**Intro to Islam Unit for Students**

Standard 7.2.2: Trace the origins of Islam and the life and teachings of Muhammad, including Islamic teachings on the **connection with Judaism and Christianity.**

*Before beginning a unit, many teachers do a pre-test, KWL, or have students discuss what they already know. Because Islam is in the news a lot and often misrepresented, students often have misguided views on it and this can lead to comments being made that could be offensive (often without realizing). Because of this, we have provided 2 handouts to beginning your unit on Islam:*

**Islam Pre Test and Answer Key**

**TIME Article on Islam**

The pretest is designed to get students thinking about what they already may know about Islam, and compare and contrast it to religions learned in sixth grade. This can be done individually, in pairs, or small groups, and then reviewed together as a class.

The TIME article on Islam was written after 9/11, and shows the peaceful nature of Islam, as many people had negative views of the religion in the aftermath of the attacks. This article could be used when implementing Common Core Standards by doing a “close reading” (annotating) of the text.

**Islam: What Do You Already Know?**

*Using what you already know about Islam (or take an educated guess), circle true or false to the following questions, or fill in the blank when required:*

*\*Remember: people who follow Islam are called Muslims.*

1. “Allah” is the word for “God” used by Arabic speaking Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

True False

2. Muslims bow toward the East when they pray. True False

3. The largest Muslim population of any country in the world is:

A. Saudi Arabia

B. Indonesia

C. Egypt

D. India

4. Giving to charity is a requirement of Islam. True False

5. Muslims worship on Sundays. True False

6. Islam has more followers than any other religion except Christianity. True False

**What Do You Already Know About Islam and Its Connections to Christianity and Judaism?**

*Use your personal knowledge of these religions, and/or what you learned about Christianity and Judaism in sixth grade, to check either Judaism, Christianity, and/or Islam next to each statement.*

Islam Judaism Christianity

1. Abraham is an important figure \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Jesus is an important figure \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Muhammad is an important figure \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Discourages pictures or statues of their \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

religious leaders

5. Wine is an important part of ritual \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

6. A monotheistic religion that was originated in \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

the Middle East

7. Prohibits eating pork \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Followers read a holy book \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

9. Accepts the story of Adam and Eve as part of \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

of their tradition

10. Regards Jerusalem as a holy city \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

11. Has a creation story about God creating the \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

universe out of nothing

Answer Key For “Islam: What Do You Already Know?”

1. “Allah” is the word for “God” used by Arabic speaking Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

**True**

**Allah is the Arabic word for God; therefore, “Allah” is the word used by Arabic-speaking Muslims, Christians, and Jews as the word for God. We can hear its counterpart in the other two semitic languages – Aramic (Jesus called God *“Allaha”*) and Hebrew (“*Ellohim”).* It makes no sense to say “Muslims worship a god called Allah” than to say “The Spanish worship a god called Dios.”**

2. Muslims bow toward the East when they pray. **False**

**Muslims pray towards Mecca in Saudi Arabia, which could be north, south, east or west, depending on where you are while praying. For example, if a Muslim in California was praying, he or she would be facing east, but if a Muslim in China was praying, he or she would face the west.)**

3. The largest Muslim population of any country in the world is:

A. Saudi Arabia

**B. Indonesia (currently 204,847,000 Muslims)**

C. Egypt

D. India

4. Giving to charity is a requirement of Islam. **True** False

5. Muslims worship on Sundays. True **False (They worship on Fridays)**

6. Islam has more followers than any other religion except for Christianity. **True** False **(Largest number of followers is Christianity, followed by Islam, and then Judaism)**

Answer Key For “What Do You Already Know About Islam and Its Connections to Christianity and Judaism?”

Islam Judaism Christianity

1. Abraham is an important figure \_\_\_x\_\_\_ \_\_\_x\_\_\_ \_\_\_x\_\_\_

2. Jesus is an important figure \_\_x\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_x\_\_\_

3. Muhammad is an important figure \_\_x\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Discourages pictures or statues of their \_\_\_x\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_x\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

religious leaders

5. Wine is an important part of ritual \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_x\_\_

6. A monotheistic Middle Eastern religion \_\_x\_\_\_\_ \_x\_\_\_\_ \_\_x\_\_\_\_

7. Prohibits eating pork \_\_\_x\_\_\_ \_\_x\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

8. Followers read a holy book \_\_x\_\_\_\_ \_\_x\_\_\_\_ \_\_x\_\_\_\_

9. Accepts the story of Adam and Eve as part of \_\_\_\_x\_\_ \_\_\_x\_\_\_ \_\_x\_\_\_\_

of their tradition

10. Regards Jerusalem as a holy city \_\_\_\_x\_\_ \_x\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_x\_\_

11. Has a creation story about God creating the \_\_x\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_x\_\_ \_\_\_x\_\_\_

universe out of nothing

\*Note: There are many more statements that can show the similarities and differences between the three religions; these are only a few.