

**GLOBAL HISTORY I  
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS  
DUE FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2009**

**I. Hinduism**

Hinduism is largely based on the beliefs of the **Aryans**, invaders who came to the Indus River Valley from the Caucasus region. Like many religions, Hinduism serves as a guide, explaining everything a person should do from birth to death. Hinduism has no single holy book, but Hindu writings like the **Upanishads** and the **Bhagavad-Gita** provide guidance and inspiration. Hinduism remains the most popular religion of modern India. There are more than 700 million Hindus in the world today.

<p><b>Gods.</b> Hindus believe that there are many gods and goddesses. Each of these gods, however, is a manifestation (<i>form</i>) of one Supreme Being.</p>	<p><b>Reincarnation.</b> Hindus believe that at death, a person's soul is reborn as another living thing. This creates an endless cycle of rebirth for each soul.</p>
<p><b>MAJOR BELIEFS OF HINDUISM</b></p>	
<p><b>Karma.</b> Karma refers to a person's behavior in life which Hindus believe determines that person's form in the next life. People who live a good life will be reborn in a higher caste. Those who do not are reborn in a lower caste.</p>	<p><b>Sacred Objects.</b> Hindus believe the Ganges River is sacred and has the power to wash away sin and evil. The cow is also considered sacred, and religious Hindus do not eat beef.</p>

