

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Allen Smith

Humanities Discipline: U. S. History I

Date: September 9, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: Hinduism and the Transcendentalists in the 1800s

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to the different concepts concerning Hinduism in American society of the 1800s.
2. Discuss the various practices and beliefs of Hinduism.
3. Discuss the similarities and differences among the Transcendentalists, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.
4. Introduce students to the beliefs of Unitarians.

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Bowker, John, *World Religion*, (New York, New York, DK Publishing, Inc., 2006) p. 20-43
2. James A. Henretta, Eric Foner, Rebecca Edwards, Robert O. Self, *America A Concise History*, Volume 1: To 1877 1865, Sixth ed. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's 2015), p. 315-317
3. Goodman, Russell, "Ralph Waldo Emerson", *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Winter 2014 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/win2014/entries/emerson/>>.
4. Ruehl, Robert Michael, "Henry David Thoreau", *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, URL=<<http://www.iep.utm.edu/thoreau/>>

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

- a. What are the "Four Vedas" and the differences of each book?
- b. What are the concepts or beliefs of the Transcendentalist movement?
- c. What impact did Bengali reformer, Rammohun Roy, have upon American Unitarians?
- d. What impact did Bengali reformer, Rammohun Roy, have upon Ralph Waldo Emerson?
- e. What impact did Bengali reformer, Rammohun Roy, have upon Henry David Thoreau?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

1. Discuss the historical impact of Hinduism upon the philosopher and transcendentalist, Amos Bronson Alcott, in a 20 slide PowerPoint with notes or a 750-word essay.
2. Discuss the historical impact of Hinduism upon the preacher and social reformer, Theodore Parker, in a 20 slide PowerPoint presentation with notes or a 750-word essay.
3. Discuss the use of the *Bhagavad Gita* by Henry David Thoreau in his classic, *Walden*, in a 20 slide PowerPoint presentation with notes or a 750-word essay.
4. Discuss the impact of the *Rig Veda*, and the *Upanishads* upon Ralph Waldo Emerson, in a 20 slide PowerPoint presentation with notes.