

Southern & Eastern
Asia's

Belief Systems

Buddhism, Hinduism,
Shintoism, and Confucianism

Brain
Wrinkles



STANDARDS:

SS7G12 Analyze the diverse cultural characteristics of the people who live in Southern and Eastern Asia.

- a. Explain the differences between an ethnic group and a religious group.
- b. Compare and contrast the belief systems originating in Southern and Eastern Asia: Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, and Confucianism.

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 1

Ethnic Group

- This is a group of people who share _____ characteristics.
- They are identified on the basis of religion, _____, or national origin.
- Ethnic groups can _____ things in common:
- Shared history, _____, language, religion, traditions, customs, holidays, food, etc.
- These characteristics have been part of their community for _____.
- All of these things make up a common culture _____ by the members of the ethnic group.
- Southern and Eastern Asia's population is a _____ of many ethnic groups.

Religious Group

- This is a group of people who share a common _____.
- A religious group is identified based on mutual _____ and practices.
- They believe in the same god (or gods) and have a common sacred text with a specific set of rules about _____.
- People from different ethnic groups may share the _____; however, they may be from different cultures.
- There are many religious groups found throughout Southern and Eastern Asia, with the most predominate being _____ and Hinduism.
- There are also followers of the religious _____ of Shintoism and Confucianism.

BUDDHISM

Origin

- Around 500 BCE, Buddhism _____ and rapidly spread from there.
- Today, Buddhism is the _____ religion in the world with 6% of the population being Buddhist.
- The religion's _____ of followers are found in Southern and Eastern Asia.

Guatama

- Buddhism was founded by the royal Indian prince _____.
- Guatama was a rich man who led a life of luxury; however, he was troubled by the _____ that he saw around him.
- He _____ and traveled around India for years, hoping to find out why people had to suffer.

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 2

Buddha

- After meditating about the _____, he finally thought he understood what had to be done.
- Guatama felt that people could find peace only if they could _____ and desire.
- He became the Buddha, or “ _____ ”, after spending so much time pondering the ways of life.

Enlightenment

- Buddha _____ ancient India sharing his enlightenment with others.
- Soon, many people became _____.
- Buddha recorded his basic teachings in the *Tripitaka*, the holy book that teaches that suffering exists in the world but humans can overcome it by _____.

Beliefs

- Buddha taught that there were Four Noble Truths in life (basic instructions that teach suffering exists in the world and humans much reach enlightenment to _____).
- Buddhists also believe in _____, a cycle of birth and rebirth, where one's behavior in this life determines what one becomes in the next life.
- Buddhists do not believe in a god or gods; instead, they _____.

Nirvana

- _____ is the ultimate goal of Buddhists.
- It is a state of enlightenment where one can have _____.
- In order to achieve Nirvana, a person must follow The Middle Way (eight _____).

Middle Way

1. Try to recognize the truth
2. Try to _____ and bad people
3. Do _____ that hurt others
4. Respect other people and their belongings
5. Choose a job that _____ to others
6. Do not think _____
7. Avoid excitement or anger
8. _____, thinking carefully about what matters in life

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 3

HINDUISM Origin

- Hinduism developed in _____ around 1500 BCE.
- Hinduism is the _____ in the world, behind Christianity and Islam.
- Today, Hinduism is largely practiced in India where _____ of Indians claim to be Hindu.

Polytheistic

- Hindus are _____, meaning they believe in many gods and goddesses.
- There are some gods, like _____, who are more significant and are worshipped more often than others.

Texts

- Hindus _____ just one holy book that they consider sacred.
- Instead, there are many important texts that teach _____.
- _____, which is composed of complicated prayers, rituals, and hymns, is one example.

Reincarnation

- All Hindus believe in reincarnation, a _____, death, and rebirth.
- They believe that the soul _____ with the body, but enters the body of another being (human or animal) to live another life.
- In Hinduism, a _____ (good or bad behavior) in one life determines his or her position, wealth, and social class in the next life.
- A soul is reincarnated over and over again until it is good enough to achieve _____.
- The goal of Hinduism is to achieve *moksha*, or _____ from the cycle of reincarnation.

Caste System

- Hindus live by the _____ - a belief that social class is hereditary and does not change throughout a person's life.
- Historically, the _____ castes was to be born into a different one in the next life.
- Traditional families would _____ children marry someone from another caste.
- Many jobs in India are _____ based on caste connections.
- The caste system _____ into 4 main classes:
 1. Brahmins (priests and wise men) – _____
 2. Kshatriyas (_____, rulers, soldiers)
 3. Vaishyas (merchants, traders, _____)
 4. Shudras (_____ and field workers)
- A fifth caste is considered even lower, the _____ or pariahs, who do work that no one else would do.
- Today, however, many Hindus can achieve a higher social class through _____ or getting an education.

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 4

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SHINTOISM

Origin

- Shintoism is a belief system that is _____.
- It _____ to other parts of the world.
- Shintoism was once the official state religion of Japan and is still _____ among the Japanese today.

Kami

- Shintoism is based on the traditional Japanese teaching that everything in nature contains *kami*, or the _____.
- Many Japanese believe that the mountains and rivers in Japan are home to these *kami* and are considered _____.
- Shrines are built to help _____ believed to have become *kami* after death.
- Shintoists offer prayers and perform rituals to _____ the *kami*.
- Most Japanese households have a small altar where the family will offer prayers for the spirits they hope will _____ them.

