

GRADE 8 - BUILDING BRIDGES
WORKSHOP 15: THE 1800S—NEW RELIGIONS: CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS, JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, AND BAHAI

Social and Religious Unrest leads to New Religions

The Age of Enlightenment, which lasted from about 1650 to 1800, set in motion vast social, cultural, political, and religious change. People were encouraged to question traditional institutions and customs, and came to value individual rights, human reason, and self-governance.

The United States' Declaration of Independence, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and other radical acts of freedom were direct expressions of Age of Enlightenment principles.

During this same period, in the 1730s and 1740s, a movement called the Great Awakening developed in the British colonies that would become the United States. The Great Awakening de-emphasized church doctrine and placed a greater importance on an individual's spiritual experience. This was a period of great revivalism. New denominations, including the Methodists and Baptists, were created at this time, as congregations split over religious differences.

While exciting and growing, these social and religious movements also generated profound social unease. As the 1800s progressed, America, having won independence from England, was now struggling with the issue of slavery, and moving ever closer to war. This tension sent people to religion for support, sometimes to the faith of their upbringing, sometimes to a new religion, born of the principles of the new age.

Four faiths were born in the northeast of America leading up to, during, and right after the American Civil War.

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons or LDS), 1830 (before the Civil War); founded by Joseph Smith, who lived in rural New York State
- Seventh-day Adventists, 1863 (during the war); founded by Ellen G. White who lived in Maine
- Jehovah's Witnesses, 1879 (after the war); founded by Charles Taze Russell, who lived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Christian Science (Church of Christ, Scientist), 1879 (after the war); found by Mary Baker Eddy, who lived in Boston, Massachusetts

At this same time in Iran, orthodox Shia Muslim leaders of the dominant faith there had to contend with Sufi mystics and other voices calling for greater freedom in religion and society. One of these voices was the man known as the Bab (the Gate), who preached that a new divine messenger, the final messiah, would soon arrive to deliver all humanity from its suffering. The Bab was executed by the government, but the movement he began lived on and identified its prophet and final messiah in Baha'u'llah, prophet of Baha'i. Baha'i was founded in 1863, the same year the Seventh-day Adventists were formed across the globe in Maine.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Known as...	LDS or Mormons (but the church is trying to change it to “Latter-day Saints”)
Year	1830
Founder/Prophet	P/F-Joseph Smith
Where	New York, USA
Sacred Text/Texts	Bible and Book of Mormon
Consider themselves Christian?	Yes
Considered Christian by Mainline Christian Denominations	No
Women Clergy	No
Stance on Gay/Lesbian Relationships	Distinguish between sexual attraction and behavior. Those gay members who do not act on their sexual identity, are able to participate fully in church life. Those gay members who have a gay relationship, have disobeyed church teachings on morality and thus are subject to church discipline.
Sabbath	Sunday
Adherents	16 million*
Trinitarian	Yes and No
Go to War	Yes
Beliefs & Culture:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joseph Smith was a prophet of God. ● The Book of Mormon is the word of God along with the Bible. It is from the prophet Mormon who left his gospel written on golden tablets which Joseph Smith translated under God's inspiration. ● The family is the fundamental unit of the church. ● At death, the soul is separated from the body, but, if you have been a good Mormon, soul and body will be reunited at the time of the resurrection. ● Jesus visited and taught among the Native Americans in North America after his resurrection. ● Zion, the New Jerusalem, will be built in America; and Jesus will reign there in person. ● A Heavenly Mother reigns in heaven alongside God, and we are the children of their marriage. ● As children of God, human beings have divine potential. ● The church encourages strong values: when a member falls into bad luck or hard times, there is a safety net to help them get back on their feet. ● Many members tend to define different gender roles for males and females because they believe it provides a foundation of stability for children and for society. ● The growth of the church has much to do with its proselytizing. Settled successfully in their Salt Lake City home, thousands of young missionaries continue to spread out across America and the rest of the world to seek converts. 	

