

Teaching Religions in First Grade

Grade level: First Grade

Presented by: Cherie Robinson & Ruthanna Lucas, Maple Elementary School, Cambridge, MD

Length of Unit: 5 lessons

I. ABSTRACT

This unit is an overview of three of the major religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The children will learn some of the symbols, stories, and practices of these religions. The children will have an opportunity to compare and contrast these three religions. A major emphasis is made on teaching children respect the differences of others and promote peace and harmony through understanding and tolerance.

II. OVERVIEW

- A. Concept Objectives
 - 1. Students will gain an understanding of the three major religions.
 - 2. Students will develop an appreciation for the differences of others.
 - 3. Students will gain an understanding and tolerance for other belief systems.
- B. Core Knowledge Content
 - 1. Judaism
 - 2. Christianity
 - 3. the Islamic religion
- C. Skills
 - 1. Students will be able to complete a chart.
 - 2. Students will be able to illustrate, label and write to inform.
 - 3. others are listed in individual lessons

III. BACKGROUND

- A. For Teachers:
 - 1. Holidays and Festivals (Jewish Festivals by Reuben Turner- ISBN 0 86592 977 7)(Muslim Festivals by M. M. Ahsan- ISBN 0 86592 979 3) Rourke Enterprises, Inc.
 - 2. Multicultural Holidays by Julia Jasmine, Teacher Created Materials, Inc. (ISBN 1-55734-615-1)
- B. For Students:
 - 1. Students need background knowledge in the holidays that they celebrate (own personal experience).

IV. RESOURCES

- A. Religions of the World Series –PowerKids Press
 - 1. I am Jewish by Bernard P. Weiss ISBN 0 8239 2349 5
 - 2. I am Muslim by Jessica Chalfonte ISBN 0 8239 2375 4
 - 3. I am Protestant by Philemond D. Sevastiades ISBN 0 8239 2378 9
 - 4. I am Roman Catholic by Philemond D. Sevastiades ISBN 0 8239 2376 2
 - 5. I am Eastern Orthodox by Philemond D. Sevastiades ISBN 0 8239 2377 0
- B. The Story of Christmas by Paul Fehlner Golden Books ISBN 0 307 11710 3
- C. Holidays for Children – Schlessinger Video Productions (1-800-843-3620)
 - 1. Ramadan
 - 2. Hanukkah / Passover
 - 3. Christmas
 - 4. Easter

5. Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur

V. LESSONS

Lesson One:

A. *Daily Objectives:*

1. *Lesson Content:* Judaism
2. *Concept Objective:*
 - a. Students will gain an understanding of the three major religions.
 - b. Students will develop an appreciation for the differences of others.
 - c. Students will gain an understanding and tolerance for other belief systems.
3. *Skill Objective:*
 - a. Students will illustrate, label, and write to inform.
 - b. Students will be able to recall two facts about Judaism.
 - c. Students will be able to identify and name a symbol of Judaism.
 - d. Students will be able to identify a Jewish holiday.

B. *Materials:*

1. Religions of the World Series – I am Jewish –PowerKids Press
2. Holidays for Children – Schlessinger Video Productions (1-800-843-3620)
 - a. Hanukkah / Passover
 - b. Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur
3. Symbols of the holiday or religion inside a bag

B. *Key Vocabulary:*

1. God
2. Star of David
3. Moses
4. Torah
5. Synagogue
6. Rabbi
7. Hanukah
8. Passover

C. *Procedures/ Activities:*

1. Begin by discussing familiar holidays and placing them on the web.
2. Then tell them that some holidays are celebrated because it is part of a religion.
3. Tell them that they will be learning about three religions- Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
4. Tell them we will learn about the oldest religion first – Judaism.
5. Read I am Jewish.
6. Fill in the class web about Judaism with the children using think-pair-share.
7. Tell them we will learn more about their holidays.
8. Watch one of the two videos listed (Hanukkah / Passover or Rosh Hashanah/ Yom Kippur). I usually use the Hanukkah/ Passover.
9. Then have some symbols or pictures of symbols in a bag and share them. See if they can recall the name of each. The pictures can be placed on a chart and labeled.

