

# WORLD RELIGIONS

## An Introduction



- **We need to be able to think outside our parochial religious box.**
- **Clash of civilizations—between any of the following religions: Christianity (Catholic and Protestant), Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhist, Baha'is, etc.**
- **Installing Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire brought the Anglican Church into the dispute.**  
[http://www.wolverton-mountain.com/articles/unknottting\\_my\\_underwear.htm](http://www.wolverton-mountain.com/articles/unknottting_my_underwear.htm)
- **Medical procedures in hospitals**
- **Interfaith marriages**
- **Religious customs imported with believers**

# World Religions



Winkel Tripel Projection

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**Religion can be defined as a set of beliefs and rituals relating to supernatural beings or forces.**

**Religion is a cultural universal and has been around since the Neanderthals.**

**Animism can be seen in all religions and is defined as the idea that objects contain spirits.**

**Nature-Worship theory—a means to control or explain natural occurrences**

**Magic—the supernatural techniques used to accomplish specific goals or desire. Magic provides a sense of control of the uncontrollable factors of life.**

**Rituals reinforce belief systems in all religions.**

**Rites of passage are religious rituals which mark and facilitate a person's movement from one (social) state of being to another**

**Animism—spirit-filled world**

**Magic—voodoo, etc.**

**Divination—determining future or the will of God**

**Taboo—religious no-no's**

**Totems—relationship to animals or things**

**Sacrifice—all sorts of things to influence God**

**Myths—explanation of events or beliefs**

**Rituals—ceremonies**

**Rites of Passage—marking relationship to God and/or society**

**Ancestor Veneration—elders have weighted importance**

## **Prehistoric Religion:**

**Neanderthal religion--125-30K—burial sites**

**Cro-Magnon religion—30K—fetal burial position**

**Neolithic religion—7-3000K—civilization really started  
thus producing developed religions**