History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

The Mormon Trail by Greta Anderson.

How did an American religion that began with a boy praying in the woods become, in less than 200 years, a major world religion? How did a story as surprising as his—of Jesus visiting the Americas and modern-day Native Americans descending from the Hebrews—gain acceptance by 13 million people worldwide? How did a religion promoting polygamy (marrying more than one wife) as late as the 1880s become a part of mainstream America today?

The story of Mormonism began in Palmyra, New York in 1823. A youth named Joseph Smith says he was visited by an angel, Moroni. Moroni told Smith that God had a special relationship with the people of North America. Over the next four years, Moroni instructed Smith to dig up golden tablets that told of God's activities in America and helped him translate them into *The Book of Mormon*, which was published in 1830. Smith said he gave the plates back to the angel, then started preaching. He formed The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Smith served as the church's first president until his death in 1844.

What were some of the core beliefs in Smith's early church? Smith preached that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were three distinct beings that could act as one, but he called them the "Godhead," not the Trinity. Mormonism is Christian, and does not consider itself Catholic or Protestant, but a return to a religion as preached by Jesus in the Americas and disclosed in *The Book of Mormon* (which Mormons consider divine scripture, alongside the Bible).

They believe that individuals are composed of spirits that lived together in God's presence before being incarnated in their present bodies. During a lifetime, Mormons must prove themselves worthy to rejoin their spirits with God. They do this by baptism, following a strict moral and health code, missionary work, and supporting the church through financial contributions and service. Marriage and a strong family life are also central to the church's teachings.

The young church moved to Kirtland, Ohio. True to its missionary nature, it grew quickly. Required tithing (giving 10 percent of income to the church) and other donations strengthened the Mormon community. Instead of relying on outside sources, the church helped Mormon families build homes and businesses. The general populace became suspicious of their financial dealings and growing numbers, and they drove them out.

Next stop was Jackson County, Missouri. The first Mormon temple was built here. The Mormon population was growing so fast the local townspeople felt they were taking over. A war between the locals and the Mormons ensued.

Nauvoo, Illinois became their new Zion, or Promised Land. By 1844, Nauvoo was bigger than Chicago. Joseph Smith was the mayor and was running for President of the United States. The church was gaining significant political power. When Smith destroyed the presses of a newspaper that criticized him, a protest arose. Smith was arrested, tried, found guilty, and imprisoned in the nearby county jail. Smith was killed by a mob. Mormon crops and homes were burned. They were threatened with extinction. It was time to move again.

Brigham Young, the newly elected Mormon leader, decided to relocate the Mormons to Salt Lake City, Utah, wilderness territory at that time. This was the endpoint of what became known as the Mormon Trail. Perhaps as many as 17,000 made the trip in a number of treks, by wagon and even handcarts, over a span of 20 years. Many of the initial group of travelers died from hunger and cold. Once reaching Utah, missionary groups were sent out all along the

Western United States and eventually, abroad, to make converts to Mormonism.

Today, the growth of their church has much to do with its proselytizing. Settled successfully in their Salt Lake City home, thousands of young Mormon "priests" spread out across America and the rest of the world to seek converts. The religion continues to grow, while more traditional religions shrink.

Role of Women

In the early days of the religion, many Mormon men were polygamists (having multiple wives). Joseph Smith, the founding prophet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, established this religious practice of polygamy (plural marriage) in the early 1840s. (He said he received revelation from God that plural marriage was okay). The Latter-day Saints publicly declared their practice of polygamy as a religious tenet in 1852. Following the Civil War, debate about banning polygamy began to heat up in the U.S. Congress, reaching a crescendo in the 1880s. In 1882 and 1887, federal laws passed that criminalized polygamy. In 1889, polygamy was outlawed by the church in 1890.