Beliefs

- Shintoism _____, primary god or text.
- Instead, Shintoists _____ that help connect them to nature and to their ancestors.
- Shintoists are expected to respect and honor all _____.
- Shintoism also teaches that _____ (cleanliness) is more important than moral purity.
- Followers must perform many ceremonies and rituals to _____ the world.
- Since Shinto offers no ideas of a moral code, a god, or life after death, many Japanese who practice Shinto also _____ as well.

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 5

THE PHILOSOPHY OF CONFUCIANISM

Origin

- Confucianism is not a religion but rather _____ that is often said to be the foundation of modern Chinese culture.
- Confucianism was declared the official guiding practice for the _____ in 121 BCE.
- It has continued to have great influence on Chinese government for over _____.

Confucius

- Confucius was born in 550 BCE, a time when the government was having _____ and warlords controlled much of the land.
- He believed he knew how to bring peace to ancient China – the key was for people to behave with _____ and virtue.
- Confucius created a _____ for social life and politics that every person should follow in order to bring peace to China.

Beliefs

- Confucianism is based on _____ and does not follow one ruling god.
- It teaches that each person has a place in society and that he or she must _____ if society is to function in harmony.
- There are five basic types of _____: ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older brother and younger brother, & friend and friend.

Golden Rule

- Confucius believed that if each relationship were _____, there would be peace and harmony in the country.
- His _____ of Behavior was “What you do not like when done unto yourself, do not unto others.”
- Confucianism is a belief system based on good _____.

Southern & Eastern

Asia's
Belief

Systems

Buddhism, Hinduism,
Shintoism, and Confucianism

**Brain
Wrinkles**



Ethnic Group

- This is a group of people who share common cultural characteristics.
- They are identified on the basis of religion, race, or national origin.
- Ethnic groups can have many things in common:
 - Shared history, physical appearance, language, religion, traditions, customs, holidays, food, etc.

Ethnic Group

- These characteristics have been part of their community for generations.
- All of these things make up a common culture that is shared by the members of the ethnic group.
- Southern and Eastern Asia's population is a unique blend of many ethnic groups.



Tagalogs of the
Philippines



Chams of Vietnam

Religious Group

- This is a group of people who share a common belief system.
- A religious group is identified based on mutual religious beliefs and practices.
- They believe in the same god (or gods) and have a common sacred text with a specific set of rules about how to live.

Religious Group

- People from different ethnic groups may share the same religion; however, they may be from different cultures.
- There are many religious groups found throughout Southern and Eastern Asia, with the most predominate being Buddhism and Hinduism.
- There are also followers of the religious philosophies of Shintoism and Confucianism.

Tibetan Buddhist Monks



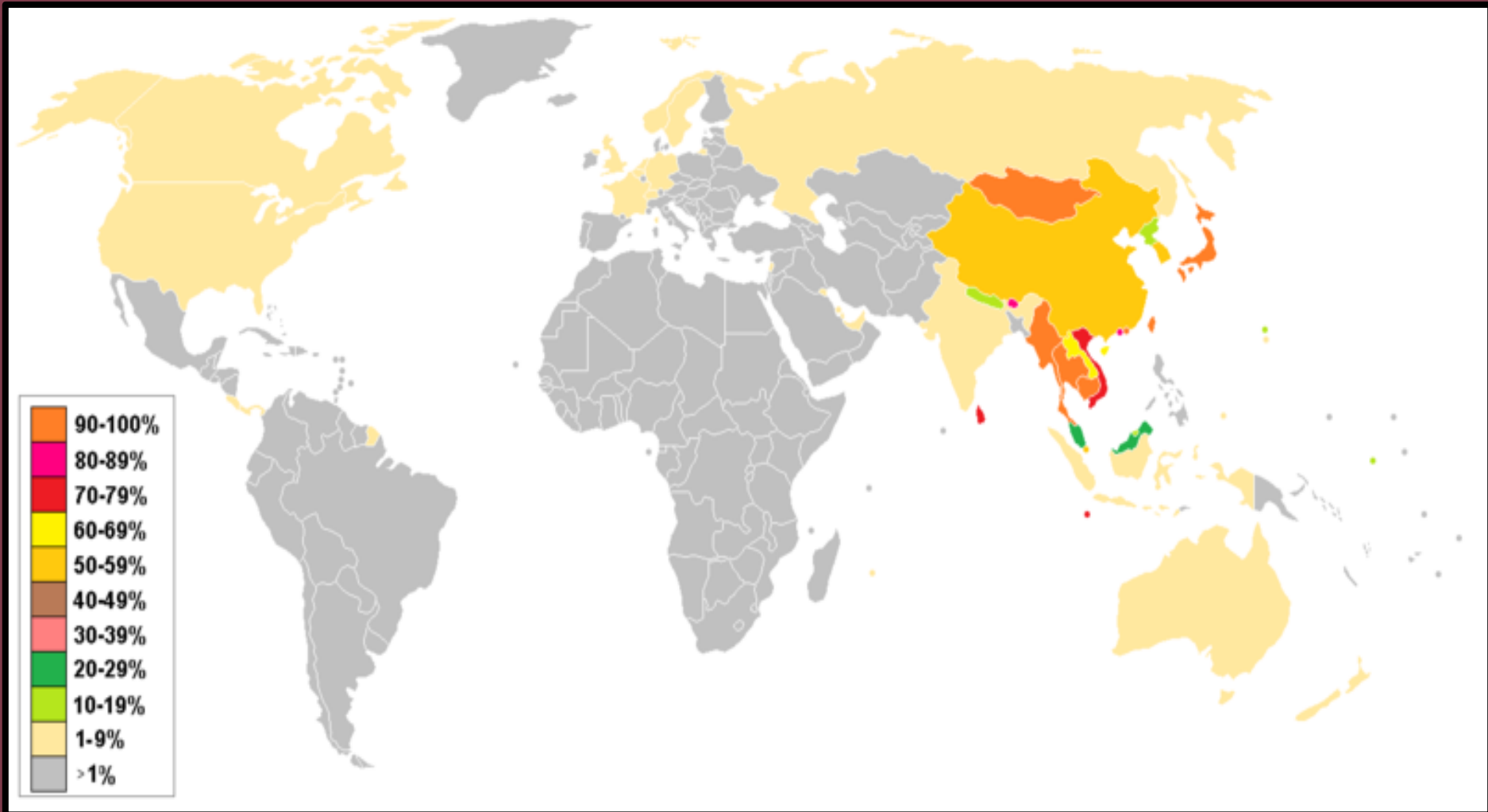
The image features a vibrant, multi-colored zigzag pattern in shades of green, yellow, orange, and purple. In the center, there is a large teal oval with a white border. Inside this oval, the word "Buddhism" is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font with a yellow outline and a slight drop shadow.

