

Cosmos in World Religions

World Religions · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization, known for its astronomical observations, developed a calendar system that influenced many religious traditions and is often associated with cyclical time and cosmic understanding?

- A) Ancient Egyptians
- B) Mayans**
- C) Ancient Greeks
- D) Mesopotamians

2. In Zoroastrianism, the concept of 'Ahura Mazda' (wise Lord) is often associated with light and the sun. Which planet was sometimes seen as a representation of divine light or celestial power in ancient cosmologies?

- A) Mars
- B) Venus**
- C) Jupiter
- D) Saturn

3. The concept of the 'Seven Heavens' is a recurring theme in some religious texts, including Islamic traditions. This idea often relates to distinct celestial spheres or layers of the universe. Which of these celestial bodies is often considered the 'eighth sphere' in older astronomical models, beyond the seven visible planets?

- A) The Moon
- B) The Sun
- C) The Fixed Stars**
- D) The Earth

4. Many indigenous creation myths across the world incorporate celestial bodies. The 'Great Bear' constellation, known by various names, is a prominent feature in the sky. Which religious tradition often refers to this constellation, sometimes linking it to spiritual journeys or cosmic order?

- A) Buddhism
- B) Hinduism
- C) Indigenous Australian Religions**
- D) Shinto

5. The concept of a 'cosmic egg' is found in various mythologies and religious creation stories, representing the primordial state of the universe. Which major world religion features the 'Hiranyagarbha' (golden egg) in its creation narrative?

- A) Christianity
- B) Islam
- C) Judaism
- D) Hinduism**

6. The precession of the equinoxes, a slow wobble of Earth's axis, has been observed and interpreted in various ways. Which ancient civilization's astronomical observations and religious texts, like the Vedas, are thought by some scholars to hint at an understanding of this slow celestial movement?

- A) Ancient Rome
- B) Ancient China
- C) Ancient India**
- D) Ancient Persia

7. The Moon's phases have long been significant in religious observances and calendars. Which religious festival, marking the end of Ramadan, is timed according to the lunar calendar and typically begins with the sighting of the new crescent moon?

- A) Diwali
- B) Easter
- C) Eid al-Fitr**
- D) Hanukkah

8. In ancient Mesopotamia, celestial bodies were often deified and linked to divine powers. The planet 'Marduk', named after a major god, is associated with which bright celestial body that was prominent in their sky observations?

- A) The Sun
- B) Jupiter**
- C) Venus
- D) The Moon

9. The stars were crucial for navigation and for establishing religious calendars. The 'Pleiades' star cluster, known by many names, is a significant celestial marker in numerous mythologies and religious traditions. Which of these religions prominently features the Pleiades in its myths and stories?

- A) Buddhism
- B) Shinto
- C) Native American Religions**
- D) Sikhism

10. The visible planets in ancient times were often seen as divine messengers or influencing celestial beings. Which of the following planets was commonly associated with the Roman god 'Saturn' and in many mythologies, with time and agriculture?

- A) Mars
- B) Jupiter
- C) Saturn**
- D) Mercury