

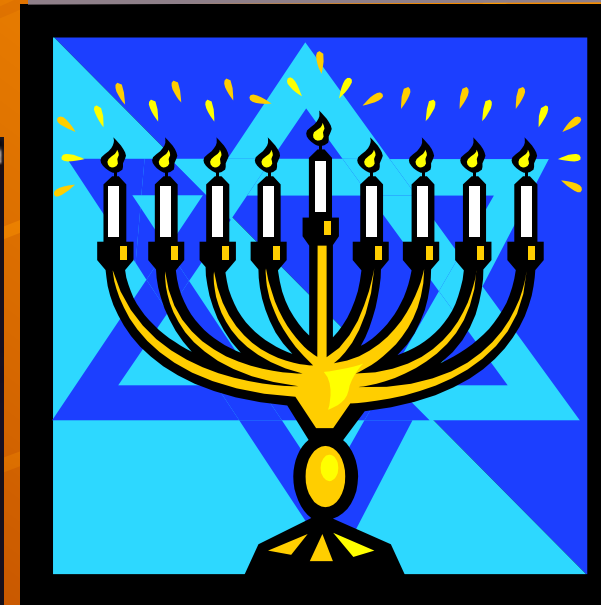
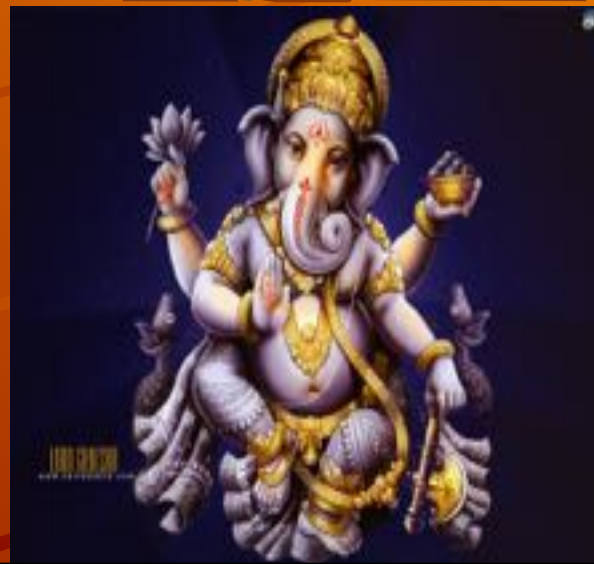
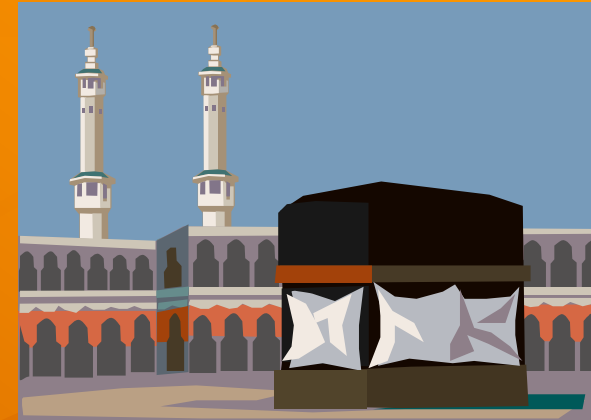
CULTURAL AWARENESS WEEK 3.


WORLDVIEWS AND WORLD
RELIGIONS:



Which is the oldest major religion practised today?

- ◆ 1. Christianity
- ◆ 2. Buddhism
- ◆ 3. Judaism
- ◆ 4. Islam
- ◆ 5. Hinduism





Hinduism	2000B	No one Founder	1 billion	The Vedas
Judaism	1300B	Abrahm Moses	14 million	Talmud
Buddhism	563BC	Siddhart haGuata ma	488 million	Many texts
Confucian ism	551BC	Confuc ius	Most of Asia	TheAna- lects
Christian ity	1AD	Jesus Christ.	2 billion	The Bible
Islam	570AD	Mahom med	1.3 billion	The Koran

Which is the newest and fastest growing religion practised today?

