



“World religions: respect and coexistence”

Ref. 30767



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Game developed in collaboration with **Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de las Religiones** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)



CONTENTS

Association game with photographs to discover and learn about different religions. It offers the chance to develop an education based on values as a basis for resolving conflicts. It helps you promote a culture of peace and respect from a very early age. The game features the following religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Throw the dice and learn all about them!

The material of the game is made of thick, durable, very hard-wearing, high-quality cardboard.

The material is also environment-friendly, comes from sustainable forests, consists of a high percentage of recycled material, and is 100% recyclable.

The game consists of:

- **5 round cards with the symbol of each religion "religion cards":**



Buddhism



Islam



Christianity



Judaism



Hinduism

- **6 cards in the shape of a sack with icons of different categories "category cards":**



Religious symbols



Celebration or ceremony





Place of worship



Marriage



Act of prayer



After life

- **30 photo cards:**
 - Front: the colour of the frame indicates the religion to which the card belongs.
 - Back: shows the icon of the category to which the image belongs.
- **Religion die**
- **Category die**

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP

Children aged 3 to 8.

The game can be played in different ways, adapting to the age and knowledge of the children. It promotes a culture of peace and respect from a very early age.

The youngest children start with a simple colour association to discover the characteristics of different religions.

Older children can also learn to classify these characteristics into categories.

Owing to its characteristics, i.e. large size cards with real-life photographs, the game is suitable for both children and adults.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Discover that different religions exist and coexist in the world.
- Learn about some of their characteristics and learn to respect them.
- Help develop an education in values as a basis for conflict resolution.
- To develop the skills of observation and logical reasoning.
- To extend the vocabulary related to the images shown on the cards.

ACTIVITIES AND HOW TO PLAY

DISCOVERING RELIGIONS and DESCRIBING THE PHOTOGRAPHS

Before starting the following activities, it is recommended to read the description of the religions that appear in the game and familiarise the children with the images on the photo cards, describe what they see and name it. To do this, see the last section of the guide, which describes the religions and images on the photo cards.

ASSOCIATE AND CLASSIFY BY RELIGIONS

Materials: religious die, round religion cards and photo cards.

1. Separate the round religion cards on one side of the table from the photo cards on the other side.
2. Taking turns, starting with the youngest player, the player throws the religion die and takes a card with a photograph belonging to the religion indicated by the die. They observe or name the image, and associate it with the round card of the corresponding religion. The colour of the frame of the photo card must correspond to the colour of the round card.
If the die shows the cross, the player loses a turn and it is the next player's turn.
3. The game ends when all five religions have been completed.

ASSOCIATE AND CLASSIFY BY CATEGORIES

Material: category die, category cards and photo cards.

1. Separate the category cards on one side of the table from the photo cards on the other side.
2. Taking turns, the player throws the category die and takes a card with a photograph belonging to the category indicated by the die. They observe and name the image, and associate it with the category card of the corresponding religion (according to colour).
3. Self-correction system: Check both the colour of the religion and the category icon on the back of the photo card.
4. The game ends when the 6 categories showing the characteristics of all five religions have been completed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELIGIONS



Buddhism:

- It is a non-theistic religion (they do not have or follow a god). However, it is a philosophical and spiritual doctrine in which religious beliefs and spiritual practices focus on finding peace, harmony, tranquillity and balance.
- Buddhism is based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha.
- It is the fourth-largest religion in the world, with 500 million followers.
- Rooted mainly in Asia.



Christianity:

- It is a monotheistic Abrahamic religion that grew out of Judaism. Christians call their god "Father", which is why they consider all human beings to be brothers and sisters to each other. Although God is one, Christians conceive God as the mysterious union of three persons: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the Son.
- It is the world's largest religion, with 2.4 billion followers.
- Its main branches are Catholicism, Protestantism and Orthodoxy.
- It is mainly found in Europe, the Americas and much of Africa.

**Hinduism:**

- It is a polytheistic religion, one of the oldest and most complex in history, structured in beliefs and doctrines that become a philosophy of life. Although it is made up of various gods, they believe in only one Brahman (Supreme Universal Principle), as well as karma and reincarnation.
- It is the third most widespread religion in the world, with 1.14 billion followers.
- It is mainly based in India, and is spread throughout most of South Asia (Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia, among others, and some African countries).

