

TOPIC: RELIGION

Introduction to Religion

- ◆ **Religion:** Social institution of beliefs, values, and practices that focus on the _____.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How does religion create social cohesion?
- How does religion uphold or eliminate conflict?
- How is something designated as sacred?

Religious Experiences

Encounters that make people feel _____ to the divine.



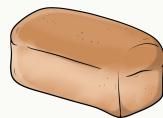
- ◆ Durkheim was the first sociologist to study religion → proposed a distinction between:

Sacred: Things treated with _____.



- Items serve as symbols for religious practice.

Profane: _____ aspects of life.



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EXAMPLE

Based on your experience, write three examples of things that are sacred and three related examples of things that are profane. An example has been done for you.

Sacred	Profane
The U.S. Constitution	A piece of paper
1)	1)
2)	2)
3)	3)

PRACTICE

Which of the following statements about religion is true?

- a) Religious experiences often make people feel less connected to the divine.
- b) All religions observe the same beliefs as sacred.
- c) Religion focuses on the profane.
- d) Religions involve rituals, which can create a sense of social cohesion.

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Types of Religion

- ◆ Religions can be categorized by their focus:

Animism: Worship that focuses on the _____ world.

- Shintoism.



Theism: Worshipping a god or gods.

- **Monotheism:** Belief in ____ god.
 - Abrahamic religions.
- **Polytheism:** Belief in _____ gods.
 - Ancient Greek, Hinduism.



Ethicalism: Adhering to _____ or moral principles to achieve spiritual fulfillment.

- Buddhism.



- ◆ Some religions have elements of _____ categories (ex: Hinduism, Shintoism).

EXAMPLE

Match the religions below to the category that describes them.

Animism	
Ethicalism	
Theism	

a) Buddhism.	d) Christianity.
b) Shintoism	e) Hinduism.
c) Islam.	f) Judaism.

PRACTICE

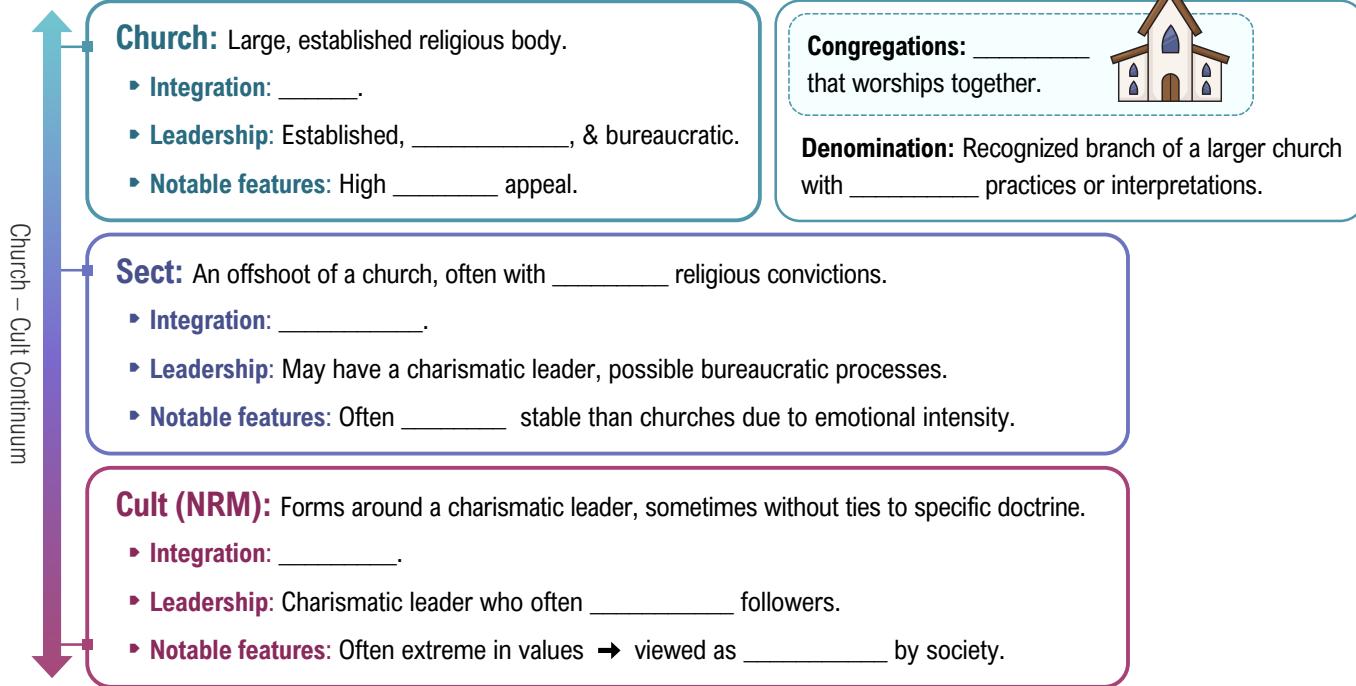
Archaeologists excavate an ancient society and find many objects that appear to be for sacred rituals. The objects are shaped as different animals. Which of the following terms would likely be used to describe this civilization's religion?

- a) Monotheistic.
- b) Polytheistic.
- c) Animistic.
- d) Ethical.

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Religious Organizations

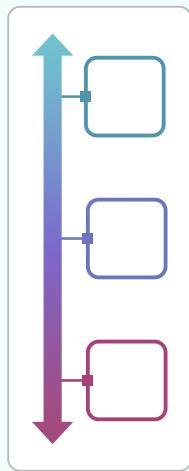
- ◆ Religious organizations can have a variety of _____.



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EXAMPLE

Match the religions below to the category that describes them.



- a) In this organization, members must wear only the color red, live on a secluded compound, and follow the teachings of their charismatic leader.
- b) In this organization, clergy are trained in specialized university programs. Followers of this organization attend service about every week, but some less frequently. Membership is open to the general public.
- c) In this organization, followers follow the teachings of their leaders very strictly. They have high expectations for attending service and live based on a set of spiritual rules, but they still interact with the broader society.

PRACTICE

Which of the following are the **most** integrated into society?

- a) Cults.
- b) Sects.
- c) Churches.
- d) New Religious Movements.

PRACTICE

Which of the following best describes a denomination?

- a) A local church where members worship and have social events together.
- b) An exclusive group led by a charismatic leader.
- c) An unrecognized, extremist branch of a church that isolates its members.
- d) A recognized branch of a larger religion that has a set of distinct values and practices.