



UNION

Religious Worlds of New York • Curriculum Development Project

Mapping Religious Diversity and Community Involvement in Lexington

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Overview of the Project

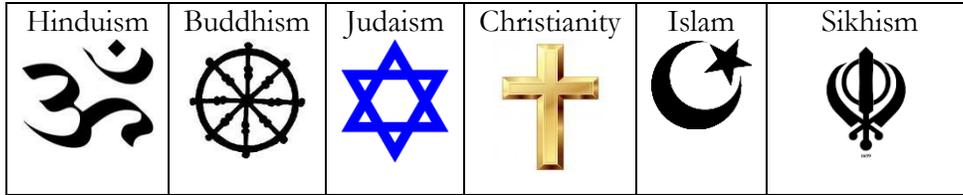
This assignment is designed as part of an introductory unit for a World Religions class. The first lesson will have focused on “What does community mean?” This assignment will follow that lesson and guide students to explore some of the religious communities in the city of Lexington, using the websites of local religious institutions, and other online resources.

Lexington is a diverse city that is home to thousands of people from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and religions. There are many that practice Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Islam, as well as Christianity. The eight religious institutions chosen for this project are not the only relevant sites for each faith community, nor are these the only faiths practiced by Lexington residents. Nevertheless, this project will help to introduce students to the religious diversity of their own home town.

The students will look up each of the religious institutions online, then locate them on a map of Lexington. Following this initial activity, students will analyze the mission statements and community outreach programs of each institution, to make conclusions about faith-based services offered in different areas of town (i.e. congregations on the northeast side of town tend to focus on one sort of community program rather than another). Students will thus develop skills in reading and interpreting a map, finding and citing evidence, and making claims. The following pages describe the four steps of the assignment in more detail

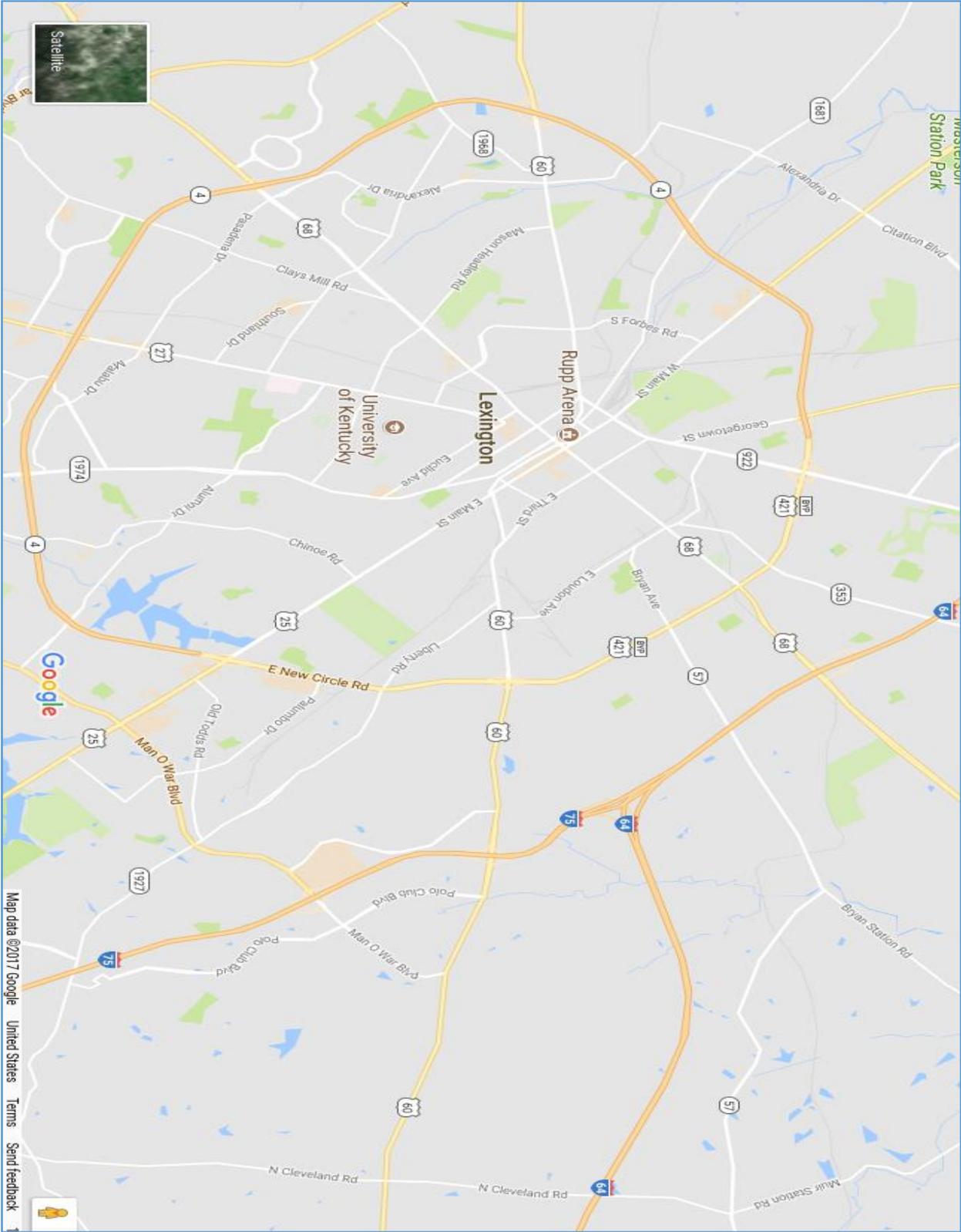
This assignment will require technology. Students will need to use online resources and electronic devices.