- ◆ 1. Islam
- ◆ 2. Christianity
- ◆ 3. Hinduism
- ◆ 4. Buddhism



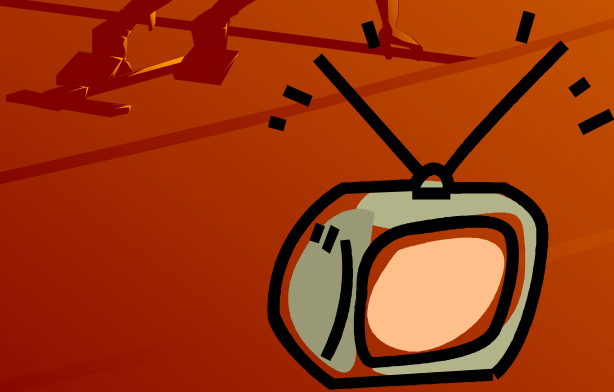
The word “Islam” comes from the Arabic verb meaning?

to die for
to respect
to submit
to honour



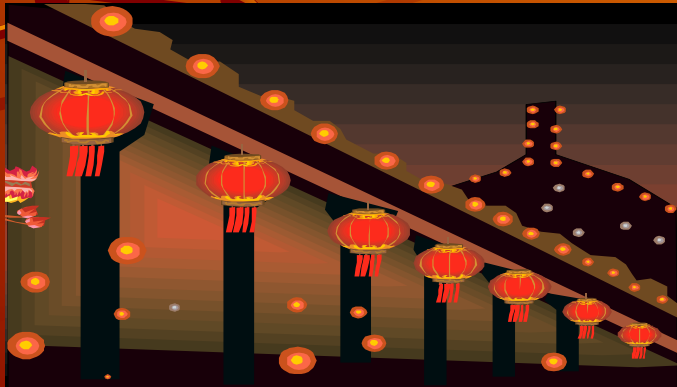
Which institution first teaches children gender roles and values?

- ◆ 1. school
- ◆ 2. peer group
- ◆ 3. church
- ◆ 4. family
- ◆ 5. mass media



In which cultures is loyalty to family more important than to state, friends or job?

- ◆ 1. Arabic
- ◆ 2. Mexican
- ◆ 3. Chinese
- ◆ 4. All of the above



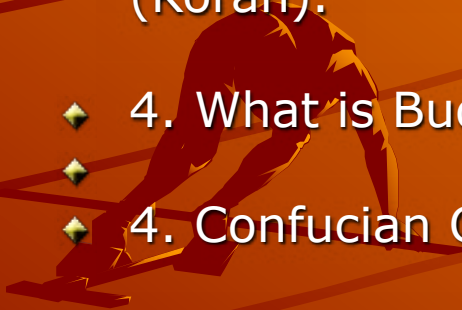
Japan's isolation has produced all of the following except which one?

- ◆ 1. widespread acceptance
- ◆ of anything "foreign"
- ◆ 2. strong feelings of
- ◆ loyalty to the nation
- ◆ 3. an unusually high
- ◆ degree of cultural
- ◆ homogeneity
- ◆ 4. feelings of detachment from the rest of the world





- ◆ 1. Worldviews and Culture :Atheism and Spirituality
- ◆ Similarities between the major world religions.
- ◆ 2. Judaism
- ◆ 3. Misunderstandings about Islam. Readings from the Qu'ran (Koran).
- ◆ 4. What is Buddhism ? Why is it so popular in the West?
- ◆ 4. Confucian Cultural traits.
- ◆ 5. Case Study: Business in Bangkok.
- ◆ 6. Case Study: Mom and Dad, Guess What
- ◆ 7 Intercultural Interviews- other religious groups/cultures.



