

## Religion in America: Beliefs, Experiences, and Practices

### Objective:

- 1) Introduce students to the various religious beliefs, experiences, and practices common in the United States
- 2) Introduce the primary ways social scientists measure these beliefs, experiences, and practices
- 3) Familiarize students with online research tools

### Activity:

Examine the [Public Opinion National Profile of the United States](#) and the prevalence of various religious beliefs and their increase/decline over the past two decades

Using [QuickStats](#) on The ARDA, investigate the responses on U.S. surveys to various religious behaviors ([attendance](#), [prayer](#), [reading sacred texts](#), etc), including their [patterns](#), changes [over time](#), and comparisons to [other surveys](#)

Using [QuickStats](#) on The ARDA, investigate the responses on U.S. surveys to various religious experiences ([healing](#), [protection from harm by guardian angel](#), [speaking in tongues](#), etc) including the [patterns](#) of responses

Using the [American Denominations Profiles](#) tool, [compare the members](#) of up to five different denominations on their responses to various religious beliefs ([example](#))

Using the [American Denominations Profiles](#) tool, [compare the members](#) of up to five different denominations on their responses to various religious experiences and practices ([example](#))

### Assessment:

Direct students to complete the Compare Yourself surveys ([youth](#) ages 13-20) and share if they were surprised by how they compared to those similar to them

Direct students to complete [The Scientific Study of Religion: Measuring Religiosity](#) learning module (module introduces the different ways to measure “religion”)

Direct students to complete the [Exploring Individuals’ Religious Beliefs and Behaviors](#) learning module (module explores different aspects of individual religiosity)

Direct students to complete the [Beliefs About Life After Death](#) learning module (module explores a particular religious belief)

### Suggested readings:

Chaves, Mark. 2011. *American Religion: Contemporary Trends*. Princeton. Ch. 3, 4, 8.

Froese, Paul and Christopher D. Bader. 2010. *America’s Four Gods*. Oxford.



[“Religiosity”](#) in the Religion Dictionary in Teaching Tools on The ARDA

[“Religious Behavior”](#) in the Religion Dictionary in Teaching Tools on The ARDA

[“Religious Belief”](#) in the Religion Dictionary in Teaching Tools on The ARDA

[“Religious Experience”](#) in the Religion Dictionary in Teaching Tools on The ARDA

[“Ritual”](#) in the Religion Dictionary in Teaching Tools on The ARDA