Step 1: Determine what religion each of these worship centers serve. Next to each center draw the symbol that identifies its religious tradition.



Worship Centers	Symbol
1.) Temple Adath Israel 124 N Ashland Ave http://www.lextai.org	
2.) Islamic Center of Lexington 649 S Limestone http://www.iclky.org	
3.) Bharatiya Temple & Cultural 3050 N Cleveland Rd http://btckky.org	
4.) Shambhala Meditation Center 315 W Maxwell St https://lexington.shambhala.org	
5.) Cathedral of Christ the King 299 Colony Blvd https://cathedralctk.org	
6.) Gurudwara Sahib 257 Swigert Ave https://www.sabglex.com	
7.) Bryan Station Baptist Church 3175 Briar Hill Rd. http://bryanstation.com	
8.) Masjid Bilal Ibn Rabah 1545 Russell Cave Rd http://www.masjibilalky.org	

Step 2: Place the appropriate religious symbol at the location of each worship center.



Step 3: Look at each location's website and detail their mission and how they discuss their involvement in the community. Some places of worship will have it on the home page while you may have to thoroughly investigate the websites of other places.

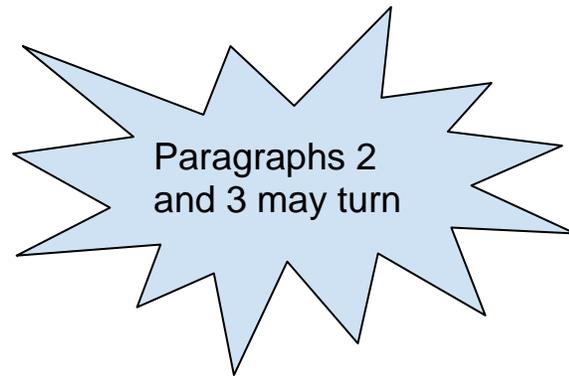
Worship Centers	Mission	Community Involvement
<p>Temple Adath Israel 124 N Ashland Ave http://www.lextai.org</p>		
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Step 4: Choose two places of worship from the list above, and write an extended response in relation to each place of worship. This is an opinion piece but will be graded with a rubric for a summative assessment. You must answer the follow prompt with evidence and support cited from your source.

A mission statement should be a guiding principle of values and ideas for a place of worship. Many places of worship talk about the community or world in their mission statements. Analyze at least three mission statements (from different faith traditions) and explain how this is reflected in their community involvement. Following this explanation, use the map to try and make connections between the location of the houses of worship and their community involvement. Use evidence from the websites or other substantive sources. You must cite the sources!

Essay Format

1. **Introductory Paragraph with a thesis**
2. **Missions and community involvement**
3. **Argument with defense**
4. **Conclusion**



Relevant Standards:

HS.SS.CS.2.16: Students observe, analyze, and interpret human behaviors, social groupings, and institutions to better understand people and the relationships among individuals and among groups.

SS Literacy Standard (Production and Distribution of Writing 4): Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization and style are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.

***For information about the Religious Worlds of New York
summer institute for teachers, and more resources to enrich your teaching
on religious diversity, see: www.religiousworldsnyc.org.***