**Core Knowledge**

**Three World Religions Facts to Know**

**Overview of Judaism**

Judaism began in the Middle East. Moses was a great leader of the Jewish people. The Jewish people believe that God gave Moses Ten Commandments written in stone for the people to obey. During the holidays, Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah for eight days. Each night they light a candle on the menorah as part of this celebration. The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah.

**Overview of Christianity**

Christianity began in the Middle East (Jerusalem). Christians worship in a church, or chapel. They study the Old and New Testament in the Bible. Christians believe that Christ is their Messiah, or personal Savior. Christians celebrate Christmas in memory of Jesus being born. They also remember how Jesus rose from the dead after he was crucified. This day of remembrance is called Easter.

**Overview of Islam**

The religion of Islam began in Arabia. People who practice the religion of Islam are called Muslim. They call their God “Allah.” Mohammad was the first great leader of the Muslim people. He taught the five pillars of the Muslim religion, which are: duty, faith, reverence, charity, and pilgrimage. Muslims believe in the holy month of fasting called “Ramadan.” Ramadan is a whole month without eating, from sun-up to sun-down. They also believe in the month of Hajj, which is when Muslims from all over the world make a holy trip to Mecca.

Monotheists: Belief in only one God

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|  | Symbol | Place of Worship | Scripture |
| Christianity | Cross of Christ | Church/Chapel | Bible |
| Islam | Crescent Moon | Mosque | Koran |
| Judaism | Star of David | Synagogue | Torah |