

Sacred Nature and Creatures in World Religions

World Religions And Environment · Practice Test · 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