

Comparing Religions

Purpose:

To compare and contrast the religions of Christianity and Bhuddism.

Rationale:

Religions, while mostly covered in sixth grade, is an integral part of any study of ancient cultures. Comparing and contrasting is a social studies skill that students need to hone, as they will be using it throughout their educational career.

Essential Questions:

1. What are the main aspects of Christianity?
2. What are the main aspects of Buddhism?
3. How do they differ?

As students are researching, they should focus on things such as founders, leaders, lace of origin, core beliefs, views of other religions, etc. Students should not get bogged down with specific dogma, but rather concentrate on core beliefs.

Materials:

Computers with internet access, Venn Diagram

Activity:

Before beginning, please realize that this lesson should not be the students' first interaction with Buddhism. This activity is contingent on the students having at least been exposed to Buddhism prior.

This is a two to three day activity in which the students will study online resources about Buddhism and Christianity.

The students will start by viewing and interacting with the two websites. They are not limited to only these sites, but should start there before researching other sites. As they search through the material, they are to take notes on the similarities and differences of the two religions. This research should take a period or two to finish.

Once the students have collected their research, they should get a copy of the Venn diagram. They are to use their notes to compare and contrast the two religions with the Venn Diagram. This portion should take about one class period.

As an extension, students could research specific texts from Christianity and Buddhism and include

quotes as part of their compare and contrast activity.

Assessment:

The assessment for this activity will be the venn diagram that the students have created. They should be graded on accurate and well researched information.

Websites:

[http://www.diffen.com/difference/Buddhism vs Christianity](http://www.diffen.com/difference/Buddhism_vs_Christianity)

<http://frimmin.com/faith/lotuscross.php>

Additional Websites:

http://www.religionfacts.com/big_religion_chart.htm

<http://www.religioustolerance.org/buddhism4.htm>

<https://sites.google.com/a/guhsd.net/ap-world-review-2011/topics/a11>

Name _____

Venn Diagram-1