Women's leadership in the LDS Church has traditionally been limited. Men are ordained as priests at 18, taking the title "Elder," while women, who can never progress beyond "Sister," are considered holiest and most fulfilled as wives and mothers and are excluded from the priesthood in the religion. However, there are signs that this may be changing as more and more young women in the church look for leadership opportunities.

People of Color

Until the 1970s, the LDS Church also restricted black members' participation in important rituals and prohibited black men from becoming priests, despite evidence that they had participated more fully in the earliest years of the Church. It dropped this racist prohibition in 1978.

EXPLORE THE TOPICS FURTHER...

- If friends or family members belong to the LDS Church, start a conversation with them about it. If you are respectful and enthusiastic about learning about their religion, they are likely to be friendly and responsive right back. Some good questions: What is your favorite time of the religious year? How does your faith help you the most? How do you practice your faith at home? Ask other questions that seem interesting to you!
- What is in a name? The Church has said that it would like its members to stop using the terms LDS or Mormon. Read more:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/29/us/mormon-church-name-change.html>
- <https://www.pbs.org/mormons/faqs/>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2013/11/12/us/mormon-church-fast-facts/index.html>
- Official website: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org>
- The Role of Women in Mormonism
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/02/us/a-growing-role-for-mormon-women.html>
- Race in the LDS Church
 - <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/09/mormons-race-max-perry-mueller/539994/>

- LDS Views on Homosexuality
 - www.religioustolerance.org/hom_lds1.htm
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/04/us/lds-church-lgbt.html?module=inline>
 - <https://www.hrc.org/resources/stances-of-faiths-on-lgbt-issues-church-of-jesus-christ-of-latter-day-saint>
- [The Mormon Pioneer Trail](http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-mormontrail.html) (at www.legendsofamerica.com/we-mormontrail.html)
- Watch the Frontline documentary on the Mormon Church
<https://www.pbs.org/mormons/view/#more>

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- <https://religionnews.com/2019/11/08/what-the-media-isnt-saying-about-the-history-of-mormon-polygamy-in-mexico-2/>
- https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/02/us/a-growing-role-for-mormon-women.html?hpw&rref=us&_r=0
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/04/us/lds-church-lgbt.html?module=inline>
- <https://www.hrc.org/resources/stances-of-faiths-on-lgbt-issues-church-of-jesus-christ-of-latter-day-saint>
- * Population - <https://www.slttrib.com/religion/2019/04/06/lds-church-tops-million/>

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

	Seventh-day Adventists
Known as...	Adventists
Year	1863
Founder/Prophet	F-Ellen G. White, others
Where	Maine, USA
Sacred Text/Texts	Bible
Consider themselves Christian?	Yes
Considered Christian by Mainline Christian Denominations	Usually
Women Clergy	Yes
Stance on Gay/Lesbian Relationships	Contrary to scripture
Sabbath	Saturday
Adherents	20 million worldwide*
Trinitarian	Yes
Go to War	No
Seventh-day Adventists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adventists believe in salvation through faith in Jesus Christ alone, and many of their original members came from other related denominations, like Methodism, or even some from Roman Catholic traditions. The current Seventh-day Adventist Church considers itself to be Protestant. ● At Armageddon (the last day, when Christ returns to judge the living and the dead), the wicked will be punished a brief time in hell, then annihilated, rather than suffer in hell for eternity. ● Many are strict vegetarians in order to avoid breaking Mosaic dietary laws and to live purely. Some, as a spiritual discipline but not required by doctrine, do not drink, smoke, dance, play cards, read books for pleasure, or go to worldly movies. ● Seventh-day Adventists are among the most racially and ethnically diverse American religious groups. ● Seventh-day Adventists attend church on Saturdays, which they believe to be the Sabbath instead of Sunday, according to their interpretation of the Bible. 	

History of Seventh-day Adventists

Seventh-day Adventists trace their origins to the teachings of the American preacher William Miller (1782-1849), who preached that the second coming, or "advent" of Jesus was imminent.

