of Buddhism's beliefs?

Buddhists believe in...

- The Four Noble Truths
- The Eightfold Path
- Enlightenment
- Karma
- Dharma

The 4 Noble Truths



The Four Noble Truths

Suffering is universal

The origin of suffering is attachment

The cessation of suffering is attainable

Path to the cessation of suffering is detachment

www.maithri.com

Online Buddhist Bookstore

The Eightfold Path



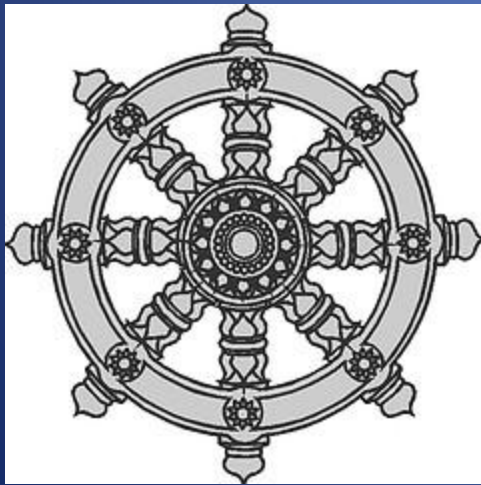
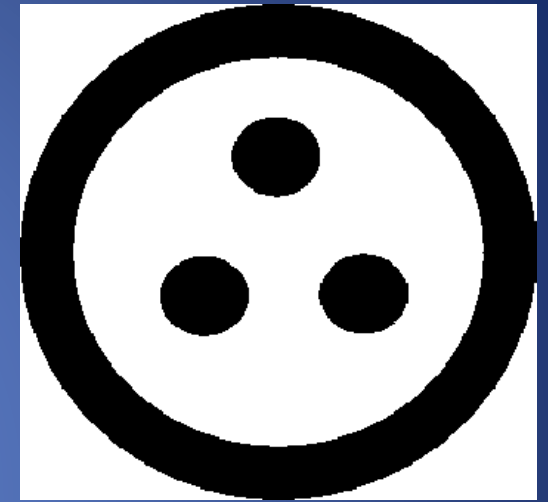
What are some of Buddhism's sacred texts?

The Tripitaka (Pali Canon) and the Sutras are some of Buddhism's sacred texts.



What are some Buddhist symbols?

Buddhism's - Symbols



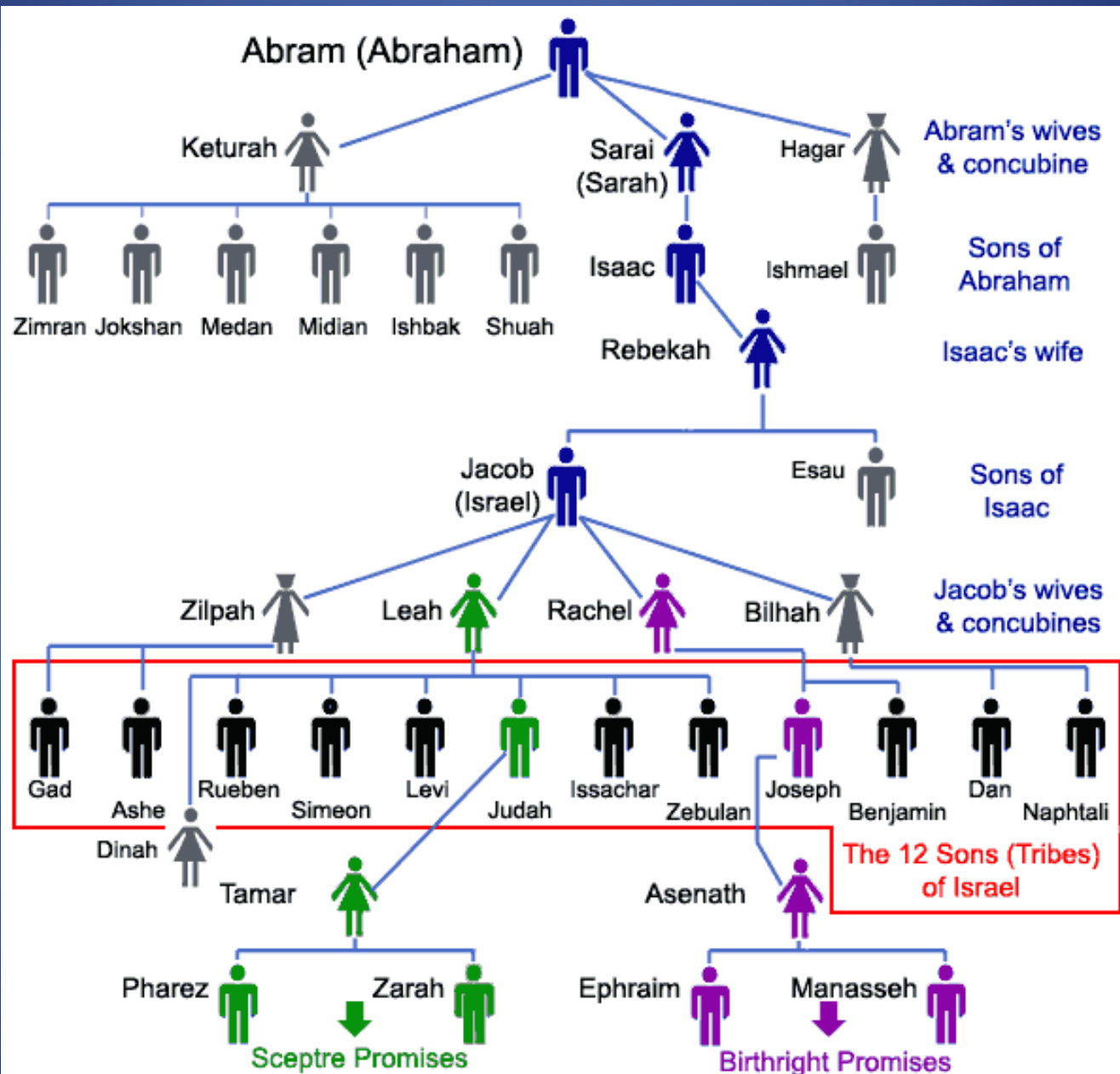
Who are the spiritual leaders in Buddhism?

