RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

IN YOUR SCHOOLS, IN YOUR COMMUNITIES, AND IN THE WORLD
STEREOTYPE

• A stereotype is an assumption made about a group of people based off their religion, skin color, ethnicity, gender, background etc. Stereotypes are often offensive, as they typically group people together in unflattering ways.
WHAT IS "RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE"?

THE ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND, RESPECT, AND ACCEPT OTHER RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, PRACTICES, AND MORALS.
WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO PRACTICE RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE?

RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE CAN LEAD TO BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND DISCRIMINATION; ESPECIALLY FOR RELIGIOUS MINORITIES.
RELIGIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

- Christianity: 71%
- Judaism: 23%
- Islam: 1%
- Hinduism: 1%
- Buddhism: 1%
- Other: 2%
- Unaffiliated: 1%
WHAT WAS THE LESSON OF THIS VIDEO?
DO KIDS GET BULLIED IN AMERICA TODAY BECAUSE OF THEIR RELIGION?
BULLYING IN AMERICA

In 2011 a 14-year old girl was called a “dirty Jew” by her classmates and was told she would “rot in hell” for not believing in Jesus Christ.

In 2015, 1 in 3 Hindu high school students reported being bullied due to their religious beliefs.

In 2015, a Christian-based school club, “Young Life and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes” was reported conducting a meeting in which they described Christianity as the “right” religion and specifically addressed Islam in a negative and offensive manner. This all happened while a Muslim student was attending for the purpose of capturing the club for the yearbook.

In 2014, it was reported that a Muslim girl was physically assaulted in school, as children surrounded her, ripped off her hijab, stomped on it, and called her a “terrorist” as she struggled to cover her hair and face.
WHY IS RELIGIOUS BULLYING SO DANGEROUS?
SO WHY DOES RELIGIOUS BULLYING HAPPEN?

STEREOTYPES

IGNORANCE
CHRISTIANITY

Believes in one God.

Follows the teachings of Jesus Christ, a Jewish carpenter.

Jesus Christ is believed to be the Son of God, Christianity’s messiah, and offers a happy afterlife in heaven if you live a good life.

Sacred text is the Bible, which is split into two parts: the New Testament and the Old Testament.
JUDAISM
Believes in one God.
Sacred text is the Torah, which is repeated in Christianity’s Old Testament.
Still waiting for Messiah
Has several important religious figures, such as Moses, David, and Abraham.
ISLAM

Believes in one God.

Sacred text is the Quran.

Most important religious figure is Muhammad.

Muhammad is believed to be God’s Messenger, and brought the idea of one God to prophets such as Jesus, Adam, Moses, Abraham, and David.
HINDUISM

Follows and believes in multiple gods and goddesses

No founding prophet or messiah

Practices yoga and meditation

Look to fulfill dharma, or the “right way of living”

Believes in karma: being punished for doing bad and rewarded for doing good.
GAME
WHAT RELIGION BELIEVES IN MULTIPLE GODS?
HINDUISM!
WHICH RELIGION CELEBRATES PASSOVER?
JUDAISM!
WHICH RELIGION CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS?
CHRISTIANITY!
RELIGION PRACTICED BY MUSLIMS?
ISLAM!
WHICH RELIGION EATS CHALLAH BREAD, ESPECIALLY ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS?
JUDAISM!
WHICH RELIGION CELEBRATES DIWALI, OR THE “FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS?”
HINDUISM!
WHICH RELIGION READS THE BIBLE?
CHRISTIANITY!
WHICH RELIGION PRACTICES YOGA AND MEDITATION?
HINDUISM!
WHICH RELIGION READS THE TORAH?
JUDAISM!
In which religion do some female followers wear hijabs, or headscarves?
ISLAM!
WHICH RELIGION PRACTICES THE HEBREW LANGUAGE?
JUDAISM!
WHICH RELIGION CELEBRATES EASTER SUNDAY?
CHRISTIANITY
WHICH RELIGION TEACHES WE MUST BE GOOD PEOPLE AND KIND TO OTHERS?
ISLAM, JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND HINDUISM!
WHAT CAN I DO TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE?

Invite a friend from a different religion or culture to a family tradition, holiday, or service!

Visit a local church, synagogue, mosque, or cultural center to learn more about other religions!

Report any bullying or discrimination you see around your school to an adult!
ANALYZING RELIGIOUS ART

1. Is this picture from a Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or Hindu tradition?

2. When do you think it was created?

3. Where would it be displayed?

4. What theme or message does it portray?