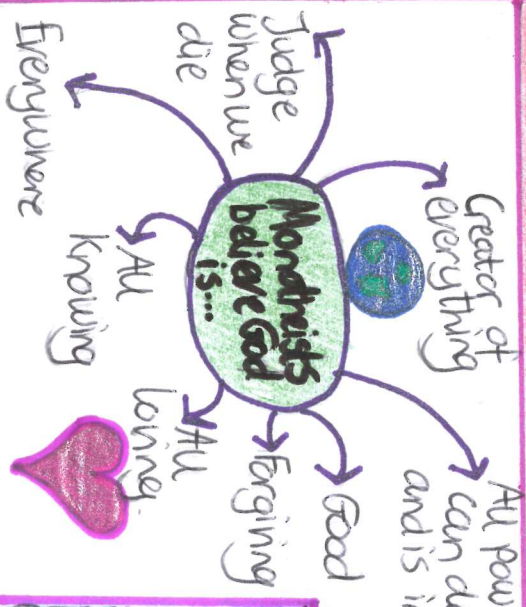


# YEAR 7 - WHAT IS A RELIGION? 1

**KEY WORD - Monotheism** - The belief in one God.

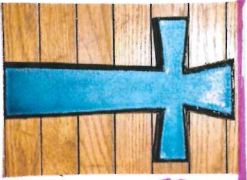


**IMPORTANT:** For the 3 monotheist religions below, belief in God is really important. All other beliefs exist because of God. God makes the religion.



**JUDAISM** - The oldest monotheist faith.  
 - Started by Abraham who made a promise with God.  
 - Jesus can worship God by reading His words in the Torah. They may also worship with others in a synagogue.

**CHRISTIANITY** - started with the birth of Jesus. Christians believe He is the son of God.  
 - They believe that Jesus sacrificed himself so all humans can go to Heaven with God.  
 - Christians try to be good in this life so they can spend eternity with God.



**Islam** - started by the Prophet Muhammad.  
 - Muslims worship God by praying to Him 5 times every day.  
 - They also spend the month of Ramadan fasting during daylight hours.

**KEY BELIEFS OF JAINISM**

**AHIMSA** - The belief in non-violence toward every living thing.  
 - Too much violence will cause lots of bad karma and will keep your soul trapped.



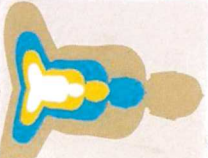
- Jains try hard not to hurt things by accident; they sweep insects off the road and wear masks. They also fast.

**JIVAS** - 24 beings who have managed to free their souls.  
 - Many Jain worship them like Gods.



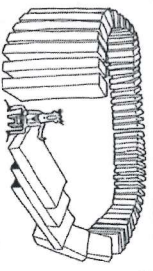
- They are NOT like the monotheist God. They used to be people trapped like this.

**JIVA** - Every living thing has a Jiva or a soul.  
 - This is what gets reborn.



- The Jivas are beings who got not of all bad Karma and freed their souls.

**KARMA** - Every action you do collects good or bad karma.  
 - To free your soul, you must remove all bad karma by doing good or bad karma.



- You must remove all bad karma by doing good or bad karma.

**REINCARNATION** -



The Jain belief of what happens when you die.  
 - Your Jiva is reborn into another body. Rebirth is controlled by karma.

**IS Jainism a religion, even without a God?**

**YES!** It is one of the 3 most ancient religions. Lots of believers + followers.

Key beliefs → see above.  
 clear practices - ways that people should behave and live

**NO...** Monotheists may argue that a true religion must have an all powerful, creator God.