

# World Religion Day

## What Is World Religion Day?

World Religion Day is celebrated every January on the third Sunday of the month. It is a special day when all religions are celebrated.

People who follow the Bahá'í Faith believe that the main religions around the world share some core ideas, for example, treating other people in the way you would want to be treated.

## How It Began

World Religion Day was started by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith. It began in the state of Maine in the United States as a day for World Peace Through World Religion in October 1947. By 1949, the event was being held in other areas in the US and in 1950, it became known as World Religion Day.

It was decided that for one day a year, all religions should be celebrated and their similarities appreciated.

## The Six Main Religions

Around the world, there are many religions and faiths. However, the six main religions are Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Each of these religions encourage kindness to others.

### Sikhism

- I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.



### Christianity

- In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.



### Hinduism

- This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.



### Buddhism

- Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.



**Judaism**

- What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.

**Islam**

- Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.

**How It Is Celebrated**

World Religion Day is celebrated in a variety of different ways. Many people attend special services. The focus of these services is to gain a better understanding of other religions and to celebrate the similarities between them all. It is about promoting the common message to treat each other with respect to create a better world for everyone.

**How Can We Celebrate World Religion Day?**

- Take the time to learn about different faiths from around the world.
- Become aware of how many different religions there are, even the smaller, lesser-known ones.
- Speak to others about their religion and take the time to speak to people about yours.

**Aims of World Religion Day:**

To develop understanding between all religions

To unite everyone, whatever their religious beliefs



# Questions

1. When is World Religion Day celebrated each year? Tick one.

- ☐ the third Sunday in June
- ☐ the fourth Sunday in July
- ☐ the fourth Sunday in January
- ☐ the third Sunday in January

2. Draw **three** lines to match up the statements.

In 1950...

the event was known as World Peace Through World Religion.

In 1947...

the event became known as World Religion Day.

In 1949...

the event was held in other areas of the US.

3. How many main worldwide religions are there considered to be? Tick one.

- ☐ five
- ☐ six
- ☐ seven
- ☐ eight

4. Draw **three** lines to match the statements to the religion.

Judaism

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

Hinduism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.

Buddhism

This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.

5. What one thing do the main religions encourage?

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6. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'bringing people together'.

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7. In your own words, describe the purpose of World Religion Day.

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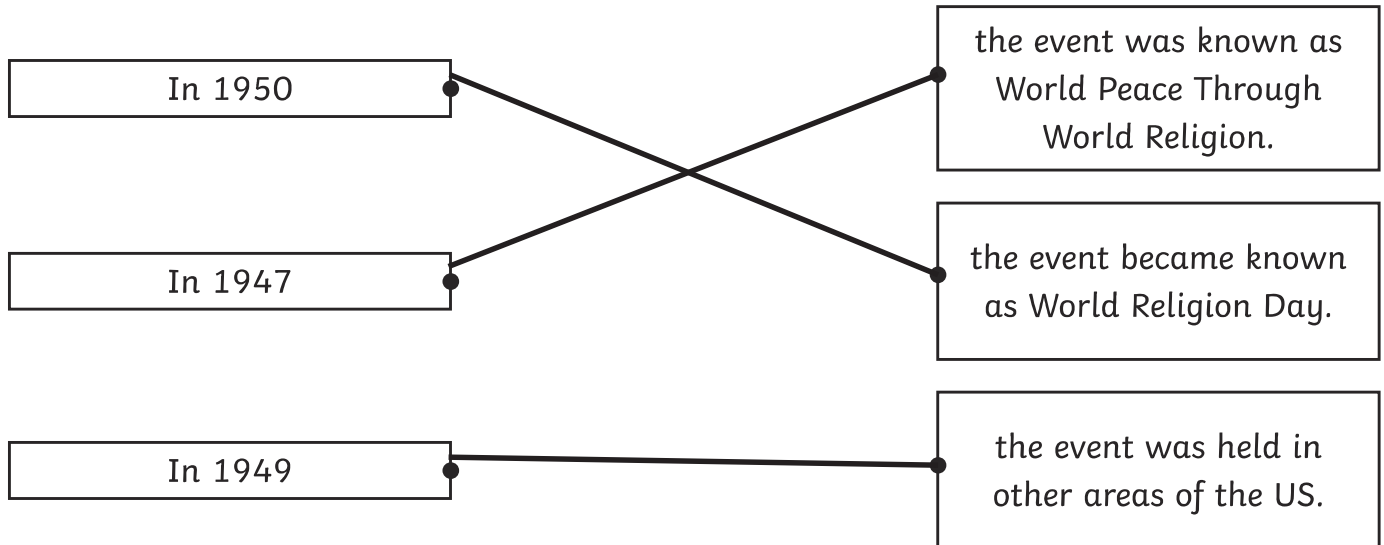
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# Answers

