

Shintoism

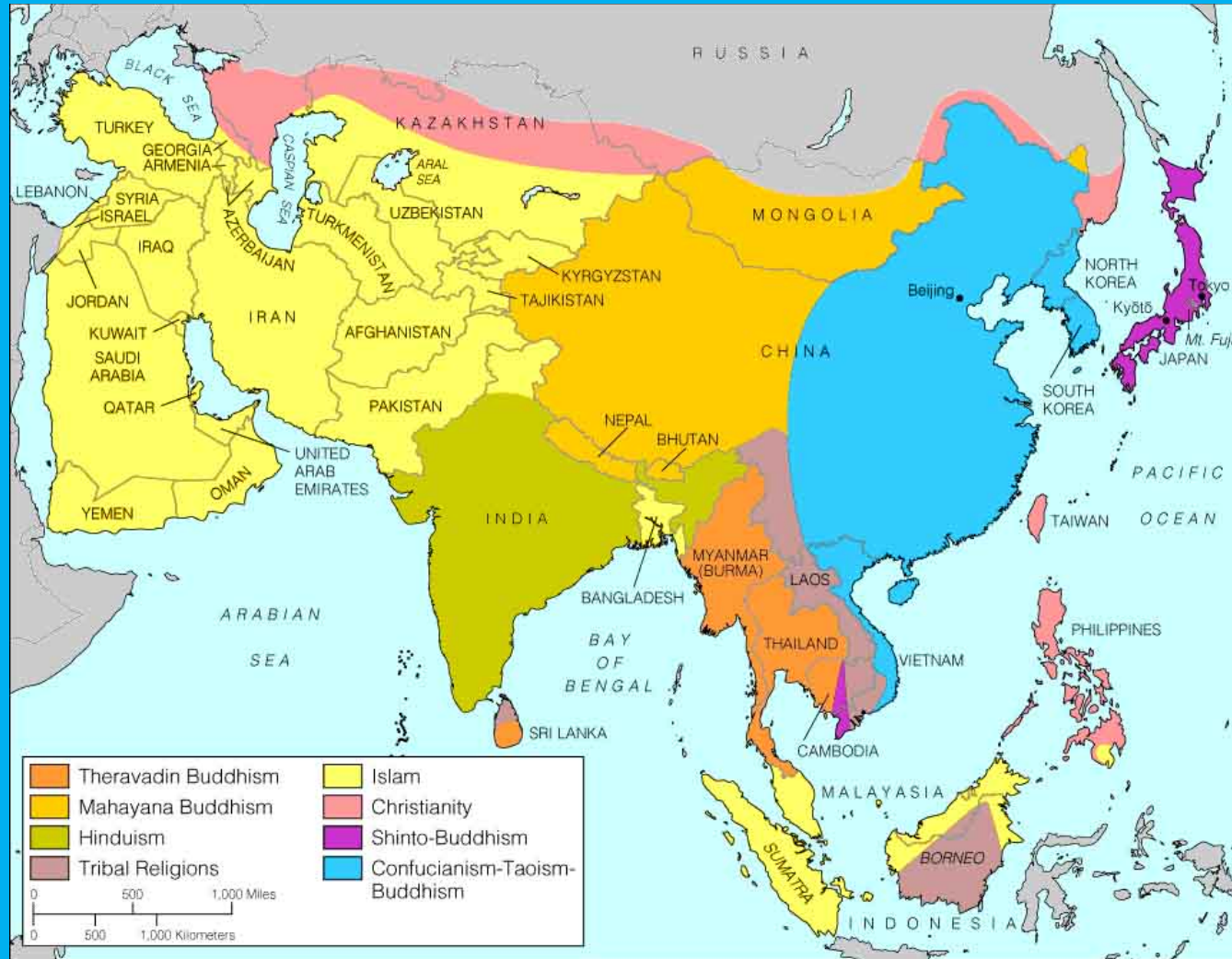


Shintoism

- Shintoism was once the state religion of Japan
- It is no longer the official state religion, but Shintoism is still widely honored among the Japanese.



Shintoism



- There are followers of Shintoism around the world, but they are relatively few in number when compared with other major religions.

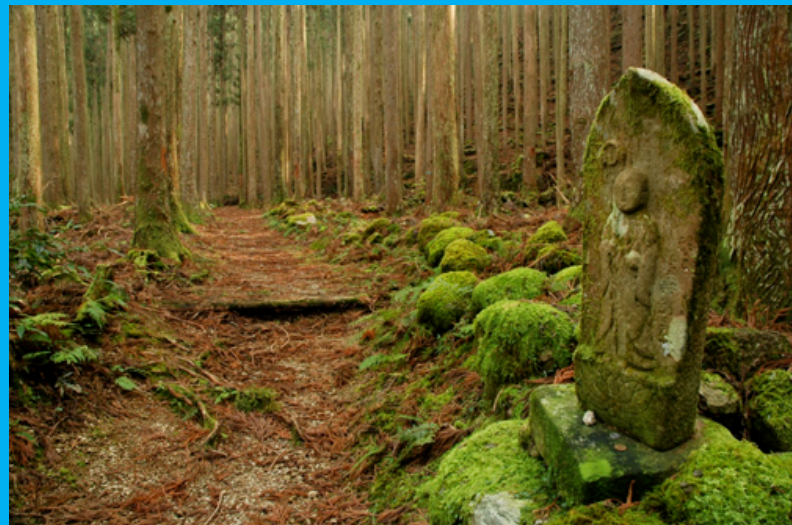
Shintoism

- The earliest religion of Japan was Shintoism, which literally means the “way of the gods.”



Shinto Beliefs

- Shintoists believe in **kami**, which are divine spirits that Shinto followers believe live in nature.
- These spirits are believed to live in beautiful places, animals, and especially as person's ancestors.



Shinto Beliefs

- Many Japanese people believe some of the mountains and rivers in Japan are the homes of these kami, and these places are sacred



Shinto Practices



- Shinto believers offer prayers and perform rituals to honor and please the kami, or spirits they feel are special.



- Most Japanese households have a small altar where the family will offer prayers for the spirits they hope will bless and protect them.

Shinto Practices



- The worship of nature has also led the Japanese the art of creating small, beautiful gardens, areas of quiet and reflection in their crowded world.

Review of Learning

- In which country was Shintoism founded?

Japan

- What are the kami that are so important in Shinto belief?

They are spirits that followers of Shinto believe exist in things around them.

- How do believers of Shinto practice their religion?

They pray at small altars in their homes.