

STUDY GUIDE

The Five World Religions —an Overview

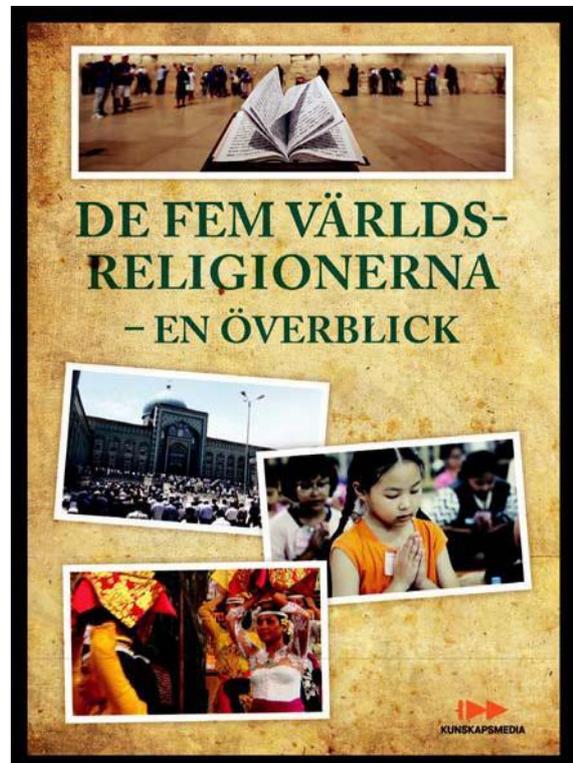
Video Facts

Subject: Understanding religion

Age: 11 and up

Duration: 17 minutes

English speech



Video Content

By studying examples from all over the world, we will learn what religion is and what purpose it serves.

We examine how religions express and bear up the cultures they are a part of. We will learn about rituals, festivals, holy places and symbols. And we ask ourselves the question—why does mankind have religions?

Chapters in the video

- Introduction (00:00–01:49)
- Why do religions exist? (01:50–04:16)
- What is religion? (04:17–07:12)
- Worldview (07:13–08:03)
- Rituals (08:04–09:35)
- Rites of passage and festivals (09:36–11:08)
- Religious rules (11:09–12:25)
- Holy places (12:26–14:13)
- Symbols (14:14–15:16)
- Summary (15:17–END)

Production: Kunskapsmedia, Sweden
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The Five World

Religions —an

Overview

Before the Video

What do we know?

What are the five world religions? Can you name any other religions?

Concepts

Discuss together in class and try to explain these concepts:

- Religion
- Belief system
- Worldview

- Ritual
- Faith

Discussion Questions for the Video

Before starting a discussion about the video with the group, it is important that the teacher/leader considers how to handle the discussion and the answers. Feel free to divide the class into smaller groups and have the participants write down their own answers first. The discussion questions are divided up according to the chapters in the video.

Why do religions exist? (01:50–04:16)

- Why do you think religions exist?
- Why are there so many religions, do you think?
- What purpose does religion serve? Does it differ from person to person?
- What does it mean that religion has “emotional, psychological and social functions”?
- Why might people need these functions?
- How can a religion unite people?
- How can religion cause problems for the individual?

What is religion? (04:17–07:12)

- What do you think religion means?
- What common structures are religions made up of?
- What is a *monotheistic* religion? Give examples.
- What is a *polytheistic* religion? Give examples.
- In what way can religion give rise to conflicts?

Worldview (07:13–08:03)

- What is a worldview? What does it mean? Explain.
- Can you give any examples of worldviews?

Rituals (08:04–09:35)

- What is a ritual? What characterizes a ritual?
- Can you give any examples of rituals?
- What is the purpose of rituals?
- Why are rituals important in religion? Explain.

Rites of passage and festivals (09:36–11:08)

- What is a rite of passage? Can you give an example of one?
- What is a festival? Explain.
- Can you give an example of a festival for each world religion?

Religious rules (11:09–12:25)

- What do religious rules mean? Why do they exist?
- Can you give an example of a religious rule?

Holy places (12:26–14:13)

- What is a holy place? What characterizes a holy place?
- What role do holy places have and why are they important? Explain.
- Can you give any examples of a holy place for a religion?

Symbols (14:14–15:16)

- What is a symbol? What do religious symbols mean?
- What function do symbols have in religion?
- Can you give any examples of symbols?

Summary (15:17–END)

- What did you think of the video?
- Did you learn anything new from watching it?



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After the Video

Follow-up on concepts

Look at the concepts that you discussed before the film. Is there anything that didn't really match up with what you thought before? Or is there anything you have to investigate further?

Compare

Choose two of the world religions and compare them with each other. What similarities do they have? How do they differ from each other? List five similarities and five differences that the religions have. Work individually or in pairs. Summarize your work on a large sheet of paper and show it to the rest of the class.

World religions

Divide the class into groups of four or five students. Their task is to find out more about the world religions. Each group chooses a religion for more in-depth study. They can use the chapters in the film to find out more about the religion. They might consider things like:

- Where in the world is this religion?
- Who are its practitioners?
- What is the religion's worldview?
- What religious rituals, symbols, festivals and holy places belong to the religion?

Have them present their work to the rest of the class in the form of a video or digital presentation.



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