

Prerequisites for Beginning Independent Inquiry

Before beginning an Independent Inquiry Trail, students should be able to:

- Follow classroom expectations
- Have a sense of camaraderie and community with teacher and peers
- Demonstrate curiosity, observational skills and perseverance
- Safely access, use, and clean up a variety of art mediums and supplies
- Create a concept map
- Safely access and use a variety of technology and materials for the purpose of conducting research



Independent Inquiry Trail **Step 1**

What are you interested in? In your journal, jot down a list of 10+ concrete objects and 5+ ideas/concepts.

Concrete Objects

Shoes	Laptop	Games
YouTube	Pandas	Water
Skateboards	Flowers	Air
K-Pop stars	Family	Virgos
Minecraft	Dogs	Money
Smart tech	Animals	Popcorn
Nature	Food	
Architecture	Landmarks	
Anime	Bono	

Ideas/Concepts

(Tip: **Abstract nouns** are something you can't touch)

thought, dream, joy, honesty, hope, calm, love, truth, friendship, freedom, loyalty, anger, wisdom, belief, talent, memory, nightmare, success, patience, planning, comfort, laughter, failure, fear, strength, energy, life, stereotypes, fashion, minority prejudice, global warming, climate change, travel, culture, feelings, religions, ego, personality, corruption, intelligence, ERAS

Independent Inquiry Trail **Step 2**

Pick one concrete object and one concept/idea. Write down 5 questions you have about each. None of them should be yes/no answers.

Concrete Object: INDOOR GARDEN

1. How is it possible to grow a garden inside a studio apartment?
2. What kind of environment is needed?
3. What kind of plants can be grown?
4. How do i get started?
5. What are some examples of successful indoor gardens?

Idea: DREAMS

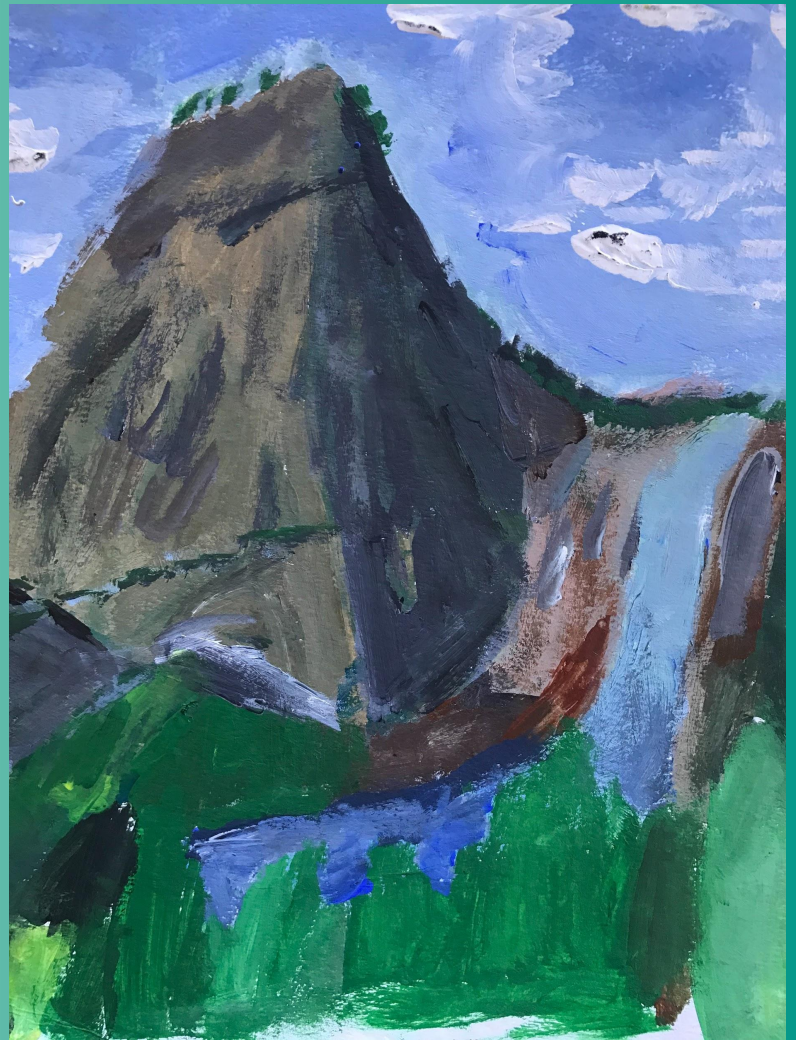
1. What are some theories about why people dream?
2. Are nightmares bad? Are good dreams good?
3. What does a nightmare about being chased mean?
4. How have nightmares been represented in art?
5. Can I learn how to control my dreams?

