|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 |