

IX Shamanism + Animism

A. Shamanism + Animism

1. Shamanism is a term given to any ethnic religion in which a community follows its shaman, or religious leader, healer, or truth knower.
2. Shamanism has its strongest presence in Africa, but has historically existed in North America, Southeast Asia, and East Asia.
3. Shamans are also still important in the Amazon and in parts of Mexico and Guatemala.
4. Some shamans teach animism, a belief that objects such as the trees, mountains and rivers have divine spirits in them.
5. Native Americans religious beliefs often have animistic traits, finding spiritual and religious significance in features of the landscape.