

# World Religion Day

## What Is World Religion Day?

World Religion Day is celebrated every January on the third Sunday of the month. It is a special day when all religions are celebrated.

People who follow the Bahá'í Faith believe that the main religions around the world share some core ideas, for example, treating other people in the way you would want to be treated.





## How It Began

World Religion Day was started by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith. It began in the state of Maine in the United States as a day for World Peace Through World Religion in October 1947. By 1949, the event was being held in other areas in the US and in 1950, it became known as World Religion Day.

It was decided that for one day a year, all religions should be celebrated and their similarities appreciated.

## The Six Main Religions

Around the world, there are many religions and faiths. However, the six main religions are Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Each of these religions encourage kindness to others.

<b>Sikhism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.</li></ul>	
<b>Christianity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.</li></ul>	
<b>Hinduism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.</li></ul>	
<b>Buddhism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.</li></ul>	

**Judaism**

- What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.

**Islam**

- Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.

**How It Is Celebrated**

World Religion Day is celebrated in a variety of different ways. Many people attend special services. The focus of these services is to gain a better understanding of other religions and to celebrate the similarities between them all. It is about promoting the common message to treat each other with respect to create a better world for everyone.

**How Can We Celebrate World Religion Day?**

- Take the time to learn about different faiths from around the world.
- Become aware of how many different religions there are, even the smaller, lesser-known ones.
- Speak to others about their religion and take the time to speak to people about yours.

**Aims of World Religion Day:**

To develop understanding between all religions

To unite everyone, whatever their religious beliefs



# Questions

1. When is World Religion Day celebrated each year? Tick one.

- the third Sunday in June
- the fourth Sunday in July
- the fourth Sunday in January
- the third Sunday in January

2. Draw **three** lines to match up the statements.

In 1950...

the event was known as World Peace Through World Religion.

In 1947...

the event became known as World Religion Day.

In 1949...

the event was held in other areas of the US.

3. How many main worldwide religions are there considered to be? Tick one.

- five
- six
- seven
- eight

4. Draw **three** lines to match the statements to the religion.

Judaism

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

Hinduism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.

Buddhism

This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.

5. What one thing do the main religions encourage?

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6. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'bringing people together'.

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7. In your own words, describe the purpose of World Religion Day.

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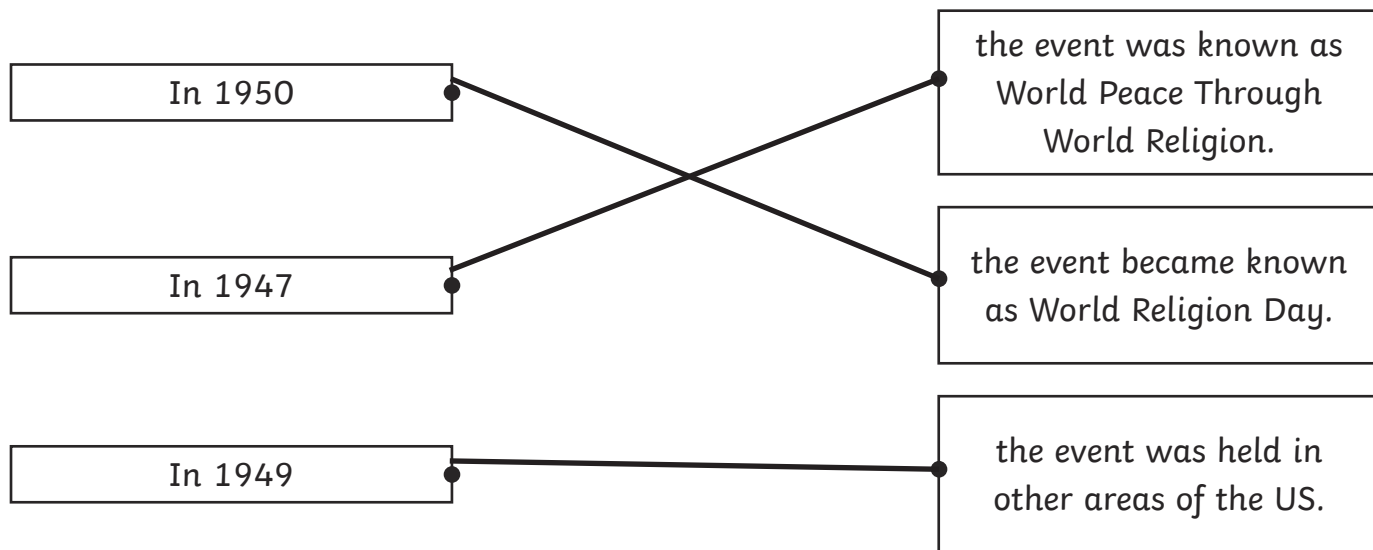
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# Answers

