

R&W - What place does religion have in our world today?

census*	An official survey recording information about a population.	heritage	Cultural traditions, beliefs, customs and practices passed down through generations.
colonialisation*	Taking control over other lands.	immigration	The process of moving to a new country to settle there permanently.
data	Information, facts or statistics collected for analysis or reference.	protected characteristic*	Personal qualities such as age, gender, race and religion that are legally protected from discrimination.
discrimination*	Treating someone unfairly or differently because of who they are (including religion, age, or gender).	religious*	Following a set of beliefs and teachings.
diversity*	The quality of being varied or different from each other.	secular*	Not being connected to any religious or spiritual ideas.

Freedom of religion or beliefs

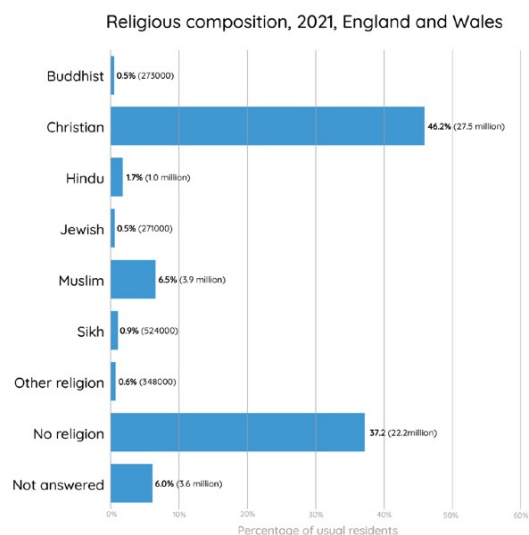
Freedom of religion or belief is a human right that allows individuals and communities to follow and express their beliefs without discrimination or being forced to hide or change what they believe. There are laws in many countries, including the UK, to protect this right.



Using census data

Census data can tell us a lot about the religious make-up of England and Wales but it also has limits. Not everyone answers the religion question and it has a limited number of options, meaning not all religions or non-religious worldviews are clearly shown in the data.

What is your religion?



Places of worship

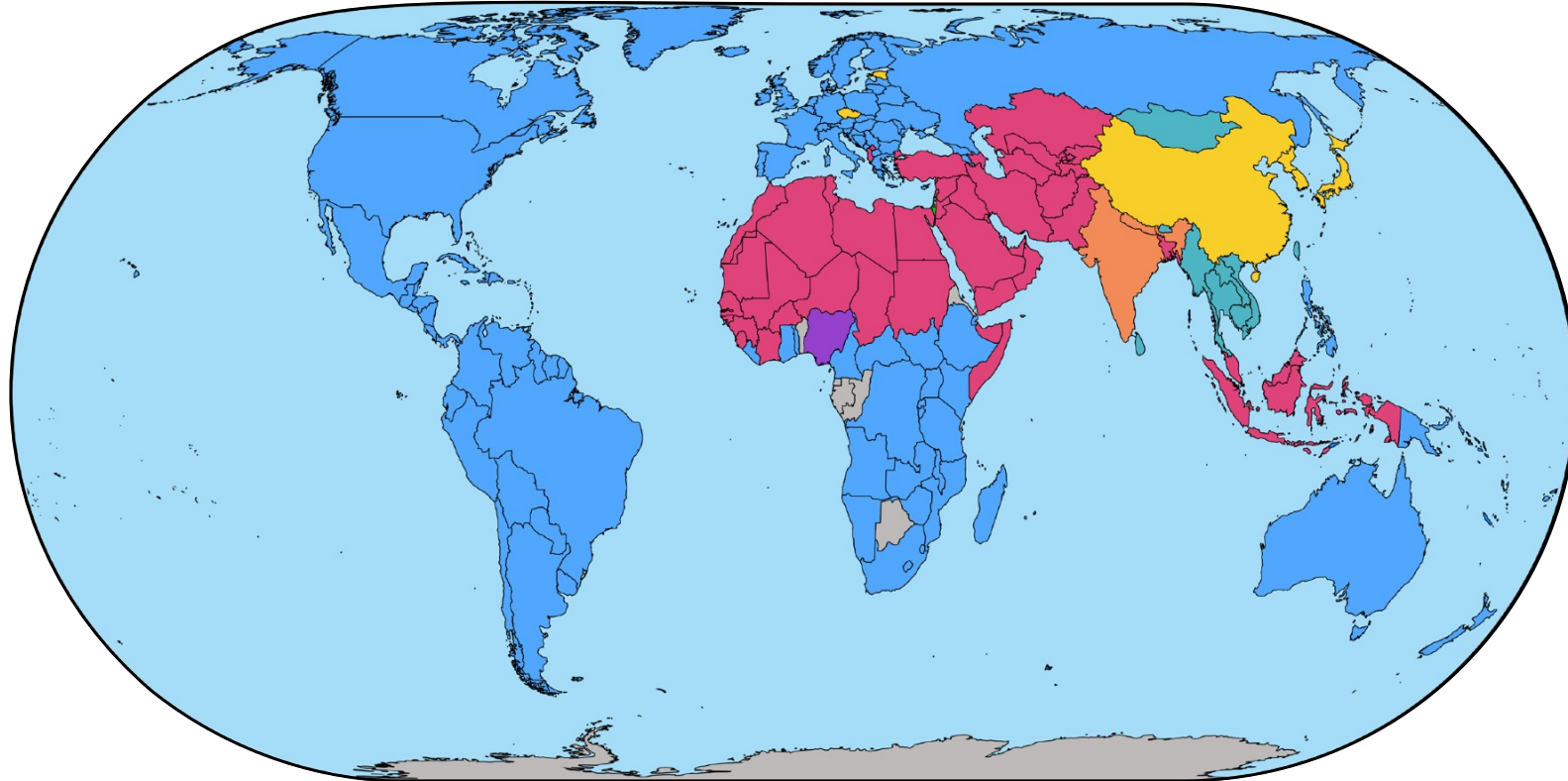
Places of worship can be purpose-built or use existing buildings. Sometimes a place of worship changes to be used differently, by a different religious group or for secular use. People can have strong feelings about these changes due to their beliefs or ideas about conservation and heritage.



Religious spread

Religious beliefs and teachings spread from where they were first developed across the world. The main reasons for this are colonisation, exile, immigration, trade, travel and communication.

A map showing the most common religion in each country



Key

 Buddhist	 Christian	 Hindu	 Jewish	 Muslim	 Muslim and Christian nearly equal	 Unaffiliated
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