Buddhism

Origin

- Around 500 BCE, Buddhism originated in India and rapidly spread from there.
- Today, Buddhism is the fourth largest religion in the world with 6% of the population being Buddhist.
- The religion's largest numbers of followers are found in Southern and Eastern Asia.

Distribution of Buddhists Around the World



Guatama

- Buddhism was founded by the royal Indian prince Siddhartha Gautama.
- Guatama was a rich man who led a life of luxury; however, he was troubled by the poverty and suffering that he saw around him.
- He became a monk and traveled around India for years, hoping to find out why people had to suffer.



One of the earliest
statues of Siddhartha
Guatama – circa 1st-2nd
century CE.

Buddha

- After meditating about the unhappiness of man, he finally thought he understood what had to be done.
- Guatama felt that people could find peace only if they could reject greed and desire.
- He became the Buddha, or “enlightened one”, after spending so much time pondering the ways of life.

Painting of Buddha Surrounded By Monks



Enlightenment

- Buddha traveled all over ancient India sharing his enlightenment with others.
- Soon, many people became devout followers.
- Buddha recorded his basic teachings in the *Tripitaka*, the holy book that teaches that suffering exists in the world but humans can overcome it by becoming enlightened.

Sarnath – where Buddha gave his first sermon.



Beliefs

- Buddha taught that there were Four Noble Truths in life (basic instructions that teach suffering exists in the world and humans must reach enlightenment to rise above it).
- Buddhists also believe in reincarnation, a cycle of birth and rebirth, where one's behavior in this life determines what one becomes in the next life.
- Buddhists do not believe in a god or gods; instead, they follow Buddha's teachings.

Buddha Tooth Relic Temple - Singapore



Nirvana

- Nirvana is the ultimate goal of Buddhists.
- It is a state of enlightenment where one can have happiness and peace.
- In order to achieve Nirvana, a person must follow The Middle Way (eight rules for conduct).



Mahabodhi
temple in India -
Where Buddha
attained nirvana
under the Bodhi
tree.

Middle Way

1. Try to recognize the truth
2. Try to avoid evil actions and bad people
3. Do not say things that hurt others
4. Respect other people and their belongings
5. Choose a job that does no harm to others
6. Do not think evil thoughts
7. Avoid excitement or anger
8. Work at meditation, thinking carefully about what matters in life

Buddha Memorial Center - Taiwan



The image features a vibrant, multi-colored zigzag pattern in shades of green, yellow, orange, and purple. In the center, there is a large teal oval with a white border. Inside this oval, the word "Hinduism" is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font with a yellow outline and a slight drop shadow.

Hinduism

Origin

- Hinduism developed in ancient India around 1500 BCE.
- Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world, behind Christianity and Islam.
- Today, Hinduism is largely practiced in India where over 80% of Indians claim to be Hindu.

Akshardham Temple in Delhi – World's Largest Hindu Temple



Polytheistic

- Hindus are polytheistic, meaning they believe in many gods and goddesses.
- There are some gods, like Shiva and Vishnu, who are more significant and are worshipped more often than others.

Statue of Shiva – 65 Ft. Tall



Texts

- Hindus do not have just one holy book that they consider sacred.
- Instead, there are many important texts that teach proper Hindu behavior.
- The *Vedas*, which is composed of complicated prayers, rituals, and hymns, is one example.

Reincarnation

- All Hindus believe in reincarnation, a cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.
- They believe that the soul does not die with the body, but enters the body of another being (human or animal) to live another life.
- In Hinduism, a person's karma (good or bad behavior) in one life determines his or her position, wealth, and social class in the next life.

