Lesson 2
Judeo-Christian Tradition

The Big Idea:
Judaism and Christianity taught individual worth ethical values, and the need to fight injustice.

Why it Matters Now:
These ideals continue to be important to democracy today.
The story of the Israelites begins in the Torah, the Jews most sacred text, with a man named Abraham.

Abraham lived near Ur in Mesopotamia (Iraq).

About 2000 B.C., Abraham and his family migrated, herding sheep and goats westward into a region called Canaan (Palestine/Israel).

Abraham founded the Israelite nation near the eastern Mediterranean coast.
The Torah

- Torah means “instruction” in Hebrew.
- The Israelites developed The Torah as a record of God’s teachings.
- They believed in one God, monotheism.
- The Torah consists of 5 books
  1. Genesis  2. Exodus  3. Leviticus
  4. Numbers  5. Deuteronomy
- God’s teachings set a strict moral standard for the Jews.
Judaism

The Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) states that human beings were created in God’s image.

Judaism interpreted this to mean that each human being has a divine spark that gives him or her dignity that can never be taken away.

For the Greeks and Romans, the individual had dignity because of his or her ability to reason.

In Judaism, each person had dignity by being a child of God.

God gave the Israelites moral freedom, or the capacity to choose between good and evil.

Each person is responsible for the choices he or she makes, leading to a new emphasis on the worth of the individual.
The Ten Commandments

- In the book of *Exodus*, Moses and the Israelites stopped at Mount Sinai on their way from Egypt to Canaan.
- At Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, a set of ten basic moral laws.
- Moses became the “lawgiver” to the Jews.
- Unlike the laws of other peoples, the Jewish code focused more on morality and ethics and less on politics.
- The code included rules of social and religious behavior to which even rulers were subject.
Document Based Investigation

#4a

- Read Pg. 15: Historical Source

Exodus 20:2-14

The Ten Commandments

- Analyze Historical Sources:
  1. Do the first four commandments concern themselves more with the Hebrews’ relationship with God or with one another?
  2. What do the last six commandments have in common that distinguish them from the first four?
Reading Check

#4b

- Read pg. 15 -16
- Answer:

3. What did the prophets teach about injustice and oppression?
The New Testament

• Jesus of Nazareth was born around 6 to 4 BCE. in Bethlehem.
• He was both a Jew and a Roman subject.
• He began his public ministry around age 30.
• His preaching contained many ideas from Jewish tradition, such as monotheism and the principles of the Ten Commandments.
Sermon on the Mount
Recorded by Matthew: Jesus' ethical message of mercy and sympathy for the poor and helpless.
Outline: Guided Reading

#5a Read Pg. 16 to 18 and complete the guided reading outline.

I. The Teachings of Christianity
   A. Jesus’ Ideas
      1. 
      2. 
      3. 
   B. Jesus visited Jerusalem
      1. 
      2. 
      3.
II. The Spread of Christianity
   A. In the first century after Jesus’ death
      1.
      2.
      3.
   
   B. Rome Spreads Judeo-Christia Ideas
      1.
      2.
      3.

III. Rome’s Christian Legacy
   A. Rome’s Christian Legacy
      1.
      2.
The Jewish Diaspora in the 1st Century CE
#5b

Read pg. 18 - *Islam*

**Answer:**

1. What values did Muhammad emphasize in his teachings?
#6 As you read about religious traditions and reactions to them, fill in the chart to identify the democratic ideas that arose from each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion/Movement</th>
<th>Influence on the Rise of Democratic Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Judaism (pg. 14)</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Christianity (pg. 16)</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Islam (pg. 18)</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Renaissance (pg. 19)</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Reformation (pg. 19)</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>