The Five Major World Religions and their Followers

Hinduism – followers are called **Hindus**

Buddhism – followers are called **Buddhist**

Judaism – followers are called **Jews**

Christianity – followers are called **Christians**

Islam – followers are called **Muslims**

Key Terms used to Classify types of belief.

Term	Definition
Monotheistic	Belief in one God – Judaism, Christianity, Islam
Polytheistic	Belief in many gods - Hinduism
Humanism	Belief that there is no higher power and that humans can find meaning in their lives without reference to religion
Atheism	Belief that there is no God/gods/Divine
Agnosticism	The belief that we cannot fully know if God/gods/Divine truly exists or not

Elements of World Religions.

Element	Definition
Creed	They key beliefs of a religion e.g. Christians believe in one God
Code	Guidelines for living a moral life e.g. 10 Commandments
Calendar	The celebration of feasts and festivals e.g. St. Patrick's Day is a feast. Christmas is a festival.
Sacred Text	Contains the foundation story of the religion, their code, creed and prayers, sayings and teachings of the founder e.g. the Bible
Symbol	An object, gesture or image with more than one meaning which evokes an emotional response e.g. the Cross
Worship and Ritual	Worship means to recognise the worth of God/gods/ The Divine and to praise God/gods/The Divine. This is done through ritual – a repeated pattern of worship used to express belief e.g. 7 Sacraments