Monks and Nuns are part of Buddhism's Leadership.



Who founded Judaism?

Abraham is the founder of Judaism.



What is Judaism's sacred text?

The Torah is Judaism's sacred text.

- The **Torah** is the first five books of Tanach (known to Christians as the Old Testament): Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. It is the written record and beliefs of the Hebrews.



Where was Judaism located around 1500?

The Jewish population was concentrated in the Middle East and Europe around 1500.



Where is Judaism located today?

Today the Jewish population is concentrated in Israel, Europe, and North America.



Where is Israel?

Israel borders the Mediterranean Sea, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

Israel is where the Jewish people trace their origins.



Palestinian loss of land 1946 to 2000

Palestinian and Jewish land 1946

UN Partition plan 1947

1949 - 1967

2000



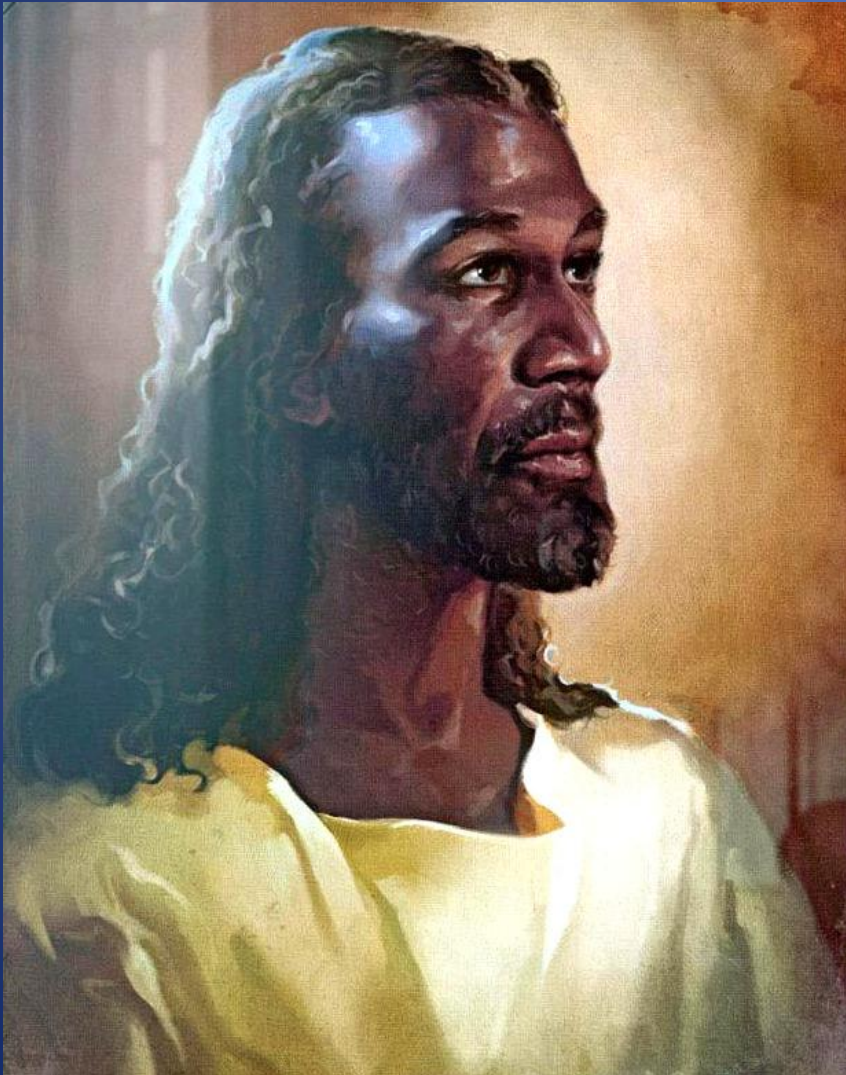
What are some Jewish symbols?