Unfortunately Jesus did not appear on the day in 1844 promised by Miller, which became known as the Great Disappointment, and many of his followers left his movement.

Miller was followed by Ellen G. White (1827-1915), a visionary and prophet.

White taught that Jesus had indeed come again, but not to Earth. Jesus had actually

returned to the "most holy place" of the heavenly temple. Jesus, she said, had started to "cleanse" the heavenly temple, and when he had done that, he would come to start cleansing the Earth.

White also taught that the Sabbath should be held on Saturday.

By 1850 the group had about 300 members and no institutions, although it did have magazines and a hymnbook. But this proved a firm enough foundation, and by 1852 the movement had 15 ministers and was growing steadily. In 1861 the movement created a publishing company - the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association - and in 1863 it constituted itself as a denomination.

In 1866 the movement began one of its most famous traditions when it founded its first healthcare institution (it now runs over 700 medical facilities). The Church bases its mission of bringing healing of body, mind, and spirit on the fact that Christ ministered to the whole person.

Corn Flakes & Seventh-day Adventists

John Harvey Kellogg was born in 1852 in Michigan. He grew up in a devout Seventh-day Adventist family and believed strongly in the Seventh-day Adventist teachings about healthy living.

He attended medical school and returned to Michigan to begin a long and stellar surgical practice. With new clients, Dr. Kellogg first addressed diet and exercise; surgery was a last resort. When surgery was necessary, though, he had an unparalleled survival rate. Dr. Kellogg at one time performed more than 200 surgeries without losing a patient, an unheard-of accomplishment in a time before antibiotics.

His interest in nutrition and preventive health led him to invent foods for his patients: shredded wheat products, meat substitutes (he was a committed vegetarian), granola, and—most famously—corn flakes. The Kellogg Company was founded by John Harvey Kellogg and his brother William in order to sell John Harvey's corn flakes. William secretly acquired a majority of the company's stock, put his name on the box, changed the advertising emphasis from health to taste, added sugar to the flakes, and made a fortune. John Harvey sued, disassociated from the company, and did not forgive his brother.

John Harvey Kellogg wrote prolifically and lived solely on the income from his writing. He never charged his patients, not even for the most advanced surgery of the day. Dr. Kellogg became very famous, and for many years ran the posh Battle Creek Sanitarium where the rich and famous went to stay for a week or two to "get the cure."

Dr. Kellogg also wished to support the health of the homeless, who frequently suffered malnutrition. The Seventh-day Adventist Church ran a restaurant in New York City, serving fresh, healthy, vegetarian food. Dr. Kellogg made coupons available to wealthier people to give to panhandlers instead of money. The coupons entitled the bearer to a free meal at the Seventh-day Adventist restaurant. Dr. Kellogg contended that good food would be of greater benefit to the poor than anything else.

Dr. Kellogg held unique beliefs which some considered very odd. He had his patients given enemas every day, and had one himself, too. He adopted fourteen children but never had any of his own because he believed all sex was unhealthy.

But Dr. Kellogg also held beliefs we consider valid today. He insisted that smoking causes lung cancer a full half-century before the connection was accepted by the medical community. He advocated regular exercise, pure water, and whole grains long before it was popular advice. He rubbed his hands and arms, and had his operating rooms treated with carbolic

acid because he believed it prevented infection—which it did.

John Harvey Kellogg—surgeon, inventor, and philanthropist—lived a life of contradictions, but one that strongly expressed his commitment to purity and optimum health in accordance with his Seventh-day Adventist faith.

Some things to think about...