1. When is World Religion Day celebrated each year? Tick one.

- the third Sunday in June
- the fourth Sunday in July
- the fourth Sunday in January
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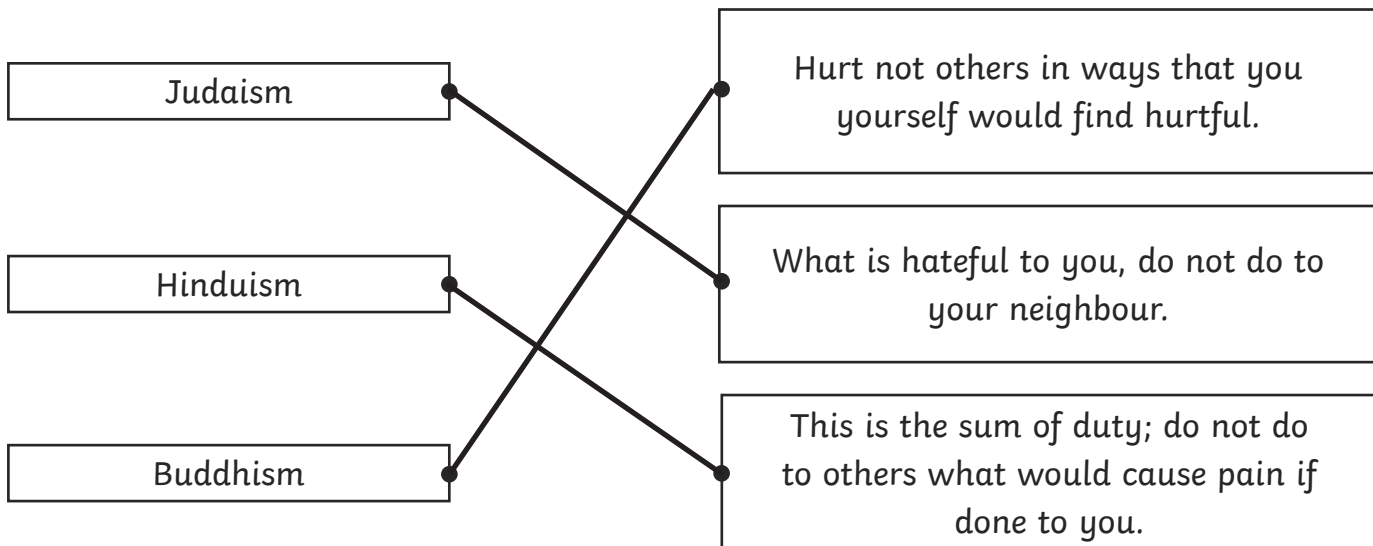
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3. How many main worldwide religions are there considered to be? Tick one.

- five
- six**
- seven
- eight

4. Draw **three** lines to match the statements to the religion.



5. What one thing do the main religions encourage?

**The six main religions encourage kindness to others.**

6. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'bringing people together'.

