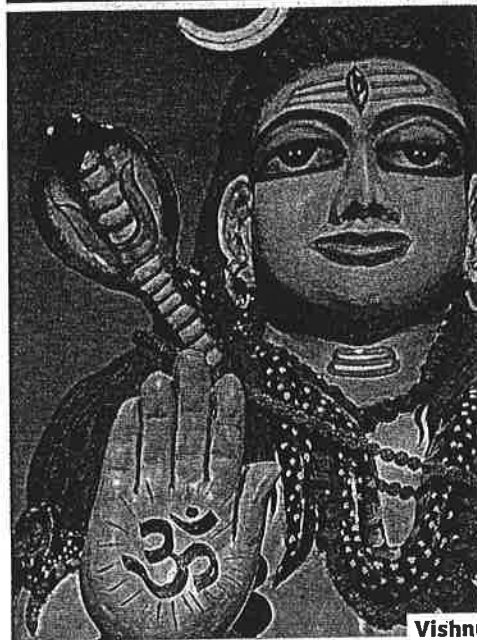


What's Your

Many Americans get an 'F' when it comes to
Take this quiz to see what you know.



Buddha



Vishnu

The 17th-century European settlers who flocked to the American Colonies were deeply religious men and women seeking refuge from persecution and the freedom to worship as they chose.

Though religion still plays an important role in American life, it turns out that many Americans today get a failing grade when it comes to their basic knowledge of the subject.

People who took a recent quiz about religion conducted by Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life answered only half the questions correctly, on average, and many were stumped even by questions about their own faith.

Those who scored highest were atheists and agnostics, as well as two religious minorities: Jews and Mormons.

"As a society, we flunked this test, and our ignorance has important consequences both at home and abroad," says Stephen Prothero, a religion professor at Boston University who advised on the study. "To understand what's going on in almost every hot spot in the world, from the Middle East to Kashmir to Nigeria, you need to know about the world's religions."

Pew's survey is the first comprehensive look at religious knowledge in the U.S., so it's hard to say whether Americans today are more or less informed about religion than in the past.

How does your knowledge of religion compare with that of other Americans? Take this excerpt from the Pew Center's quiz to find out. •

Laurie Goodstein is a religion reporter for *The Times*. Additional reporting by Veronica Majerol.



Martin Luther

1. Which figure from the Bible is most closely associated with leading the exodus from Egypt?

- A) Job B) Elijah C) Moses D) Abraham

2. Mother Teresa was a . . .

- A) Catholic B) Jew C) Buddhist D) Mormon E) Hindu

3. Which of the following is NOT one of the Ten Commandments?

- A) Do not commit adultery. B) Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. C) Do not steal. D) Keep the Sabbath holy.

4. When does the Jewish Sabbath begin?

- A) Friday B) Saturday C) Sunday

5. Ramadan is . . .

- A) the Hindu festival of lights B) a Jewish day of atonement C) the Islamic holy month

Religion IQ?

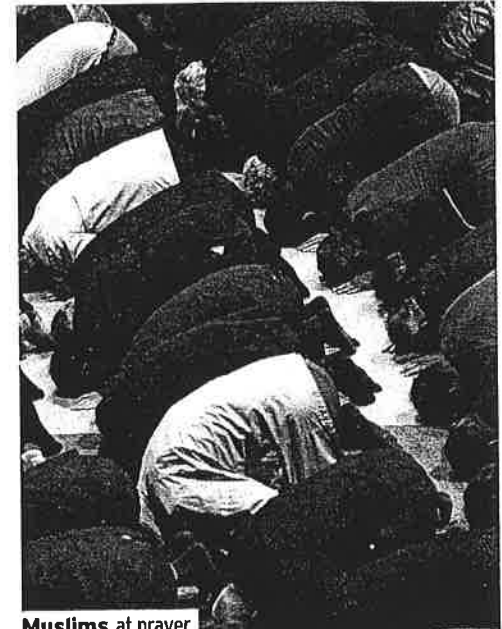
their knowledge of religion.

BY LAURIE GOODSTEIN

6. Which of the following best describes the Catholic teaching about the bread and wine used for Communion?
A) The bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus Christ. B) The bread and wine are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
7. In which religion are Vishnu and Shiva central figures?
A) Islam B) Hinduism C) Taoism
8. Which biblical figure is most closely associated with remaining obedient to God despite suffering?
A) Job B) Elijah C) Moses D) Abraham
9. Joseph Smith was . . .
A) Catholic B) Jewish C) Buddhist D) Mormon E) Hindu
10. According to the U.S. Supreme Court, is a public-school teacher permitted to lead a class in prayer?
A) Yes, permitted B) No, not permitted
11. According to the U.S. Supreme Court, is a public-school teacher permitted to read from the Bible as an example of literature?
A) Yes, permitted B) No, not permitted
12. What religion do most people in Pakistan practice?
A) Buddhism B) Hinduism C) Islam D) Christianity
13. What was the name of the person whose writings and actions inspired the Protestant Reformation?
A) Martin Luther B) Thomas Aquinas C) John Wesley
14. Which of these religions aims for nirvana, the state of being free from suffering?
A) Islam B) Buddhism C) Hinduism
15. Which one of these preachers participated in the period of religious activity known as the First Great Awakening?
A) Jonathan Edwards B) Charles Finney C) Billy Graham



Jesus Christ at the Last Supper



Muslims at prayer



Moses holding the Ten Commandments

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