Judaism's Symbols



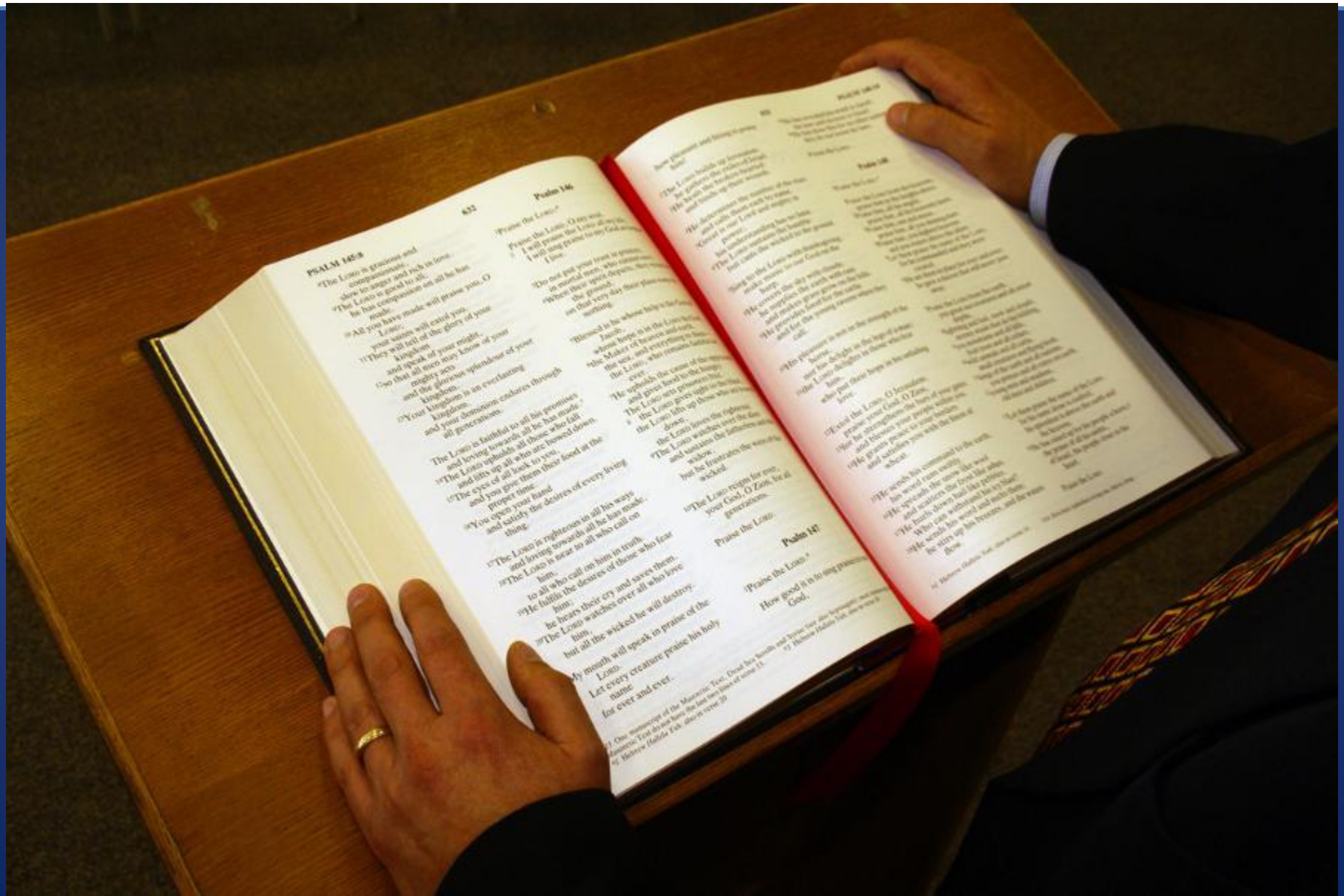
Who is the founder of Christianity?

Jesus Christ is the founder of Christianity.



What is Christianity's sacred text?

The Holy Bible is Christianity's sacred text.



PSALM 145

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. All you have made will praise you, O Lord, your wisdom will extol you, your actions will tell of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all men may know of your glorious splendor and the kingdom is an everlasting and your dominion endures through generations.

The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving towards all he has made. The Lord upholds all who are bowed down, and lifts up all eyes that look to you. The Lord opens your hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving towards all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. The Lord fulfills the desires of those who love him; he hears their cry and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the Lord, Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Psalms 146

"Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all day long, I will praise you, O Lord, as long as I live.

"Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save, when their spirit departs, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans will be worthless.

"Blessed is he whose help is in the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Lord, who remains faithful forever.

"The Lord will not forsake his faithful, the Lord, who remains faithful forever.

"He upholds the cause of the righteous and gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord raises the righteous and sustains the righteous and widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

"The Lord reigns for ever, your God, O Zion, be a generation.

Praise the Lord

Psalm 147

"Praise the Lord, How good it is to my people, How good it is to praise the Lord, my God.

1. One manuscript of the Masoretic Text. Dead Sea Scrolls and other texts also have "and he will give them their hearts desire." 2. Hebrew Hallel. See also verse 20.

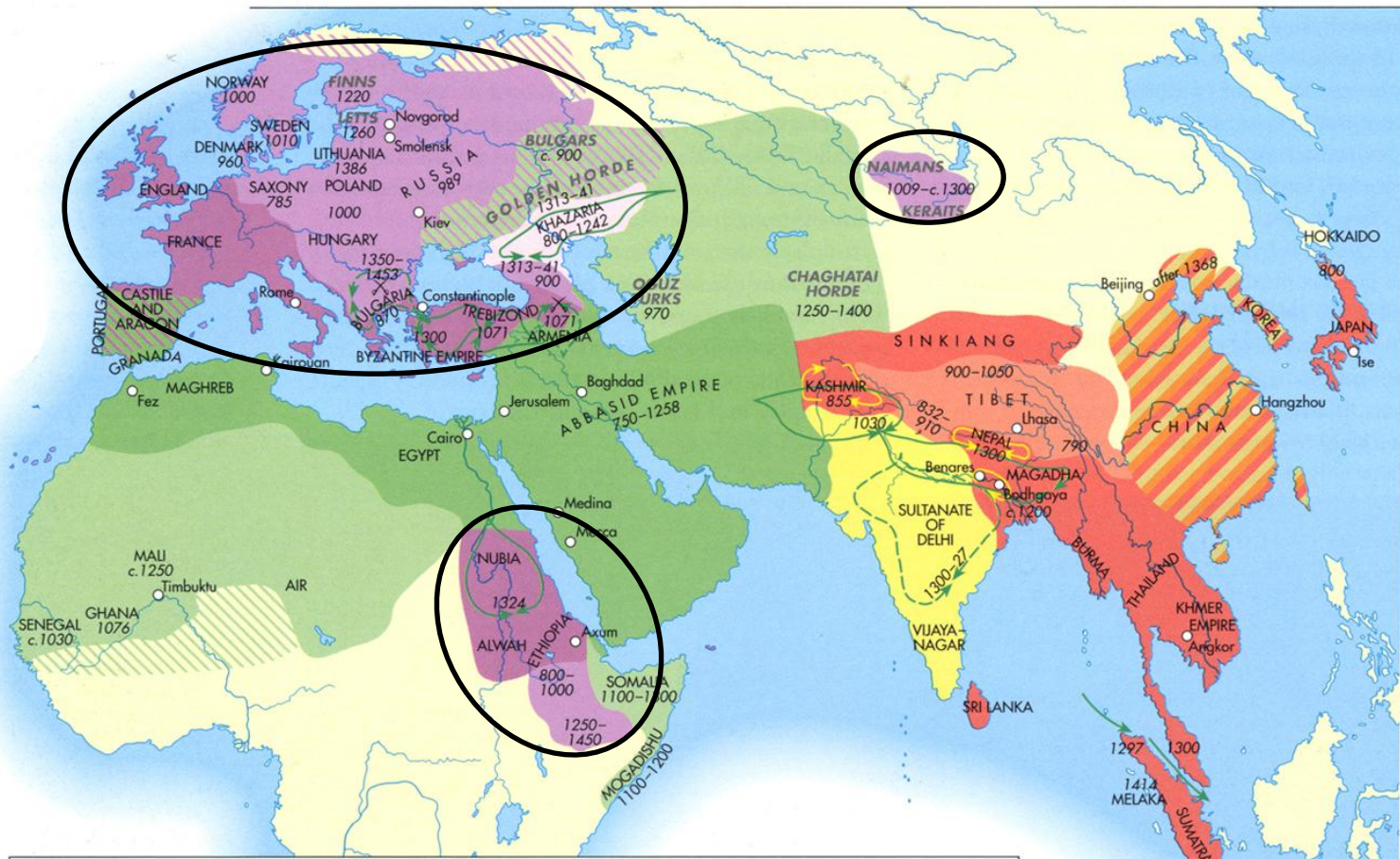
What are some of the beliefs of
Christianity?