**unite**

7. In your own words, describe the purpose of World Religion Day.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the purpose of World Religion Day is to celebrate and recognise the things which are similar and different between worldwide religions.**

# World Religion Day

World Religion Day is an annual event celebrated on the third Sunday in the month of January. It was initially started by followers of the Bahá'í Faith. Bahá'ís believe that all people are equal and that all religions have common values. They believe that no one should be treated differently because of their colour, age, race, whether they are male or female or what religion they believe in.

The idea for World Religion Day began at a Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith. The day was called 'World Peace Through World Religion' and first took place in the state of Maine, USA, in 1947. It was renamed World Religion Day in 1950.

The intention was that for one day a year, all religions should be celebrated and their similarities and differences respected and appreciated.

## The Six Main Religions

Around the world, there are many religions and faiths. However, the six main religions are Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Each of these religions encourage respect, equality and kindness to others.

Here is a summary of some their beliefs and values around this:

### Sikhism

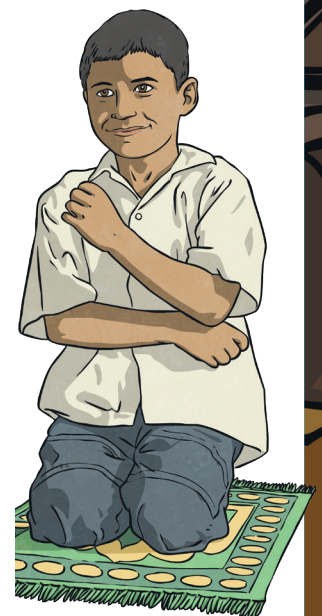
- I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.
- Everyone is equal in God's eyes and everyone should be treated equally.

### Christianity

- In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.
- To love God and look after one another.

### Hinduism

- This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.
- One should not behave towards others in a way that is disagreeable to oneself.



### Buddhism

- Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.
- Buddhists have a promise called the bodhisattva vow, which is the commitment to put others before oneself.

### Judaism

- What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.
- You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

### Islam

- Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.
- When a flower blooms, its colour and scent first touch the garden near it and then spread. In the same way, a Muslim's should first touch those nearest to him, his family and his neighbours.

### Celebrating World Religion Day

World Religion Day is celebrated in a variety of ways. Many people will attend special services which centre around respecting other religions and reflecting on the universal message of the six main religions - treating each other with respect and understanding the need to create a better world for everyone.

### How Can We Celebrate World Religion Day?

- Take the time to study different faiths from around the world.
- Become aware of how many different religions there are, even the smaller, lesser-known ones.
- Speak to others about their religion and take time to speak to people about yours.

Jainism is an ancient Indian religion. Jains believe that one should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.

#### Aims of World Religion Day:

- To develop understanding between all religions.
- To unite everyone, whatever their religious beliefs.





# Questions

1. Which religious group started World Religion Day?

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2. Fill in the missing words.

Bahá'ís believe that all people are \_\_\_\_\_ and that all religions have common \_\_\_\_\_.

3. In your own words, describe the purpose of World Religion Day.

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4. What sub-heading would you give for the section including the first three paragraphs of the text? Explain your answer.

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5. Tick **true** or **false** for the following statements.

	True	False
World Religion Day was originally called World Peace and Religion.		
It began in Maine, Australia.		
It was renamed World Religion Day in 1950.		
It is celebrated every year on the third Sunday in the month of January.		

6. What do Jains believe? Tick one.

- You shall love your neighbour as yourself.
- One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.
- To love God and look after one another.
- I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.

7. Draw **four** lines to match the statements to the religion.

Judaism

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.

Hinduism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.

Buddhism

This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.

Christianity

In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.

8. How is World Religion Day celebrated? Tick **two**.

- people attend special services
- people celebrate all the different religions for a week
- people go to parties and dance
- people reflect on the universal message of the six main religions

# Answers

1. Which religious group started World Religion Day?

**Followers of the Bahá'í Faith.**

2. Fill in the missing words.

Bahá'ís believe that all people are **equal** and that all religions have common **values**.