Some animals, like the cow, are especially sacred, and many Hindus are vegetarians.



Reincarnation

- A soul is reincarnated over and over again until it is good enough to achieve *moksha*.
- The goal of Hindus is to achieve *moksha*, or peace and freedom from the cycle of reincarnation.

Diwali “Festival of Lights” – Hindu Celebration in India



Caste System

- Hindus live by the caste system - a belief that social class is hereditary and does not change throughout a person's life.
- Historically, the only way to change castes was to be born into a different one in the next life.
- Traditional families would not let their children marry someone from another caste.
- Many jobs in India are still awarded based on caste connections.

Caste System

- The caste system divides people into 4 main classes:
 1. Brahmans (priests and wise men) – highest class
 2. Kashatriyas (warriors, rulers, soldiers)
 3. Vaishyas (merchants, traders, small farmers)
 4. Shudras (peasants and field workers)
- A fifth caste is considered even lower, the untouchables or pariahs, who do work that no one else would do.
- Today, however, many Hindus can achieve a higher social class through learning new skills or getting an education.

School of Untouchables – Early 1900s





The Philosophy of **Shintoism**

Origin

- Shintoism is a belief system that is unique to Japan.
- It has not spread to other parts of the world.
- Shintoism was once the official state religion of Japan and is still widely honored among the Japanese today.

Kami

- Shintoism is based on the traditional Japanese teaching that everything in nature contains *kami*, or the spirit of a god.
- Many Japanese believe that the mountains and rivers in Japan are home to these *kami* and are considered very sacred.

Mt. Fuji – Sacred to Shintoism



Kami

- Shrines are built to help worship ancestors believed to have become *kami* after death.
- Shintoists offer prayers and perform rituals to honor and please the *kami*.
- Most Japanese households have a small altar where the family will offer prayers for the spirits they hope will bless and protect them.

Torii gates mark the separation between the human world and the world of the kami.



Torii Gates Outside of a Shinto Shrine

Beliefs

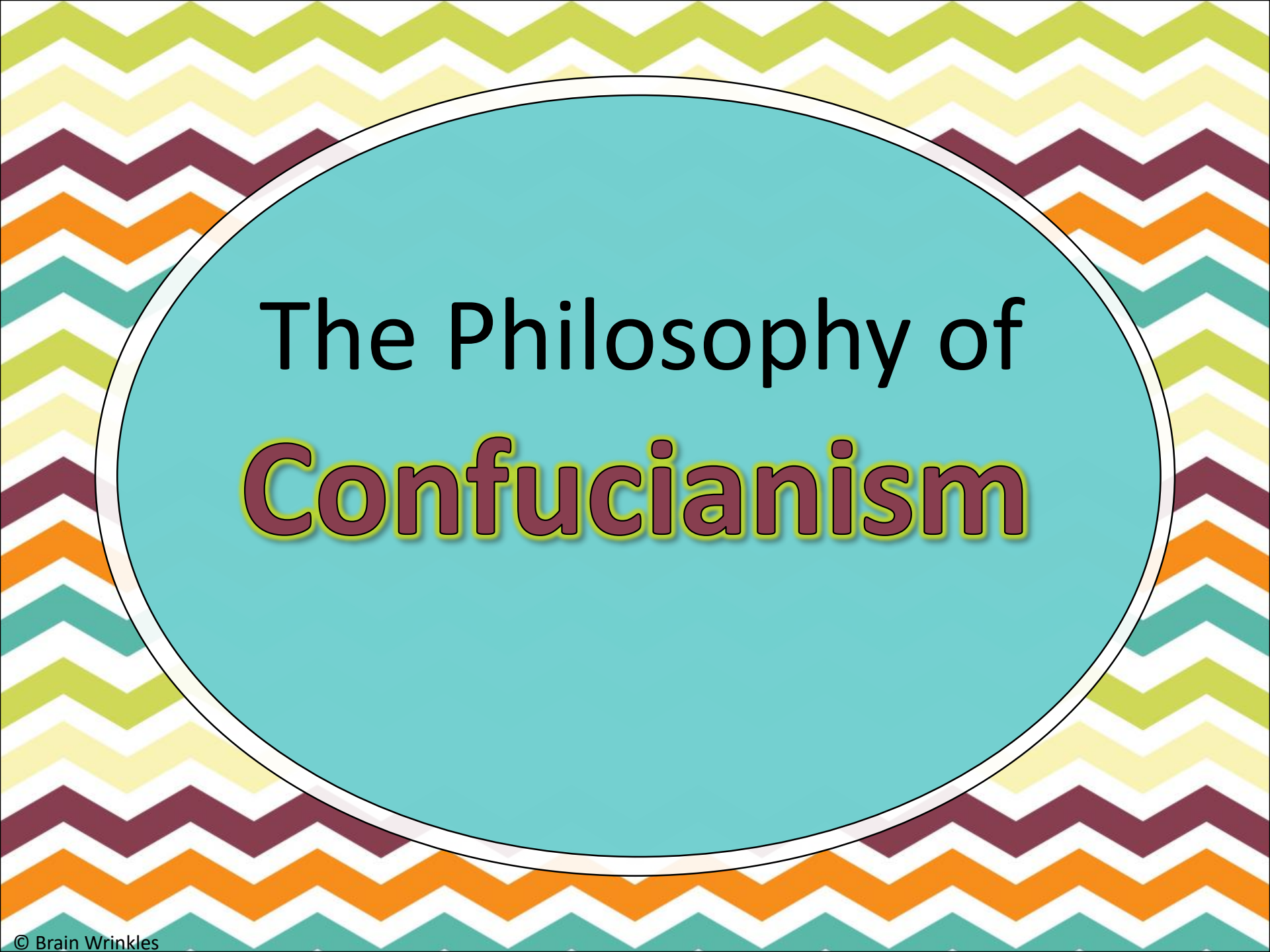
- Shintoism follows no single, primary god or text.
- Instead, Shintoists follow daily rituals that help connect them to nature and to their ancestors.
- Shintoists are expected to respect and honor all life and nature.

