Pre-game Activity: What Americans Know About Religion

Take the Quiz!

https://www.pewresearch.org/quiz/us-religious-knowledge-quiz/
Campus Event Planning and Religious Diversity

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UTK Department of Religious Studies

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE
### Results from the What Americans Know about Religion Survey

- Most Americans correctly answered basic questions about Christianity, atheism, and Islam; fewer know about Judaism, Hinduism, or what the constitution says.

- Most Americans are familiar with Christianity, terms of non-belief, basics of Islam.

- Three in ten or fewer Americans know when the Jewish Sabbath begins or that Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year.

- One in five Americans know that Protestantism (not Catholicism) traditionally teaches that salvation comes through faith alone.

- Roughly half of Americans know that Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, that yoga has roots in Hinduism.

- Most respondents got between 25% and 75% of the questions right; very few gave all the correct answers: the average was 14.2 correct out of 32 questions.

- Three in ten Americans overestimate the size of the US Jewish or Muslim population.
Learning Objectives

1. Recognize the complexity
2. Realize “hard things are hard”
3. Know what questions to ask
4. Take steps toward building an inclusive workplace environment
Religion in a State University: Compliance
Talking about the Winter Holidays

Say, what’s all this religious stuff doing on these Christmas cards?
Why do you think conflict can arise over winter holidays and workplace behavior?
Religious Diversity in TN and Higher Education
Pew Research Center for Religion and Public Life
Religious Landscape Study

Religions in TN
- Christian
- Muslim
- Hindu
- Other world religions
- Other faiths
- Jewish
- Buddhist
- Unaffiliated

Christians in TN
- Evangelical
- Mainline Protestant
- HB Protestant
- Catholic
- Mormon
- Orthodox
- Jehovah’s Witness
- Other Christian

https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/state/tennessee/
## Pew Research Center for Religion and Public Life
### Religious Landscape Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Christian</th>
<th>Jewish</th>
<th>Muslim</th>
<th>Buddhist</th>
<th>Hindu</th>
<th>Unaffiliated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TN</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/#geography](https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/#geography)
Educational distribution by religious group

% of adults who have completed...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious tradition</th>
<th>High school or less</th>
<th>Some college</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Post-graduate degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historically Black Protestant</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehovah's Witness</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainline Protestant</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaffiliated (religious &quot;nones&quot;)</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

https://www.pewforum.org/religious-landscape-study/educational-distribution/
Not everyone is the same
December Religious Holidays Calendar

Happy Holidays?

12/08 – Roman Catholic: Feast of the Immaculate Conception – celebrates the Roman Catholic belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, conceived without original sin

12/08 – Buddhist: Bodhi Day (Buddha’s Enlightenment) – Mahāyāna Buddhists celebrate Buddha’s attainment of understanding

12/10 – Jewish: Hanukkah (12/11-12/18) begins at sundown – commemorates the Jewish victory over the Syrian Greeks, ending a three-year period of religious persecution

12/20 – Pagan and Wiccan: Yule begins at sundown – sabbat celebrated on the winter solstice, often observed as the rebirth of the great horned hunter god and the newborn solstice sun

12/25 – Christian: Christmas – celebrates the birth of Jesus, a public holiday in many countries worldwide

https://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2020/
• Not all non-Christians are comfortable celebrating Christian holidays
• Not all Christians are comfortable celebrating Christian holidays
• Not all Christians are comfortable celebrating American cultural holidays
• Not all non-Christians are comfortable celebrating American cultural holidays that have Christian origins
Is Christmas a religious holiday or a cultural holiday?

Yes

No
Workplace Power Dynamics

- Who benefits most from current academic calendar?
- What are best practices?
  - Event planning
  - Decorations
  - Seasonal greetings
  - Office parties
OK Tennessee, Let’s Talk!