

16 I BELIEVE

Aim

To encourage participants to consider the differences and similarities between and within religions

Time

30 minutes

Materials

Post-it notes, cut outs of the religion facts.

What to do

- Brainstorm what the followers of each of these religions are called: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism.
- Ask participants to sit in a circle. Go around the circle labelling people in turn with the post-it notes: Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish. Tell participants that these are the five main religions in the world. Read out the religion facts below, one at a time, and ask participants to stand up if they think that the religion fact applies to their label. Tell participants which religion(s) the fact does apply to before moving on to the next fact.
- Ask one participant to stand in the middle of the circle and take their chair away. Read though the facts again. This time, when a participant thinks a fact applies to their label, they must stand up and run around the outside of the circle until they find a new chair to sit down. The participant in the centre of the circle can take any chair as soon as it becomes empty, so a new participant should find themselves without a chair and have to stand in the middle.
- If anyone does not stand up when the fact applies to their label, tell them they have to stand up and move. This means they are likely to end up the one in the middle without a chair for that round.

Discussion Questions

- Did any of the facts surprise you? Why?
- What are the similarities and difference between the different religions?
- Are there any differences between followers of the same religion?
- What religions do we hear most about in Ireland? Where do we get this information?

RELIGION FACTS

The name of this religion literally means submission to the will or law of God.

Muslim

This religion believes that Gods exist but denies that they have any special role or that there is any value in praying and sacrificing things to them. *Buddhist*

This religion believes that every seventh day should be a day of rest when no work is performed. *Jewish and Christian*

This religion believes that there is only one God. *Islamic, Christian and Jewish.*

This religion is significant in Sri Lanka, Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Laos, China, Japan, Taiwan, Tibet, Nepal, Mongolia, Korea and Vietnam. *Buddhist*

Followers of this religion believes that after death, the soul leaves the body and is reborn in the body of another person, animal, vegetable, or mineral. *Hindu and Buddhist*

In this religion most people worship the Gods Shiva, Vishnu, or the Goddess (Devi) along with hundreds of additional minor deities. *Hindu*

This is the second largest religion in Europe. *Muslim*

This religion originated in the Middle East. *Jewish, Christian and Muslim*

This religion prohibits the eating of meat (especially beef). *Hindu*

In this religion the highest spiritual leaders are all men. *Christian, Islamic and Jewish*

This religion follows the teaching of a man who did not write down his ideas. *Buddhist and Christian*

This religion believes that nothing that humans experience is worthless; everything ultimately has meaning. *Jewish*

This religion believes that good behaviour will be rewarded and sin punished after death. *Jewish, Muslim and Christian*

In this religion women keep their own family name. *Muslim*