Christians believe...

- that Jesus is the son of God
- in life after death in heaven or hell
- in the Old and New Testaments

Where was Christianity located
around 1500?

Christianity was concentrated in Europe and the Middle East around 1500.

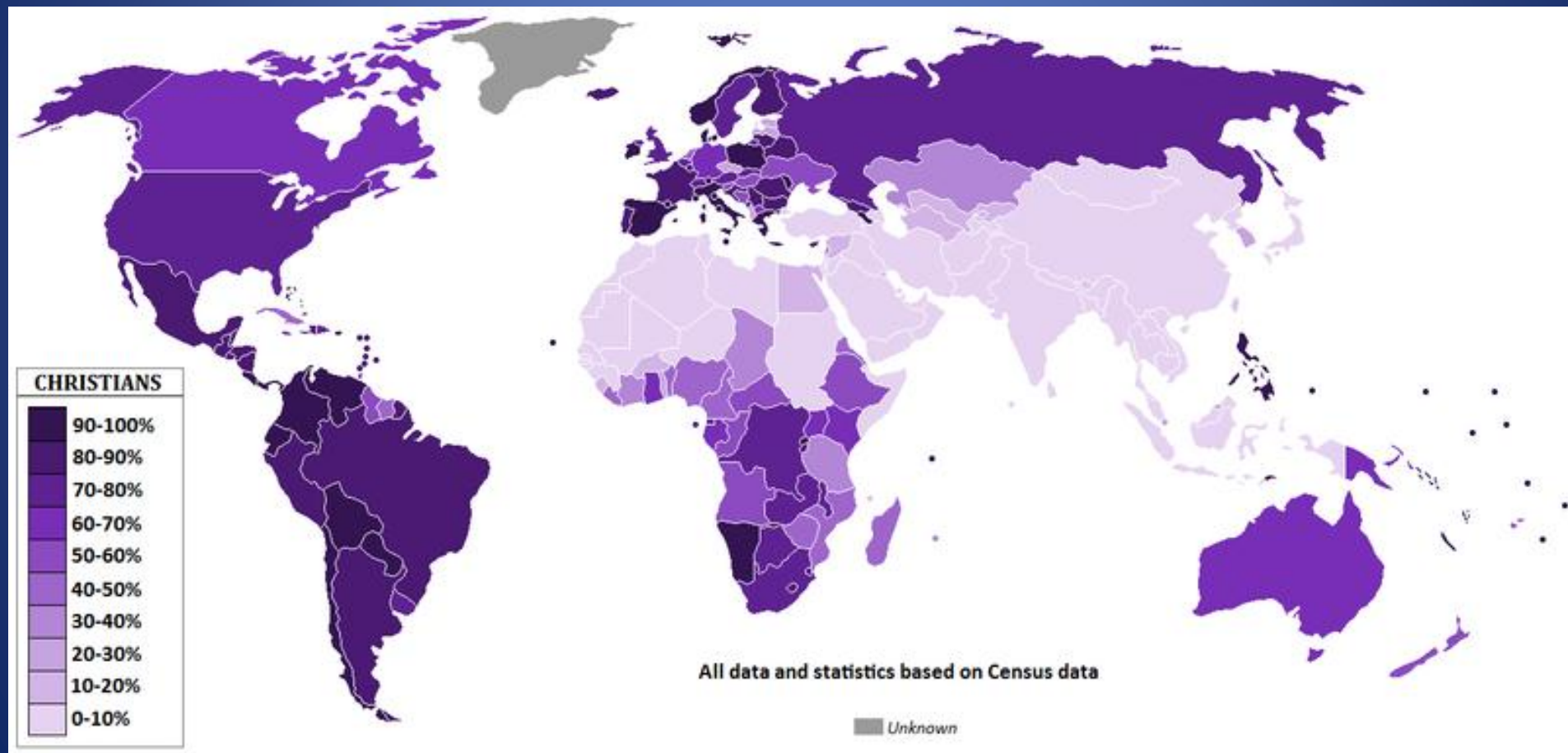


1 WORLD RELIGIONS 750-1450

Predominantly Christian 750	Lands of other world religions conquered by Islam, but not converted	Predominantly Hindu 750
Majority converted to Christianity 750-1450	Predominantly Buddhist 750	China 750-1450: Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism
Predominantly Islamic 750	Majority converted to Buddhism 750-1450	Korea 750-1450: Buddhism, Confucianism
Majority converted to Islam 750-1450	Buddhists reverting to Hinduism	Judaism established religion
Members of other world religions converted to Islam		Areas remaining to traditional religions 750-1450

Where is Christianity located today?