Beliefs

- Shintoism also teaches that physical purity (cleanliness) is more important than moral purity.
- Followers must perform many ceremonies and rituals to cleanse and purify the world.
- Since Shinto offers no ideas of a moral code, a god, or life after death, many Japanese who practice Shinto also practice another religion as well.



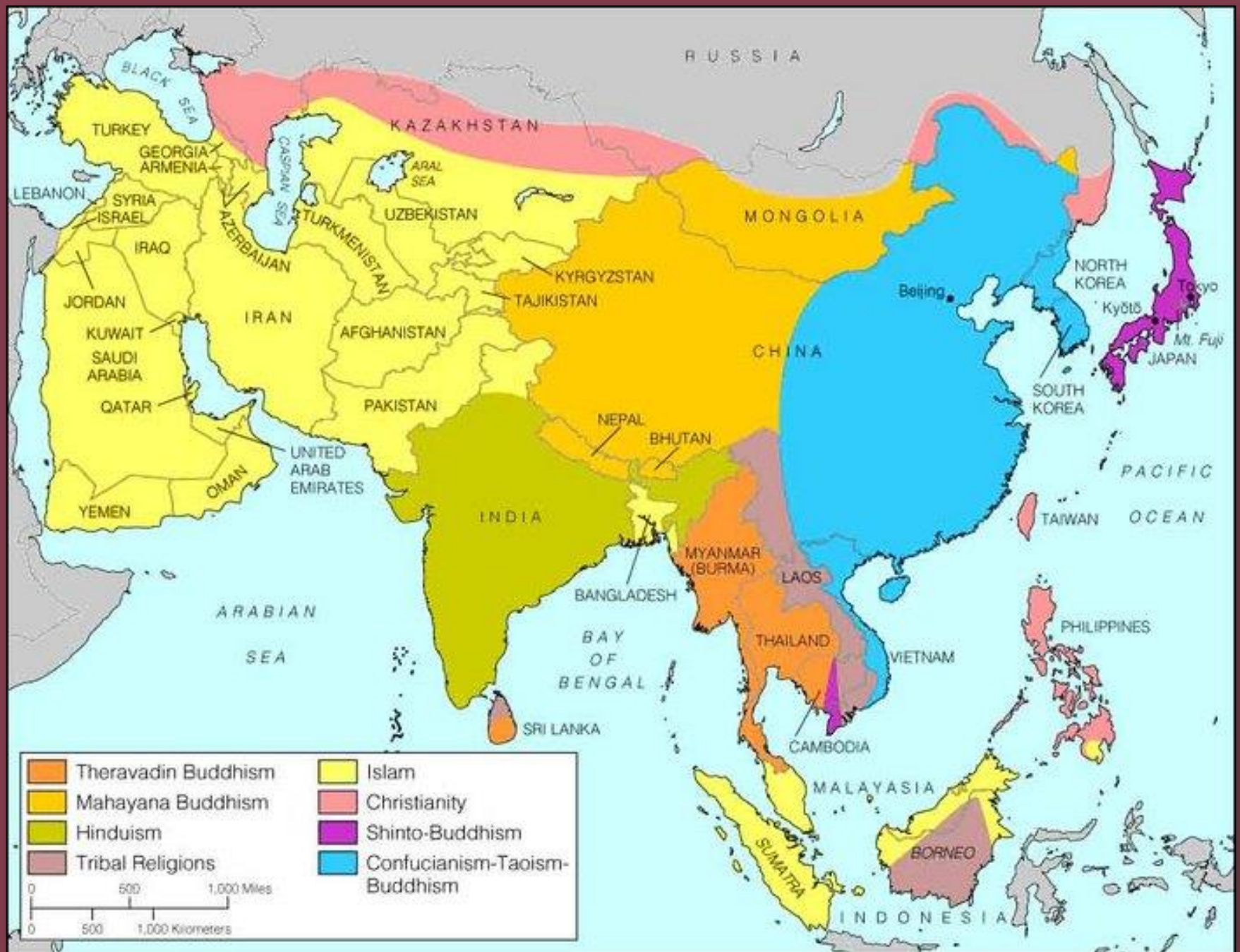
Shinto Shrine



The Philosophy of **Confucianism**

Origin

- Confucianism is not a religion but rather a philosophy that is often said to be the foundation of modern Chinese culture.
- Confucianism was declared the official guiding practice for the Chinese government in 121 BCE.
- It has continued to have great influence on Chinese government for over 2000 years.



