

# Comparative Religion I World Religions

## SHINTOISM



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1



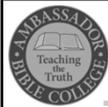
# Comparative Religion I World Religions

## SHINTOISM AN INTRODUCTION

- A nature religion
- A happy religion, will not do funerals
- Sunrise is a favorite motif
- Indigenous to Japan
- Kami No Michi is the Japanese name for Shinto – it means the way of the gods

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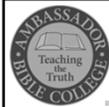
# Comparative Religion I World Religions

## SHINTOISM AN INTRODUCTION

- Promotes Japanese superiority
- Worship of the emperor is promoted
- Many sects have sprung from Shinto with varying degrees of fanaticism
- Some have mixed Shinto practices with the Buddhist faith

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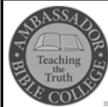
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## SHINTOISM Map of Japan



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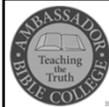
## SHINTOISM

RISING  
SUN A  
POPULAR  
MOTIF



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## SHINTOISM

A SYMBOL  
FROM  
NATURE  
REFLECTING  
BRIGHTNESS  
AND BEAUTY



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#### SHINTOISM

**Religion in Japan**

Religion	Percentage
Shintoism	54.1%
Buddhism	40.5%
Other religions	4.7%
Christianity	0.7%

Total: 215,983,567

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#### SHINTOISM

ANOTHER SCENE FROM NATURE REFLECTING BRIGHTNESS AND BEAUTY (MT. FUJI)

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#### SHINTOISM

A YOUNG EMPEROR HIROHITO

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#### SHINTOISM

USA PRESIDENT BUSH MEETS WITH EMPEROR AKIHITO

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#### SHINTOISM

#### BACKGROUND/BELIEFS

- No known founder
- Many gods – kami – are worshipped
- Emperors are supposed to have descended from the gods
- A deep love for nature
- Highly nationalistic

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#### SHINTOISM

#### BACKGROUND/BELIEFS

- Most have a kami dana ( a god shelf) and worship privately
- Temples are dedicated to the gods for prayer and offerings and typically have no specific images, but may have “relics”
- All natural desires are good unless taken to excess
- The soul of an ancestor is supposed to reside in the kami dana as one of the kami.

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**SHINTOISM**

**IZANAGI  
STIRRING THE  
SEA TO FORM  
THE GODS  
AND  
ULTIMATELY  
THE  
JAPANESE  
ISLANDS**



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**SHINTOISM**

**IZANAMI,  
SISTER-  
WIFE OF  
IZANAGI, A  
GODDESS  
WHO  
HELPED  
CREATE  
JAPAN**



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**SHINTOISM**

**AMATERASU,  
THE SUN  
GODDESS  
(CHIEF  
JAPANESE  
DEITY) FROM  
WHOM THE  
EMPERORS  
HAVE  
DESCENDED**



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**SHINTOISM**

**A SHINTO  
SHRINE  
OUT IN  
NATURE –  
SHRINES  
WERE FOR  
THE GODS**



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**SHINTOISM**

**SHINTO  
SHRINES  
ARE OFTEN  
FOUND  
IN NATURAL  
SETTINGS**



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**SHINTOISM**

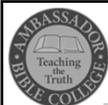
**ISE SHRINE IS  
THE HIGHEST  
RANKING  
SHRINE IN  
JAPAN - SIX  
MILLION  
VISITORS  
YEARLY.  
(Contains the  
sword, mirror,  
jewels)**



**Dedicated  
to Amaterasu**

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18



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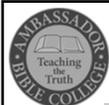
### SHINTOISM

**INSIDE A SHINTO SHRINE**  
(There are over 100,000 shrines in Japan and are rebuilt every 25 years to keep them looking new)



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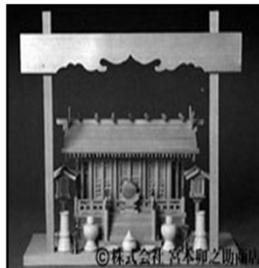


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### SHINTOISM

A KAMI DANA

PERSONAL WORSHIP AT SHELF



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### SHINTOISM SOME BELIEFS

- Good deeds are more important than words
- Cleanliness is very important with regular bathing hours and large bathrooms in houses
- Primary concern is living life now
- Buddhism came to Japan around 67 AD. Was adapted from Chinese and Korean forms. 58% are Buddhist today, but 80% practice Shinto. So, there are those who are Buddhist who mix Shinto with it and vice versa.

