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| Connections and Summary  | Highlight People, Places and Vocabulary Chapter 6 Section 1 p.1  |
| 1. Vocabulary: (4)2. Significant Points : (4) 3. Image (2)4. Question: What is the difference between Universalizing Religions and Ethnic Religions? What problem do Geographers have in distinguishing religions into either of these categories? 5. Opinion: Are Americans more Agnostic or Atheist?  | Where Are the World’s Religions Distributed? * Intro: Religion like language can be a source of pride and a means of identification.
* As with language migrants take their religion with them to new locations but language and religion have important geographic differences. Most migrants learn the language of the new location but they typically retain their religion.
* Most religions require exclusive adherence so adopting a new religion could require turning away from the former one.
* Introducing Religions

Religion; Hard to Measure * No official count of religious membership is taken in the US or in many other nations.
* China conducted a census of religion in 2007 but gave respondents only five choices and excluded several possibilities.
* Statistics on the number of followers of religions can be controversial.
1. Adherents may feel that their religion has been undercounted.
2. Surveys have limited options
3. Fear of intolerance
4. No distinction between an individual’s participation or identification

**Religious groupings** * The world’s religions can be grouped as followed;
1. Four Largest Religions: 77% of the world’s people claim the adherence of either Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. 2.2 Billion Christians, 1.6 Billion Muslims, 1 Billion as Hindu and 500 million Buddhist.
2. Folk Religion: 6% of the of the world’s population claim adherence to Folk Religion. Chinese traditional, primal-indigenous and African traditional.
3. Other Religions: 1% include the following; Juchte, Judaism, Sikhism, Baha, Cao Dai, Jainism, Shinto and Tenrikyo. 1 to 10 million adherents.
4. Unaffiliated: 16% of the world’s population are unaffiliated with religion. Most people in this category affirm neither belief nor lack of belief in God or some higher power.

**US: Unaffiliated** * In the US many people who are classified as unaffiliated believe in God and attend a religious service at least on occasion, but they do not have a formal association with religious institutions.
* In some countries the unaffiliated express no religious interest or preference and do not participate in any organized religious activity.
* Atheism; belief that God does not exist
* Agnosticism; belief that the existence of God can’t be proven empirically. (means of observation or experience rather than theory or pure logic)

**Classifying Religions*** Geographers distinguish between two types of religions.
1. Universalizing Religions: attempt to be global to appeal to all people, wherever they may live in the world.
2. Ethnic Religions: appeal primarily to one group of people living in one place.
* Both these types of religions help geographers understand the different spatial characteristics, origin, diffusion and distribution of religion.
* Not absolute because most religions display both universalizing and ethnic elements.
* Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism are considered universalizing whereas Hinduism and folk religions are considered ethnic.
* Making it difficult to classify religions.

**Global Distribution of Religions*** Christianity is the most widely practiced religion in every country of the Western Hemisphere and in most countries of Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa
* Islam is the most widely practiced religion in nearly every country of Southwest Asia and North Africa as well as in Central Asia.
* Asia also has countries where the most widely practiced religion is Buddhism or Hinduism.

**Statistics: Diversity** * 90 percent of Latin Americans and more than 75 percent of Europeans and North Americans identify themselves as adhering to Christianity.
* Muslims comprise of 90 percent of the populations of Central Asia and North Africa.
* East Asia; more than half of the people are unaffiliated with any religion. Most of the other half are divided between Buddhism and folk religion.
* South Asia 2/3 of the people are Hindus and 1/3 Muslims. India 80% Hindu, Bangladesh and Pakistan 90% Muslim.
* Southeast Asia, 40% Muslims, 24% Buddhists, 21% Christians,
* Sub-Saharan Africa; 2/3 Christians, and 1/3 Muslims.
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| EQ: Why is religion so difficult to measure?  | Summary |