Confucius

- Confucius was born in 550 BCE, a time when the government was having trouble keeping order and warlords controlled much of the land.
- He believed he knew how to bring peace to ancient China – the key was for people to behave with good character and virtue.
- Confucius created a moral structure for social life and politics that every person should follow in order to bring peace to China.



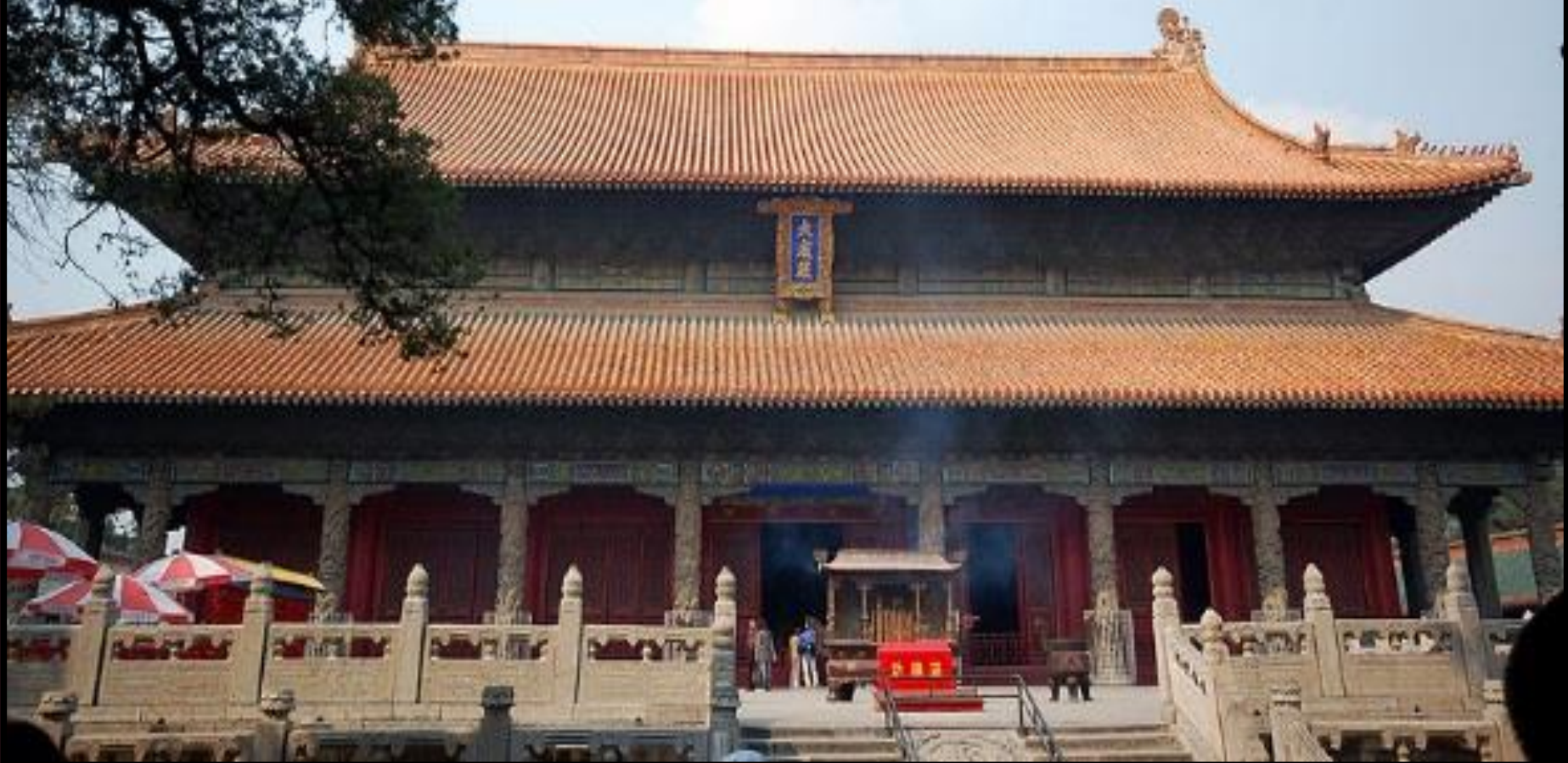
Beliefs

- Confucianism is based on society and traditions and does not follow one ruling god.
- It teaches that each person has a place in society and that he or she must accept that position if society is to function in harmony.
- There are five basic types of relationships in society: ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older brother and younger brother, & friend and friend.

Golden Rule

- Confucius believed that if each relationship were based on kindness, there would be peace and harmony in the country.
- His Golden Rule of Behavior was “What you do not like when done unto yourself, do not unto others.”
- Confucianism is a belief system based on good deeds and morality.

Temple & Cemetery of Confucius in his Hometown



SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 1

Ethnic Group

- This is a group of people who share **common cultural** characteristics.
- They are identified on the basis of religion, **race**, or national origin.
- Ethnic groups can **have many** things in common:
- Shared history, **physical appearance**, language, religion, traditions, customs, holidays, food, etc.
- These characteristics have been part of their community for **generations**.
- All of these things make up a common culture **that is shared** by the members of the ethnic group.
- Southern and Eastern Asia's population is a **unique blend** of many ethnic groups.