Independent Inquiry Trail Steps 3, 4, 5, 6...

- Choose the question that you feel most drawn to, and create a concept map for that topic.
- Begin the research process.
- Artistically record findings in journal.
- As the desire strikes, create art around what you're learning.
- Continue to follow and record your path of inquiry.

Slides 5 - 17 are photos of an Independent Inquiry Trail created by a 7th-grade student named Reuben.

It took about 30 hours/6 weeks to complete, including a few hours here and there during which he participated in unrelated individual and group activities in the art room.



Reuben's idea selection process (~ 2 - 3 hours)

1. Write down 10+ concrete objects
2. Write down 5+ ideas/concepts
3. Choose a favorite from each column
4. Write 5 questions about each of Your 2 favorites

Concrete Objects

- architecture
- Cars
- trees
- fruit
- food
- animals
- dogs
- cats
- people
- games

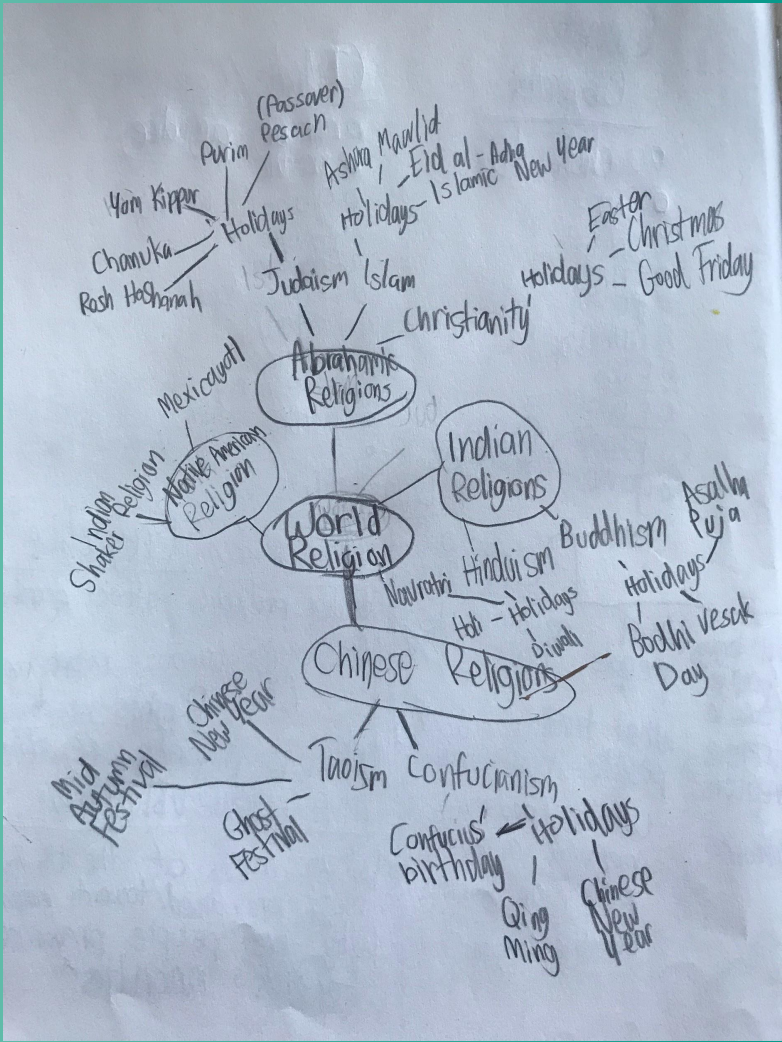
Ideas/Concepts

- minority prejudice
- nature
- global warming
- fashion
- freedom
- stereotypes
- history
- politics
- astronomy
- culture