1. When is World Religion Day celebrated each year? Tick one.

- ☐ the third Sunday in June
- ☐ the fourth Sunday in July
- ☐ the fourth Sunday in January
- ☒ **the third Sunday in January**

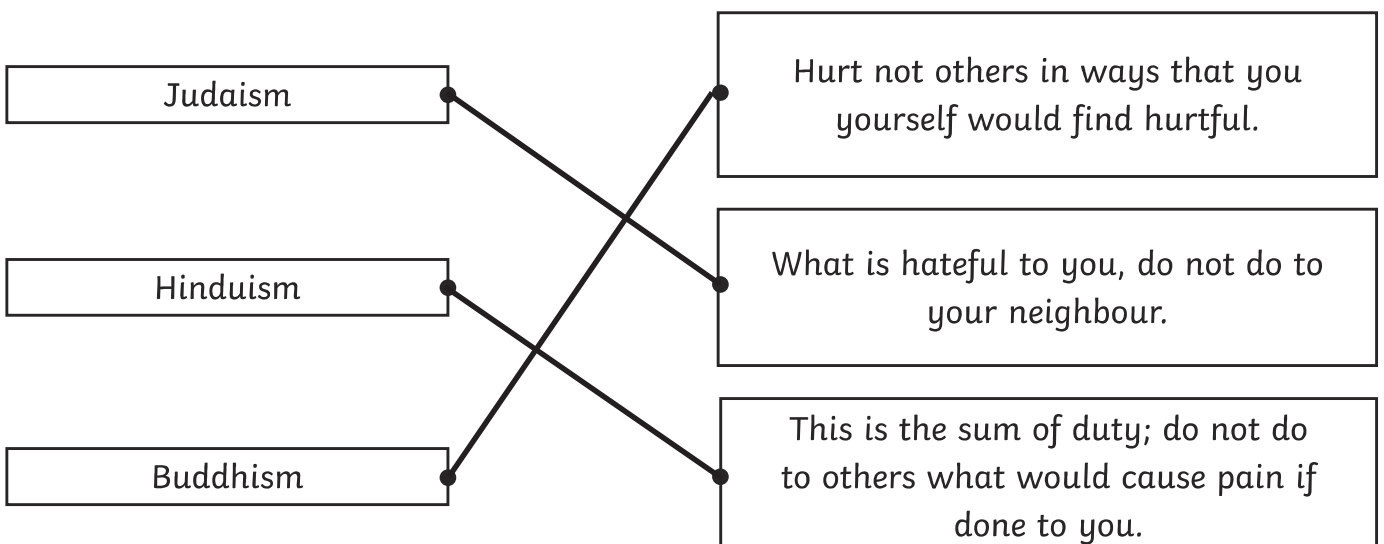
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3. How many main worldwide religions are there considered to be? Tick one.

- ☐ five
- ☒ **six**
- ☐ seven
- ☐ eight

4. Draw **three** lines to match the statements to the religion.



5. What one thing do the main religions encourage?

**The six main religions encourage kindness to others.**

6. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'bringing people together'.

**unite**

7. In your own words, describe the purpose of World Religion Day.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the purpose of World Religion Day is to celebrate and recognise the things which are similar and different between worldwide religions.**