Hinduism
Hinduism

- Hinduism is a religion that began in India.
- This religion is the world’s oldest polytheistic religion.
- There are 750 million Hindus in the world today.
- Most Hindus live in India and Nepal.
Hindu Beliefs

- God that is present in everything - called Brahman.
Some key beliefs...Karma and Reincarnation

- **Reincarnation** a cycle of being born and reborn again in a new body.
- **Karma**, a force that determines the quality of each life.
- “If you live a good life, you create good karma. If you live a bad life, you create bad karma.”
- Good Karma, means having a better *next life*, bad karma means having a poorer *next life*.
Caste System

- Caste System played an important role in Hinduism
  - Believe that each level was a different species of being
  - Higher you were closer you were to moksha
- The Caste System and the Untouchables video

The Untouchables are at the very bottom of the caste system.

Source: Guide to the Essentials of World History, Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)
Caste System - Social & Religious

- Caste system prohibited people from moving up or marrying up
- However, it did provide social order/stability
  - Provided identity and interdependence
  - Kind of like freshman, sophomore, junior, senior in high school
- Before long Hinduism spread throughout India and Asia
Sacred Writings

- The Vedas
  - collections of *Sanskrit* hymns & prayers.
  - They reflected the knowledge that priests needed to carry out their functions
Hindu Life Goals

- Hinduism is about achieving 4 legitimate goals in life to reach Nirvana:
  - **dharma** (living a good life)
  - **artha** (becoming rich by lawful means)
  - **kama** (delight of the senses)
  - **moksha** (ultimate liberation).
Hindu Duties

- Each Hindu has 4 daily duties:
  - Respect the deities (gods)
  - Respect ancestors
  - Respect all beings (even animals)
  - Honor all humankind
These are the notes that should be on your Comparing Religions sheet from yesterday in the Hinduism box.

- Began in India - World’s oldest polytheistic religion
- Have 4 life goals (basically to live positively)
- Have 4 daily duties (basically to respect all things)
Activity

- Now you will complete the Hinduism worksheet.
- Use the packet to help you. If your worksheet says “Section 2” you will have to use the page in the packet titled “section 2” to find that answer.
- Answer all questions completely and make sure your name is on the paper before turning it in.