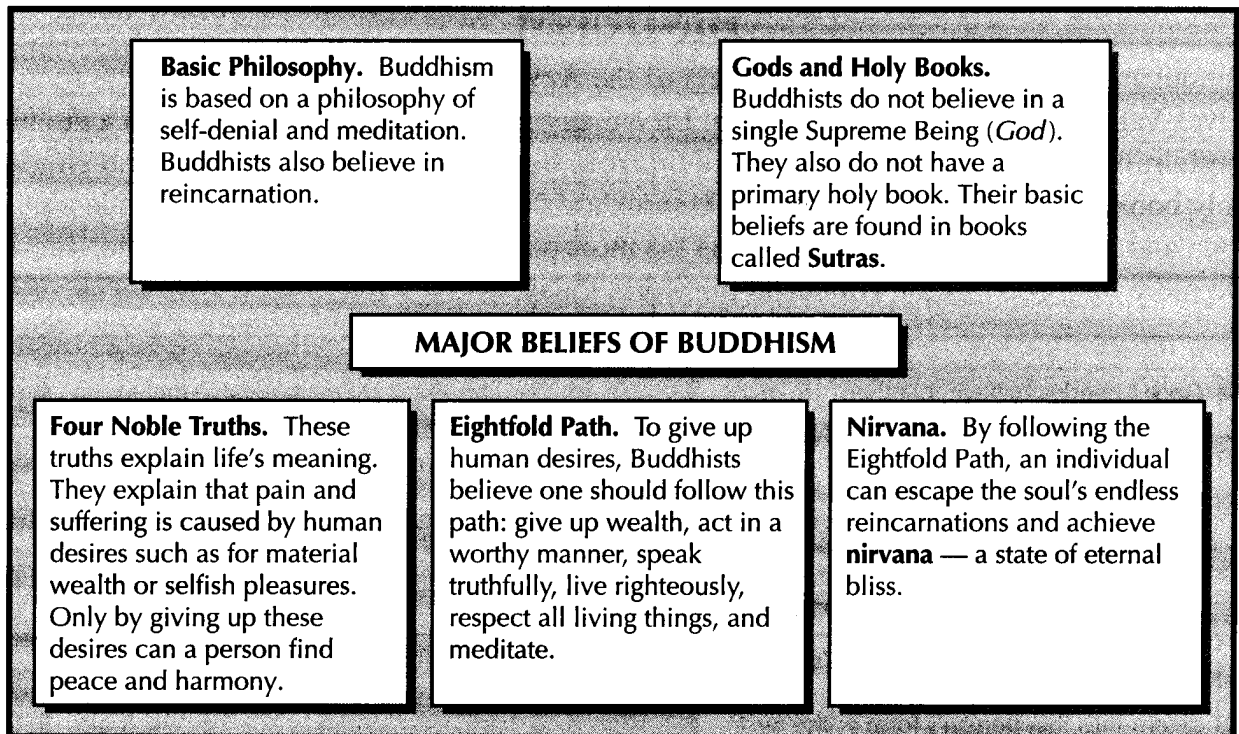
**II. Buddhism**

The Buddhist religion began in India around 500 B.C. Prince **Siddhartha Gautama** (563–487 B.C.) lived a life of comfort and luxury. One day, he looked beyond the palace walls and was shocked by all the human suffering he saw. This prompted him to leave his wealth and family behind and to set out in search of truth. After six years, he concluded that all human suffering was caused by excessive desire. To end suffering, a person must come to accept the world as it is and block out selfish desires. Gautama became known as the **Buddha** or "Enlightened One." Missionaries carried his ideas throughout India and then on to China, Korea, and Japan.



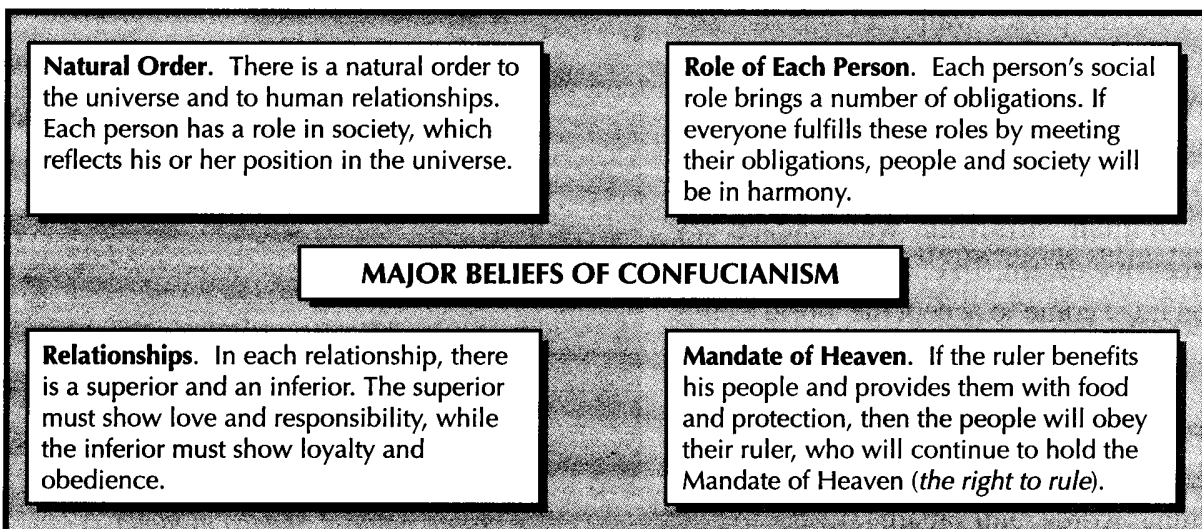
*A bronze statue of Buddha in Japan*

(Buddhism continued)



### III. Confucianism

You have already learned that Confucianism is named after its founder, **Confucius** (551 – 479 B.C.). Confucius established a philosophy based on what he saw as the basic order of the universe. He urged people to follow traditional ways, which had worked well in the past. He believed these traditions could help maintain social peace and harmony. He further believed that the ruler must set an example for his subjects. Although Confucius did not write any books, his followers collected his sayings and later published them in the **Analects**.