Similarities in the Great Traditions

- ◆ 1. Speculation- creation & after-life
- ◆ 2. Sacred Scriptures
- ◆ 3. Rituals
- ◆ 4. Ethics eg The Golden Rule
- ◆ 5. Safe Haven- security & comfort
(Mackay pp 14-15, 283-4, 286)



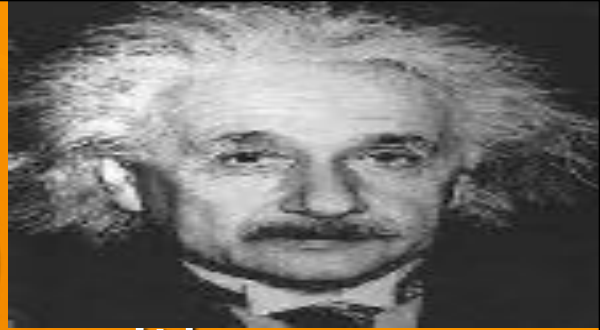
The Golden Rule world-wide



- ◆ Christian: Do unto others... (Matthew 7:12)
- ◆ Buddhism: Hurt not others in ways you would find harmful (Udana-Virga 5:8)
- ◆ Confucian: Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you. (Analects 15:23)
- ◆ Hinduism: Do naught unto others which would cause pain if done to you (Mahabharatj 5:1517)
- ◆ Islam: You are not a believer until you desire for your brother that which he desires for himself (Sunnah)
- ◆ Judaism: What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. (Talmud)



Worldviews (Non-Religious)



- ▶ We interpret everyday experiences with assumptions that make sense of our lives
- ▶ and others in our society eg Does God, law or chance rule the world? What is the purpose of life? The right way to live? What happens when we die? How do we determine truth?
- ▶ **ATHEISM:** Rejects God, Individual self reliant, Ethical standards, finality of Death
- ▶ **SPIRITUALITY:** Personal search for answers, self-discovery, value silence, meditation, mindfulness, creative self-expression, dance, music, simplicity



Judaism:

- ▶ This tiny religion has wielded influence far out of proportion to its numbers but why have its members experienced such savage
- ▶ repression, genocide & discrimination?
- ▶ Assumption's chosen people, humans inherently good but have free will and shared identity and responsibilities. Characteristics- love of learning & justice, civil liberties, family, ethics for world (Torah) emphasis good life on earth rather than joys of heaven- no reference to afterlife." We must all die. We are like water on the ground which cannot be gathered up again" (Samuel 14)

Misunderstandings Islam

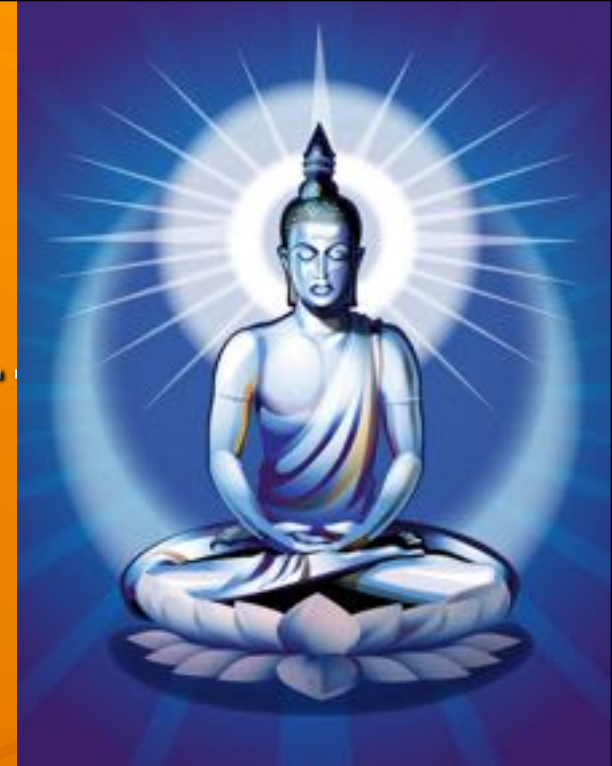
- ◆ Jihad? P149 (8th Ed)
- ◆ Women? P151-2 (8th)
- ◆ Quran-manual for life p131(9th)
- ◆ Sharia ("a clear path")p150(8th)
- ◆ Charity? (Alms & ban usury)
- ◆ The five pillars of Faith? (p130-9th)
- ◆ One God; Prophecy; Revelation; Angels; Pre- Destination (Enshallah) Judgment Day & Resurrection p137 (9th)
- ◆ And Practice? Creed p132, Prayer 133; Alms (Zakat); Fasting (Ramadan); Pilgrimage (Hajj)(9th)