- What do you think of Dr. Kellogg? If you were ill, would you go to Dr. Kellogg for treatment? Why or why not?
- Do you agree with Dr. Kellogg that good food is the foundation of good health? If so, do you put effort into eating a healthy diet? Why or why not?
- What do you think of Dr. Kellogg's restaurant coupon idea?
- Do you agree with Dr. Kellogg that providing good food is a better way of helping the homeless than giving them cash? Why or why not? Is it paternalistic not to allow people to make their own decisions, or do givers of charity have a right to say how their gift will be used?

EXPLORE THE TOPICS FURTHER...

- If friends or family members are Seventh-day Adventists, start a conversation with them about it. If you are respectful and enthusiastic about learning about their religion, they are likely to be friendly and responsive right back. Some good questions: What is your favorite time of the religious year? How does your faith help you the most? How do you practice your faith at home? Ask other questions that seem interesting to you!
- Look for videos on YouTube of youth discussing what it is like to be a Seventh-day Adventists.
- Official site: [Seventh-day Adventist Church](http://www.adventist.org/) (at www.adventist.org/)
- Seventh-day Adventist in America - <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/03/a-closer-look-at-seventh-day-adventists-in-america/>

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- https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/subdivisions/seventhdayadventist_1.shtml
- <http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/10/27/452314794/all-your-questions-about-seventh-day-adventism-and-ben-carson-answered>
- * Population - <https://www.adventist.org/articles/seventh-day-adventist-world-church-statistics-2016-2017/>

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

	Jehovah's Witnesses
Known as...	Witnesses
Year	1879
Founder/ Prophet	F-Charles Taze Russell
Where	Pennsylvania, USA
Sacred Text/Texts	Bible
Consider themselves Christian?	Yes
Considered Christian by Mainline Christian Denominations	No - do not believe in the Trinity. Consequently, they are frequently not considered Christian.
Women Clergy	No clergy, elders only men
Stance on Gay/Lesbian Relationships	Condemned
Sabbath	None
Adherents	8.6 million*
Trinitarian	No
Go to War	No
<p>Jehovah's Witnesses — Witnesses believe that they are living in the last days, and they look forward to the imminent establishment of God's kingdom on earth, which will be headed by Christ and jointly administered by 144,000 human corulers (Revelation 7:4). Those who acknowledge Jehovah in this life will become members of the millennial kingdom; those who reject him will not go to hell but will face total extinction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God and everything in it is there for a reason. ● God created heaven and earth in six days, but each "day" equals thousands of years. ● Those judged worthy after death will be given everlasting paradise on the physical earth in their restored physical body. ● No date, not even the month, is given for Christ's birth in the Bible; his birth is never celebrated in the New Testament; December 25th was chosen to coincide with a pagan celebration that took place around that date, so they do not celebrate Christmas. ● No birthdays in the Bible are spoken of positively and they do not celebrate birthdays. ● The Bible instructs against consuming blood, and people absorb the blood from blood transfusions, thereby consuming it, so they refuse blood transfusions. ● The anniversary of Christ's resurrection was not celebrated in the New Testament; Easter was a pagan springtime festival. ● The Bible instructs all followers of Christ to be Witnesses for the faith. ● In the Bible, the earliest followers of Jesus rejected war and military service," recognizing those practices as "incompatible with the love ethic of Jesus and the injunction to love one's enemies, so followers do not serve in the military. ● They do not use the cross as a symbol. ● Refused to join the Nazi Party in Germany and were targeted in the Holocaust. 	

- Have published "The Watchtower" monthly magazine continuously since 1879.

History of Jehovah's Witnesses

Charles Taze Russell (1852-1916) is considered the founder of what would become modern-day Jehovah's Witnesses. Russell did not intend to form a new religious movement, and he never claimed to have received a "special revelation" or divine inspiration. He was most deeply affected by his encounters with groups that believed Christ's Second Coming would soon usher in the Millennium, a prophesied thousand-year reign.

