

References to Religion in WCS Curriculum/Scope and Sequence K-8

The following table includes the religious reference and content in the WCS Social Studies Scope and Sequence, which is the blueprint teachers follow in the classroom. While these are the formal references, it must be understood that when we study human behavior, religion is often beneath the surface as a significant motivator and may come up in student conversation. WCS Social Studies/History teachers are careful to ensure that all discussions of religion are respectful and that there is no proselytizing for any particular viewpoint. The entire Scope and Sequence can be viewed by going to the WCS website and clicking on the “Teaching and Learning” tab. It is important to note that these religious references make up a small part of the material covered in the Scope and Sequence. Social Studies courses are survey courses and move at a rapid pace.

Grade	Quarter	Reference	Notes on Context
Kindergarten	1	None	
	2	No direct reference: may come up as part of family traditions and holidays	
	3	None	
	4	None	
Grade 1	1	None	
	2	None	
	3	None	
	4	None	
Grade 2	1	No direct reference, but students are asked to compare and contrast customs, ceremonies, and beliefs of cultures in the U.S.	As students study holidays, different religions may be discussed. None of the holidays or ceremonies are discussed in depth.
	2	None	
	3	Continuation of quarter 1—no direct reference, but students are asked to compare and contrast customs, ceremonies, and beliefs of cultures in the U.S.	
	4	None	
Grade 3	1	None	
	2	None	
	3	None	
	4	None	

Grade 4	1	None	
	2	Puritanism, Quakerism	History of the MA and PA colonies
	3	None	
	4	None	
Grade 5	1	None	
	2	None	
	3	None	
	4	None	
Grade 6 [up to Fall of Roman Empire]	1	Description of Mesopotamia as polytheistic	Most of this discussion is about the Fertile Crescent-geography focus
	1	Description of ancient Egyptian religious beliefs, key deities, mummification, death rituals	
	2	Discussion of ancient Egyptian artifacts and monuments [including religious significance]	
	2	Ancient Israel, including geography and key figures [Abraham, Moses, Saul, David, Solomon, and Nebuchadnezzar]	
	2	Monotheism of Israelites, basic tenets of Judaism	
	2	Ten Commandments, Torah, First and Second Temples, Babylonian Captivity, Diaspora	
	2	Basic tenets of Hinduism	
	2	Life of Buddha [narrative]	
	3	Diffusion of Buddhism	This is embedded in the history of early China.
	3	Greek mythology	
	4	Roman gods and goddesses	Names of planets, works of art, literature
	4	Early Christianity in the Roman Empire	
	4	Jesus as Messiah and God's Son	

Grade 6 cont'd	4	Key Christian Concepts: resurrection, salvation, relationship between Old Testament and New Testament	
	4	Life and teaching of Jesus	
	4	Life and teaching of Paul	
Grade 7 [Fall of Roman Empire to Scientific Revolution]	1	Constantine's conversion to Christianity	
	1	Origins of Islam, including life of Mohammed and historical connection to Judaism and Christianity	
	1	Qur'an and Sunnah as primary Muslim religious documents	
	1	Split between Sunnis and Shi'ites	
	1	Basic tenets of Islam	
	1	Expansion of Muslim rule I Mideast, North Africa, and Spain between fall of Roman Empire and 1500.	
	1	Indigenous religious practices in Africa before and after introduction of Christianity and Islam	
	2	Basic features of Japanese Shinto and Buddhism	
	2	Relationship between Papacy and European monarchs	
	2	Diffusion of Christianity in Europe	
	2	Importance of monasteries in Medieval Europe	
	2	Religious basis for Crusades	
	2	Catholic Church as political, spiritual, and artistic force	
	2	Thomas Aquinas and reconciliation of classical learning and Christian belief	
	2	Influence of religious orders	

Grade 7 cont'd	2	Decline of Muslim rule in Spain and Portugal	
	2	Spanish Inquisition	
	3	Renaissance combining classical learning and Christian faith	
	3	Translation and printing of the Bible	
	3	Religious conflicts in Britain, including Henry VIII splitting with Catholic Church	
	3	Christian missionaries from Europe to other nations	
	3	Martin Luther [salvation by faith]; John Calvin [predestination]; Desiderius Erasmus [free will]; William Tyndale [translating the Bible]	
	3	Protestantism and the connection to the development of democratic processes	
	3	Catholic Counter-Reformation, including Jesuits and Council of Trent	
	4	Roots of scientific revolution based on Christian and Muslim influences	
	4	Religious beliefs of the Incas and Aztecs	
Grade 8 [U.S. History through Civil War]	1	Religious freedom as one motivator for North American colonization	Separatist/Pilgrims
	1	Puritans	MA Bay Colony
	1	Quakers	William Penn, PA
	1	First Great Awakening [Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield]	
	2	None	
	3	Mormons	In context of Westward Expansion
	3	Second Great Awakening [tent meetings and establishment of	

Grade 8 cont'd		new churches and denominations	
	4	None	