

NUMBERS



'Religion by numbers' It is surprising how many times a number is really important inside a religion. Can you add ten more to our ten examples, make a countdown of your own?

What's it all about? A countdown of religion.

This clip is a good way to introduce the whole series of the A-Z of religion. It shows you the animation style of the series and might just get you thinking. Here is our countdown of religious factoids!

- 10. **The Ten Commandments:** given to Jewish leader Moses as a basis of faith and morality.
- 9. A Hindu divine number: it reflects perfection and completeness.
- 8. The Eightfold Path of the Buddha leads to enlightenment
- 7. **The Seven Deadly Sins** in Catholic Christianity are lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride
- 6. Days of Creation in the Jewish and Christian story of Genesis 1
- 5. **Pillars of Islam**, the duties of belief, prayer, giving, fasting and pilgrimage for those who want to be good Muslims.
- 4. The Four Noble Truths which the Buddha taught map put the way to reduce suffering.
- 3. **Trinity and Trimurti**: the Christians believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Hinduism teaches that Brahma the creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer are three key manifestations of the divine ultimate, called Brahman.
- 2. **Yin Yang:** a Chinese philosophical symbol for bringing opposites into harmony.
- 1. One and only singular God. A teaching shared by Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Sikh religions.

Which religions and beliefs?

Jewish
Muslim
Christian
Buddhist
Sikh
Hindu
Chinese
philosophy

Clip available here: www.bbc.co.uk/ teach/class-clipsvideo/religiouseducation-ks3-a-z-ofreligion-and-beliefsn-is-for-numbers/ zngdmfr

Key Questions

- Which numbers matter in different religions?
- Why do religions use numbers in these different ways – is it to aid memory? Some other reason?
- Which numbers, important in religions, can you discover and rank?
 - Some numbers are supposed to symbolise evil (in the bible, 13 is the number of people at the Last Supper. 666 is the 'Number of the (Evil) Beast'. Do you know some number-based beliefs about good and evil?

Classroom or homework task: Religion Top Ten

- A> Your own Ten-to-One Before you watch this (and without looking at the list above if you can be that self-disciplined!), write 10-1 down the side of a piece of paper. Can you make a link to religion from each number? Note down your ideas, then watch the clip.
- B> What did you learn? List all the factual points from the clip that you did not know before.
- C> Create another clip of your own. If you were devising 'Part Two' of 'A-Z: N is for Numbers' then which ten things would you feature, in addition to the ones we chose, and why? Research, describe and explain ten numbers that matter in several different religions.

Suggested outcomes: students can...

- Give an informed account of some key numbers in different religions.
- Give reasons for their ideas about the importance of numbers in different religions,
- Identify and consider thoughtfully a range of questions about religions cropping up through the study of numbers.

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N is for Numbers Many religions see numbers as important or memorable in some way.	10
In the grid on the right, create a 'religious numbers' countdown. You will have to do a bit of research. Make it memorable and entertaining.	9
These questions might help some of your research. How many Gospels in Christianity? How many books in the Jewish Torah? How many Jewels do Buddhist refer to? How many incarnations does the Hindu god Vishnu take?	8
	7
Factual info I learned from the clip:	6
	5
	4
	3
	2
	1