**Islam:**

- Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam is a monotheistic religion based on the belief in one god. Muslims use the word Allah to refer to God, the creator of the world and all life in it. For Muslims, God/Allah is the Lord of the universe.
- It is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over 2.2 billion followers. It is also the religion that has seen the greatest growth in the number of devotees in recent decades.
- It is mostly found in South Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, but also in Indonesia, Europe, America and China.

**Judaism:**

- It is the oldest of the three Abrahamic religions. Also monotheistic, their God is called YAHVE, although pronouncing his name is forbidden in Judaism and is considered blasphemy.
- It is the fifth most widespread religion in the world, with approximately 15 million followers.
- Although it is spread almost all over the world, its followers are mainly concentrated in Israel, and a large part in the United States (mainly New York, Los Angeles and Florida).

DESCRIPTION OF THE CATEGORIES



Religious symbols:

This category includes images of sacred symbols, such as the representation of one or more of the gods, or sacred books and other important elements of doctrine.



Place of worship:

This is the temple or place of religious worship, consecrated to one or more gods.



Celebration or ceremony:

The cards contain images of rites or acts that follow a set of rules established for religious worship, or to commemorate a divine feast.



Act of prayer:

In all or almost all religions, the act of prayer is a sacred moment that unites people with their god. Each culture has different customs and ways of performing this act, and these cards show the different manifestations according to the doctrine.



Marriage:

This category includes interesting information specific to the celebration of marriage according to each doctrine. This celebration involves differences and similarities.



After life:

Since the moment of leaving the body to reunite the soul with God or the different gods is so important for almost all religions, this category aims, in a respectful way, to show images of the worship of the deceased in each doctrine. Again, we find differences and similarities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS



BUDDHISM



Religious symbols:

- *The Great Buddha*. It is a statue of Buddha in meditation position. It is an extension of the Po Lin Monastery and symbolises the union of man and nature.
- It is a way of representing the Buddhist faith: Buddha symbolises for Buddhism something similar to the figure of the messiah or the prophet.



Place of worship:

- *Stupa*. This is a type of Buddhist architecture made to contain relics. It is a funerary pilgrimage monument.
- In the building, prayers are recited and meditation takes place by walking around it, always keeping the object to be worshipped to the right, the direction in which the stars circle the heavens.



Celebration or ceremony:

- *Vesak*. It means "fourth lunar month". It is the most prominent celebration of Buddhism, when the faithful remember Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, by going to temples and making offerings.
- The picture shows a release of paper lanterns; this event takes place mainly in parts of Indonesia and India when they celebrate Vesak. Depending on the area, the custom may be to dress the waters and gardens where they gather for collective prayers and meditations with lanterns in the shape of water lilies.



Marriage:

- *Purification of the hands*. During the act of marriage under the Buddhist faith, the bride and groom stand in front of the altar of Buddha in a posture of total respect called *wai*, to receive the monk's blessing. The monk conducts the ceremony and anoints the bride and groom with pollen and holy water.
- Water is used to purify the hands and initiate the marriage clean and purified, and pollen symbolises the formation of future seeds.

**Act of prayer:**

- *Meditation.* This is the Buddhist prayer time and is practised to find the path to liberation from impurities (kleshas) and craving (upādāna), and thus to reach a healthy state of mind that leads to a more profound knowledge of the nature of the world.
- It is mainly done in solitude and always in silence, with your own inner world, and different techniques are performed, such as contemplation of the breath.

**After life:**

- *Cremation pyre.* When a Buddhist follower dies, the funeral ritual begins with three days of prayer to Buddha for the body, until the body is cremated.
- The coffin with Chan flowers (paper or wooden flowers) is placed on the pyre and the cremation begins.



CHRISTIANITY



Religious symbols:

- *Bible, cross, chalice, candle and monstrance.* It is the sacred book and different elements that are used in the ritual of the Liturgy (mass).



Place of worship:

- *Church.* It is a temple for public religious worship where most Christian ceremonies, rites and liturgies are held.



Celebration or ceremony:

- *Baptism.* The image is orthodox because the baby is completely immersed in holy water, but it is intended to represent the Christian baptism ceremony in general.
- It is a rite of admission to Christianity and is considered a sacrament (an act by which the believer manifests their relationship with God).



Marriage:

- *Rings.* It is a rite performed during the consecration of the marriage ceremony. The priest, who orchestrates the ceremony, blesses the wedding rings and gives them to the bride and groom to offer to each other as a sign of love and fidelity.
- The bride and groom put the ring on each other's ring finger, symbolically sealing their union.



