

Sacred Nature and Creatures in World Religions

World Religions And Environment · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. In the Jain tradition of Ahimsa, which specific category of organisms is categorized as 'ekendriya' (one-sensed beings) that Jains strive to avoid harming through dietary and lifestyle restrictions?

- A) Mammals
- B) Birds
- C) Plants**
- D) Reptiles

2. Which animal is designated as the 'Vahana' (divine vehicle) of the Hindu deity Ganesha, representing the taming of intellectual vanity?

- A) Elephant
- B) Peacock
- C) Mouse**
- D) Bull

3. Within the Zoroastrian cosmogony of the Bundahishn, which animal is considered the most sacred and representative of the 'Good Creation' (Asha), often protected as a symbol of loyalty?

- A) Dog**
- B) Cat
- C) Horse
- D) Camel

4. In Shinto belief, which animal is revered as the 'messenger' (tsukai) of the deity Inari, specifically associated with rice cultivation and fertility?

- A) Deer
- B) Fox**
- C) Crane
- D) Boar

5. Which specific botanical species is explicitly identified as the 'Tree of Life' in the Quran, often contrasted with the 'Zaqqum' tree in Islamic eschatology?

- A) Sidrat al-Muntaha**
- B) Cedrus libani
- C) Olea europaea
- D) Phoenix dactylifera

6. According to the Laws of Manu, which animal is considered impure to the point that physical contact requires a ritualistic bath for a high-caste Hindu?

- A) Monkey
- B) Cow
- C) Dog**
- D) Elephant

7. In Tibetan Buddhism, the 'Five Dhyani Buddhas' are often associated with specific animal thrones; which animal represents the throne of Akshobhya?

- A) Lion
- B) Elephant**
- C) Peacock
- D) Garuda

8. In Ancient Egyptian religion, the god Thoth, associated with wisdom and the moon, was iconographically represented by which two animals?

- A) Cat and Lion
- B) Ibis and Baboon**
- C) Falcon and Cobra
- D) Jackal and Bull

9. Which creature, according to the Talmud (Babylonian Tractate Chullin), is cited as having a specific physiological feature--the lack of a midriff--that serves as a halakhic indicator for non-kosher status?

- A) Snake**
- B) Frog
- C) Fish
- D) Lizard

10. In the tradition of the Bishnoi sect of Rajasthan, which animal is protected with extreme devotion due to its connection to the teachings of Guru Jambheshwar?

- A) Blackbuck**
- B) Tiger
- C) Indian Peafowl
- D) Nilgai

11. Which animal is traditionally sacrificed during the festival of Eid al-Adha to commemorate the test of faith of Prophet Ibrahim, symbolizing devotion and environmental sustainability through meat distribution?

A) Camel

B) Goat

C) Chicken

D) Fish

12. In the context of Daoist 'Feng Shui' (geomancy), the 'White Tiger' is one of the Four Symbols; which physical environmental feature does it represent?

A) A mountain ridge to the west

B) A river to the east

C) A valley to the north

D) A plain to the south