CHAPTER

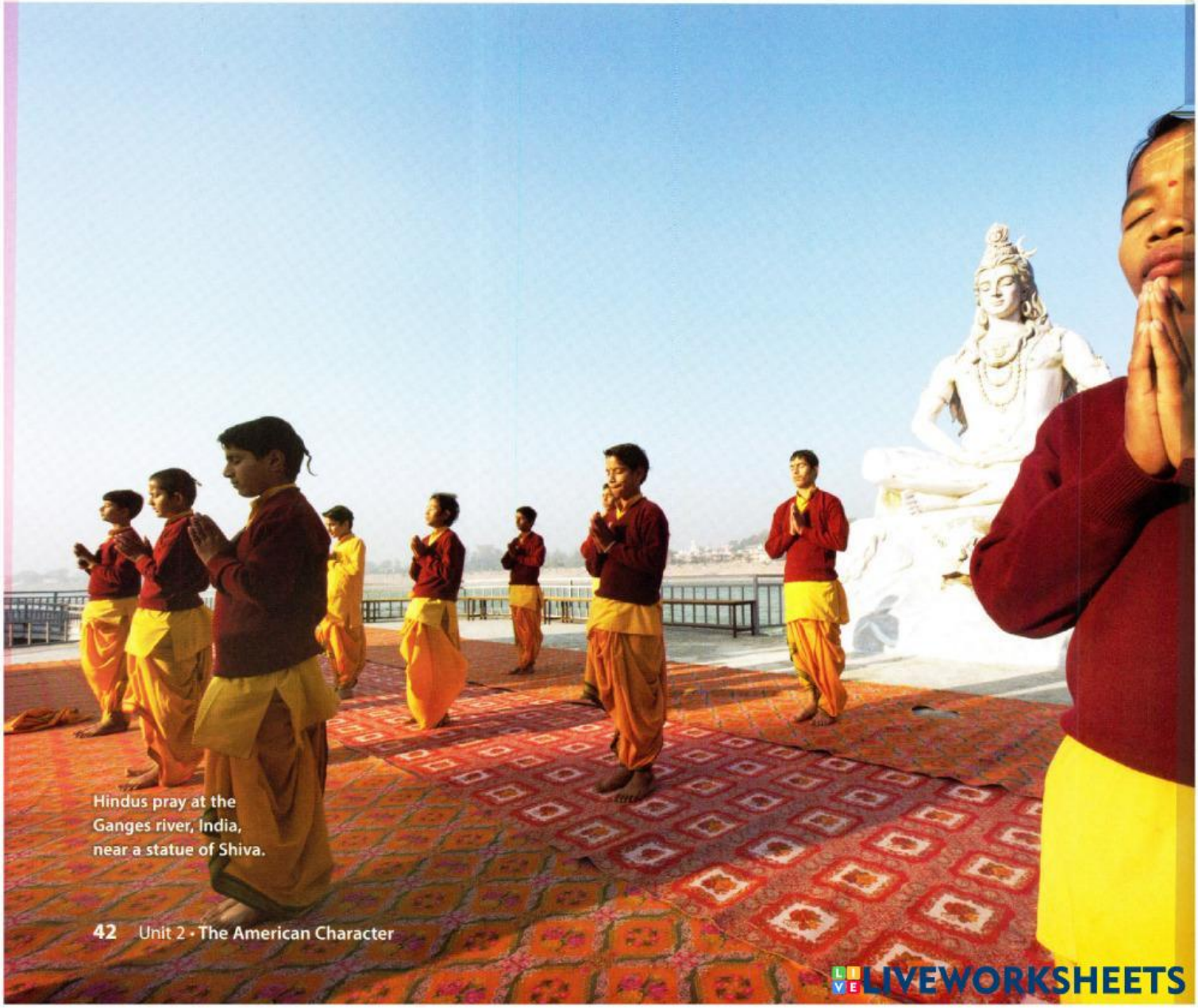
5

Religion

TOPIC PREVIEW

Discuss the following questions with a partner or your classmates.

1. What do you think the expression "freedom of religion" means?
2. Do people in your culture practice many different religions in your culture?
3. In what country other than the United States do you think you might find all of these religions: Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Judaism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, and Buddhism?



Hindus pray at the Ganges river, India, near a statue of Shiva.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

BEFORE LISTENING

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

CD 2, TR 8

A **Read through the sentences below, which are missing vocabulary from the lecture. As you read, try to imagine which words would fit in the blanks. Then listen to the sentences and write the missing words in the blanks.**

1. These churches generally represent the two major Christian traditions, Catholic and Protestant, but often include several different Protestant ___denomination___.

