**Area of Learning: SOCIAL STUDIES — Comparative World Religions Grade 12**

**BIG IDEAS**

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| Religious belief, across time and place, is a common aspect of many human societies. |  | Religion can powerfully shape social, political, legal, and environmental values. |  | Comparing beliefs provides insights into and understanding of diverse global cultures and peoples. |  | An individual’s search for existential insight and transcendence can be shaped by a variety of different religious, spiritual, or philosophical traditions. |

**Learning Standards**

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| **Curricular Competencies** | **Content** |
| *Students are expected to be able to do the following:** Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; and communicate findings and decisions
* Explain the significance of texts, philosophies, events, or developmentsat particular times and places within various belief systems (significance)
* **Compare and evaluate artifacts as evidence of the cultural influence of religion (evidence)**
* **Compare the growth and decline of religions over time, and determine the extent of continuity and changes in core beliefs and practices (continuity and change)**
* **Assess origins and influences of religious movements and groups (cause and consequence)**
* **Explain different religious perspectives on past or present people, places, issues, or events (perspective)**
* Assess the accuracy of representations of religion in media and popular culture (critical media literacy)
 | *Students are expected to know the following:** **characteristics of religion, mythology, and spirituality**
* **core beliefs, practices, and ethics of world religions, including spirituality in First Peoples cultures**
* **approaches to doctrines or belief systems**
* **institutional and social structures**
* **sacred texts, traditions, and narratives**
* **art, architecture, narratives, and other forms of expression**
* relationship between religion and government at different times and places
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