

<h1>Z</h1>	<h2>ZOROASTRIANS (and other smaller religions)</h2>	<p>What is it all about? About 4200 religions on earth!</p> <p>The biggest religions number billions – Christians, Muslims, Hindus. But Zoroastrians, Jains and the Baha’i faith are examples of religions whose followers may be less than 10 million, but offer a ‘full set’ of beliefs, ethics, community, places to worship, narratives and scripture to their followers, and have been around for hundreds or thousands of years. From the programme, you can note five facts about each of these three smaller religious groups. These three are not ‘small’ religions: they are medium sized. 6 million followers of the Baha’i faith could fill Wembley Stadium over 70 times. It’s almost as if humans are all living in a religion-factory!</p> <p>In the UK census of 2001 – and again in 2011 – lots of people who did not like religion, or did not like being asked for their religion, said they were Jedi knights. That kind of throwaway remark doesn’t turn Star Wars into the new religion of the world, but it does raise the question: how did all these thousands of religions start? They often grow out of older religions – as Islam emerged from Jewish and Christian faith, for example.</p>
 <p>Saying you are a Jedi Knight may be a decent joke in a census, but it is not really a religion. What has made humanity such a religious species? Why do we have so many different faiths?</p>		
<p>Which religions and beliefs?</p> <p>Zoroastrians Jains The Baha’i faith</p> <p><i>(‘Jedi knight’ is not a real religion)</i></p> <p>Clip available here: www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-z-is-for-zoroastrianism/zmgv47h</p>	<p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How come there are over 4000 religions in the world? • Why do you think it is that about 4% of the world is atheist? Is that figure surprisingly small or surprisingly big? • Will religions grow and proliferate, or wither and die out in the next 50 years? Why? (About 7 billion of the world’s 7.8 billion people identify with a religion today) 	<p>Classroom or homework tasks:</p> <p>A. Choose one of these three ‘medium sized’ religions, Zoroastrians, Jains or Baha’is and find out ten facts about the religion. Turn these into a quiz for other members of your class. Remember: these religions have many millions of members!</p> <p>B. Consider the key question: Will religions grow and proliferate, or wither and die out in the next 50 years? Why? Write two long paragraphs giving opposite points of view about this. Can you use these keywords: <i>conflict / revival / sociology / science / technology / progress / Spirit of God?</i></p> <p>Suggested outcomes: students can...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Give an informed account of a ‘medium sized’ religion from their own research. ▪ Give reasons for their views about the possible decline or future growth of religions. ▪ Analyse key questions and attend to opposite views of a religious question in a balanced way.

Z is for Zoroastrians

Five facts about Zoroastrians

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The world is 4% atheist. What I think about this figure is:

Five Facts about Jains

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Will religions grow stronger or die out in the next 50 years?

Maybe grow stronger because...

Five facts about Baha'is

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Maybe die out because...

Yoda and God: Some people compare the fictional world of Star Wars to religion: Is The Force like a god? Is Yoda like a Prophet? What do you think?