

Note, students, several of these ask for EXAMPLES - plural. It's also a RESEARCH project. I don't want to know what's already in your head; I want you to go out and learn something new!

## Task: Mini-Research Project - Mrs. Day's Model

Your Chosen Theme: Organized Religion

What does this term mean? According to the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, "religion is a belief system that has large numbers of followers and a set of rules that must be followed."

Where, in history, can you find examples of this idea/phenomenon? Obviously, there are dozens of examples of organized religion throughout the world and throughout history. According to the Ancient History Encyclopedia, in ancient times, religion was indistinguishable from what we now call "mythology," in that both were stories of powerful beings, and they both taught moral and spiritual lessons. Zoroastrianism is another example of a historical religion, but it is still practiced today!

What modern/current examples are there of this idea? Again, examples abound, but as of 2015, the most widely practiced religions in the world were Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism and various folk religions, according to the Pew Research Center. Three of those (Christianity, Islam, and Judaism) are monotheistic, meaning that they believe in a single god or entity, while Hinduism is polytheistic, and Buddhism considers itself more of a "way of life" or a "lifestyle," according to Buddhist writer Nicholas Liusuwan for The Huffington Post.

Where is this concept found in *Animal Farm*? Moses, the raven, represents religion on animal farm. He tells the other animals about Sugarcandy Mountain, which is a direct metaphor for a Christianity-like heaven. He also represents organized religion under Stalin's rule because religion was outlawed at first (Stalin declaring it to be obsolete), but he later brought it back in an effort to increase patriotism during WWII. This is just like Moses disappearing for a long time, only to reappear later in the book.

What sources did you use to find your information? Merriam-Webster online dictionary, the Pew Research Center (online), "Is Buddhism a Philosophy or a Religion" from huffpost.com, and Shmoop's study guide on Moses the Raven.

How did you decide that these sources were reliable and accurate? The information on each of these sites was clear, and was written by experts. I only questioned the article from huffpost.com, but checked to see that it was written by someone with firsthand knowledge on the subject.