Thiên chúa giáo Công giáo Tin lành

2. Larger towns and big cities will also have other places of ___worship___ including synagogues, mosques, and temples representing other religious traditions.

giáo đường (Hồi giáo) giáo đường (Do Thái)

3. The U.S. government cannot ask for information on religious ___affiliation___ in any official capacity, for example, on the census.

liên kết

4. Statistical information must be gathered from ___surveys___ of the population done by nongovernmental agencies or from organizational reports from religious groups themselves.

phi chính phủ tổ chức/ công ty có tổ chức

5. A 2009 Gallup ___poll___ asked, "Is religion an important part of your life?"

6. Most writers and scholars agree that Europeans are generally more ___secular___ than Americans.

không liên quan đến tôn giáo

7. They may believe in God, but they ___tend___ to stay away from religious ___institutions___ except on certain formal occasions like weddings, baptisms, and funerals and a few very important religious days.

tổ chức lễ rửa tội

8. It's important to remember that freedom of worship is guaranteed by the First ___Admendment___ to the Constitution, which also establishes the separation of church and state.

cải thiện

9. Recently, however, there has been a ___trend___ toward an increase in the influence of religion on American political life.

10. Although religion in America seemed to be in decline during most of the last century, in the 1970s, there was a religious ___revival___ that surprised many people.

B **Check the spelling of the vocabulary words with your teacher. Discuss the meanings of these words and any other unfamiliar words in the sentences.**

PREDICTIONS

Think about the questions in the Topic Preview on page 42 and the sentences you heard in the Vocabulary Preview. Write three questions that you think will be answered in the lecture. Share your questions with your classmates.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

NOTETAKING PREPARATION

Using Indentation to Organize Notes 1

Organizing your notes in a visual pattern will help you understand the relationship between the main ideas and the details or examples that support those ideas.

One way to organize your notes visually is by writing a main idea and then indenting the details and indicating them with bullets. Here are two examples.

Estimating people in diff. religions difficult
- U.S. govt can't ask for rel affiliation
- Statistics come from nongov surveys and reports

2007 survey gives % by rel
- 78% Christian
  - 51% Cath
  - 24% . . .
- 1.7% . . .
- 0.7% Budd
- 0.6% . . .
- 0.4% Hindu

A **The following are lines of notes from a lecture titled "Effective Notetaking." Find three main ideas and circle them.**

Do assigned rdg in prep

Fix notes as necess

Use symbols & abbrevs

After lecture

Put a ? for missed info

Bring ntbook & sharp pencils or pens

While notetaking

Ask prof ?s if nec

Before class

Be on time & find good seat

Review notes asap

Chk notes with classmate

B **Now find three supporting details for each main idea. Draw lines from the details to the main idea they support.**

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C **Using your ideas from A, write an outline of the lecture "Effective Notetaking." Use indentation and bullets for the supporting details.**

Effective Notetaking

D **Discourse Cues** **Number the following excerpts from the lecture from 1 to 5 in the order that you think you will probably hear them. Discuss with a partner or as a class the discourse cues that helped you figure out the order.**

1 Now let's look at two major ways that religion in the United States differs from religion in other modernized Western nations.

2 Let's start today with facts and figures.

số liệu

3 One major survey conducted in 2007 reported that 78 percent of Americans identified themselves as Christians.

5 Finally, I'd like to briefly focus on religious diversity in the States.

4 To sum up, then, the importance of religion and belonging to a church or religious organization seem greater to Americans than to Europeans.

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FIRST LISTENING

CD 2, TR 9

A **Listen to the beginning of the lecture. Circle the set of notes below that best records the information you hear.**

a.

Relig in US complic
- not understood by peop other count.
  - know Am cult fr TV, film, video
    - don't show imp of relig in US
- sm towns many dif churches
  - Christian: Cath & Protest (sev. dif)
- lg towns & cities also synag., mosques, temples =other rel trad
- people dif count. & relig immigr to US
  - lg numb. dif relig

1 Facts & figures var relig groups in US
2 Comp US w other mod W nations
3 Imp of rel esp ↑ relig US polit recent yrs
4 Incr diversity of relig in US

b.

