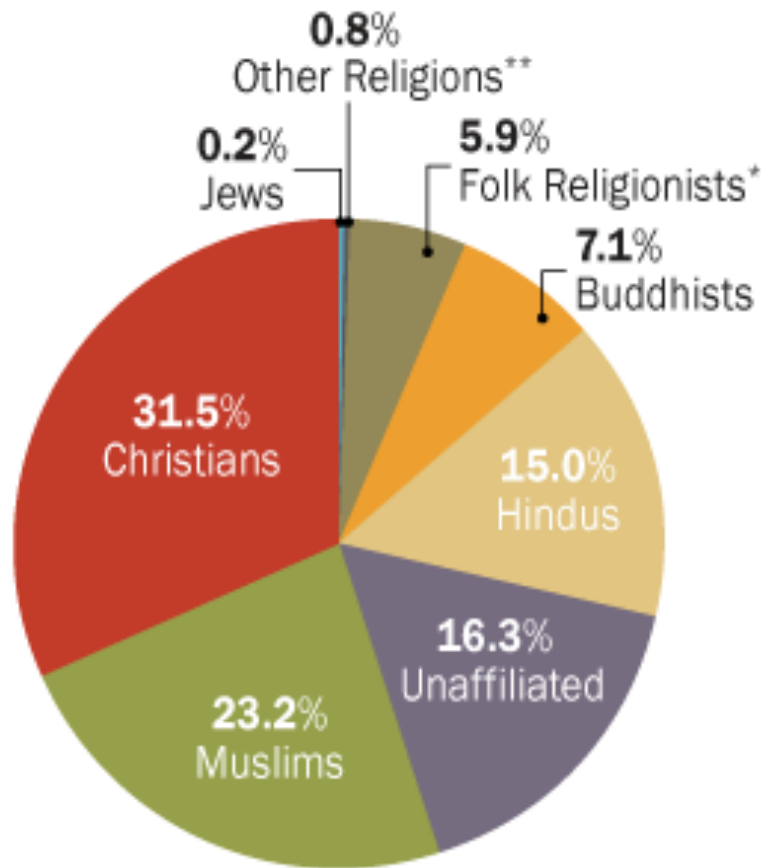


World Religions and Philosophies

*Belief Systems and Doctrine for
Religions of the World*

Size of Major Religious Groups, 2010

Percentage of the global population



*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

**Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life •
Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions

**Includes Baha'ism, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, and Zoroastrians

Animism

- Very first religions are animistic
 - Pre-historic belief system seen globally
 - Physical objects are inhabited by spirits
- Can communicate with the spiritual world
 - Shamans
 - Can heal wounds and predict the future
 - Ancestor worship, aid from spiritual realm
- Animism encapsulates a broad variety of religions, some of which are still practiced today



1886 engraving showing Cree Indians performing a Sun (or Thirst) Dance

Buddhism

- Buddhism:
 - Started in India, then spread throughout Asia
 - Branched off of Hinduism about 500 BCE.
 - Founder's name: Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha)
 - 375 million followers
 - Non-theistic

Siddhartha

- Lived a life of luxury in India and began a quest for enlightenment in the 6th century BCE
 - Old Man, Sick Man, Dead Man
- Sat beneath a Bodhi tree and meditated for an unknown period before achieving enlightenment.

Buddhism

- Basic Tenets of Buddhism
 - The world is full of suffering
 - Meditation is our only escape
 - Nirvana is the ultimate goal
 - Follow the Eightfold Path

Eightfold Path

- **Right Understanding**
- **Right Thought**
- **Right Speech**
- **Right Action**
- **Right Livelihood**
- **Right Effort**
- **Right Mindfulness**
- **Right Concentration**

Images of Buddha



Polytheism

- Polytheism is the worship of more than one god.
- May accept or adopt gods from other religions
 - Hinduism
 - Buddhism

Polytheism

- Hinduism
 - From India around 1700 BCE
 - No single founder
 - 3rd largest religion
 - Holy Book: Rig Veda
 - Brahman is the source of all divinity (holiness)
 - Believe in reincarnation (soul is reborn many times based on Karma).