Act of prayer:

- *Position of the hands: prayer or petition.* In the Christian religion, prayers can be said collectively or privately, in church or elsewhere. But generally, when praying privately and especially in church or when making a petition to God, the worshipper kneels down and joins hands as a symbol of submission and supplication.
- Among other petitions, Christians ask God for the health and well-being of their loved ones, offering him deeds and sacrifices in exchange for his mercy.

**After life:**

- *Cemetery with crosses and flowers.* Christian cemeteries are characterised by tombstones or graves with the Christian cross. It is customary to bring flowers to the grave of a deceased Christian as a tribute and symbol of appreciation. The most common flower is the chrysanthemum, because it represents eternity, although nowadays bouquets or pots with a great floral diversity are also used.



HINDUISM



Religious symbols:

- *Trimûrti: Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu.* Trimûrti is the name for the three most important deities in the Hindu pantheon.
- Each of these divinities represents a different concept: Creation (Brahma), Conservation (Vishnu) and Destruction (Shiva).



Place of worship:

- *Mandir.* This is the name given to Hindu temples.
- Among other things, they are characterised by the presence of murtis (statues) of the Hindu deity to whom the temple is dedicated. The temple is usually dedicated to a principal deity (the presiding deity) and other deities associated with the principal deity.
- They are usually located in nature, near rivers, waterfalls, caves... Because that is where followers believe the gods manifest themselves.



Celebration or ceremony:

- *Diwali.* Also known as the 'Festival of Lights', it is a five-day Indian festival held in the month of Kartika (mid to late October, depending on the calendar).
- The presiding deity of this festival is Lakshmi, although other gods such as Vishnu, Ganesha and Kali are also worshipped, and one of the most interesting acts is to light oil lamps or candles at night as an offering to Lakshmi, who is asked for the light of Truth (victory of dharma).
- The oil lamps normally used are made of clay and are called Diyas. They have a bright and colourful design of mandala petals.



Marriage:

- *Homa.* It is a ritual offering to fire. During the Hindu marriage ceremony, three basic rituals are performed: *Homa*, *Panigrahena* and *Satapadi*.
- During *Homa*, the sacred fire is lit and the spiritual master (Purohit) recites the mantra in Sanskrit while the bride and groom make their offerings to the fire. In the *Panigrahena*, the groom takes the bride's hand and promises her eternal care and protection. Finally, during *Satapadi*, the bride and groom must walk around the sacred fire seven times, with the bride in front for the first three.

Satapadi means "Seven steps" and it is after taking the last step that the couple legally become husband and wife.



Act of prayer:

- *Puja*. It is a religious ritual performed to pay respect to one or more deities and signifies reverence or homage. During the act, offerings (e.g. flowers, fruit, rice, candles...) are made to the god being worshipped, and at the end, the worshipper receives *prasad* (good omens and protection).
- The daily puja prayers performed at home are usually offered to Ganesha, who is a human-bodied elephant-headed god, son of the gods Shiva and Parvati. He is known as a god who removes obstacles, patron of the arts and sciences and lord of abundance.



After life:

- *Cremation*. When a Hindu dies, in the cremation ritual, he is taken to the pyre on the river bank and the relatives decorate the body with cloth and flowers. The body is immersed in the river to cleanse it, as a symbol of purification, and then cremated on the pyre by covering it with woods such as sandalwood, so that it smells good.
- The death of the deceased is recorded in the temple of Shiva, the god who represents destruction and universal transformation.



ISLAM



Religious symbols:

- *Qur'an, Misbaha and prayer mat.* It consists of the holy book, a camandula (a series of small balls held together by a thread), and the carpet used for Salat.
- El The Misbaha is used to keep track of the number of repetitions of the tasbih. The prayer mat, on the other hand, is placed with the mihrab drawing facing Mecca.



Place of worship:

- *Mosque.* It is a house of prayer and a place of prostration. It is a building designed and built specifically to worship the God Allah.



Celebration or ceremony:

- *Ramadan.* It is celebrated in the ninth month of the year and is known as the "Month of Fasting, prayer, reflection and community". The exact date varies around the lunar month and is a commemoration of the first revelation of the Prophet Muhammad. It is considered one of the five pillars of Islam.
- The fasts run from sunrise to sunset, and are obligatory, albeit with some exceptions (e.g. pregnant women). The first meal is taken before dawn and is called *suhur*, and the evening feast is called *iftar*.



