Food for thought- After this lesson, what, if any, religion most suit you? Why do you feel that way? Don’t write your answer down, just think about it!

1)Which religion is the oldest?

2) Which religion is growing the fastest?

3) How are these religions alike?

4) Which religion uses the torah?

There are three main religions in Europe: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. They have some similarities and some differences. Some even have a common history. Throughout history in Europe, religion has caused wars and toppled governments. Most countries in Europe have “official” religions. Today, Europeans have the right to choose their own religion.

**B. Major Religions in Europe: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam**

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|  | Judaism | Christianity | Islam |
| Founder | Abraham | Jesus Christ- about 30 AD | Muhammed- about 610 AD |
| Holy Book | Torah | Bible | Koran/Qu’ran |
| Followers called | Jews | Christians | Muslims |
| # of followers | About 15 million | About 2.1 billion | About 1.3 billion |
| Additional facts | 1) Torah is the first 5 books of the writings of Moses, believed to be given to Moses by God at Mt. Sinai  2) Talmud is the written version of the Oral law  3) belief is in the laws of one God and the words of his prophets  4) actions and following the laws are important.  5) Three main types of Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform  6) Jews in Europe were nearly wiped out by Hitler and Nazi Germany | 1) the 5 books of Moses make up the first 5 books of the bible  2) beliefs are based on the teachings of Jesus: love of God and neighbor, a regard for justice, a belief that Jesus is the son of God.  3) Christianity is divided into three major groups: Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Protestant.  4) Protestants include: Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and other non-Catholic and non-Orthodox Christians  5) Christianity is in most parts of the world today. | 1) Muslims believe that Muhammad was the last of the prophets which included Moses and Jesus.  2) the main duties of Muslims (the 5 Pillars) are prayers, giving to charity, belief in and submission to one God (Allah), fasting during the month of Ramadan, and a trip to Mecca once in a lifetime.  3) Two largest groups: Sunnis (90%) and Shiites  4) it is the main religion of the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia  5) number of followers is rapidly growing |