3 Sects (Branches/Denominations)

- Vaishnavas- focus on Vishnu and his incarnation
 - God incarnates into the world in various forms
- Shaivas- focus on Shiva, performs five acts of creation, maintenance, destruction, revelation
- Saktas- Focus on the Goddess Lakshmi

Caste System



Good Karma (filthy)

OK Karma- Kinda Filthy

Bad Karma (Very little filthiness)

Untouchables (Zero Filthiness)

Hindu Gods

VISHNU



SHIVA



BRAHMA



Monotheism

- Begun by Abraham about 2000 BCE
- Common Beliefs:
 - God created the universe
 - God continues to govern the universe
 - The Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God on Mt. Sinai and must be followed

JUDAISM

- Followers are called Jews
- Believe that God made a covenant with Abraham and his people (Israelites)
- Adherents are worldwide, but most are in Israel
- Holy book is the Torah (= the first five books of the Old Testament of Christian Bible)
- 13.1 million

What does it mean to be Jewish?

- There are many people who identify themselves as Jewish without necessarily believing in, or observing, any Jewish law.
- Worship is held in synagogues and spiritual leaders are called Rabbis
- 13.1 million globally, 6 million murdered in Holocaust

Christianity

- Jesus was a Jew from Palestine. The Western calendar is based on his life, so he lived about 2000 years ago (born AD₁, and dying AD₃₃)
- He is believed by his followers to be the messiah and the son of God.
- He was crucified for treason (claiming to be the king of the Jews) by the Romans.

Christianity

- Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead on his own and appeared before his disciples
- He is believed to have ascended into heaven, where he sits with God and rules
- Trinity- Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- Christians worship in a church
- Their holy book is the Bible
- Though Christianity is focused upon Jesus, it was spread by the Apostle Paul following his conversion on the road to Damascus

ISLAM

- Islam means, “submission to the will of God”
- The Muslim name for God is Allah.
- Over 1 Billion followers
- Those who believe in Islam are Muslims
- Their Holy Scripture is the Qur’an (Koran)
- Muhammad was a camel driver from Saudi Arabia
- The Angel Gabriel gave Muhammad The Koran in the desert in the 7th Century CE.
- He started his religion in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. This is the holiest city in Islam.

5

PILLARS OF ISLAM



SHAHADAH

Testify that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah & Muhammad is His Messenger



SALAH

Offering Salah (prayer) five times a day.



ZAKAT

Paying the Zakat (giving alms or charity).



HAJJ

Going to pilgrimage to the House of Allah at Makkah.