Marriage:

- *Rings.* The giving of wedding rings at Muslim weddings symbolises a sacred contract of love: it signifies a commitment to fulfil every aspect of the marriage covenant. It also represents the union of the two families, not only that of the bride and groom.
- The rings are always worn on the right hand by both husband and wife. A man's wedding ring cannot be made of gold, but a woman's wedding ring can be made of gold, as the Qur'an explicitly forbids men to wear gold and silk.



Act of prayer:

- *Salat: Prayer.* It refers to Muslims' prayers to God, most commonly the five daily prayers. It is one of the five pillars of Islam and, as such, is obligatory. It

must be recited in Arabic and from memory, with exceptions for beginners and non-Arabic speakers.

- It is performed facing Mecca, in its *waqt* (predetermined time), and on a clean surface or prayer mat.



After life:

- In Muslim cemeteries, called Maqbara, the deceased are buried without a coffin, directly in the ground, and the grave is marked with a small flat tombstone with Arabic writing and, at most, the Muslim symbol. It must be humble and flowers are not allowed.
- Cremation in the Islamic religion is forbidden, due to the belief in the resurrection of the physical body, and buried bodies must face Mecca del cuerpo físico, y los cuerpos enterrados deben quedar mirando a La Meca.



JUDAISM



Religious symbols:

- *Tanakh, talit, shofar and phylacteries.* These are the holy books and various items used for prayer or different Jewish rites.
- The Tanakh is the set of the twenty-four canonical holy books in Judaism, the talit is a shawl worn by men at prayer, and the shofar is a ram's horn that is blown on certain Jewish holidays such as Rosh ha-shanah and Yom Kippur.
- Phylacteries, on the other hand, are small leather boxes that hold passages from Scripture. From the age of 13, Jewish males must use their phylacteries in daily prayer except on holidays. One of the straps is tied around the left arm (or right arm if the person is left-handed) seven times, and the other is placed over the head.



Place of worship:

- *Synagogue.* Its Hebrew name means "House of Assembly". It is a place of prayer and study, but also of meeting, dialogue and interpretation of the Torah.

**The Torah: the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These five books contain the law and the heritage that identifies the Jewish people. It forms the basis and foundation of Judaism and is part of the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible (the twenty-four holy books).*



Celebration or ceremony:

- *Hanukkah.* It is a Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication or reconquest of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the recovery of Jewish independence against the Seleucid Empire. It lasts eight days because it commemorates a miracle:
 - During the reconquest, the candelabra of the temple remained alight for eight consecutive days with an amount of oil sufficient for only one.
 - From then on, the tradition is to progressively light a nine-branched candelabrum called the Hanukkiyah (one for each of the days plus a "pilot" arm).
- The picture shows two children lighting the Hanukkiyah during the Hanukkah holiday.



Marriage:

- *Breaking the cup.* It is the act that concludes the celebration of the marriage. The ceremony consists of two acts: Erusin (engagement) and Nissuin (marriage).
 - o During the Erusin, the respective blessings and the presentation of the ring by the groom take place in the presence of two witnesses who are not relatives.
 - o Nissuin consists of the recitation of the seven blessings (sheva brachot). The act ends with the breaking of the cup.
- The cup is used by the bride and groom to drink wine when the rabbi finishes reciting the engagement blessings. Wine in Jewish culture symbolises joy.
- At the end of the second act, this cup is broken and this concludes the ceremony. It is a reminder of the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem and the fragility of human relationships and marriage.
 - o Being aware of weaknesses makes you work harder to fight weaknesses in order to build strengths.



Act of prayer:

- *Minyan:* community prayer. It must be made up of at least 10 males who must be of religious age (at least 13 years, and only after the Bar Mitzvah).
- The picture shows adult Jews, including the rabbi, reading from the Torah in front of the Western Wall.



After life:

- *Stones on the gravestone.* Jews are buried in a humble and simple wooden coffin or directly in the ground. A Star of David is often inscribed on their tombstones.
- The loved ones of the deceased place stones on the tombstone because stones are inert, symbolising eternity, permanence of memory and legacy.
- Each person puts a stone on the tombstone, so when a tombstone has many stones, it means that the person was much loved during their lifetime.