3. In your own words, describe the purpose of World Religion Day.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the purpose of World Religion Day is to celebrate and recognise the features which are similar and different between worldwide religions.**

4. What sub-heading would you give for the section including the first three paragraphs of the text? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: What is World Religion Day? is a suitable sub-heading for the first section because this part of the text explains the background of the day.**

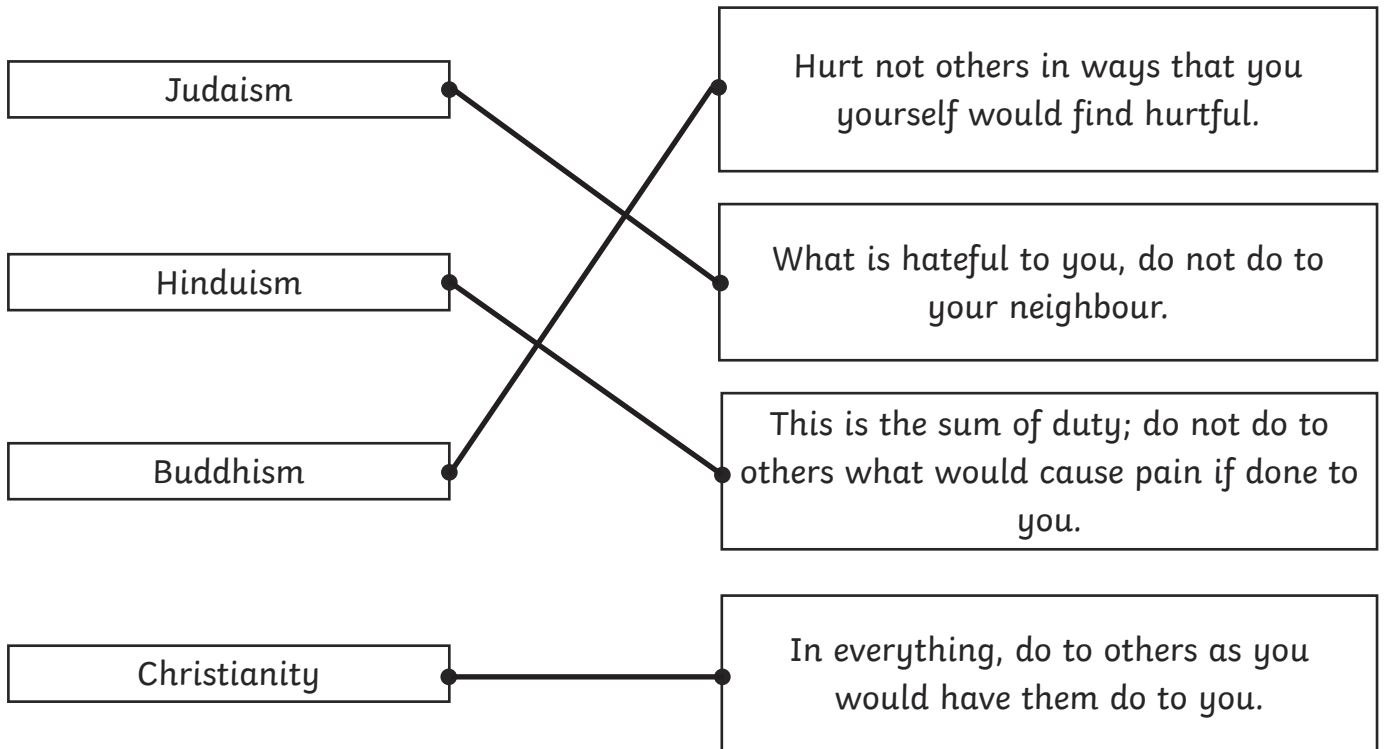
5. Tick **true** or **false** for the following statements.

