



Finding Common Ground among the religions of India

_____ / 30 Points

In 1575, emperor *Akbar the Great* of the *Mughal Empire* wanted to end fighting between the many religions of India. He invited representatives from each of the religions to his capital at *Fatehpur Sikri*. He gave each of them the task of finding common ground among their different religious beliefs so the people of India could live together peacefully.

Task

Imagine you are an advisor to Akbar the Great and you have interviewed followers of each of the religions present at Fatehpur Sikri (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism). Write a letter describing similarities between the religions and explain your plan for maintaining peace in India.

Step 1: World Religions Comparison Chart (10 Points)

Complete the chart by filling in specific details about the seven religions.

Step 2: Write a rough draft of your letter (3 Points)

Skip lines to allow room for revision. Follow the content guidelines listed under the final draft section on the back of this page.

Step 3: Make Revisions to the rough draft (2 Points)

Make comments and editing marks on your rough draft to **show** your revisions.

Step 4: Write a final draft (15 Points)

Write a final draft that is typed or handwritten in black ink. The final draft will be scored on:

1. Including the following requirements:
 - a. Include a **greeting** that shows great respect to your emperor.
 - b. Identify at least _____ **similarities** between the religions.
 - c. Give **specific examples** for each similarity.
 - d. Explain how the followers of different religions can live together in **peace**.
 - e. A cordial **closing** ("sincerely", "regards", "your humble servant") and sign your name.
2. **Ideas and content:** writing has clear ideas, accurate information, specific details and creativity.
3. **Voice:** appropriate tone that shows respect for the religious beliefs of others, appropriate voice for writing to an emperor.

Challenge Task (10 Points)

Imagine that you are listening to a discussion between the representatives at Fatehpur Sikri. Write a dialog of their discussion about the similarities between their religions. Include at least ten lines of dialog. Your writing should be thoughtful, realistic and respectful of the subject matter.