Religious Group

- This is a group of people who share a common **belief system**.
- A religious group is identified based on mutual **religious beliefs** and practices.
- They believe in the same god (or gods) and have a common sacred text with a specific set of rules about **how to live**.
- People from different ethnic groups may share the **same religion**; however, they may be from different cultures.
- There are many religious groups found throughout Southern and Eastern Asia, with the most predominate being **Buddhism** and Hinduism.
- There are also followers of the religious **philosophies** of Shintoism and Confucianism.

BUDDHISM

Origin

- Around 500 BCE, Buddhism **originated in India** and rapidly spread from there.
- Today, Buddhism is the **fourth largest** religion in the world with 6% of the population being Buddhist.
- The religion's **largest numbers** of followers are found in Southern and Eastern Asia.

Guatama

- Buddhism was founded by the royal Indian prince **Siddhartha Gautama**.
- Guatama was a rich man who led a life of luxury; however, he was troubled by the **poverty and suffering** that he saw around him.
- He **became a monk** and traveled around India for years, hoping to find out why people had to suffer.

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 2

Buddha

- After meditating about the **unhappiness of man**, he finally thought he understood what had to be done.
- Guatama felt that people could find peace only if they could **reject greed** and desire.
- He became the Buddha, or "**enlightened one**", after spending so much time pondering the ways of life.

Enlightenment

- Buddha **traveled all over** ancient India sharing his enlightenment with others.
- Soon, many people became **devout followers**.
- Buddha recorded his basic teachings in the *Tripitaka*, the holy book that teaches that suffering exists in the world but humans can overcome it by **becoming enlightened**.

Beliefs

- Buddha taught that there were Four Noble Truths in life (basic instructions that teach suffering exists in the world and humans much reach enlightenment to **rise above it**).
- Buddhists also believe in **reincarnation**, a cycle of birth and rebirth, where one's behavior in this life determines what one becomes in the next life.
- Buddhists do not believe in a god or gods; instead, they **follow Buddha's teachings**.

Nirvana

- **Nirvana** is the ultimate goal of Buddhists.
- It is a state of enlightenment where one can have **happiness and peace**.
- In order to achieve Nirvana, a person must follow The Middle Way (eight **rules for conduct**).

Middle Way

1. Try to recognize the truth
2. Try to **avoid evil actions** and bad people
3. Do **not say things** that hurt others
4. Respect other people and their belongings
5. Choose a job that **does no harm** to others
6. Do not think **evil thoughts**
7. Avoid excitement or anger
8. **Work at meditation**, thinking carefully about what matters in life

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 3

HINDUISM

Origin

- Hinduism developed in **ancient India** around 1500 BCE.
- Hinduism is the **third largest religion** in the world, behind Christianity and Islam.
- Today, Hinduism is largely practiced in India where **over 80%** of Indians claim to be Hindu.

Polytheistic

- Hindus are **polytheistic**, meaning they believe in many gods and goddesses.
- There are some gods, like **Shiva and Vishnu**, who are more significant and are worshipped more often than others.

Texts

- Hindus **do not have** just one holy book that they consider sacred.
- Instead, there are many important texts that teach **proper Hindu behavior**.
- **The Vedas**, which is composed of complicated prayers, rituals, and hymns, is one example.

Reincarnation

- All Hindus believe in reincarnation, a **cycle of birth**, death, and rebirth.
- They believe that the soul **does not die** with the body, but enters the body of another being (human or animal) to live another life.
- In Hinduism, a **person's karma** (good or bad behavior) in one life determines his or her position, wealth, and social class in the next life.
- A soul is reincarnated over and over again until it is good enough to achieve **moksha**.
- The goal of Hindus is to achieve **moksha**, or **peace and freedom** from the cycle of reincarnation.

Caste System

- Hindus live by the **caste system** - a belief that social class is hereditary and does not change throughout a person's life.
- Historically, the **only way to change** castes was to be born into a different one in the next life.
- Traditional families would **not let their children** marry someone from another caste.
- Many jobs in India are **still awarded** based on caste connections.
- The caste system **divides people** into 4 main classes:
 1. Brahmins (priests and wise men) – **highest class**
 2. Kashatriyas (**warriors**, rulers, soldiers)
 3. Vaishyas (merchants, traders, **small farmers**)
 4. Shudras (**peasants** and field workers)
- A fifth caste is considered even lower, the **untouchables** or pariahs, who do work that no one else would do.
- Today, however, many Hindus can achieve a higher social class through **learning new skills** or getting an education.

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 4

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SHINTOISM

Origin

- Shintoism is a belief system that is **unique to Japan**.
- It **has not spread** to other parts of the world.
- Shintoism was once the official state religion of Japan and is still **widely honored** among the Japanese today.

Kami

- Shintoism is based on the traditional Japanese teaching that everything in nature contains *kami*, or the **spirit of a god**.
- Many Japanese believe that the mountains and rivers in Japan are home to these *kami* and are considered **very sacred**.
- Shrines are built to help **worship ancestors** believed to have become *kami* after death.
- Shintoists offer prayers and perform rituals to **honor and please** the *kami*.
- Most Japanese households have a small altar where the family will offer prayers for the spirits they hope will **bless and protect** them.