D. *Evaluation/Assessment:* Have the children draw, label and write about a symbol of Judaism.

Lesson Two:

A. *Daily Objectives:*

1. *Lesson Content:* Christianity

2. *Concept Objective:*
 - a. Students will gain an understanding of the three major religions.
 - b. Students will develop an appreciation for the differences of others.
 - c. Students will gain an understanding and tolerance for other belief systems.
 3. *Skill Objective:*
 - a. Students will illustrate, label, and write to inform.
 - b. Students will be able to identify and name a symbol of Christianity.
 - c. Students will be able to identify a Christian holiday.
 - d. Students will be able to recall two facts about Christianity.
- B. *Materials:*
1. Holidays for Children – Schlessinger Video Productions (1-800-843-3620)- Christmas or Easter
 2. Religions of the World Series –PowerKids Press
 - a. I am Protestant by Philemond D. Sevastiades ISBN 0 8239 2378 9
 - b. I am Roman Catholic by Philemond D. Sevastiades ISBN 0 8239 2376 2
 - c. I am Eastern Orthodox by Philemond D. Sevastiades ISBN 0 8239 2377 0
 3. The Story of Christmas by Paul Fehlner Golden Books ISBN 0 307 11710 3
 4. Symbols of the holiday or religion inside a bag.
 5. Nativity scene
- C. *Key Vocabulary:*
1. God
 2. Jesus
 3. cross
 4. Christmas
 5. Easter
 6. Bible
 7. Church/ Temple
- D. *Procedures/ Activities:*
1. Begin by recalling what they learned about Judaism the day before.
 2. Introduce the word Christian and see if the children know what it is.
 3. Then explain what a Christian is and tell them that there are different kinds Christians. Share each of the three books about Christians (I am Protestant, I am Eastern Orthodox, I am Roman Catholic). I read portions and summarize portions from these books.
 4. Then complete a Christian web with the children.
 5. Next, read The Story of Christmas and act it out using the Nativity Scene.
 6. If time, watch the video on Christmas or Easter.
 7. Then have some symbols or pictures of symbols in a bag and share them. See if they can recall the name of each. The pictures can be placed on a chart and label.
- E. *Evaluation/Assessment:* Have the children draw, label and write about a Christian symbol.

Lesson Three:

- A. *Daily Objectives:*
1. *Lesson Content:* the Islamic religion
 2. *Concept Objective:*
 - a. Students will gain an understanding of the three major religions.
 - b. Students will develop an appreciation for the differences of others.
 - c. Students will gain an understanding and tolerance for other belief systems.

3. *Skill Objective:*
 - a. Students will illustrate, label, and write to inform.
 - b. Students will be able to recall two facts about the Islamic religion.
 - c. Students will be able to identify and name a symbol of the Islamic religion.
 - d. Students will be able to identify a Muslim holiday.
- B. *Materials:*
 1. Holidays for Children – Schlessinger Video Productions (1-800-843-3620)-
RAMADAN
 2. Religions of the World - I am Muslim –PowerKids Press
 3. Pictures of Islam symbols
 4. Class size web made from appendix B
- C. *Key Vocabulary:*
 1. Allah
 2. Muhammad
 3. Qur'an
 4. Mosque
 5. Ramadan
 6. 'Idu l-Fitr (EE-du eł-FEE-tra)
- D. *Procedures/ Activities:*
 1. Have the children recall the two religions (Christianity and Judaism) and symbols for each.
 2. Introduce the last religion- Islam with the book I am Muslim.
 3. Complete an Islam web with the children.
 4. Then watch the Ramadan video.
 5. Discuss and list ways that the Muslims celebrate Ramadan.
 6. Teach them how to speak Arabic using the handout marked Appendix B.
 7. Have pictures of Muslim symbols in a bag and pull each out to recall each. They can be placed on the chart and labeled.
- E. *Evaluation/Assessment:* Have children illustrate, label and write about a Muslim symbol.