	True	False
World Religion Day was originally called World Peace and Religion.		✓
It began in Maine, Australia.		✓
It was renamed World Religion Day in 1950.	✓	
It is celebrated every year on the third Sunday in the month of January.	✓	

6. What do Jains believe? Tick one.

- You shall love your neighbour as yourself.
- One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.**
- To love God and look after one another.
- I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.

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8. How is World Religion Day celebrated? Tick **two**.

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- people go to parties and dance
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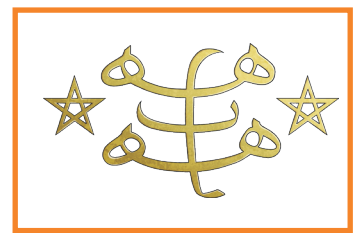
# World Religion Day

World Religion Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday of January. The idea for it originated with followers of the Bahá'í faith.

## What Is the Bahá'í Faith?

- Bahá'ís believe that all human beings are different but equal.
- They believe that all religions have value and that there are common features and similarities between them.
- They believe that there is one God who is known by a range of names in all religions, such as Buddha, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad (PBUH).
- The diversity between the religions are due to the way people think about God.
- Bahá'ís believe that no one should be treated differently because of their colour, age, race, whether they are male or female or what religion they believe in.

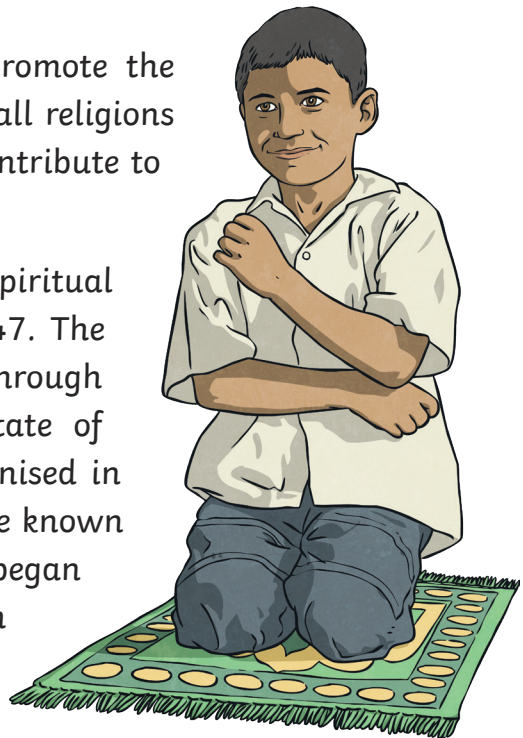
The ringstone symbol represents people connecting with God.



## World Religion Day

The purpose of World Religion Day is to promote the Bahá'í principles; that all people are equal, all religions have value and the idea that religions can contribute to uniting humanity, rather than dividing it.

World Religion Day was first observed by the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í Faith in October 1947. The day was initially referred to as World Peace Through World Religion which took place in the state of Maine, United States. By 1949, it was recognised in a range of communities in the US and became known as World Religion Day. Internationally, it began to be celebrated in 1950 in Australia, then throughout the world.



## The Six Main Religions

The six main worldwide religions are Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. Each of these religions encourage respect, equality and kindness to others.

Here is a summary of some their beliefs and values around this:

### Sikhism

- I am a stranger to no one and no one is a stranger to me. I am a friend to all.
- Everyone is equal in God's eyes and everyone should be treated equally.

### Christianity

- In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you.
- To love God and look after one another.

### Hinduism

- This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.
- One should not behave towards others in a way that is disagreeable to oneself.

### Buddhism

- Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.
- Buddhists have a promise called the bodhisattva vow, which is the commitment to put others before oneself.

### Judaism

- What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour.
- You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

### Islam

- Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.
- When a flower blooms, its colour and scent first touch the garden near it and then spread. In the same way, a Muslim's should first touch those nearest to him, his family and his neighbours.

### Celebrating World Religion Day

World Religion Day is celebrated in a variety of ways. People from different faiths are encouraged to listen and talk to one another. Many people attend special services and some religions hold interfaith events, where faith leaders get together to give lectures and talks.