(Confucianism continued)

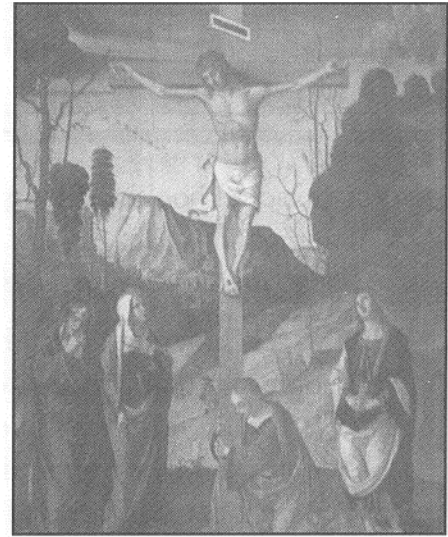
For thousands of years, Confucianism was the official philosophy of the Chinese empire. Its emphasis on traditional values helped preserve Chinese civilization. Hopeful government candidates had to pass a demanding test based on the ideas of Confucius in order to be appointed to the emperor's service. Confucian ideals thus united all government officials and the Chinese upper classes as a whole. Confucianism also increased the importance of the family in Chinese life. The family served as a model for society, emphasizing performance of one's duties and good deeds.



One of many ceremonies held in China each year on September 28th in honor of Confucius.

## IV. Christianity

Christianity began about 2,000 years ago in the Middle East. It is based on the beliefs and life of **Jesus Christ**. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, near Jerusalem. He preached forgiveness, mercy, and sympathy for the poor and helpless. However, the Romans regarded him as a troublemaker. Jesus was crucified by the Romans for claiming he was the Messiah or savior. After the death of Jesus, a band of his followers, known as the **Apostles**, helped to spread the new Christian religion. Many were attracted to the belief in an afterlife in which the poor and humble would be rewarded. Eventually, Christianity became the dominant religion of the Roman Empire. Today, it is the religion with the most followers in Europe, North America and Latin America.




The crucifixion of Jesus

MAJOR BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY		
<p><b>Role of Jesus.</b> Christians believe Jesus was the son of God, and sacrificed himself to save humankind from punishment for their sins. Christians also believe that after his death, Jesus was resurrected and rose to Heaven.</p>	<p><b>Christian Conduct.</b> Christians believe they will be saved and will go to Heaven after death if they have faith in Christ as their savior and treat others with love and respect.</p>	<p><b>The Christian Bible.</b> The sacred book of Christianity consists of the <b>Old Testament</b> (the Jewish Bible), and the <b>New Testament</b>, which describes the life of Christ and the works of the Apostles.</p>

## V. Written Exercises

*Directions* – Answer the following prompts and questions on a separate sheet of loose-leaf paper. Make sure each answer is clearly labeled or numbered. If you are confused about what to do, ask the teacher.

	<b>ANSWERING THE FOCUS QUESTION</b> .....	
	The key beliefs of some major religions are	
	_____	(Hinduism)
	_____	(Buddhism)
	_____	(Confucianism)
_____	(Christianity)	

**Directions:** Complete each of the following vocabulary cards. Then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow.

<b>CONFUCIUS</b>
Who was he?
What were some of his ideas?

<b>SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA</b>
Who was he?
What were some of his ideas?

- 1 Which sacred book and religion are correctly paired?
 

1 Hinduism — Bhagavad-Gita	3 Christianity — Sutras
2 Judaism — New Testament	4 Buddhism — Old Testament
  
- 2 With which statement would Confucius most likely have agreed?
  - 1 People should believe in only one God.
  - 2 One should follow a life of self-denial and quiet meditation.
  - 3 People who live a good life will go to Heaven after death.
  - 4 People must fulfill their family and social responsibilities.
  
- 3 The religions of Judaism and Christianity share a common belief in
 

1 nirvana	3 reincarnation
2 monotheism	4 the role of Jesus
  
- 4 Buddhism teaches that salvation is earned by
 

1 following the Ten Commandments	3 learning to give up selfish desires
2 worshipping only one God	4 being baptized and confirmed