

Creating Multiple Religions Worksheet

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Some terminology to keep in mind:

- **Religion**, as a generic term, will be used to refer to distinct religions, as well as sects, denominations, schools, cults, etc.
- **Main Religion** refers to whichever religion has the most followers, money, power, and/or public approval
- **Major Religion** refers to any religion that 20%, or more, of the population follows
- **Brother Religion** refers to a religion that is distinct, but still shares core beliefs of the main religion
- **Common Religion** refers to any religion that 5-20% of the population follows
- **Minor Religion** refers to any religion that 1-5% of the population follows
- **Secret Religion** refers to any religion that cannot be openly followed, for whatever reason

General Questionnaire

Please use the following questions to help you decide how many religions you are going to need. Check off as many as you need, to help you define your setting.

The story is taking place in

- a galaxy
- a world
- a country
- a territory/province
- a city
- other: _____

The main religion is

- the original/historic belief system of the area
- the modern/current version of a historic belief system
- the brother religion of a historic belief system
- a minor religion that gained prominence until it eclipsed a historic belief system
- the religion of a conquering people
- a religion spread through active conversion from other religions
- other: _____

The government is

- directly linked to the worship of the main religion
- closely linked to the main religion
- no longer linked to the main religion
- not linked, at any point in history, to the main religion
- other: _____

The cultural landscape

- encourages multiculturalism
- tolerates multiculturalism
- is indifferent toward multiculturalism
- encourages a 'melting pot'
- discourages multiculturalism
- persecutes minorities
- other: _____

Magic is

- real and a major part of everyday life
- real and a minor part of everyday life
- real but not common
- not real, but superstitions are a major part of everyday life
- not real, but superstitions are a minor part of everyday life
- not real
- other: _____

The area interacts with neighbouring areas through

- open and friendly trade and communication
- open trade and communication
- restricted trade and communication
- no trade, only communication
- only trade, no communication
- no trade and no communication
- war
- other: _____

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Based on your above answers, choose which of the following is best suited for your story:

Large and Welcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-4 Major • 3-8 Common • 2-8 Minor • 1-4 Secret 	Large and Indifferent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 Major • 2-6 Common • 3-8 Minor • 2-4 Secret 	Large and Xenophobic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Major* • 1-4 Common* • 4-10 Minor • 4-10 Secret
Medium and Welcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-3 Major • 2-6 Common • 1-6 Minor • 1-3 Secret 	Medium and Indifferent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 Major • 1-4 Common • 2-6 Minor • 2-4 Secret 	Medium and Xenophobic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Major • 1-4 Common* • 2-8 Minor • 2-8 Secret
Small and Welcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 Major • 1-4 Common • 1-4 Minor • 1 Secret 	Small and Indifferent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Major • 1-3 Common • 1-6 Minor • 1-4 Secret 	Small and Xenophobic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Major • 1-2 Common* • 1-4 Minor • 1-4 Secret

* these are either a brother religion, or a sect/denomination of the main religion

Sidebar: Naming Your Religions

Coming up with unique names for fictional religions can be difficult for some writers. Too generic and they seem run-of-the-mill, too different and they're hard for readers to remember/spell/say. Below is a mix-and-match list to get you started. Use it to get your juices flowing, and then come up with your own!

This...
The Brothers/Sisters of
The Children of
The Chosen of
The Church of
The Cult of
The Friends of
The Hand of
The House of
The Mourners of
The Observers of
The Prophets of
The Reformed
The Repentant
The Seekers of
The Sword of
The Wings of

Plus This
Ihire
Jarnuzi
Kheru
Knowledge
Loqha
Mercy
Negot
Ogukhu
Patience
Peace
Rulme
Stregth
Thunder, the
Truhet
Tumuve
Vanio

This...
The Adherents of
The Ancient
The Burning
The Dedicated of
The Earnest
The Forgotten
The Fundamentalists of
The Gracious
The Mystic
The New
The Purified of
The Sanctuary of
The Sept of
The Shrine of
The Temple of
The Wandering

Plus This
Aekroceris
Child, the
Desohuas
Eowuhava
Grace
Lanoimus
Lonnuki
Moon, the
Nemolom
Night, the
Oak, the
Shimni
Siphrix
Sun, the
Uthryda
Zaphrassa

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[NAME]

Main Religion

Worshipped by _____ # _____ / _____ %

[description of worshippers]

Influence in the community:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Makes laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Has some power over law-makers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Controls the economy | <input type="checkbox"/> Funds non-religious charities/non-profits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enforces laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Funds art and/or recreational programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Controls education and/or art | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restricts recreational activities | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Controls charities/non-profits | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Runs some schools | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Core Beliefs

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

Secondary Beliefs

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

Prohibitions

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

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[NAME]

Major / Common / Minor / Secret Religion

Worshipped by _____ # _____ / _____ %

[description of worshippers]

Influence in the community:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Makes laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Has some power over law-makers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Controls the economy | <input type="checkbox"/> Funds non-religious charities/non-profits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enforces laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Funds art and/or recreational programs |
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[NAME]

Major / Common / Minor / Secret Religion

Worshipped by _____ # _____ / _____ %

[description of worshippers]

Influence in the community:

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|--|--|
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Core Beliefs

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- 2 _____
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- 6 _____

Secondary Beliefs

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- 2 _____
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- 6 _____

Prohibitions

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[NAME]

Major / Common / Minor / Secret Religion

Worshipped by _____ # _____ / _____ %

[description of worshippers]

Influence in the community:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Makes laws | <input type="checkbox"/> Has some power over law-makers |
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[NAME]

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[description of worshippers]

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Major Holidays	
Minor Holidays	
Religion-influenced Laws	
Religion-influenced Customs	
Religion-based Stereotypes	

Other Notes

Sidebar: Basing Fictional Religions on Real-World Religions

It can be easy to base your fictional religions on real ones you see around you, but you will need to do thorough research on them to avoid harmful stereotypes and offensive interpretations.

Here are a couple of posts about this topic:

<http://writingwithcolor.tumblr.com/post/140347440319/using-real-religions-in-a-fantasy-world>

<http://writingwithcolor.tumblr.com/post/145979874838/coding-jews-and-muslims-in-fantasy-settings>