Ultimately, the different events that take place help people to understand the basic values and beliefs of other religions. They highlight the need to respect other religions and demonstrate how everyone can cooperate to create a cohesive world for humankind.

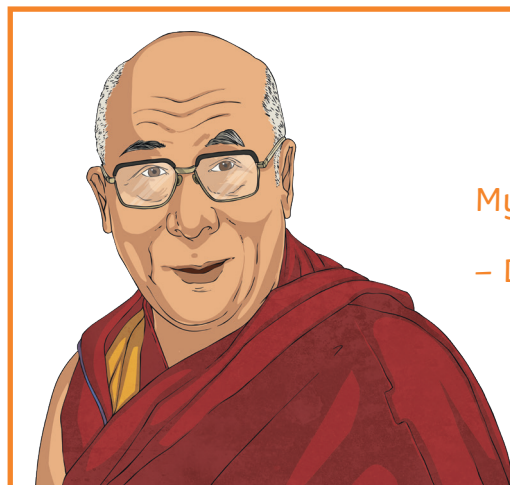
### How Can We Celebrate World Religion Day?

- Take the time to study different faiths from around the world.
- Become aware of how many different religions there are, even the smaller, lesser-known ones.
- Speak to others about their religion and spend time speaking to others about yours.

Jainism is an ancient Indian religion. Jains believe that one should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.

#### Aims of World Religion Day:

- To promote inter-faith understanding and harmony.
- To unite everyone, regardless of faith.



My religion is simple. My religion is kindness.

– Dalai Lama (Buddhist spiritual leader)

# Questions

1. How often is World Religion Day celebrated? Tick one.

- twice a year  
 once a month  
 once a year  
 every third week throughout the year

2. Explain how the beliefs of the Bahá'ís relate to World Religion Day.

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3. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'bringing people together'.

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4. Find and copy one word that means the opposite to 'bringing people together'.

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5. Tick **true** or **false** for the following statements.

	True	False
World Religion Day was originally called World Peace and Religion.		
It began in Maine, Australia.		
In 1949, it was celebrated in different US communities.		
It grew internationally, being celebrated in Australia after the US.		



6. Explain what you understand the Buddhist statement, 'Treat not others in ways that you would find hurtful', to mean.

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7. Fill in the missing words.

Many people attend special services and some religions hold \_\_\_\_\_ events, where faith leaders get together to give lectures and \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Explain how it could be said that there is a common message or theme linking all the statements from the six main faiths.

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# Answers

1. How often is World Religion Day celebrated? Tick one.

- twice a year  
 once a month  
 **once a year**  
 every third week throughout the year

2. Explain how the beliefs of the Bahá'ís relate to World Religion Day.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Baha'is believe that all religions have common features and similarities and that all human beings are different but equal. This relates to World Religion Day because that means that as everyone is equal, they should have their religion respected. If people tried to understand different religions, and tried to see the similarities as well as the differences, then the world would be a better place.**

3. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'bringing people together'.

**uniting**

4. Find and copy one word that means the opposite to 'bringing people together'.

**dividing**

5. Tick **true** or **false** for the following statements.

	True	False
World Religion Day was originally called World Peace and Religion.		✓
It began in Maine, Australia.		✓
In 1949, it was celebrated in different US communities.	✓	
It grew internationally, being celebrated in Australia after the US.	✓	

6. Explain what you understand the Buddhist statement, 'Treat not others in ways that you would find hurtful', to mean.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The Buddhist statement means that everyone should be treated with kindness and respect and that you should consider how you would like to be treated so that you do not treat others in a hurtful way.**

7. Fill in the missing words.

Many people attend special services and some religions hold **interfaith** events, where faith leaders get together to give lectures and **talks**.

8. Explain how it could be said that there is a common message or theme linking all the statements from the six main faiths.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The beliefs and values from the six main faiths seem to have the same message in common, which is to show care and kindness towards other people and to treat them as you would want to be treated yourself.**