Today Christianity is concentrated in Europe and North and South America.



What are some Christian symbols?

Christian Symbols



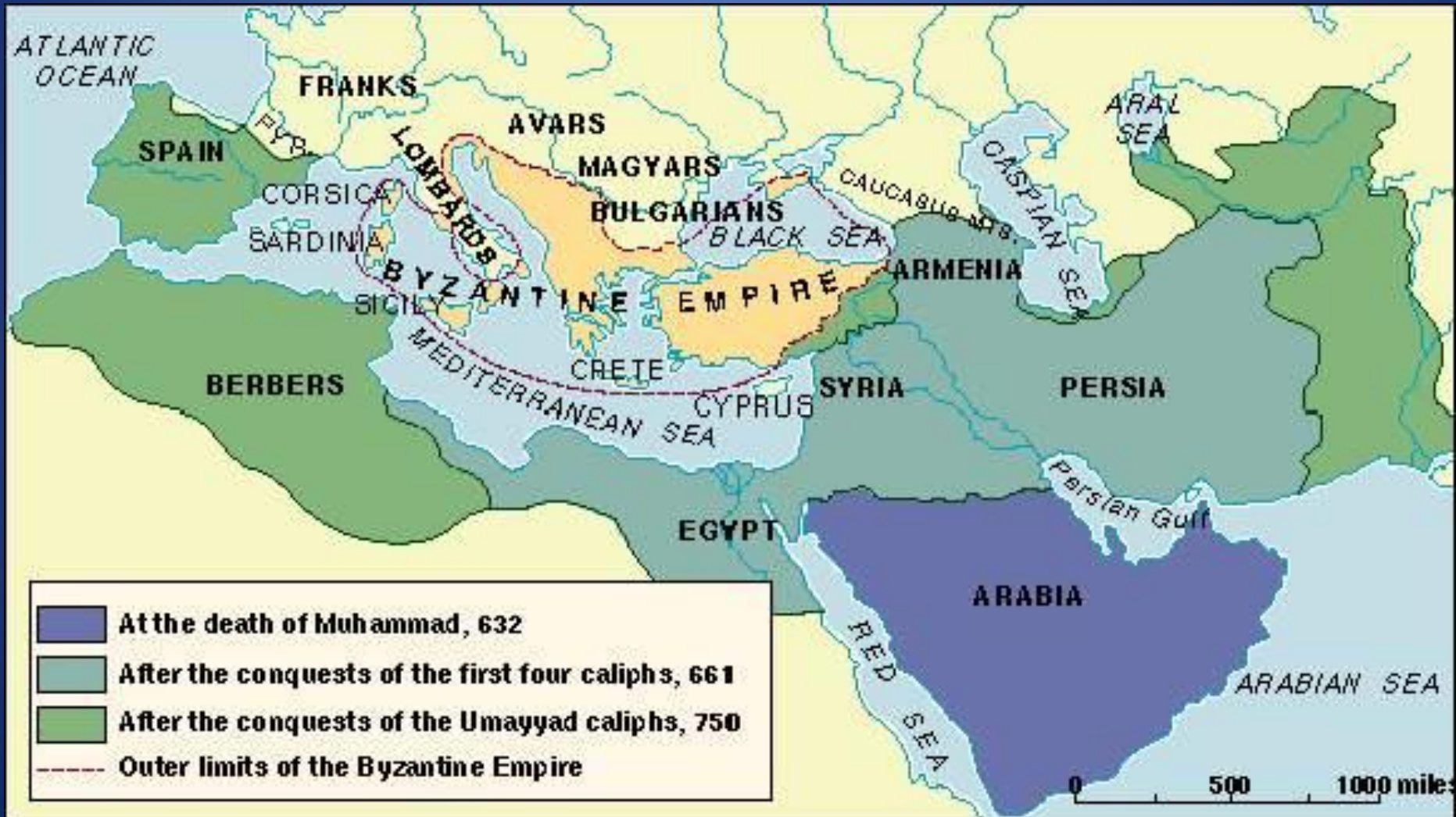
Who is the founder of Islam?

Muhammad is the founder of Islam.



Where did Islam begin?

Islam began on the Arabian Peninsula.



Where was Islam located around
1500?

