

Lesson Plan #1: Introduction to “Major World Religions” Unit

Objectives:

- Introduce important vocabulary words
 - Discuss “religion” versus “belief system”
 - Begin dialoguing about religious differences around the world
1. The students will enter the room and begin copying the agenda from the board. The bell ringer will be a 10 minute quick-write on either of the following topics:
 - a. Imagine that you are part of an isolated society that has no particular religious beliefs. Write a creation story that describes your tribe’s beliefs about how the earth was made.
 - b. Imagine that you are part of an isolated society that has no particular religious beliefs. Describe what this particular tribe thinks happens when a person dies.
 2. The students will stop writing when the timer goes off. The teacher will collect the writing samples and choose a few to read anonymously. Then the teacher will read a creation account from a well known religion (i.e. the Bible) and then a lesser account (i.e. Greek mythology, etc.). The students will then discuss how these two accounts differ and try to name as many different religions as possible.
 3. The teacher will have a student pass out quiz remotes. The teacher will then display an interactive quiz on the ActivStudio smart board with pictures of symbols, leaders, holy books, holy places, etc. representative of the seven major world religions the class will be studying. Each slide will be accompanied with multiple choices. Students will choose what they think is the corresponding religion. After each slide, the correct answer will be briefly highlighted. At the end of the quiz, we will see how the class scored as a whole.
 4. After the remotes are collected, the teacher will briefly introduce the new unit and discuss our purposes in studying religions from all parts of the world.
 5. The students will copy the following vocabulary words from the board. As each word is introduced, the class will attempt to come up with a definition for each. They will discuss the different word parts (ie. Mono = one or syncretism ~ synchronize). The teacher will guide the definitions by writing them correctly on the board:
 - a. Monotheism
 - b. Polytheism
 - c. Syncretism
 - d. Evangelism
 - e. Belief system
 - f. Q’uran/Koran
 - g. Analects
 - h. Bible
 - i. Torah
 - j. Religion
 6. The students will fill out KWL charts (on smart board) on each of the seven religions that will be studied (Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Shinto.)
 7. Fire Escape: In order to leave the classroom, each student must tell me one new word and definition that he/she learned today.

Materials:

- Two creation accounts to read aloud
- Smart board with quiz remotes
- Quiz slides (teacher created) for ActivBoard

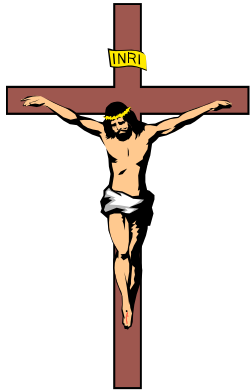
Notes:

- This lesson is designed for a multilevel English language learner class at the high school level.
- There are approximately 15 students from 10 different countries.
- There are no students with disabilities.
- The class is approximately 90 minutes long.

Quiz Answers



Christianity



Christianity



Judaism



Judaism



Torah – Judaism



Islam



Allah – Islam



Buddha – Buddhism



Confucianism



OmHinduism



Taoism



Shinto



Hinduism



Chakras – Buddhist, Hindu, or Jainist



Confucianism



Buddhism



Tomoe (Buddhist or Shinto)



Chinese Character for Tao



Islam



Koran Q'uran Islam