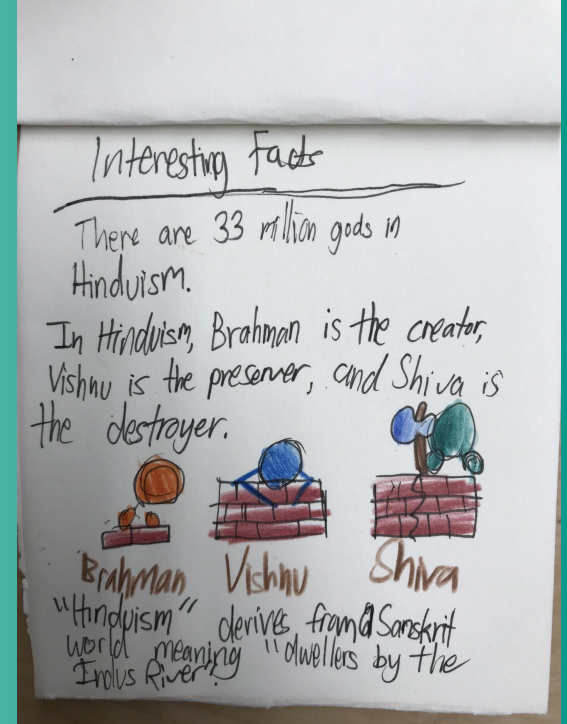
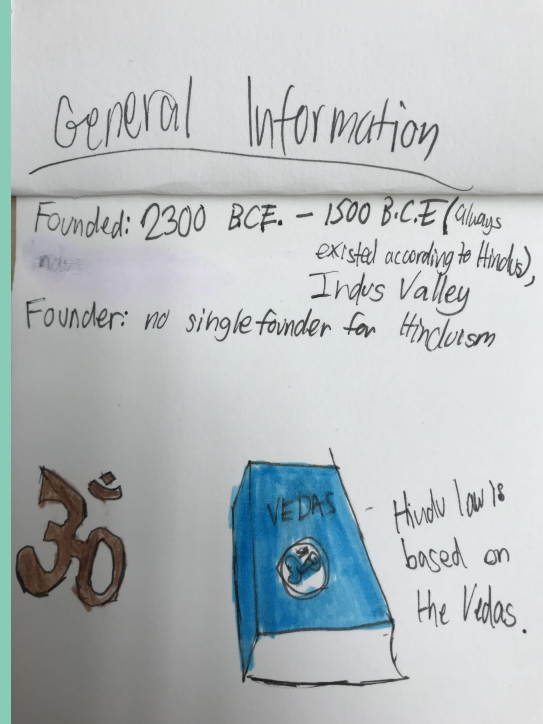
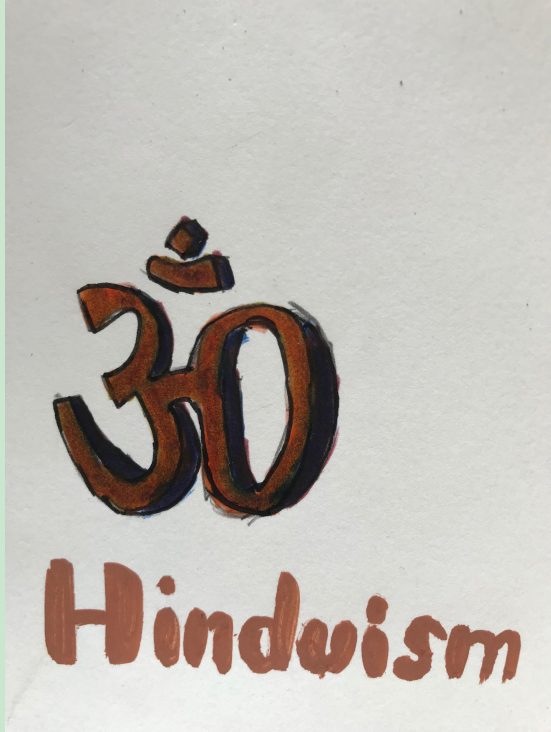
Questions

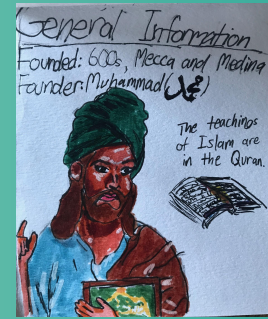
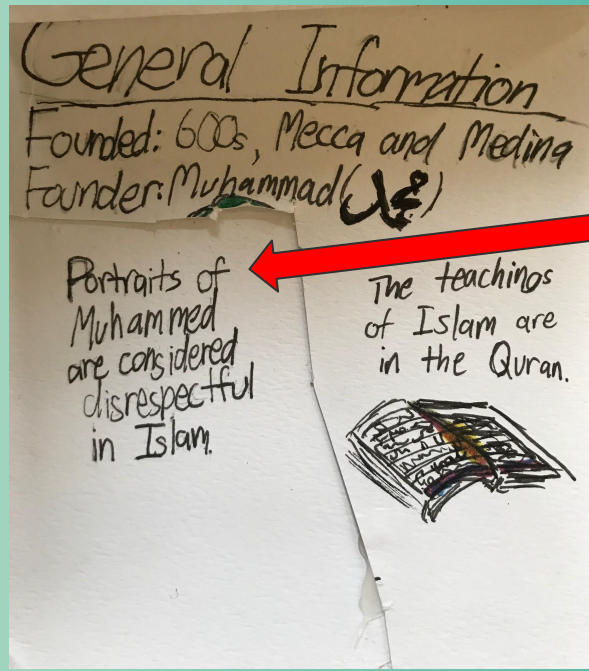
People	Minority Prejudice
What languages do people speak in different regions?	How does prejudice affect people?
What religions do people have?	Who were famous people in the Civil Rights movement?
What traditions do people have worldwide?	What is minority prejudice like now vs. then?
What foods are popular among people in different countries/regions?	What areas of the US are most prejudiced towards minorities?
	Why are people prejudiced towards minorities?