Around 1500, Islam was concentrated in parts of Africa, Europe, and Asia

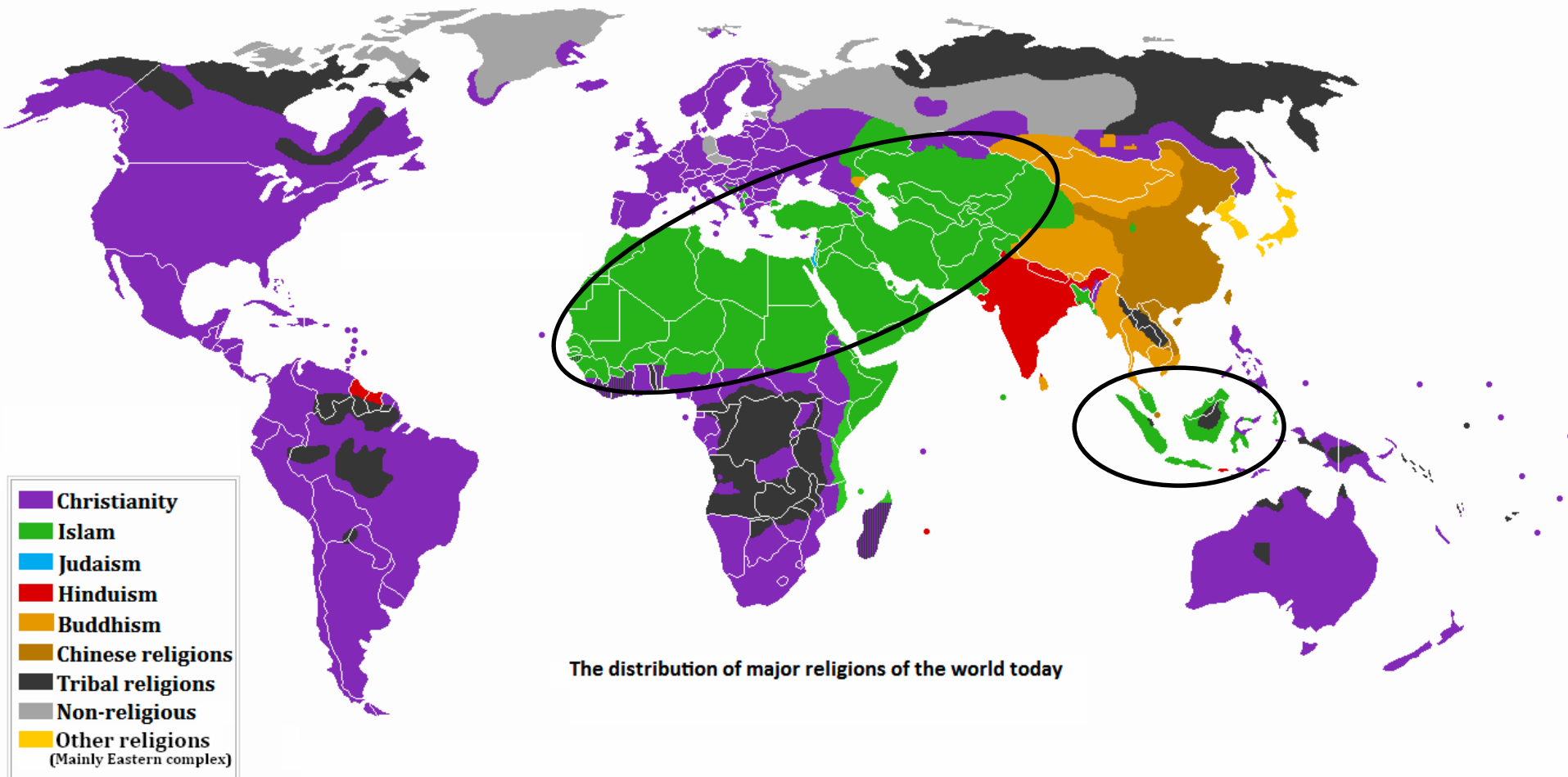
The Islamic World, 1500



Where is Islam located today?

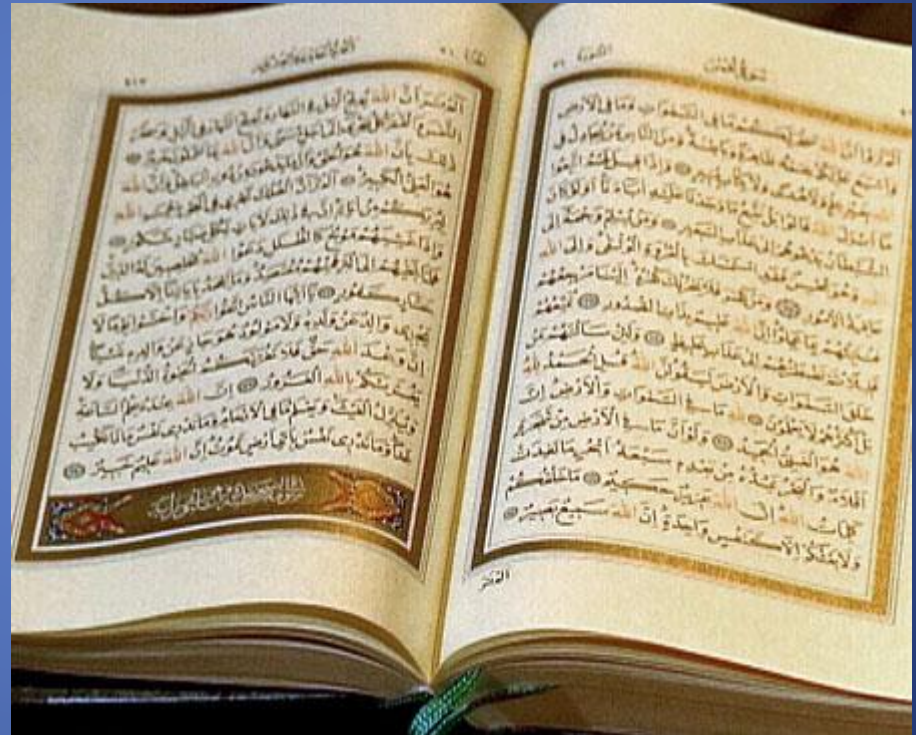
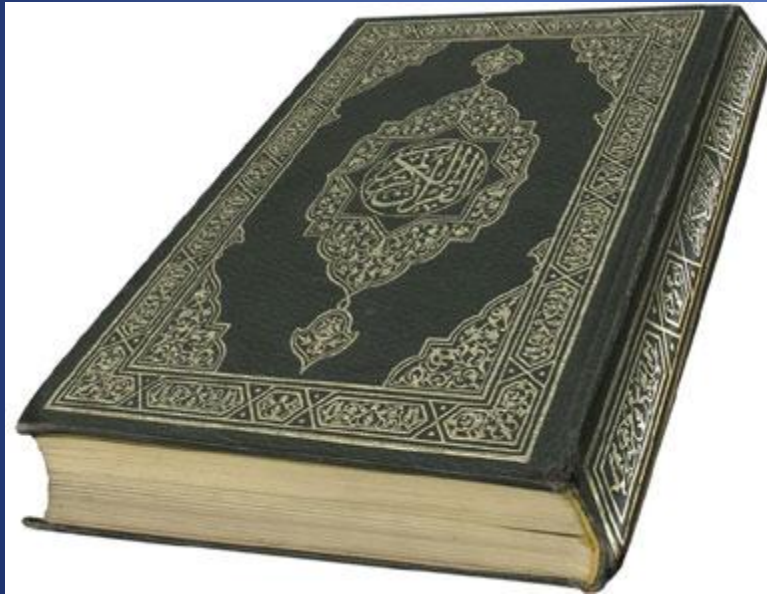
Islam is concentrated in parts of Asia, Africa, and southern Europe.

