

2 Polytheistic: Religions that believe in more than one supreme being

## II Buddhism

### A. Origins

1. Was the first world universalizing religion
2. Founded near the Indo-Gangetic Hearth, which is the area between the Indus and Ganges rivers
3. Was founded by Prince Siddhartha Guatama (Buddha), who was born in 644 bce

### B. Diffusion of Buddhism

1. Initially spreading through India, next spread to China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, and Southeast Asia along the Silk road
2. Buddhism is now almost extinct in India, where it was founded
3. Nearly 350 million people are Buddhist

### C. Primary Branches of Buddhism

1. Primary Branches are Theravada and Mahayana, Lamaism
2. Theravada Buddhism is monastic, meaning all the followers are monks or nuns, practice by 55% mainly in SE Asia
3. Mahayana Buddhists do not spend time as monks, but find salvation through meditation and prayer, 40% Korea, Vietnam, Japan & China
4. Lamaism in Tibet combines monasticism of Theravada with belief in spirits of deities and demons. 5% of all Buddhists. Dalai Lama.

### D. Cultural Landscape Features

1. Famous Features are pagoda derived from ancient burial mounds. Siddhartha Buddha reached enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.