BUDDHISM

Origin India Prince

- ◆ Siddhartha Gautama 563BC. million followers. Popularity
- ◆ p145
- ◆ Is Buddha a God? 9th p146
- ◆ Does Buddhism require temple visits?
- ◆ What are the 4 Noble Truths? What is the Eightfold Path?
- ◆ Ultimate goal of Buddhism? P166 (8th ed)



Buddhism continued



- ◆ What is "karma"? deeds ->
- ◆ consequences this life or
- ◆ next or future reincarnations

What is "dharma"? (Hindu)- the order of the universe- cosmic norm/law.

What does "Buddha" mean?

What is "nirvana"? P162(8th ed)

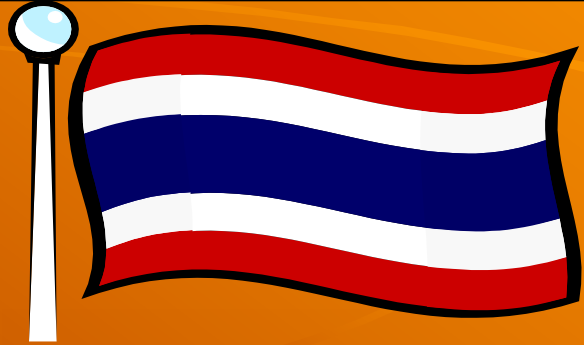
- ◆ Importance of meditation & here and now?(9th 149) Buddhist Ethics p151
- ◆ Notions about death & funerals? p151



Confucianism



- ◆ Confucius(551BCE)teacher &philosopher people basically good, social harmony if apt relationships (face) education,arts and good government ruler-subject, husband-wife,elder-younger brothers,elder-junior friend, father-son
- ◆ VALUES: respect,honor,filial piety,duty,ritual
- ◆ Analects read by hundreds at 2008 Beijing Olympics. Essential to understand modern China. Ritual & protocol in business eg seniority
- ◆ & use of “no”-harmony & face.Never used words good/evil, stressed benevolence(compassion)and reciprocity (quanxi)Golden rule. Focus education & filial obligations may account for economic success China.No concern next life but ritual funerals, family shrines & ancestor worship



Bangkok



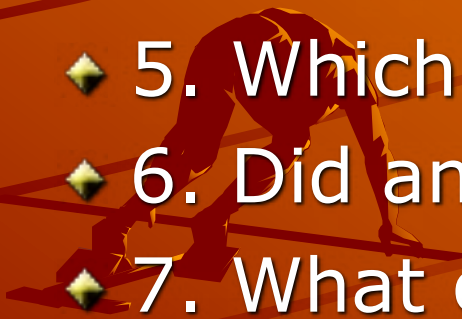
- ◆ Shawna has recently been assigned to her agency's Bangkok office. At first she was very impressed by the willingness of her co-workers to carry out her wishes. Soon her deadlines were not being met, people were not showing up and materials were disappearing. Her project was set to go well over budget. She was ready to tell them "shape up or ship out" but her Thai supervisors kept saying "mai pen rai"; it doesn't really matter..don't worry about it.