In 1879, Russell launched what is known today as the Watchtower magazine. The Watch Tower Society would become the legal and publishing corporation for Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. Traveling representatives of the Society fanned out throughout the northeastern United States, spreading the word. Rationality rather than revivalist fervor characterized their approach. Although Russell's message appears to have been quite popular among the general population, clergy of various denominations quickly branded it as heretical and launched public attacks against him. Nevertheless, Russell became an internationally recognized figure on the religious scene, touring and speaking extensively throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

In 1910, Russell established the International Bible Students Association (IBSA), creating the faint outlines of a distinct religious community. The IBSA would later become known as Jehovah's Witnesses.

Four decades earlier, Russell predicted 1914 was a marked year that would change the course of mankind. The Millennium he anticipated did not happen, but World War I started—which Russell said was a sign that the "last days" leading to Armageddon were underway. During the war, IBSA literature intimated that Christians ought to abstain from the bloodshed. IBSA students who were drafted generally chose non-combatant service or refused induction altogether, resulting in prison terms and even death sentences (later commuted to ten years). In 1916, Russell died while on a speaking tour.

Today Witnesses contend that 1914 is an important year, marking the start of the "last days." But they no longer assign any timeline to the conclusion of the last days, preferring to say now that any generation that has lived since 1914 could be the one to see Armageddon.

Something to think about....

- Have ever heard of Jehovah's Witnesses before today? (Witnesses go door to door trying to spread their faith (proselytizing).)
- Followers believe it is their religious duty to spread God's word as they understand it. They believe they are sharing "good news" and saving people who convert from Hell. Ask youth if they believe there is something wrong with this practice, and if so, what?
 - Would it be wrong to share the "good news" of Unitarian Universalism door-to-door?
 - Would you be comfortable doing so?
 - What would you say?

EXPLORE THE TOPICS FURTHER...

- If friends or family members are Jehovah's Witnesses, start a conversation with them about it. If you are respectful and enthusiastic about learning about their religion, they are

likely to be friendly and responsive right back. Some good questions: What is your favorite time of the religious year? How does your faith help you the most? How do you practice your faith at home? Ask other questions that seem interesting to you!

- Look for videos on YouTube of youth discussing what it is like to be a Jehovah's Witness.
- Official site: [Worldwide Association of Jehovah's Witnesses](http://www.jw.org/) (at www.jw.org/)

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- <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/knocking/history.html>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Jehovahs-Witnesses>
- * Population - <https://www.jw.org/en/jehovahs-witnesses/faq/how-many-jw/>

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

	Church of Christ, Scientist
Known as...	Christian Scientists
Year	1879
Founder/ Prophet	P/F-Mary Baker Eddy
Where	Boston, MA, USA
Sacred Text/Texts	Bible and <i>The Bible and Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i> , by Mary Baker Eddy
Consider themselves Christian?	Yes
Considered Christian by Mainline Christian Denominations	No
Women Clergy	No clergy; women and men readers
Stance on Gay/Lesbian Relationships	Officially: None
Sabbath	Sunday
Adherents	400,000*
Trinitarian	Not strictly speaking
Go to War	Yes
<p>Christian Scientists -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Salvation - Man is saved through Christ, the promised Messiah. By his life and works, Jesus shows the way to man's unity with God. Christian Scientists affirm the virgin birth, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ as evidence of divine love. ● Heaven and Hell – Heaven and hell exist not as places or as parts of the afterlife but as states of mind. Mary Baker Eddy taught that sinners make their own hell by doing evil, and saints make their own heaven by doing right. ● Truth and goodness are real; evil, error, and physical existence are illusions. ● They refer to God as Father-Mother. ● They do not practice communion or baptism ● Christian Science sets itself apart from other denominations by its emphasis on spiritual healing. Physical illness and sin are states of mind, correctable through properly applied prayer. While believers routinely refused medical care in the past, recently relaxed guidelines allow them to choose between prayer and conventional medical treatment. Christian Scientists turn first to the church's practitioners, trained people who pray for members, often from a great distance. ● Equality – Christian Science believes women are equal to men. No discrimination is made among races. ● Golden Rule – Believers strive to do unto others as they would have others do unto them. They work to be merciful, just, and pure. ● Lesbian & Gay Issues – Christian Science promotes sex within marriage. However, the denomination also avoids judging others, affirming the spiritual identity each person receives from God. 	