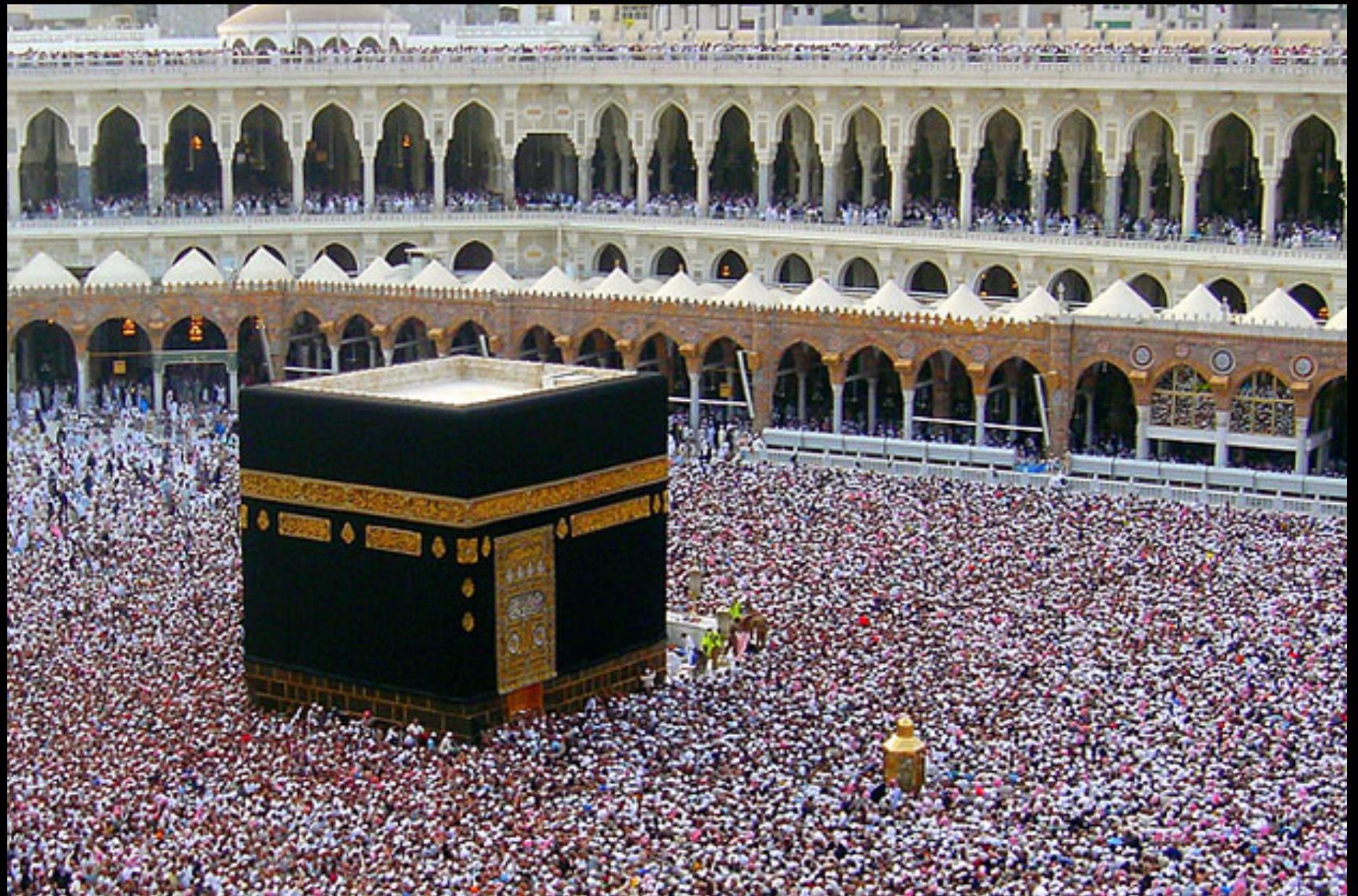


FASTING

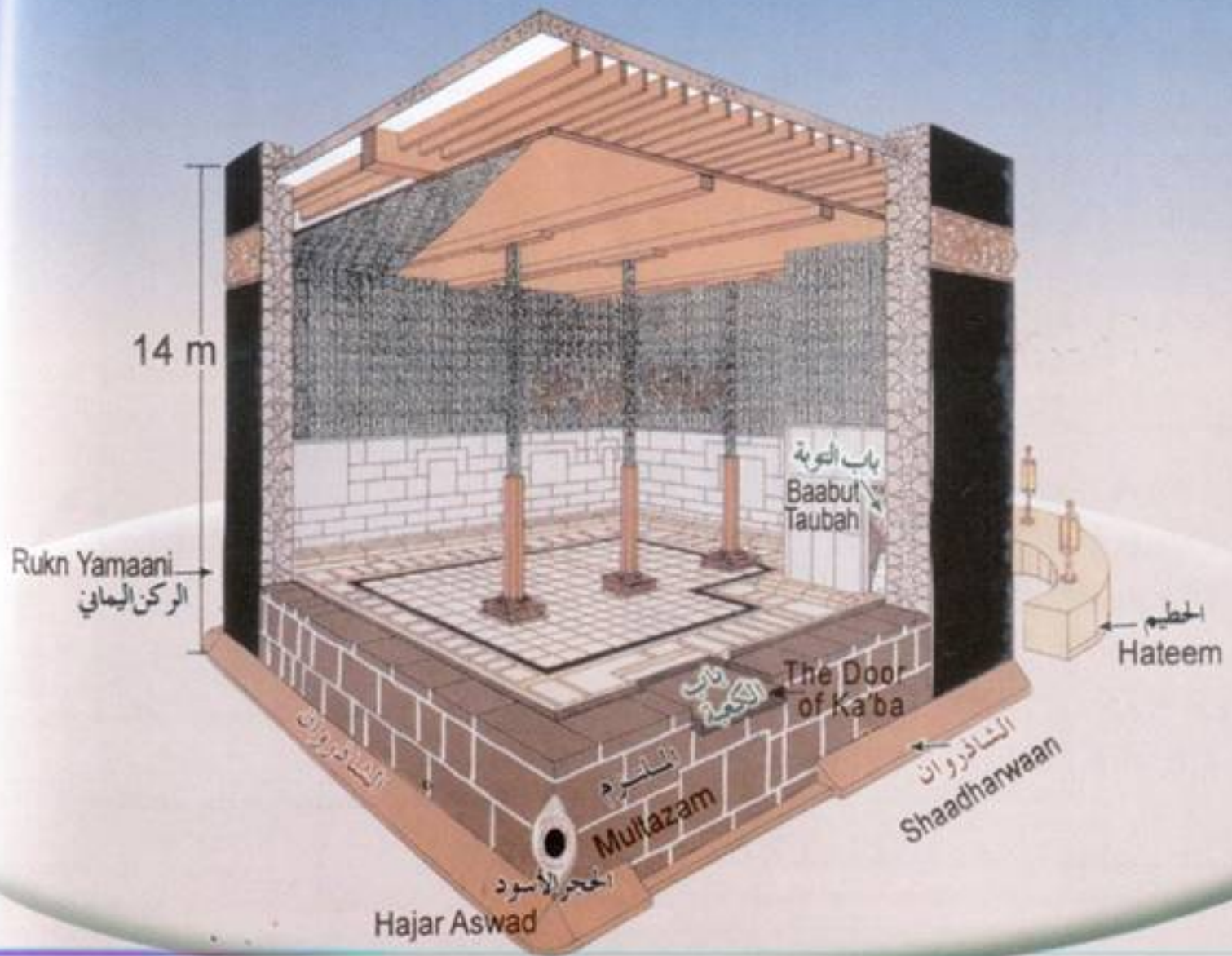
Fasting in the month of the Ramadan.

Five Pillars

- Testimony of Faith: “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah”
- Prayer: Praying five times a day, towards Mecca
- Giving Zakat: Supporting the needy through of money or alms
- Fasting The Month of Ramadan: fast from food, drink, and sexual relations dawn until sundown
- Pilgrimage to Mecca: Hajj to the Kaaba, structure built by Abraham and his son, Ishmael



The Interior of the Ka'bah



ISLAM

- Muslims worship in a mosque
- Differences with Shi'a and Sunni boil down to leadership following death of Mohammad
 - Sunnis: Abu Bakr as Caliph following death
 - Shi'as: Prophets son-in-law, Ali as Caliph
- Jihad
 - Struggle within oneself against sin
 - Struggle without against unbelievers

Atheism

- Belief in the absence of God, gods, or spiritual things
- Can devise moral codes without God or scriptures
 - Insufficient evidence -No religious culture
 - Nonsensical -World is bad, no God
 - Religions have done harm
- Some Ancient Greeks believed in materialism, but few fully denied possibility of gods
- British reformers criticized the Church of England in the 1800's and began the National Secular Society
- Discovery of evolution, age of the earth, and anthropology diminished literal translations of the Bible

Paganism

- Reverence for nature
- Draw upon religions of traditional and indigenous peoples
- Practices do not include 'black magic', devil worship or harming of others

- Agnosticism
 - Belief that religious principals and knowledge of God or gods is unknowable
- Deism
 - Belief in a single creator but rejection of revelation of that creator to mankind
- Zoroastrianism
 - Founded by Zoroaster in ancient Iran, unknown exactly when he lived. May have impacted Judaism or been impacted *by* Judaism
 - Monotheistic, one God called Ahura Mazda (Wise Lord)

- Taoism-
 - Deeply rooted in Chinese customs.
 - The Tao= The Way and ultimate creative principle of the universe
 - Emphasizes unity and opposites: Yin and Yang
- Confucianism-
 - Ethical-sociopolitical teachings
 - Developed from Confucius (551-479 BCE)

Worldwide percentage of Adherents by Religion (mid 2005)