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### SHINTOISM

- Christianity is represented by only 1million out of 125 million Japanese.
- Life cycle events are celebrated by visits to the Shinto shrine, however funerals are left to the Buddhists to perform. Weddings are popular with Shinto ceremonies.
- Shinto as a state religion was outlawed after World War I
- Japanese religion like the temperament of the people is usually reserved and formal

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### SHINTOISM

**ANOTHER SHRINE THAT BUDDHISTS AND SHINTOISTS MAY SHARE**



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### SHINTOISM

#### SAMURAI CODE OF BEHAVIOR

- **Courage** – To live when supposed to live and to die when you are supposed to die
- **Cowardice** – One of the worst sins along with theft. They prefer death to dishonor
- **Loyalty** – To Emperor, family, community, and future generations
- **Cleanliness** – Bathing and purification – fixed ceremonies usually between 5 pm and 7 pm.

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**SWORDS WERE AMONG THE OBJECTS OF WORSHIP ALONG WITH JEWELS, MIRRORS, AND NECKERCHIEFS IN EARLY SHINTO**



**SAMURAI WERE THE WARRIOR CLASS OF JAPAN**

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**THE USE OF THE SWORD IS DEMONSTRATED BY THIS WARRIOR**



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**SUMO WRESTLING HAS BEEN A PART OF JAPAN'S CULTURE FOR A VERY LONG TIME**



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**SHINTOISM**

**WORSHIP**

1. Purification – Priest waves a branch or sprinkles salt water over the people
2. Presentation – Neatly arranged, the offerings are presented by the priest to the kami usually to drumbeat accompaniment
3. Prayer – A formal prayer is read by the priest in a chanting voice or silently
4. Participation – A dance may take place by the people or they may partake of some wine or give some small token as an offering themselves

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**SCRIPTURES**

- Their sacred writings would not be used like Christians use the Bible as a guide for how to live, but more for ceremonies of how to worship.
- KOJIKI – A chronicle of ancient events
- NIHONSHOKI – Some historical events and some mysticism in this sacred writing

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**SHINTOISM**

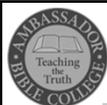
**MILLENNIUM CONCEPT**

There is a modern view of the coming paradise that is somewhat similar to that of the coming kingdom of God.

Ellwood states the belief of some of the modern groups in Japan, "Soon by divine action, this weary world will be transformed into a paradise. Mankind has a glorious future, not in some distant heaven, but here in this world, and all will partake in it through reincarnation..."

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30



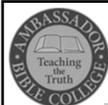
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### SHINTOISM What Am I?

- 1. NATURE WORSHIP**  
Romans 1:25 – Humans worshipped creatures instead of the creator  
Jeremiah 10:1-3 – Setting up trees and objects to worship  
John 4:24 – Worship God

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### SHINTOISM What Am I? (continued)

- 2. POLYTHEISTIC**  
Exodus 34:14 – Worship no other god  
Deuteronomy 6:4 – Only one God  
I Corinthians 8:6 – Only one God  
Exodus 20:3 – No other gods

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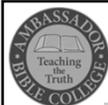
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### SHINTOISM What Am I? (continued)

- 3. NATIONALISTIC**  
Philippians 3:20 – Our citizenship is in heaven  
John 18:36 – God's Kingdom not of this world  
I Timothy 2:1-2 – OK to pray for leaders and to be patriotic

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### SHINTOISM What Am I? (continued)

- 4. INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP**  
Ezekiel 14:14, 20 – What we each do  
Philippians 2:12 – Work out our own salvation  
Hebrews 10:25 – Don't forsake assembling  
Leviticus 23 – Commanded assemblies – Sabbath, Holy Days

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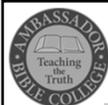
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### SHINTOISM What Am I? (continued)

- 5. BRIGHT, JOYOUS THINGS -EMPHASIZED**  
Philippians 4:8 – Things to think about are uplifting  
Ecc. 3:4,13 – A time for both sadness and joy  
Ecc. 7:2-3 – House of mourning more profitable

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### SHINTOISM What Am I? (continued)

- 6. COURAGE, LOYALTY, HONOR**  
Ephesians 6:13; Josh 1:6 – To stand (courage) and resist evil  
Romans 8:38-39 – Loyalty to Christ and His Way  
I Peter 2:17 – Honor all  
II Samuel 23:15-16 – David's men risked lives to bring him water

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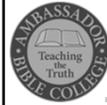
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### SHINTOISM ESSAY QUESTION

WHY IS "HONOR" SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE  
IN LIFE?

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### SHINTOISM



THE END

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