The Religions of the World



What is Islam's sacred text?

The Qur'an (Koran) is Islam's sacred text.



What are some of Islam's beliefs?

Muslims believe...

- that there is only one God
- that Muhammad was the final prophet
- in the Five Pillars
 - Profession of Faith
 - Prayer 5 Times a Day
 - Giving of Alms (charity)
 - Fasting during Ramadan
 - Pilgrimage to Mecca

Pillars

Five

of

Islam

The

Hajj

5

Zakah

3

Shahadah

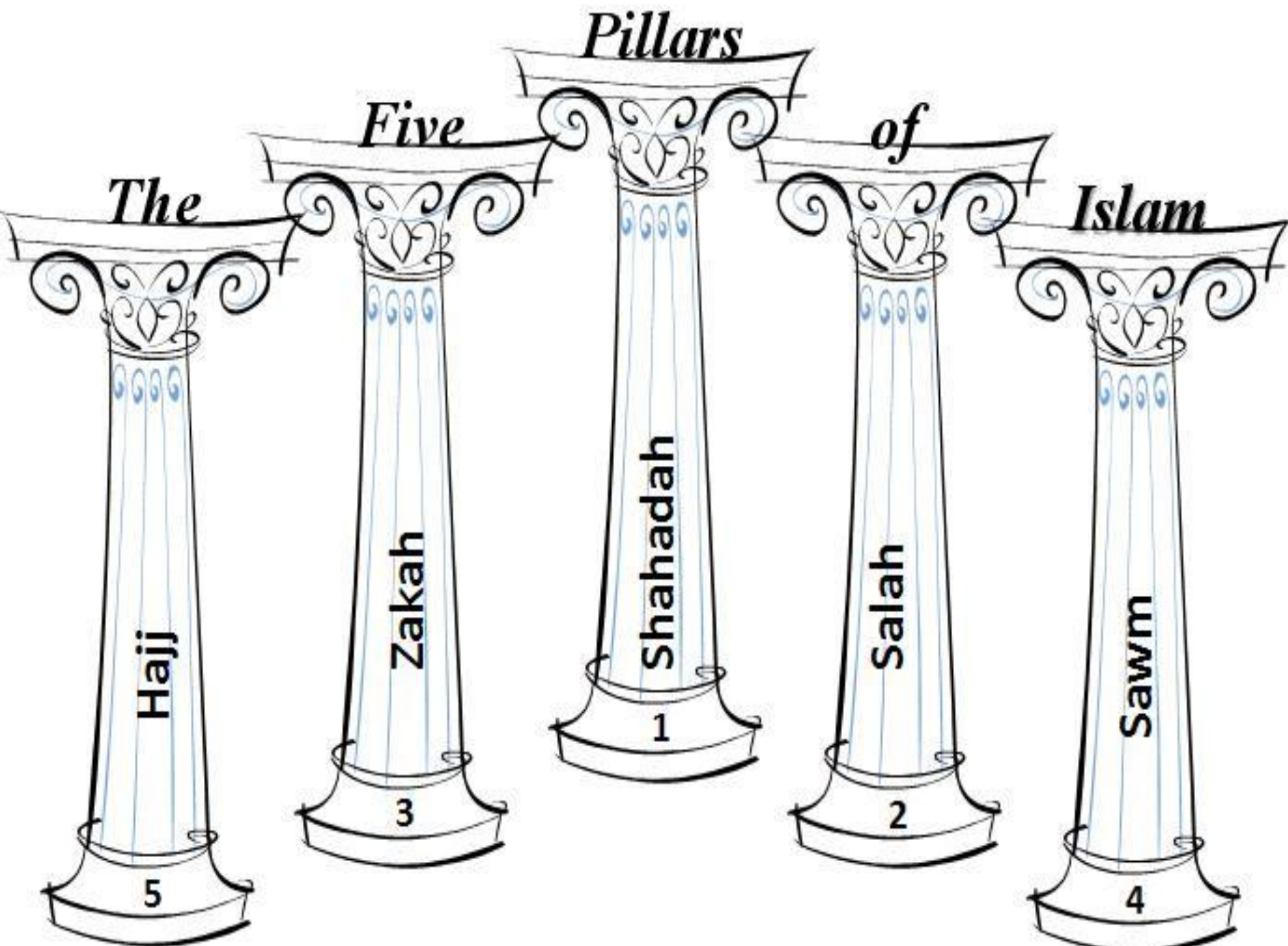
1

Salah

2

Sawm

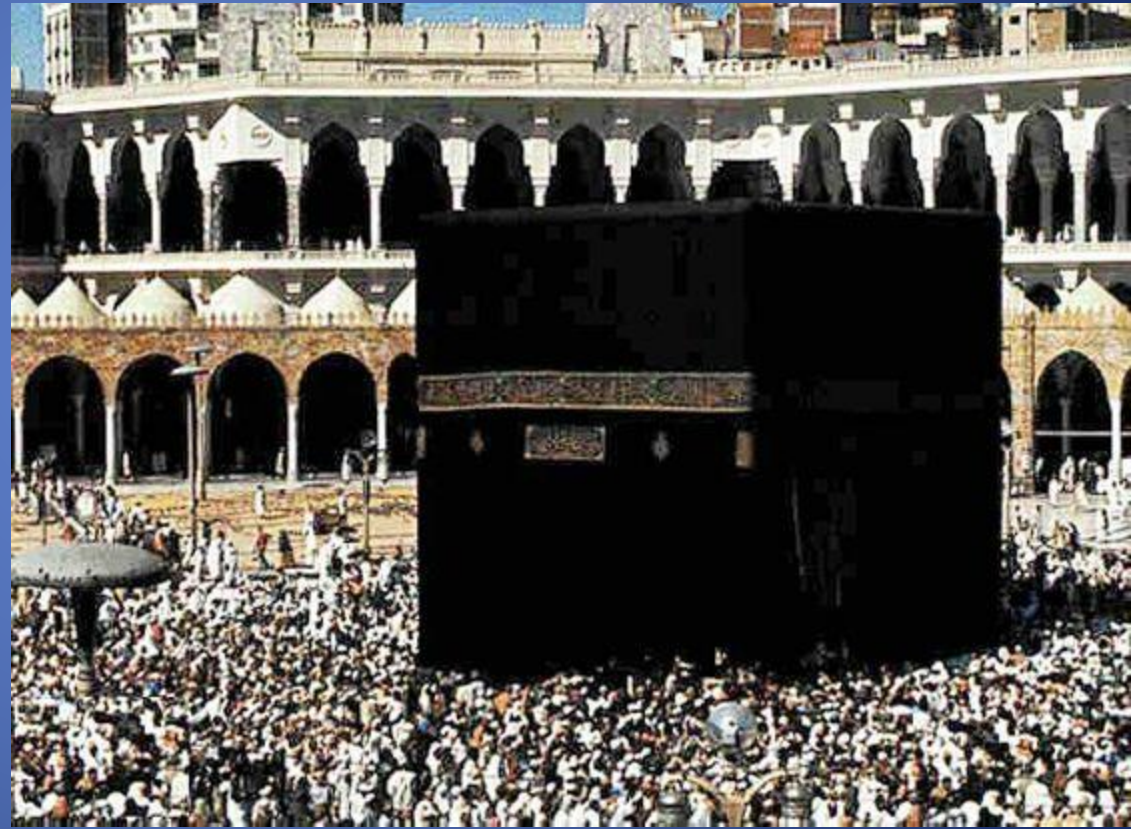
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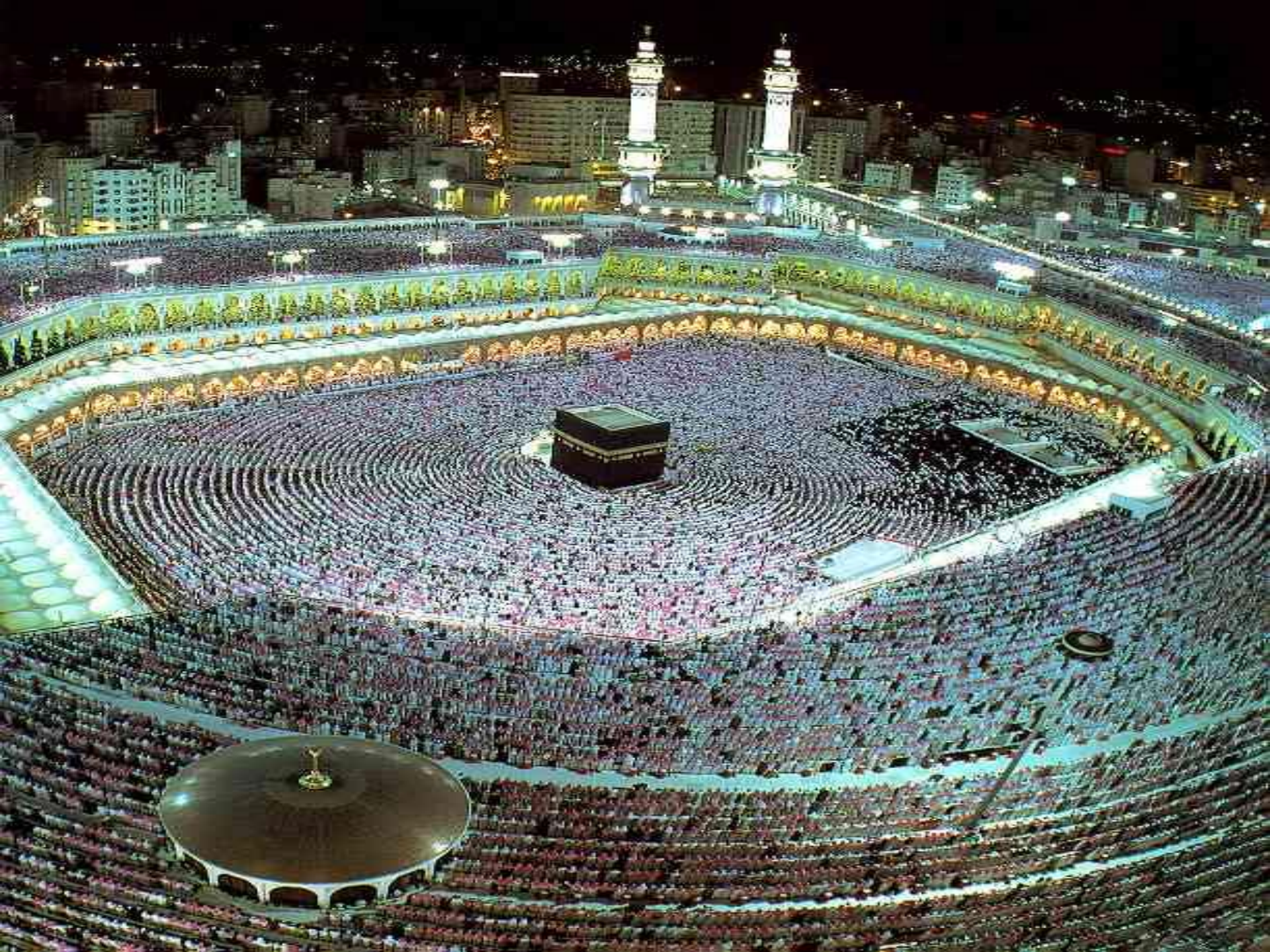


Mecca and Medina are two important cities to Muslims.



The Kaaba





What are some of Islam's symbols?

Muslim Symbols

The color green



Rub el Hizb: Five Pointed Star



Allah in Arabic



Shahada: Profession of Faith