|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **political** | **physical** | **ethnic group** | **religious group** |
| * related to government
* determined by govt. such as boundaries for independent nations
 | * visible, environmental
* mountains, rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans are all examples
 | * people who may share common characteristics such as language, physical traits, customs, and traditions
* examples include Arabs, Kurds, and Persian
 | * people who share a common set of beliefs, usually in a supernatural being or beings
* Jews, Christians, Muslims, Sunnis, and Shia are all examples
 |
| **Arabs** | **Kurds** | **Persians** | **Shia** |
| * the most common (numerous) ethnic group in the Middle East and North Africa
* originally came from the Arabian Peninsula.
 | * ethnic group that lives in the mountainous regions of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Armenia, and Turkey
* Most are Sunni Muslims
* Have fought for their own country for decades
 | * ethnic group who make up over ½ of the population of Iran
* maintained a large and powerful empire in ancient times
 | * a smaller percentage of all Muslims
* believe that Muhammad’s heirs should be descendants of Muhammad
* the heir is both a political AND religious leader.
 |
| **Sunni** | **compare** | **contrast** | **diversity** |
| * group that makes up 85% - 90% of all Muslims
* believe that Muhammad did not appoint a successor so the successor needs to be elected or appointed
* the successor serves only as a political leader, not a religious leader.
 | * relate, same, similarities
 | * dissimilar, distinct, different
 | * the variety or differences among people or groups
 |
| **prominent** | **monotheistic** | **polytheistic** | **Judaism** |
| * notable, primary, most common
 | * a religion with the belief in one god
 | * a religion with the belief in more than one god
 | * The first of the monotheistic religions founded c. 1900 BCE
* Abraham is considered the founder
* Worship in a synagogue
* Holy text is the Torah
 |
| **Christianity** | **Islam** | **Abraham** | **Muhammad** |
| * The second monotheistic religion with its start in 1 CE
* Based on the life and teachings of Jesus
* Worship in a church
* Holy text is the Bible
 | * The third monotheistic religion with its start c. 610 CE
* Muhammad is considered the founder
* Worship in a mosque
* Holy text is the Qur’an
 | * Considered the founder of Judaism although he is considered a patriarchal figure in the teachings of all 3 monotheistic religions
 | * Considered the founder of Islam
* The angel Gabriel appeared to him to give him Allah’s (God’s) word
 |
| **Muslims** | **5 Pillars of Islam** | **Jerusalem** | **arid** |
| * term used for the followers of Islam
* NOT a term for a religion
 | * principle beliefs of faith, prayer, charity, fasting during the holy month, and the hajj
 | * City in Israel considered holy by all three monotheistic religions
 | * dry, the type of climate most common in the Middle East
 |