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### The Kids Book of World Religions

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Glossop, Jennifer. *The Kids Book of World Religions*. Illustrated by John Mantha. Kids Can Press, Ltd., 2003. ISBN 1550749595. \$15.95. 64 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Non-fiction;

Subject: World Religions—Juvenile literature; Books—Reviews;

This is an excellent overview of some of the world's dominant religions. Glossop begins by discussing how religion answers questions about the meaning and purpose of life. Her text is thereafter divided into four categories: religions from India, religions from the Middle East, religions from East Asia, and religions from other continents. Each category is subdivided into religions which developed in that area, such as Hinduism in India and Christianity and Islam in the Middle East. Each section gives a brief explanation of basic beliefs and teachings, scriptures, and how each religion celebrates special events like birth and marriage. Each also contains a Quick Facts sidebar with such information as number of adherents and where they live, major branches, and what each calls their places of worship. A color-coded world map and glossary round out the text.

My only complaint is that the sections devoted to the indigenous religions of Africa, Australia, and North America are so short that one wonders why they were even included. Overall, this is a good starting place for children who wish to learn more about the religions of the world.