Reuben's journal: Mining background knowledge with a concept map

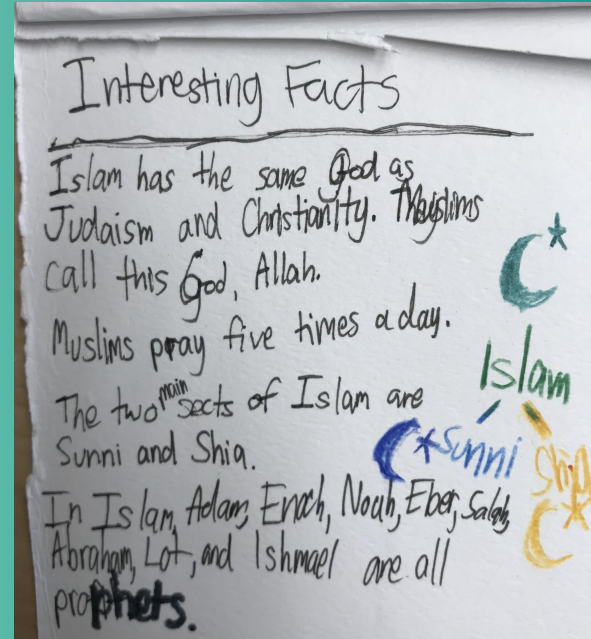


Beginning the research process.





Reuben removed this image from his booklet when he learned that portraits of Muhammad are considered disrespectful in Islam.



Indian Shaker Church



Founded: 1882?, Washington State
Founders: John and Mary Slocum



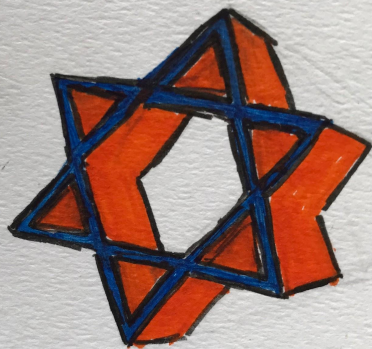
Interesting Facts

The founder of the Indian Shaker Church was Roman Catholic before founding the Indian Shaker church.



Followers of this religion believe God healed John Slocum of his illness.





Judaism

General Information

Founded: 1812 BCE, Canaan, Middle East
Founder: Abraham (אַבְרָהָם)

Jewish law and tradition is based on the Torah.



Interesting facts

In Judaism, there is one God, referred to in everyday speech as Ha Shem (Hebrew for The Name).

שְׁמַי

Orthodox Jews pray 3x a day!

There are three main ethnic Jewish divisions: Ashkenazi (Europe), Sephardi (Spain, Portugal, Morocco), and Mizrahi (Jews living in Arab countries). They are all descended from Israelites.

There are 3 main branches based on religiosity: Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox.

The Jewish Sabbath is from Friday night to Saturday night.



General Information

Founded: 6th Century BCE

Founder: Siddhartha Gautama



Holy Text
Tripitaka



Interesting Facts

Siddhartha was enlightened by following the Eightfold Path.

Buddhists believe in reincarnation, like Hinduism, the religion it evolved from.

There are 488 million Buddhists.





Christianity

General Information

Founded: 1st Century A.D., Judea

Founder: Jesus



The teachings
of Christianity
are in the
Bible.



Interesting Facts

Though Christians were persecuted by Romans, Christianity eventually became the official religion of the Roman Empire..

Christians are monotheists.

Jesus' resurrection 3 days after his crucifixion is celebrated on Easter.

The Christian Sabbath is on Sunday.



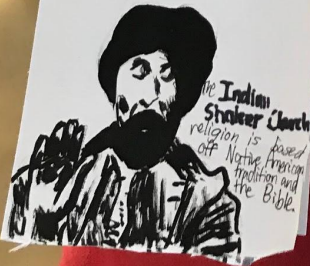
Jesus was crucified on a cross.