Lesson Four:

- A. *Daily Objectives:*
 1. *Lesson Content:* Judaism, Christianity, and Islamic comparisons
 2. *Concept Objective:*
 - a. Students will gain an understanding of the three major religions.
 - b. Students will develop an appreciation for the differences of others.
 - c. Students will gain an understanding and tolerance for other belief systems.
 3. *Skill Objective:*
 - a. Students will create a class chart to compare the three religions.
 - b. Students will be able to compare the three religions.
- B. *Materials:*
 1. A Rainbow of Friends by P. K. Hallinan, Ideals Childrens Books (ISBN 0-8249-8653-9)
 2. Handout made from appendix c
 3. Materials to make the crafts (see directions sheet)
- C. *Key Vocabulary:* Review previous vocabulary.
- D. *Procedures/ Activities:*
 1. Have the children look at their writing from the last 3 days to recall the symbols, holidays and practices of the three religions.
 2. Then have a large chart made like Appendix C.

3. Have the symbols from all three religions in a bag and have the children take turns selecting and placing the symbols on the chart under the correct religion.
 4. Children can make their own chart by drawing and labeling the pictures to match the class chart.
 5. Then read A Rainbow of Friends. Discuss with the children how we need to accept and respect everyone regardless of their differences.
 6. Have the children work with a partner to make Friendship Dolls that hook together. See Appendix D
- E. *Evaluation/Assessment*: Children will write to tell how they show friendship to others.

Lesson Five:

A. *Daily Objectives*:

1. *Lesson Content*: Three Religions
2. *Concept Objective*:
 - a. Students will gain an understanding of the three major religions.
 - b. Students will develop an appreciation for the differences of others.
 - c. Students will gain an understanding and tolerance for other belief systems.
3. *Skill Objective*:
 - a. Students will read to perform a task.

B. *Materials*:

See the materials listed on each of the crafts.

C. *Key Vocabulary*:

D. *Procedures/Activities*:

1. Have three centers set up in the classroom.
2. Go over each of the sets of directions with the children. See Appendix E-G.
3. Divide the children up into three groups.
4. The children will spend 20 minutes at each center reading and completing the craft.
5. For early finishers: You can have handouts that the children can complete on each holiday while they are waiting for the rest of the students.

VI. CULMINATING ACTIVITY-

- A. Special foods can be brought in to share.
- B. Dates for Ramadan
- C. Latkes for Hanukkah

VII. HANDOUTS/WORKSHEETS

See attached appendices

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY

See Resources (IV)

Appendix A: Teaching Religions in a First Grade Classroom

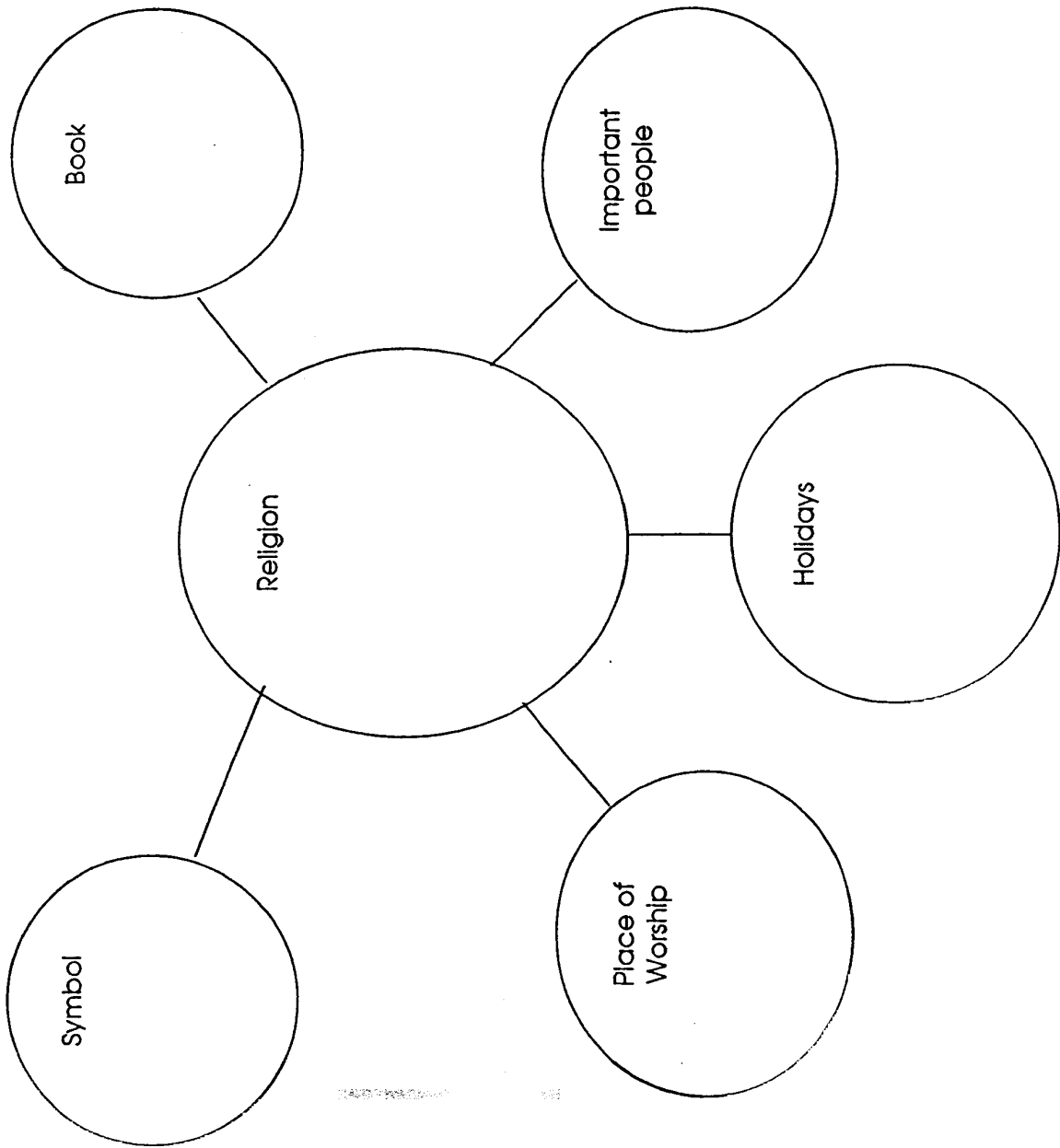
Dear Parents,

Over the next couple of weeks the first graders will be learning about three religions, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. They will learn some of the symbols, stories and practices of these three religions. This unit has been developed to help children develop an understanding and a tolerance of religions other than their own and learn to respect differences of others. It is through this unit that we will continue to teach the ideas of harmony and peace between all people. The materials that will be used for this unit are available for you to preview. If you are interested in previewing the materials or have any questions, please contact me. We will begin this unit on _____.

Sincerely,

Cherie R. Robinson

Appendix B

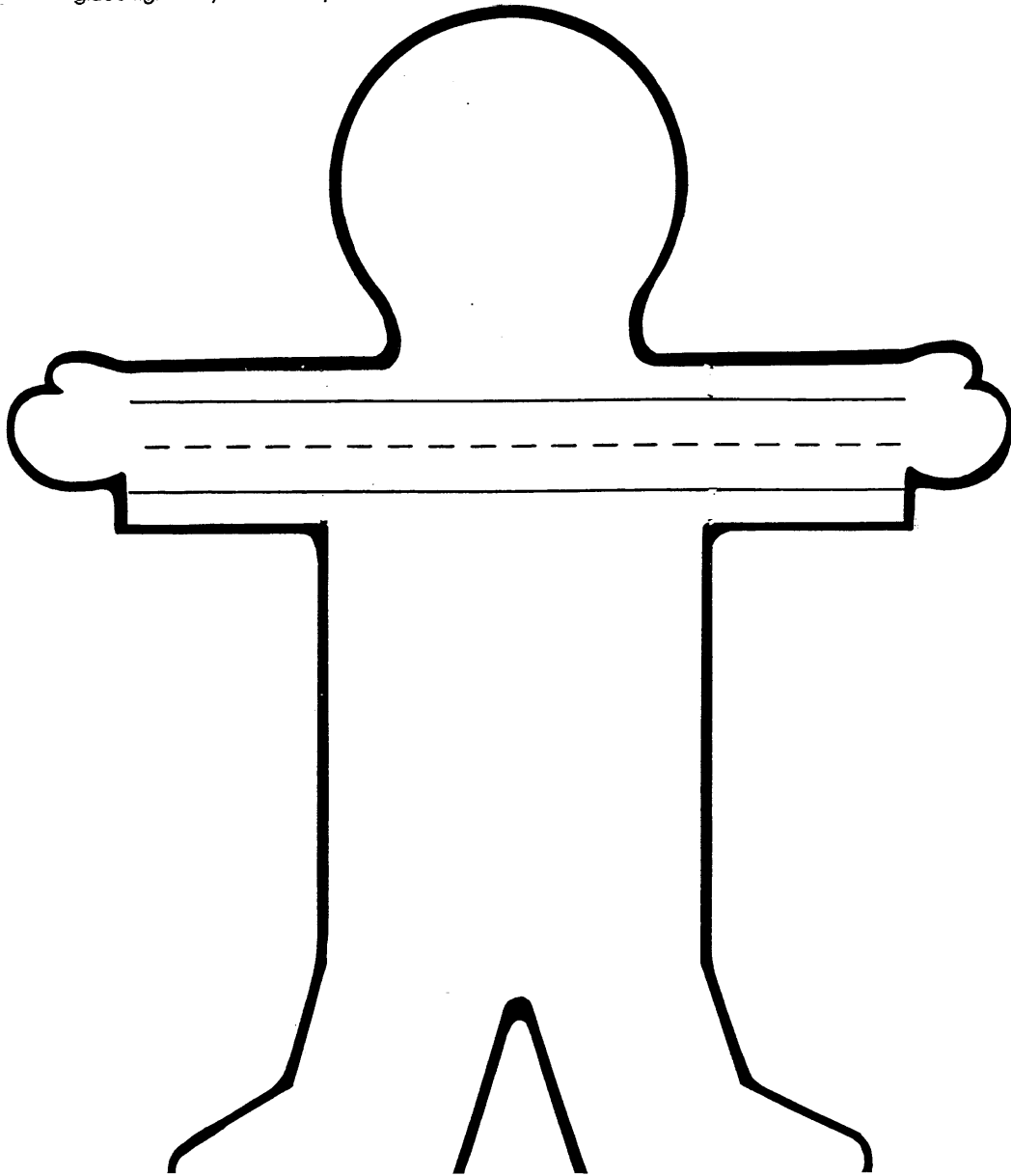


**Appendix C: Teaching
Religions in a First
Grade Classroom**

	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
Symbol			
Place of Worship			
Book			
Important People			
Holidays			

Appendix D

Each person will need three patterns. On each doll they will write I am Jewish, I am Christian and I am Muslim. They will draw faces on them and color their clothes. Then they will glue their hands together to make a circle so they are facing outside. If they are glued right they will stand up.



Appendix E: Teaching Religions in a First Grade Classroom

Reading to Perform a Task-
Make a Star of David

Materials:

Glue

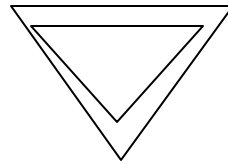
2 triangle shapes on yellow construction paper.

1 piece of blue construction paper

scissors

Procedure:

1. Cut out the two triangle shapes that are on yellow paper.
2. Glue the first triangle onto the blue construction paper with the point facing the top of the paper.



Appendix F: Teaching Religions in a First Grade Classroom

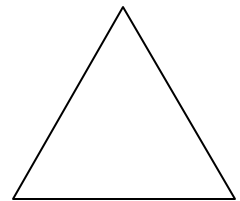
Reading to Perform a Task-
Make a Star of David

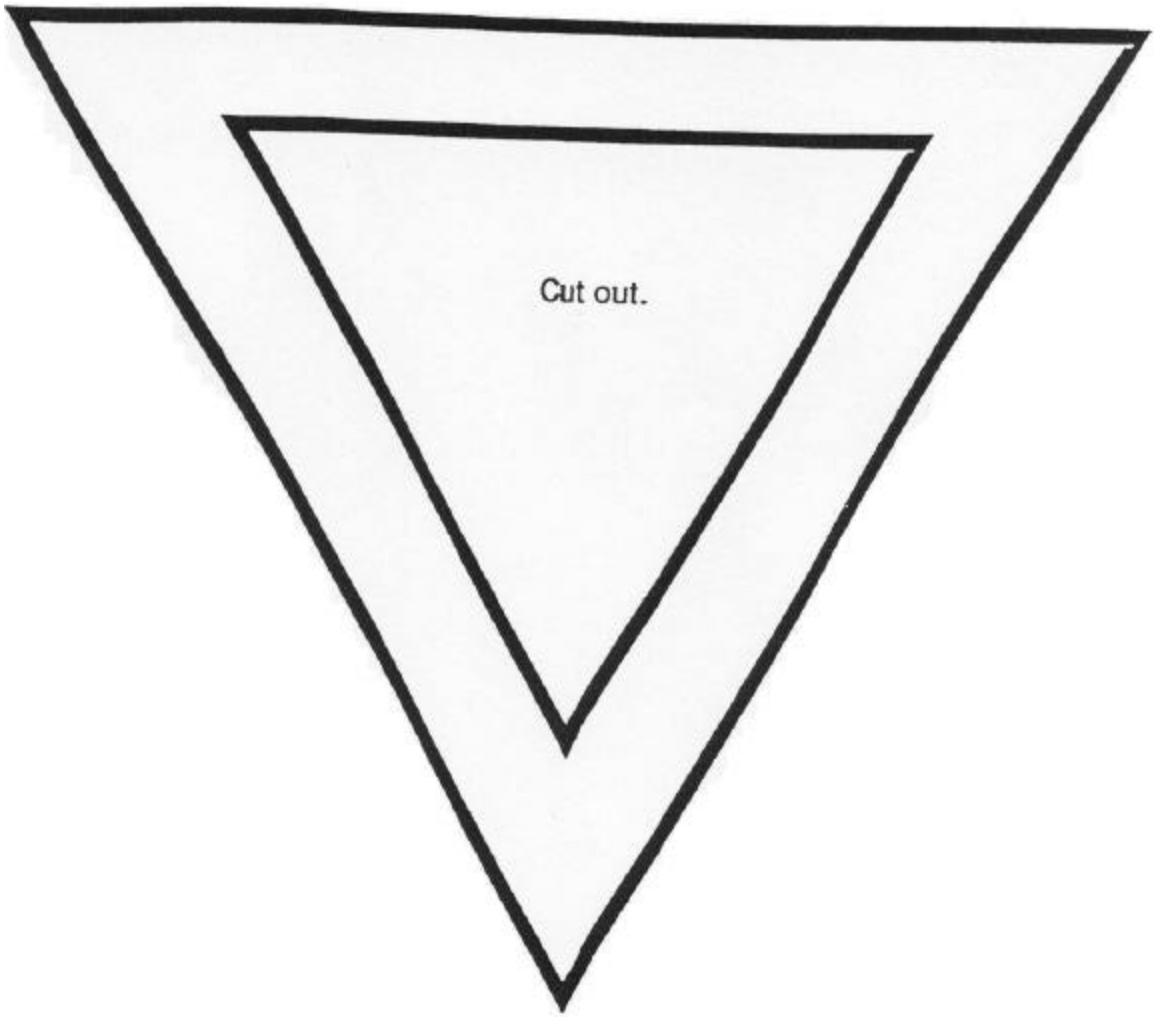
Glue

6 Craft sticks

blue construction paper

1. Make a triangle using 3 craft sticks and glue it onto the construction paper with the top pointing up.
2. Make a second triangle and glue it onto the construction paper on top of the first triangle, but this time the point should be down.





Cut out.

Appendix G: Teaching Religions in a First Grade Classroom

Read to Perform a Task

Making a Crescent Moon and Star

Materials:

Crescent Moon and Star pattern run on blue construction paper

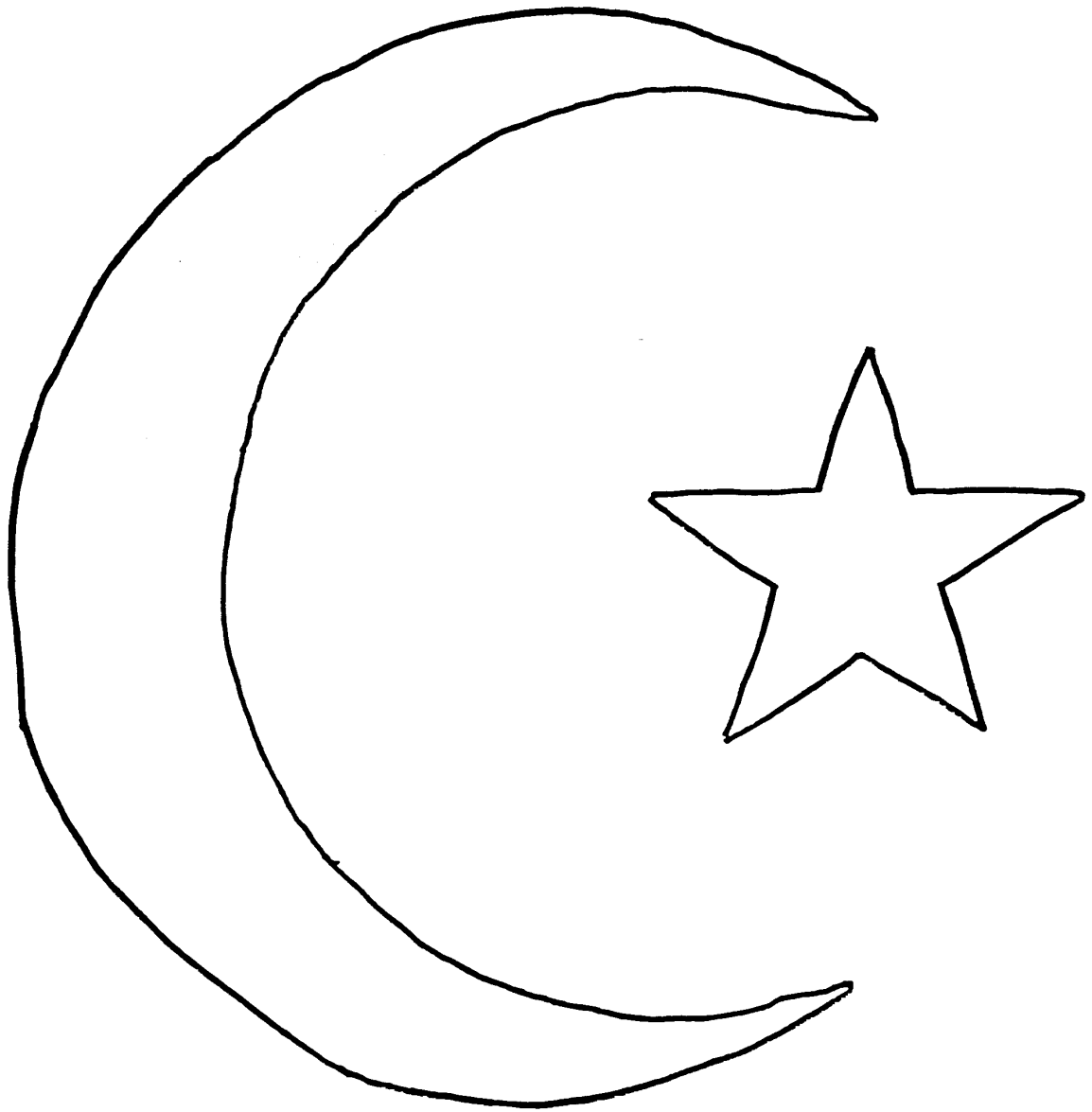
Yellow sheets of tissue paper.

Glue

Scissors

Procedure:

1. Cut out the inside of the crescent moon and star.
2. Glue the tissue paper on the back of the blue construction paper so that it shines through.



Appendix H: Teaching Religions in a First Grade Classroom

Reading to Perform a Task
Making a Cross Ornament

Materials:

1 clothes pin

glitter

a Cross run on yellow construction paper

glue stick

scissors

Procedure:

1. Cut out the cross.
2. Cover the front of the cross with the glue and sprinkle on the glitter.
3. Then glue put glue on the back of the cross and glue it onto the clothespin. Make sure the pinch part of the clothespin is at the bottom of the cross so it can clip onto a tree.

Each person will need three patterns. On each doll they will write I am Jewish, I am Christian and I am Muslim. They will draw faces on them and color their clothes. Then they will glue their hands together to make a circle so they are facing outside. If they are glued right they will stand up.