

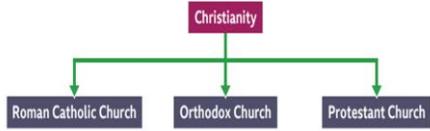


# CHRISTIANITY: AROUND THE WORLD

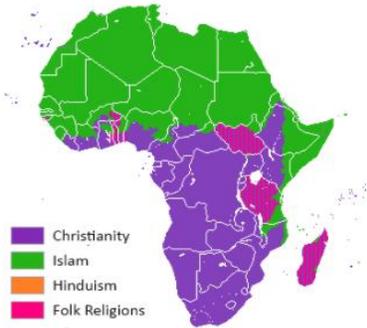
## Vocabulary

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Spread         | To cover or reach a wider or increasing area. To affect more and more places, people, or things.   |
| Global         | In or having to do with the whole earth. Involving the entire world.   |
| Faith          | Trusting in something or someone. Belief or trust in something that has never been proved.   |
| Following      | A body of supporters or admirers, coming after or as a result of.  |
| Growth         | The process of increasing in size.   |
| Roman Catholic | A denomination of Christianity. Belonging to the Roman Catholic church. It teaches that it is the same Church started by Jesus Christ and his followers about 2,000 years ago. The headquarters of the Catholic Church is based in the Vatican City.         |
| Protestant     | A religious reform movement that swept through Europe in the 1500s, resulting in the creation of a branch of Christianity called Protestantism. A name used collectively to refer to the many religious groups that separated from the Roman Catholic Church |
| Orthodox       | From the Greek words <i>orthos</i> ('right') and <i>doxa</i> ('belief'), meaning correct belief or right thinking.   |

The three main denominations of Christianity are:



**Christianity** is the largest of the world religions, with approximately 2.4 billion followers (one third of the world's population) across the globe.



## Key Knowledge

- Christianity is the largest of the world religions, with approximately 2.4 billion followers (one third of the world's population) across the globe.
- Christianity began as a branch of Judaism, and Jesus himself was a Jew.
- The various groups or branches within Christianity are referred to as denominations. Sometimes different Christian churches are also referred to as denominations.
- Jesus' disciples first began to spread his teachings and the books written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in Israel and then across the Middle East.
- 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament were attributed to Paul the Apostle, who famously converted to Christianity after meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus and wrote a series of letters that helped spread the faith throughout the Mediterranean world. Especially teaching non-Jews in the Roman Empire.
- The spread of the Roman Empire helped the spread of Christianity, especially by Emperor Constantine I who was the first emperor to follow Christianity. He issued an law that protected Christians in the empire and he himself converted to Christianity on his deathbed in 337 AD. Before then Christians were not liked by the Romans. The growing faith was seen as a threat to the Empire.
- The start of the discovery of new lands across the globe, such as The Americas and Africa, the European Age of Exploration (15th-18th century) also led to the increase in Christianity.
- European explorers such as Christopher Columbus and Bartolomeu Dias in the 1400s helped the Catholic church spread Christianity and Catholicism into the new found lands.
- Christianity has the largest religious following in Russia. This is in the form of Russian Orthodox. The of Christians in Russia is similar to that in England and Wales, however in England and Wales the two main denominations are Roman Catholic and Protestant (Church of England).
- In South America, the main religion is Christianity however they are mostly Roman Catholics – 69 per cent.
- While many religions circulate around Africa (such as Buddhism and Hinduism), the three main religious groups are traditional African religions, Christianity, and Islam. Christianity and Islam both share approximately 40 per cent each.