General Information

Founded: 1887, Washington State
Founders: John and Mary Slocum



General Information

Founded: 1812 BCE Canaan, Middle East
Founder: Abraham (Ibrahim)

Jewish law and tradition is based on the Torah.



Followers:
14,500,000

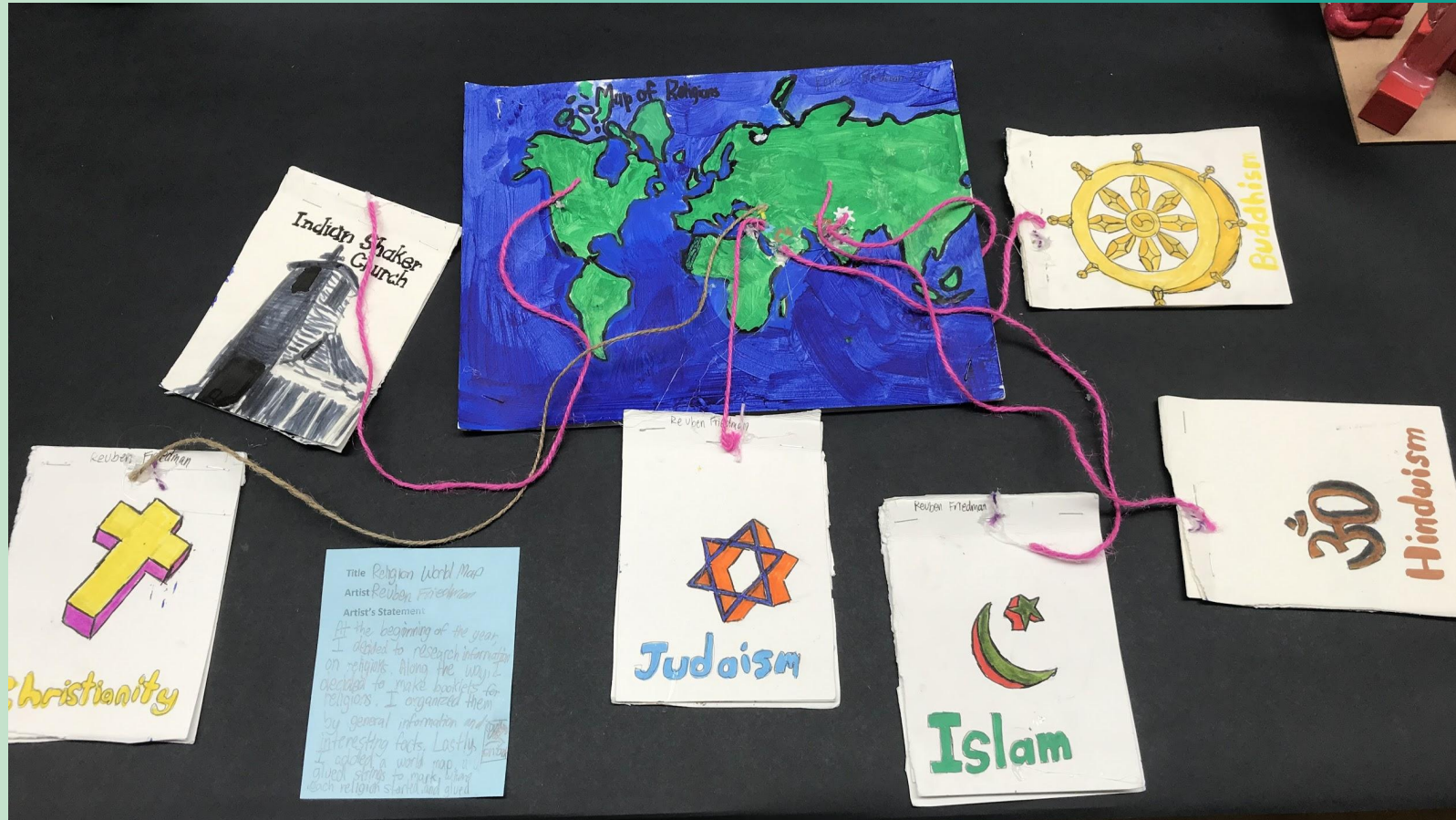
General Information

Founded: 6th Century BCE
Founders: Siddhartha Gautama

Holy Text:
Tripiṭaka



Reuben's cumulative project



The next step...

Reuben is preparing to create a full-size map showing where all the religions originated

