**Chapter 3: Major Religions**

I. Hinduism

* World’s oldest major religion
* 950 million followers (14% of world’s population
* Major religion of India today
* Believe that all living things are connected together through a complex web of life

1. Origins of Belief

* Hinduism cannot be traced to one founder
* There is no single set of beliefs
* Blending of many religious beliefs with 1000s of gods
* Hinduism believe that there is one main God who created thousands of minor gods

1. Main Hindu Gods

* **Brahma –**
* **Vishnu –**
* **Shiva –**

**Main Goal for Hindus**

* **Moksha –**

1. How Hindus Rejoin with Brahma

* **Reincarnation –**
* **Dharma –**
* **Karma –**
* One’s karma determines who they become in the next life
* **Yoga –**

1. Holy Cow

* Cows are considered a sacred animal in Hinduism
* Cows provide power, food, and fuel
* Most Hindus will not eat beef
* Cows are allowed to freely roam the streets of India

1. Caste System

* **Caste –**
* Hindus are unable to change their caste
* Over time 100s of castes have developed within Hinduism

1. What One’s Caste Determines

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

1. Classless

* **Untouchables –**
* 1/4th of all Hindus are untouchables
* Seen as punishment for one’s bad karma in a former life

1. Jainism

* Beliefs similar to Hinduism
* Believe that everything has a soul and nothing should ever be harmed
* Wear masks and carry brushes to prevent harming the smallest animal