

## **Religion in the Eastern Hemisphere**

### **Grade 6**

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1 - 6). Some of these have been edited for the purpose of this task. This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author's point of view.

#### **Directions:**

- ◆ Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction with a topic sentence that answers the essay question (or thesis statement), a body with several paragraphs explaining and supporting your answer and a conclusion.
- ◆ Analyze the documents
- ◆ Use evidence from documents to support your answer
- ◆ Include specific related outside information.

**Historic Background:** Religions of the world have historically served to unite as well as divide the people of the Eastern Hemisphere. Since the first civilization until the modern day, religious beliefs have brought people together in peace and ripped people apart in violence.

#### **Task:**

For Part A, read **each** document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document. Then read the directions for Part B and write your essay.

For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your knowledge of social studies to write a well organized essay. In the essay you should:

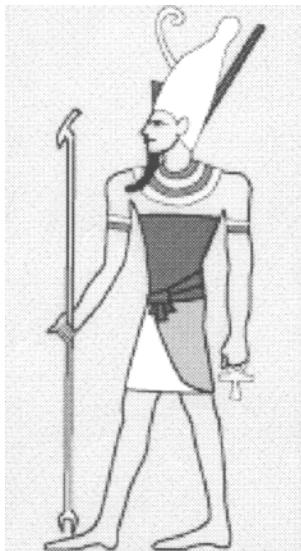
**What was the role of religion in unifying or dividing societies of the Eastern Hemisphere?**

## **Part A:**

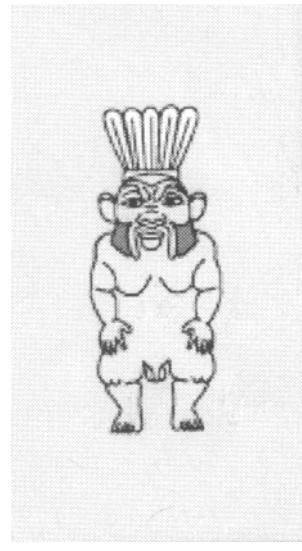
The documents that follow relate information about religion. Examine each document carefully and then answer the question(s) that follows it. These answers will help you in Part B.

### **Document 1:**

Egyptians had many gods. Some, like Atum, were worshipped by pharaoh and the priests in temples. Others, like Bes, were worshipped by people in their homes.



ATUM



BES

[www.ancientegypt.com](http://www.ancientegypt.com)

1. Which god did the aristocracy worship?

---

---

2. Which god did the common people worship?

---

---

## **Document 2:**

The Indian religion of Hinduism is based on a book called the Rig-Veda. In this book society is divided into four classes. Brahmins, or priests, are the highest classes. Kshatriya, or warriors, were next. Vaishya, or traders and landowners were third. Shudra or peasants were on the bottom.

The Hindu religion kept this system in place in India for many centuries. A person born into one of these classes was stuck in there for life.

1. What are the four classes in Hindu religion?

---

---

---

2. What religion kept this system in place?

---

---

---

---

---

### **Document 3:**

The kingdom of Ancient Israel was established around the belief in one god. This belief was called monotheism.



*This menorah is a symbol of the people of Israel's belief in one god. The religion was the most important aspect of Israeli life.*

[www.penncharter.com](http://www.penncharter.com)

1. Which belief united the people of Ancient Israel?

---

---

---

---

#### **Document 4:**

The Roman government saw fit to persecute<sup>1</sup> the Christians from time to time, especially during unsettled periods when a popular reform movement arose to return to the old Roman ways and values. Many condemned Christians to death in the arena or by formal execution for not sharing Roman beliefs.

The crowds who came to witness the games were a different matter altogether. Sometimes they became worked up into a frenzy of hate. They considered the Christians to be antisocial scum and clamored for a painful death for them in the arena, being mauled and torn apart by wild beasts or forced to fight gladiators who killed them for a public spectacle.



[www.myron.sjsu.edu](http://www.myron.sjsu.edu)

***Painting: A first century Christian being thrown to the lions***

1. Who did the Romans persecute?

---

---

2. How did they persecute this group?

---

---

---

<sup>1</sup> **persecute:** to treat unfairly and cruelly

### **Document 5:**

Before the dawn of Islam in the early seventh century C.E., the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula were widely varied religiously, politically, and culturally. With the founding of Islam in present-day Saudi Arabia by Mohammed, these peoples were united in a common belief, language, and government. The Arabs of the pre-Islamic period were unsophisticated when compared with their neighbors, the Byzantines and the Persians. It was Islam that brought the civilization out of this rut and into a more modern, civilized world. Islam was to become the unifying force in Arabia.



*Millions of Muslims gather daily to worship together*

[www.geocities.com/SOH/7930/ARABIAHTM](http://www.geocities.com/SOH/7930/ARABIAHTM)

1. What religion united the people of the Arabian Peninsula?

---

---

---

---

## **Part B:**

**Directions:** Using the documents, the answers to the questions in Part A, and your knowledge of social studies, write a well-organized essay about what the role of religion was in unifying or dividing societies of the Eastern Hemisphere?

### **In your essay, remember to:**

- ◆ Tell what the role of religion was in unifying or dividing societies of the Eastern Hemisphere?
- ◆ Include an introduction, body and a conclusion
- ◆ Include details, examples, or reasons to develop your ideas
- ◆ Use the information from the documents in your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