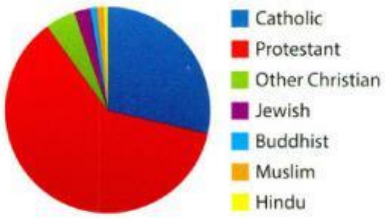
Religion in U.S.
- Compl topic misunderst bec other cults exposed to Am cult thru TV, film video on Internet
- Internt visit to sm towns surprised bec Cath & Protest church (diff denom) & lg towns synag., mosque, temples
- Peopl many diff countries & rel backg immig not surprised many dif rel US
- Talk about today: 1st Facts and fig. var rel groups, 2nd comp US–modern West nat, 3rd import of rel increase in US polit, final increase diver rel in US

CD 2, TR 10

B **Now listen to the whole lecture and take notes. Look at the lecturer's visual aids as you listen. These may help you understand parts of the lecture.**

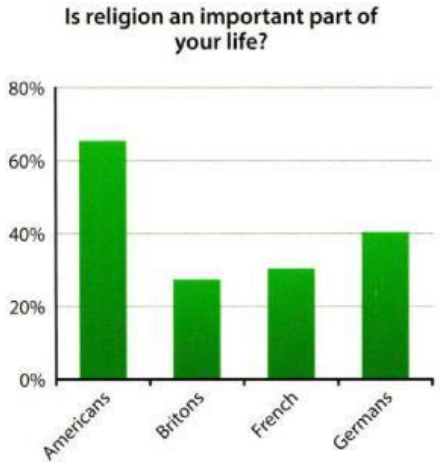
Subtopic 1: _____

Americans' Religious Affiliation, 2007



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Subtopic 2: _____



Subtopic 3: _____

Rise of the Religious Right (1970–present)

- Oppose abortion
- Favor prayer in schools

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Subtopic 4: _____

Religious Diversity
- 1965: Immigration quotas eliminated
  More religious diversity
- Work of Harvard professor Diana Eck

The Future

CD 2, TR 11

SECOND LISTENING

Listen to the lecture again and make your notes as complete as possible.

THIRD LISTENING

CD 2, TR 12

A **You will hear part of the lecture again. Listen and complete the notes by adding the information from the box.**

Eur free indirect influ sep & ex.

Modrn, _____ nat.
no sep of rel _____ govt.
US
_____ of rel – 1st Amend to Const.
_____ of church & state
_____ rel not part of govt or pub schools
Rel. beliefs, values _____ pol & ed,
but _____ influ

B **Compare your answers with a partner. Then compare the notes in A with the notes you took for this part of the lecture.**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

AFTER LISTENING

ACCURACY CHECK

CD 2, TR 13

A **Listen to the following questions, and write short answers. Use your notes. You will hear each question one time only.**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

B **Check your answers with your teacher. If your score is less than 70 percent, you may need to listen to the lecture again and rewrite some of your notes.**

ORAL SUMMARY

Use your notes to create an oral summary of the lecture with your partner. As you work together, add details to your notes that your partner included but you had missed.

DISCUSSION

Discuss the following statements with a classmate or in a small group.

1. Do you believe that religious freedom is always a good thing? Why?
2. Should religion and government be totally separate? Why or why not?
3. Why might it be good for people learn about other people's religions?

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EXPANSION

PRE-READING

The following Reading is about religious beliefs around the world. Before you read, answer the following questions. Share your answers with a classmate.

1. What are the major religions in your country of origin? Are most people in your country religious?
2. Which areas of the world do you think have the highest number of people who are nonreligious or do not believe in God? Do you think there is a difference between someone who is nonreligious and an atheist who does not believe in God?

READING

Now read the article.

