Pre-reading for *Siddhartha* by Hermann Hesse
Webquest

I. Hinduism
Visit this site: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/index.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/index.shtml) and answer the following questions:

1. Based on the information on this website, give an overview of Hinduism.
2. How old is Hinduism?
3. Where did it originate?
4. In what do the Hindus believe? (Give a brief explanation based on the information provided)
5. What is Brahman and what do Hindus believe about Brahman?
6. What is Varna? Write the Varnas and their descriptions below - include the one group of outsiders.
7. What are the Vedas? (Give a brief overview; you do not need all the different categories of Vedas)

II. Buddhism: The Life of the Buddha
Visit this site: [http://webspace.ship.edu/cgboer/siddhartha.html](http://webspace.ship.edu/cgboer/siddhartha.html) and answer the following questions:

1. Describe Siddhartha Guatama’s birth.
2. What happens to Siddhartha at age 29?
3. Describe his experience under the bodhi tree.
4. How did he feel about the status or background of people?
5. What significance did he give to women?
6. To what did he devote his life?

III. The Four Noble Truths and the Eight-Fold Path
Visit these sites: [http://www.buddhanet.net/4noble.htm](http://www.buddhanet.net/4noble.htm) and [http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/8foldpath.htm](http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/8foldpath.htm) and answer the following questions:

1. List and briefly explain the Four Noble Truths.
2. List and briefly explain the Eight-Fold Path.

IV. Images of Buddhism:
Visit this site: [http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/gallery.htm](http://www.religionfacts.com/buddhism/gallery.htm) and browse the pictures on this site. Answer the following:

1. What do you notice?
2. What questions do these images raise for you?

V. Definitions
Define the words below. Make sure you understand the definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hindu Terms</th>
<th>Buddhist Terms</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karma</td>
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<td>Brahman</td>
<td>Asceticism</td>
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<td>Meditation</td>
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VI. Karma and Rebirth
Visit this site: [http://www.pbs.org/edens/thailand/buddhism.htm](http://www.pbs.org/edens/thailand/buddhism.htm) and answer the following questions:

1. Under “Karma”: What conditions determine the weight of one’s actions?
2. Read the “The Cycle of Rebirth” section and describe the plane or realm that seems “the best” to you. Explain.

VII. Quotes
Find your favorite quote from Buddha. (Google “Buddha quotes.”) Explain your choice.

VIII. Hermann Hesse
Visit this site: [http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/hhesse.htm](http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/hhesse.htm) and [http://nobelprize.org/literature/laureates/1946/hesse-autobio.html](http://nobelprize.org/literature/laureates/1946/hesse-autobio.html) and answer the following questions:

1. When and where was Hesse born?
2. What caused Hesse to become so interested in Eastern philosophy, spirituality, and religions?
3. What did Hesse’s parents originally expect him to become?
4. In what year did he win the Nobel Prize? For what work?
5. What did several of Hesse’s novels depict?