



# STUDENT ACTIVITY GUIDE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Hints for Reading Through this Exhibit

- Read both panels in the “Introducing the Journeys” section first. These will help you to familiarize yourself with basic information about each religion featured in the exhibit before you read personal pilgrimage stories.
- Study the photographs and other graphics before reading the text on each panel.
- Be most thorough in reading about the religions or the photographs that interest you most. Skim through other text.
- Try to pick out as many similarities in the various pilgrimage stories as you can. Also, try to identify aspects of each story that makes it unique.
- You will notice years labeled as “B.C.E” or “C.E.” This means “Before the Common Era” (BC in the Christian Tradition) and “Common Era” (AD in the Christian Tradition).

*Skim through the introductory panel of this exhibit and answer the following questions.*

1. What were the 3 main reasons for people to travel until the modern age?
2. What are other reasons that people travel now?
3. Mr. Ihmen, a business person in Western North Carolina, states, “...and in the world of the Global Village, aren’t we all neighbors?” What does this statement mean to you? Do you agree?

## MAP SKILLS

On each panel, you will see a map in the background with dots over specific locations that are significant to the particular pilgrimage. Try to identify the country or countries that are emphasized by the shape of the regions on the map.

# JUDAISM



The Old City of Jerusalem

## INTRODUCING THE JOURNEY

1. Name two important people in the foundation of Judaism.
2. Give the name of the major sacred text in the Jewish faith.
3. Where was the temple that Jewish people would visit during Pilgrimage festivals in ancient times?
4. What types of offerings would people bring to the temple during a pilgrimage?
5. Is the temple still there?
6. What is the Kotel?

### VOCABULARY:

**Monotheism:** belief in only One God

**Synagogue:** place of worship for a Jewish congregation

**Martyrdom:** suffering or death for a religious cause

## LOCAL STORIES

1. For the holiday of Sukkot in the fall, pilgrims still visit the remains of the temple with fruits and branches from special plants. In Hebrew, what does the word “pilgrim” translate to mean?
2. Read the caption for the photograph of four-year-old Gabe standing at the wall. Why do people leave small pieces of paper in the cracks of the Kotel?
3. *DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:* Can you think of any place you’ve been where people like to leave a message or something else behind?
4. Find the city of Jerusalem in the map which makes up the background of the panel. Do you recognize any other countries or oceans in that part of the world? Name three.

# CHRISTIANITY



Saint Peter's Basilica, Rome, Italy

## INTRODUCING THE JOURNEY

1. Who began Christianity?
2. Where was Christianity founded?
3. Which is older, Christianity or Judaism?
4. Christians in Medieval times would take a pilgrimage for forgiveness because they had done something wrong, for obligation, or for *what*?
5. Do people still take religious journeys for any of the above reasons?
6. Some Christians still travel the "Way of Saint James" in order to visit Santiago de Compostela in Spain. What are two other sites in the world where Christians still go for pilgrimage?

### VOCABULARY:

**The Pope:** the head of the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Catholic Churches and the bishop of Rome

## LOCAL STORIES

1. What is still the mode of transportation for pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago?
2. What is a hostel?
3. Why do you think Dr. Sanders says, "I like being alone. That's part of the purpose"?
4. Do you ever like to be alone? Why?
5. *DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:* Study the booklet on the right side of the panel. Do any words or stamps in the booklet provoke any thoughts or memories for you?
6. Every 25 years, Catholic people from all over the world travel to *which* location in Italy on pilgrimage?
7. Who were the 10,000 people in St. Peter's square there to see when David DeFerie took the photo at the bottom of this panel?
8. What types of gifts do some Catholic pilgrims bring to the Pope?

# ISLAM



The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is the 3rd holiest site in the Muslim religion. **What is the first holiest site?**

## INTRODUCING THE JOURNEY

1. What is the name of the person who founded Islam?
2. *MATH*: How many years ago was Islam founded?
3. What is the name of the sacred text for Muslim people?
4. What is the name of the pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia?
5. If people do not have enough money to travel and to take care of their families, are they supposed to take part in the pilgrimage?
6. Why is the ihram worn on Hajj?

### VOCABULARY:

**Five Pillars:** The five fundamental beliefs and actions of Muslim people  
**Monotheism:** The belief in only one God

## LOCAL STORIES

1. How does Zacharia describe the crowded nature of Hajj in a way that people who live in Asheville or Buncombe County can understand?
2. Zacharia mentions the changes and growth around Mecca in more recent years to accommodate the large numbers of pilgrims. Think of a place where you travel with your family. Describe how it has changed over the years.
3. One of the rituals pilgrims perform during Hajj is walking around the Ka'bah, a large cubical structure believed to be a very holy building. How many times do people walk around? What is the religious significance of this number? Where else do we see this number?
4. *DISCUSSION/REFLECTION*: Many of the activities for Hajj are ways for people to reenact and remember stories from the Koran. Can you think of any other religious traditions where people reenact stories from their holy text?

# BUDDHISM AND SHINTO

## INTRODUCING THE JOURNEY



Pilgrims on the Japanese Island of Shikoku.

Photo Courtesy of Jasmin Gentling

### VOCABULARY:

**Shinto:** a native religion of Japan focused on devotion to deities of natural forces and harmony between humans and nature

**Devotee:** an ardent follower, admirer, supporter, or worshiper

### LOCAL STORIES

1. What was the Buddha's original name?
  2. *MATH:* How many years ago was Buddhism founded?
  3. What island off the coast of Japan has been is an ancient pilgrimage site for people in both the Buddhist and the Shinto religion?
  4. What do pilgrims do at each of the 88 temple sites along the route?
  5. Do the ten precepts of Buddhism sound similar to the writings of other world religions? Which other writings?
1. What is the basic translation of the prayer that pilgrims in Shikoku say at each shrine?
  2. How do people show that they have been to a particular shrine?
  3. What is the most common form of modern transportation for this pilgrimage?
  4. *DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:* Which photograph on this panel interests you most? Why?

# HINDUISM



Hindu people bathing in the Ganges River as a part of a pilgrimage to Varanasi.

Photo Courtesy of Shashikant Patel

## INTRODUCING THE JOURNEY

1. Around what time period was Hinduism established?
2. Why do you think an exact date is not available?
3. What is another name for the city of Benares in Northern India? (*See if you can find a third name for the city as you read through the local pilgrimage story.*)
4. Why is this city so special to Hindu people? Give at least two reasons.
5. **MATH:** About how many miles do pilgrims walk per day during this pilgrimage?
6. **DISCUSSION/REFLECTION:** Can you think of other religious traditions from around the world where people immerse themselves in water? Why do you think people do this? What might it symbolize?

## LOCAL STORIES

1. What are two major activities people do at the Ganges River when on pilgrimage?
2. What does the sound “Om” mean in Hinduism (and some other traditions)?
3. Even in religious traditions, people must obey safety regulations so that everyone can have a positive experience. For example, during the Muslim pilgrimage there are rules that help people function in very large crowds. What safety precaution can you find for the pilgrimage to Varanasi?
4. Describe two other religious traditions in which people light candles for ceremonies or in remembrance.

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### VOCABULARY:

**Mantra:** a sacred word or phrase repeated in meditation, reflection, or prayer.