Questions :



- ◆ 1. How did Shawna perceive this?
- ◆ 2. What values guided her perceptions?
- ◆ 3. How did the Thais perceive this?
- ◆ 4. What values were guiding them?
- ◆ 5. Which perceptions were "better"?
- ◆ 6. Did anyone behave "badly"?
- ◆ 7. What changes might Shawna make?
and/or the Thai employees and
supervisors make ?





BEST EXPLANATION



The word "Thai" literally means "free"- a major characteristic of an attitude to "group harmony" which is (a) about preserving

- ◆ everyone's "face" even if it means "stretching the truth" and (b)
 - ◆ about individualism or non-involvement which says that a person
 - ◆ is responsible only to him/herself and that their actions are no one else's concern.
 - ◆ Thus, although Thais place great value on keeping relationships pleasant, they are not inclined to accept discipline or regimentation. One of the hardest things to understand is their dual culture.
- This is clearly expressed in the phrase "mai pen rai" which
- ◆ expresses the desire to keep relationships peaceful and to shrug
 - ◆ off the little frustrations and disagreements and prevent anger or passion from coming to the surface.



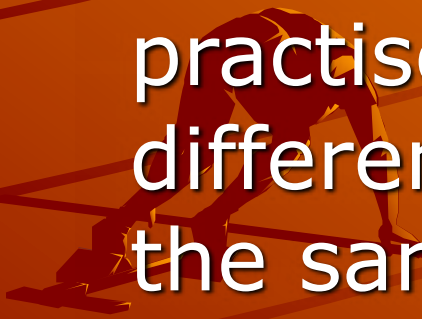
Continued

- ◆ A related value is “sanuke” to enjoy oneself and since Buddhism teaches
- ◆ people to accept their fate, Thais tend to laugh off problems- “mai pen rai”-
- ◆ it's not important.
- ◆ Shawna needs to understand the cultural difference and arrive at a solution
- ◆ that takes account of it without sacrificing her goals.

Role Play: Guess What?



- ◆ A son/daughter comes home to tell his/her parents they are getting married/committing to a relationship with someone who has a disability, practises a different religion, is of a different race or ethnicity and is of the same sex.



Instructions:



- ◆ In pairs take turns to play the son/daughter- How would you present the news to Mom and Dad?
- ◆ AND THEN
- ◆ Play the way your own parents might react
- ◆ AND THEN
- ◆ Play it the way you believe the parents SHOULD respond to the news.

Discussion:



- ◆ 1. What differences do you see between your imagined parent's responses and your own responses?
- ◆ 2. What changes in attitudes have you noticed since the 50's, 60's and 70's? Which attitudes have not changed very much?
- ◆ 3. How might a family be affected by non-traditional intercultural marriages?
- ◆ 4. Have you experienced a culturally-different relationship? How did people react to this new family member?

INTERCULTURAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:



- ◆ 1. Does your family worship together?
- ◆ 2. Your religious values/practices changed since you were a child?
- ◆ 3. Your family eat together? Who prepares? Who cleans up? All talk same amount ?
- ◆ 4. Who responsible for discipline?
- ◆ 5. Leisure activities together?

Interviews Cont:



- ◆ 6. How much play and humour in your family?
- ◆ 7. Touching/physical affection your family?
- ◆ 8. How boys/girls treated in your family?
- ◆ 9. How are chores divided?
- ◆ 10. How has religion shaped these family activities and rituals?

NEXT WEEK: Cultural History as Precursor to Present/Future

- ◆ Historical legacies produce discord & conflict. Contemporary examples will be identified. Do governments use these legacies to bring about social harmony or achieve their political goals (unite or divide?) How does national history shape national identity. **BRING YOUR READ AND EXPERIENCED STORIES TO THIS FORUM!**
- ◆ and peace and harmony
- ◆ till we meet again

