**ANSWERS: RELIGIOUS LITERACY BINGO**

Created by Rev. Laura C. Engelken (2016). Some information adapted from Prothero, S. (2007). *Religious literacy: What every American needs to know -- and doesn’t.* HarperCollins: New York, New York.

**Knows the Golden Rule:** This is the principle of treating others as you would want to be treated yourself. This can also be expressed in the negative form (i.e., don’t do to others what you wouldn’t want done to you). This concept occurs in some form in nearly every religious and ethical tradition including, Baha’i, Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam and Jainism.

**Knows the philosophy often referred to as “Chinese Humanism.”** Confucianism originated around 500 CE in China and offers guidelines for how to be in right relationship with other people. It is based on the teaching of Confucius, who offered practical advice in the form of aphorisms, brief statements that express an important idea in a memorable way. Some of Confucianism’s foundational ideas include a sense of duty, right behavior, and respect for elders and ancestors.

**Can name at least one *Sabbat* celebrated in Pagan religions.** These eight seasonal festivals mark the turning of the Pagan wheel of the Year and the cycles of nature. These form the foundation of many modern Pagan traditions in the Western Hemisphere.

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| 1. Samhain (pronounced sauw-win)
2. Yule – Winter Solstice
3. Imbolc
4. Ostara – Spring Equinox
 | 1. Beltane
2. Litha – Summer Solstice
3. Lammas/Lughnasadh
4. Mabon – the Autumn Equinox
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**Knows how many times a day Muslims are encouraged to pray.** One of the Five Pillars of belief and behavior in Islam is to perform*Salat,* which are the five daily prayers. They are performed at dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and at night. Each set is only a few minutes long and can be done almost anywhere.

**Knows who practices the annual 19-day fast.** Followers of the Baha’i tradition practice the annual 19-day fast each March, abstaining from either food or drink from sunrise to sunset. The fast was designated by the tradition’s founder, Baha’u’llah, and it is meant to be a time for prayer, meditation, and spiritual renewal.

**Can name the three Abrahamic Traditions:** Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are all monotheistic traditions that all claim the prophet Abraham as their forefather.

**Knows who articulated the “Four Noble Truths.”** Siddhartha Gautama, also known as The Buddha, articulated the Four Noble Truths which are:

1. *Life is suffering.*
2. *Suffering has an origin.*
3. *Suffering can be overcome (nirvana)*
4. *The path to overcoming suffering is the Noble Eightfold Path.*

**Knows what it means to be *shomer Shabbat.*** Someone who is a shomer Shabbat strives to observe the commandments (mitzvot) associated with the Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) that runs from dusk on Friday until sunset on Saturday. These include both tasks to engage in (e.g., prayer, rituals, rest) as well as those from which to abstain (e.g., spending money, operating electronic devices, cooking). Orthodox Jews who are shomer Shabbat would attempt to follow all the 613 mitzvot found in the Torah, while those within more liberal traditions (e.g., Reform, Reconstructionist) may use the phrase to describe someone who chooses to observe what they believe are the core mitzvot. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shomer_Shabbat>

**Knows what a *kirpan* is and who wears it.** The *kirpan* is a warrior’s sword and it is one of the “Five K’s,” symbols worn by baptized Sikh men and women as reminders of their beliefs and sacred obligations. It can be a real knife, or sometimes a small symbolic sword worn as a pendant. It is a symbol of power, freedom of spirit, and the courage to always defend the weak and the oppressed.

**Can describe the Seventh Generation principle.** This principle is based on an ancient Iroquois philosophy that the decisions we make today in regard to the quality of our relationships and use of our material and natural resources should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. <http://www.ictinc.ca/blog/seventh-generation-principle>

**Knows the Bible story that mentions the Jericho Road.** The story of “The Good Samaritan” was invoked by President George W. Bush in his first inaugural address to the nation. In a 15 – minute speech including 10 religious references, he used this example to express a promise that under his leadership the nation would care for the poor, vulnerable, new immigrants, and all children. <https://www.nytimes.com/2001/01/21/us/the-inauguration-the-speech-in-his-address-bush-lingers-on-a-promise-to-care.html>

**Knows the meaning of *namaste***: The word *namaste* (NAHM-uh-stey) is spoken in greeting another person, while placing the palms together in front of the heart and slightly bowing the head. It translates as, “The divine within me honors the divine within you,” and expresses the Hindu belief that every single person carries a divine spark within them.

**Knows the Yoruban name for a spirit who reflects one of the manifestations of God.** An *orisha* is one of the many representatives of *Olodumare*, or God almighty. Found in the Yorbua religion which originates from Nigeria and has spread across the world, *orishas* are understood to rule over the forces of nature (e.g., ocean) and human endeavors (e.g., wisdom and knowledge).

**Knows how and by when students must notify their faculty of their religious holiday schedule for the semester.** UVM has a religious accommodations policy which means faculty must permit students who miss work for religious observance the opportunity to make up that work. Students must submit their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester to their instructor by the end of the second full week of class.

**Knows what “the Tao” in Taoism refers to:** “The Tao” translates as “the Way” or “the Path,” a way of living in balance and peace with all that is. Arising from indigenous Chinese religion, many describe Taoism as more a philosophy than a religion due to its emphasis on how you live your life rather than worshipping gods or goddesses. However, Taoism takes many different forms with some adherents worshipping deities while others do not.

**Can name at least one of two religion clauses of the First Amendment**. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says two things about religion, each in its own clause: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion [Establishment Clause] or prohibiting the free exercise thereof [Free Exercise Clause].”