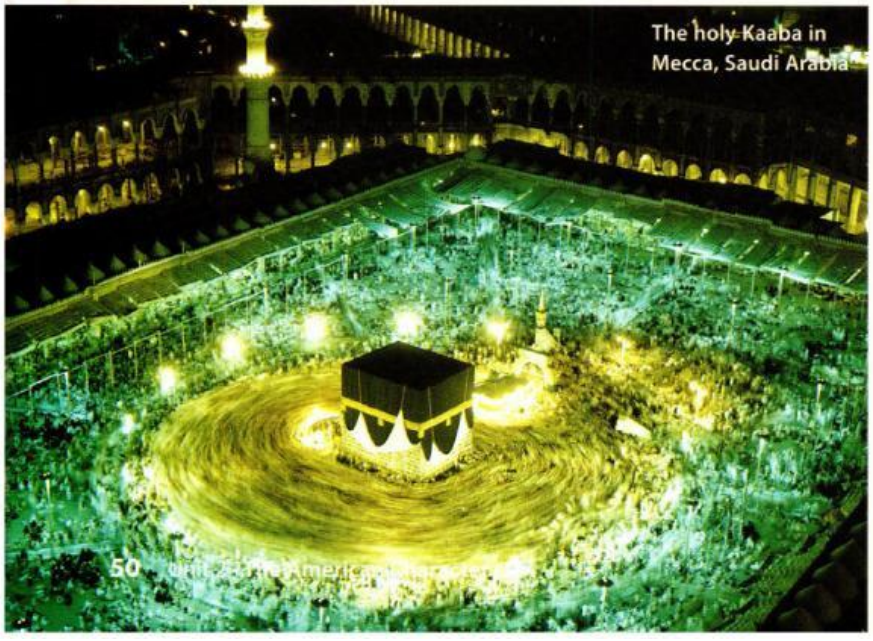
The Geography of Religion

The meaning of *religious belief* varies in different places, among different people. In general, *religion* refers to a set of beliefs and practices about what is sacred or spiritual—beliefs and practices held in common by a group. Religion usually involves beliefs about the origin and meaning of the world and of human life as well as guidelines for moral behavior.

Counting Adherents

There are many ways to approach the geography of religion, the simplest being to count numbers of believers by location. The data here came from the World Christian Database (WCD), which, despite its name, tracks data on hundreds of world religions in 238 political entities.

An *atheist* is someone who actively claims disbelief in the existence of God or any other deity. *Nonreligious* is a broader category that includes people who do not have a religion and also includes those who aren't opposed to religion, but who aren't interested in the question. Not surprisingly, the only country with no atheists or nonreligious citizens at all is Vatican City—home of the Roman Catholic Church. Afghanistan is next with a 99 percent Muslim population and a 99.99 percent religious-believer rate. Some other countries with at least a 99.90 percent religious-believer rate are: Bhutan (Buddhism); Bangladesh, Chad, Pakistan, and Somalia (Islam); Botswana, Burundi, and Kenya (Christianity).



The holy Kaaba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

There are very few countries in which more than 10 percent of the population claims to be atheist. They include North Korea (15.6 percent) and Sweden (11.7 percent). When you add the nonreligious and atheist populations together, however,

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the list of countries with significant percentages of nonbelievers grows. Here is a sampling of countries by region with nonbeliever populations of over 15 percent:

The Far East
North Korea (71.3%)
Mainland China (49.8%)

Central Asia
Mongolia (39.1%)
Kazakhstan (35.7%)
Kyrgyzstan (27.4%)

Eastern Europe
Czech Republic (35.6%)
Estonia (34.4%)
Russia (32.1%)

South America and the Caribbean
Uruguay (32.8%)
Cuba (24.5%)

Western Europe
Sweden (29.8%)
Netherlands (20.8%)
Germany (20.4%)

Australasia
New Zealand (21.4%)
Australia (16.9%)

The Problem of Numbers

The vast majority of the world's people—almost 86 percent, according to the WCD—hold some sort of religious belief. However, exact information about religious belief is among the hardest sociological data to collect. Religions count their members in a variety of ways, making comparisons difficult. Some include only those who regularly attend religious services; others count all known members, whether they attend services or not. Some count children from birth; others require some sort of ceremony before counting people as members. Polls, such as those collected by the Association of Religious Data Archives or the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, are frequently used to count believers, but results can vary widely.

Other approaches to understanding religion through geography include looking at sacred places and examining why some points on a map are considered so special to one or more religions that they become destinations for pilgrims. Another approach is to ask what direct physical impact a religion has had on a particular place: for example, cathedrals in Europe or the use of less-modern technology in Amish farming practices in North America.

DISCUSSION

Discuss these questions with a classmate.

1. What ideas presented in the lecture are given some support by information in the article?
2. Why is it difficult to collect exact data on people's religious beliefs, according to the lecture and the article? Make a list.
3. Look at the list of countries by region in the article. Using information from the lecture and your own ideas, can you think of reasons why these particular places might have so many nonbelievers?

PURSUING THE TOPIC

Explore the topic of this chapter further by doing the following.

Read an online interview with Professor Diana Eck in which she discusses her book, *A New Religious America: How a Christian Country Has Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation*. Take notes and be prepared to discuss what you learned with your classmates.

www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/april-26-2002/diana-eck-extended-interview/11617/

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