- Readers lead Sunday services, reading aloud from the Bible and from Science and Health. Lesson sermons, prepared by the Mother Church in Boston, Massachusetts, give insight into prayer and spiritual principles.

History of Christian Science

Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) founded the Church of Christ, Scientist in 1879 in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

After a spiritual healing at age 44, Eddy began studying the Bible intensively to determine how she had been healed. Her conclusions led her to a system of healing others that she called Christian Science. She wrote extensively. Among her accomplishments was the founding of The Christian Science Monitor, an international newspaper which has won seven Pulitzer Prizes to date.

Eddy wanted the healing work of Jesus Christ to be better understood and more universally practiced. The First Church of Christ, Scientist, or Mother Church, is located in Boston, Massachusetts.

EXPLORE THE TOPICS FURTHER...

- If friends or family members are Christian Scientists, start a conversation with them about it. If you are respectful and enthusiastic about learning about their religion, they are likely to be friendly and responsive right back. Some good questions: What is your favorite time of the religious year? How does your faith help you the most? How do you practice your faith at home? Ask other questions that seem interesting to you!
- Look for videos on YouTube of youth discussing what it is like to be a Christian Scientist.
- Official Site: [The Church of Christ, Scientist](http://www.christian-science.org/)
- Religious Tolerance.org has a [very good Overview of Christian Science](http://www.religioustolerance.org/cr_sci.htm) (at www.religioustolerance.org/cr_sci.htm).
- Explore the Mapparium at the World Headquarters of the Church. <https://www.marybakereddylibrary.org/project/mapparium/>

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- <http://christianity.about.com/od/denominations/a/christscienceprofile.htm>
- *Population - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Science

BAHA'I FAITH

	Baha'i Faith
Known as...	Baha'ism
Year	1863
Founder/ Prophet	P/F-Baha'u'llah
Where	Iran
Sacred Text/Texts	Kitab-i-Agdas (Book of Laws)
Consider themselves Christian?	No, but recognize divinity of Christ
Considered Christian by Mainline Christian Denominations	No
Women Clergy	Women can and do serve in an extensive range of elected and appointed positions within the faith at both national and international levels, they are not permitted to serve as members of the Universal House of Justice, the supreme governing institution of the Bahá'í Faith.
Stance on Gay/Lesbian Relationships	Contrary to scripture: believe that for members of their faith, permissible sexual relations are limited to those between a man and a woman in marriage. If you are gay and want to be Baha'i, you must remain celibate, or marry someone in a male/female marriage.
Sabbath	Every 19 days
Adherents	5 million*
Trinitarian	No
Go to War	No
Baha'i Faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is only one God. ● There is only one religion. The prophets of all faiths were divine messengers of God, suited to different times and places, including Abraham, Mohammed, Buddha, Jesus, and others. The last and final Prophet is Baha'u'llah. ● No sects or branches of Baha'i are allowed; they value unity, and hard work is a form of worship. Respect for diversity is written into religious doctrine. ● Full and active participation of both men and women in the life and administration of the Baha'i community, lacking as it does a priesthood or clergy, is a cardinal feature of Baha'i life. ● After death, the soul leaves the body and journeys toward or away from God. ● Heaven and hell are not places, but states of being. ● The purpose of human life is to develop the spiritual and moral qualities that lie at the core of an individual's nature. 	

History of Baha'i

The Bahá'í faith began to take its present form in 1844 in Iran. It grew out of the Shi'ite branch of the Muslim faith.

The faith was proclaimed by a young Iranian, who called himself The Báb. He said that a messenger would soon arrive from God, who would be the latest in a line of prophets including Moses, Muhammad and Jesus Christ.