Beliefs

- Shintoism **follows no single**, primary god or text.
- Instead, Shintoists **follow daily rituals** that help connect them to nature and to their ancestors.
- Shintoists are expected to respect and honor all **life and nature**.
- Shintoism also teaches that **physical purity** (cleanliness) is more important than moral purity.
- Followers must perform many ceremonies and rituals to **cleanse and purify** the world.
- Since Shinto offers no ideas of a moral code, a god, or life after death, many Japanese who practice Shinto also **practice another religion** as well.

SE Asia's Belief Systems

CLOZE Notes 5

THE PHILOSOPHY OF CONFUCIANISM

Origin

- Confucianism is not a religion but rather a **philosophy** that is often said to be the foundation of modern Chinese culture.
- Confucianism was declared the official guiding practice for the **Chinese government** in 121 BCE.
- It has continued to have great influence on Chinese government for over **2000 years**.

Confucius

- Confucius was born in 550 BCE, a time when the government was having **trouble keeping order** and warlords controlled much of the land.
- He believed he knew how to bring peace to ancient China — the key was for people to behave with **good character** and virtue.
- Confucius created a **moral structure** for social life and politics that every person should follow in order to bring peace to China.

Beliefs

- Confucianism is based on **society and traditions** and does not follow one ruling god.
- It teaches that each person has a place in society and that he or she must **accept that position** if society is to function in harmony.
- There are five basic types of **relationships in society**: ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older brother and younger brother, & friend and friend.

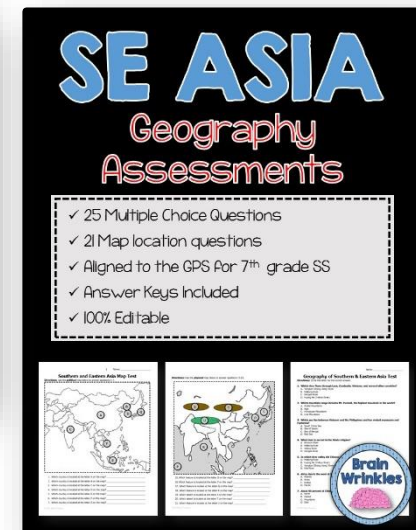
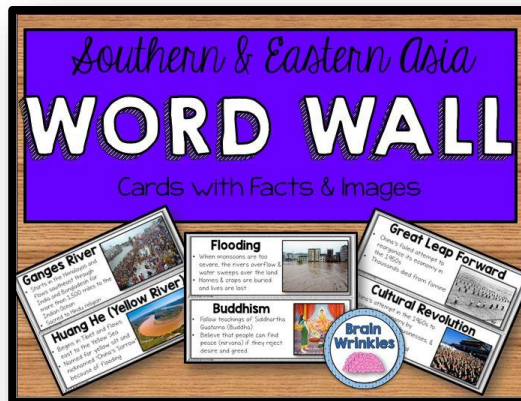
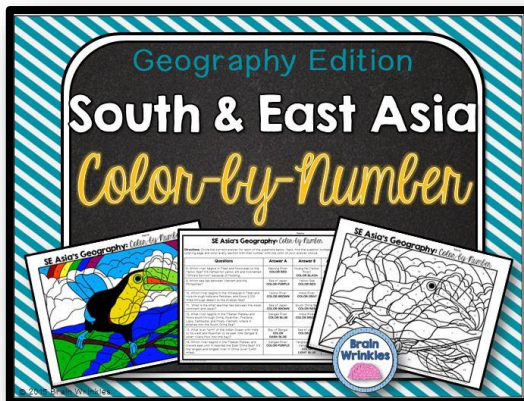
Golden Rule

- Confucius believed that if each relationship were **based on kindness**, there would be peace and harmony in the country.
- His **Golden Rule** of Behavior was “What you do not like when done unto yourself, do not unto others.”
- Confucianism is a belief system based on good **deeds and morality**.

Thank You!

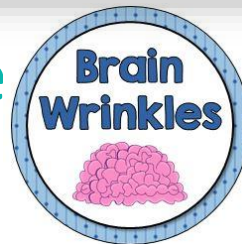
Thank you so much for downloading this file. I sincerely hope you find it helpful and that your students learn a lot from it! I look forward to reading your feedback in my store.

If you like this file, you might want to check out some of my other products that teach social studies topics in creative, engaging, and hands-on ways.



Best wishes,

Ansley at Brain Wrinkle



Terms of Use

© Brain Wrinkles. Your download includes a limited use license from Brain Wrinkles. The purchaser may use the resource for **personal classroom use only**. The license is not transferable to another person. Other teachers should purchase their own license through my store.

This resource is **not** to be used:

- By an entire grade level, school, or district without purchasing the proper number of licenses. For school/district licenses at a discount, please contact me.
- As part of a product listed for sale or for free by another individual.
- On shared databases.
- Online in any way other than on password-protected website for student use only.

© Copyright Brain Wrinkles. All rights reserved. Permission is granted to copy pages specifically designed for student or teacher use by the **original purchaser** or licensee. The reproduction of any other part of this product is strictly prohibited. Copying any part of this product and placing it on the Internet in any form (even a personal/classroom website) is strictly forbidden. Doing so makes it possible for an Internet search to make the document available on the Internet, free of charge, and is a violation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

Thank you,

Ansley at Brain Wrinkles



Clipart, fonts, & digital papers for this product were purchased from:

