

EX 4: Associated Images of the Cultural Landscape

- **Visualization** is when we form or recall mental images.
- **Iconic image** is a generalized representation of an area, using a famous or well-known example to associate with it.
- Each image should be a **widely recognized illustration** of the area's culture or be an attraction that draws people to it.
- Use **travel and tourism sites** (travel agencies /government tourist boards) to find the images.
- Be sure to discuss the visualization/association behind the images: **The Why**.
What is the meaning behind the image?
Why was it selected to represent the area?

Select 8 areas to illustrate

- A. North America (not Mexico/Hawaii/NYC metro area)
- B. Central America/Caribbean
- C. South America
- D. North Africa/Southwest Asia
- E. Sub-Saharan Africa
- F. Europe (not Russia)
- G. Russia
- H. South Asia
- I. Southeast Asia
- J. East Asia
- K. Australia/New Zealand
- L. Polynesia/So.Pacific

GEOG 247 Cultural Geography

The Geography of Religion

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Religion and Geography

- ❖ **Geography of Religion: Spatial study of religions and religious beliefs and practices.**
- **Geographers study religions to:**
 - ✓ Ascertain their origin on earth (**HEARTH**)
 - ✓ Look for their interrelationships with the physical environment (**ECOLOGY, SPACE, REGION**)
 - ✓ Study their movement and distribution (**DIFFUSION**)
 - ✓ Analyze their affect on the landscape (**VISUAL RECORD, CREATION OF PLACE**)
 - ✓ Document the relationships between religions and their adherents (**INTERACTION**)

Cultural Interaction in Religion

Religion and economy

- Religious beliefs affect crop and livestock choices, as well as dietary habits.
 - Muslim prohibition of pork
 - Hinduism's sacred cows
 - Catholic meatless Fridays (past)
 - Jewish prohibition of mixing (storing and eating) of meat and dairy
- **Religious pilgrimage**
Journeys to sacred spaces have strong impacts on local economies.
 - Major destinations: Israel, Rome, Mecca, sites along Ganges River
 - Important locations: sites of an individual religious event (*miracle, birth place, battle*) or a special structure associated with a religious event.

Pilgrimages to the Holy Land

Pilgrimages to India

Pilgrimages to Islamic Sites

The Importance of Islamic Pilgrimage and Hajj Packages

Muslim Holy Sites

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Pilgrimages to Rome

In the Footsteps of the Saints

Spiritual & Religious Journeys

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Religious Landscapes

Religion is displayed on the landscape through the works of people or the designation of natural sites as being sacred.

- **Structures:** churches, mosques, temples, pagodas
- **Faithful details** – styles, colors and ornamentation associated with religion (*religious icons*)
- **Landscapes of the dead** – religious burial practices
- **Sacred space** – areas recognized as having spiritual significance; may be claimed by more than one group
- **Names on the land** – religious toponomy designating, honoring, and commemorating aspects of religiosity

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Religion and the Cultural Landscape

Baptist Message Boards

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Religion and the Cultural Landscape

Sacred Sites: Places or spaces that people infuse with religious meaning.

Pilgrimage Site: Adherents voluntarily travel to a religious site to pay respects or participate in a ritual there. Includes structures associated with religion as buildings, shrines, altars, monuments, statues, art work and cemeteries.

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Holy Places

❖ Religions may elevate places to a holy position.

- For an **ethnic religion** holy places derive from the distinctive physical environment of its hearth, such as mountains, rivers, or rock formations.
- A **universalizing religion** endows with holiness the cities and places associated with the founder's life.

❖ Making a pilgrimage to these holy places is incorporated into the rituals of some universalizing and ethnic religions.

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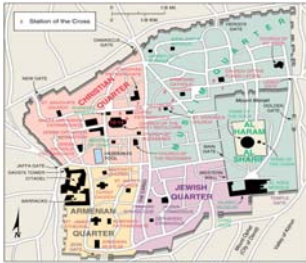
Sacred Site

Western Wall of the ancient Jewish temple and the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem



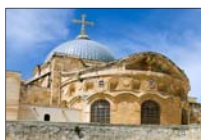
In religious tradition, this is the site of First and Second Temples; where Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac; and where Muhammad ascended into the heavens.



Holy City



The Old City of Jerusalem contains holy sites for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Sacred Sites



Stonehenge, England (Druid)



Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, France (Roman Catholic)



Hill Cumorah, Palmyra, N.Y (Mormon)




Temple of Emerald Buddha, Bangkok (Buddism)

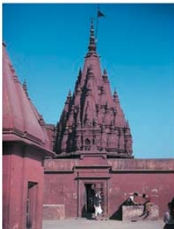


Great Mosque, Senegal (Islam)


Religious Structures



St. Basil's Cathedral, Russian Orthodox, Moscow











Hindu Temple, India



Protestant church, Southern U.S.

In many cases the unique shape of a structure gives an indication of the religious practices associated with it.

US&C Structures Associated with a Religion

Death and Dying

All cultures deal with dying and death.

In most cultures religion plays a paramount role:

- Promise of an eternal afterlife helps to ease the anguish of "death knowledge" for the living.
- Concepts of *heaven* and *hell* in some form exist in all religions with "instructions" of how to get there or avoid it. (A moral road map?)
- Rituals associated with death, as well as preferred means to deal with dead bodies, have developed over time and have become part of the cultural landscape.

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb41/>
<http://www.thefuneralsource.org/fts001.html>

Burial Practices

Human reaction to news (forms of grieving; mourning)

Body preparation after death (washing, embalming, dressing; use of coffins)

Funeral processions (escort)

Funeral services (wake; sacred ritual; simple service; celebration of life)

Deposition of the body (burial, cremation, exposure to elements of nature)



Burial Practices

Deposition of the body

- Burial in the ground; individual site or cemetery plot
- Cremation
- Placement above-ground; protected mound, tomb or mausoleum
- Direct exposure to natural elements
- Burial at sea
- Endocannibalism

Practices are dependent upon

- Area geography
 - Climate (heat and humidity)
 - Geology (soil layer)
 - Water table (closeness to surface)
- Available space (open land away from populated areas)
- Religious belief and local custom
- Ethnic cultural history
- Local regulations

Together they create a landscape of the dead with a unique cultural identity.

Landscapes of the Dead



Necropolis, near Cairo, Egypt



Taj Mahal, India




Pyramids of Egypt



Above-ground tombs, Yucatan, Mexico

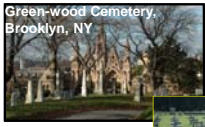
Landscapes of the Dead




Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia




Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY



World War I Military Cemetery, Germany



Buddhist burial stupas



New Orleans

Landscapes of the Dead



Ganges Valley, India



American Plains



Canadian Arctic




Queens, NYC



Bahrain

Religious Toponymy



Can you identify the French-Catholic settled area?

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Role of Religion in Political Conflict

Conflicts along Religious Borders

- **Interfaith boundaries:** boundaries between the world's major faiths
 - Christian-Muslim boundaries in Africa
- **Intrafaith boundaries:** boundaries within a single major faith
 - Christian Protestants and Catholics.
 - Muslim Sunni and Shi'ite

Before 2003
— No Shia Power Axis —

After 2003
— Shia Power Axis —

P = Sunni in Power
 P = Shia in Power
 Blue Background = Sunni Majority Population
 Green Background = Shia Majority Population

Religion Conflict Zones in Africa

0 10 30 50 100

- Sudan's border with C.A.R., D.C.R., and Uganda represents a sharp divide between the density of Muslim and Christian people
- Tanzania is divided into religious sectors with traditional African religions dominating the west, Christians in the center, and Muslims along the coast
- D.R.C.'s eastern border with Tanzania, and to a lesser extent with Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, represents a significant divide between the density of Christians and traditional African religions

Religion and Political Conflict

Israel and Palestine

- WWII, 1967 Arab-Israeli War, West Bank, Hamas

Nigeria

- Muslim North/ Christian South

The Former Yugoslavia

- Balkan Peninsula separates the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church

Northern Ireland

- Catholics vs. Protestants in the northern part of Ireland.

Religious Fundamentalism and Extremism

Religious fundamentalism

Beliefs are nonnegotiable and uncompromising

Religious extremism

Fundamentalism carried to the point of violence. Fundamentalists can be extremists but this does not mean that all fundamentalists (of any faith) are extremists.

- ✓ Cultural aspects can be identified and mapped.
- ✓ Core/source areas can be located.
- ✓ Means of diffusion can be studied.
- ✓ Movement's influence on an area can be profound including many aspects of landscape.

NEXT

TOURISM

(God willing!)