This idea of progressive revelation is of central significance for the Bahá'í faith.

The Báb and his followers were persecuted by the Muslim hierarchy and the Báb was eventually executed because his teachings contradicted a central point of Islamic faith - that Muhammad was the final prophet.

Although the finality of Muhammad's revelation is universally accepted by Muslims, some Bahá'í scholars suggest that this belief is based on a particular interpretation of Qur'anic verses and that a different interpretation is possible.

In 1852, one of the Báb's persecuted followers had a revelation in prison that he was the prophet that the Báb had proclaimed. He called himself Bahá'u'lláh, meaning The Glory of God.

Bahá'u'lláh was the founder of the Bahá'í faith. His life as a prophet was spent in a series of exiles that culminated in Acre, where he wrote the Kitab-i-Aqdas, one of the key Bahá'í scriptures, as well as other spiritual works and letters. He died in 1892.

Bahá'u'lláh was succeeded by Abdu'l-Bahá, who spent much time from 1908 spreading Bahá'í teachings around the world and the faith soon had significant (though small) communities in Europe and North America. He also developed Bahá'í ideas of social reform and international justice and expounded Bahá'í beliefs through a series of letters.

Abdu'l-Bahá died in 1921 and was succeeded by his eldest grandson, Shoghi Effendi, who continued the missionary work of the faith, and further developed Bahá'í philosophy. Shoghi Effendi also created or expanded the Bahá'í shrines and gardens in Israel.

After Shoghi Effendi's death in 1957, the leadership of the faith passed to a group of believers rather than an individual and now rests with the Universal House of Justice.

The Bahá'í faith has continued to expand, particularly in the third world, and now is the most widespread faith in the world after Christianity. The expansion has not been without trouble and Bahá'í have been persecuted, particularly in Iran, the land where the faith began.

Something to think about.....

Bahai has had a wide appeal, in large part because...

1. They believe that all people are one in spiritual purpose.
2. They consider no group complete without diversity.
3. All aspects of their worship are intentionally diverse.

Because they believe no group is complete without diversity, some Baha'i communities require that all church business be conducted by a diverse group; in fact, no matter how many people are present, there is no quorum without ethnic diversity. Business is postponed until there are multiple ethnicities present.

- What do you think of this practice? What is the purpose of such a rule? Do you agree diversity is a worthwhile goal?
- Since it is sometimes very inconvenient, should the commitment be absolute, or should the rule be ignored sometime?

- What if the requirement for diversity in the conduct of business included age diversity, and our congregation could not do group business without youth and young adult participation? Do you think that is a good idea? Why or why not? If you received a call saying a meeting could not happen unless you came, how would you feel? Important? Annoyed? Tokenized? Appreciated? Something else?
- How do you feel about the fact they strive for racial diversity, but are not accepting of gay marriage for their members (permissible sexual relations are limited to those between a man and a woman in marriage)?

EXPLORE THE TOPICS FURTHER...

- If friends or family members are Baha'i, start a conversation with them about it. If you are respectful and enthusiastic about learning about their religion, they are likely to be friendly and responsive right back. Some good questions: What is your favorite time of the religious year? How does your faith help you the most? How do you practice your faith at home? Ask other questions that seem interesting to you!
- Look for videos on YouTube of youth discussing what it is like to be a Baha'i.
- Rainn Wilson (Dwight from The Office) is a Baha'i. Watch his video on the faith: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLSaDVG4yBE>
- Official Site: [The Baha'i Faith](http://www.bahai.org/) (at www.bahai.org/)
- Additional Information: www.patheos.com/Library/Bahai/Ritual-Worship-Devotion-Symbolism/Worship-and-Devotion-in-Daily-Life.html).
- Behind the Bahá'í faith, one of the fastest growing religions - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmNWatW17kc>

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