**(Compare and Contrast)**

**Hinduism and Buddhism**

As you read about the different religions, fill out the chart below. Then discuss your answers with your group. (Ch 3 – 2 pp 66-71)

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|  | **Hinduism (India)** | **Buddhism (China)** |
| **1. Founder/Origin** | 750-550 B.C. Hindu people  No one person or specific time – it is a culmination of 100’s of years | Siddhartha Gautama –(He was a young boy – thought you should live a pure life)  See pg. 69 - later he would be known as Buddha. So he was considered the founder. |
| **2. Key beliefs** | Reincarnation (means rebirth – and everything you do in this life follow you to the next life  Karma – good/bad choices.  Moksha – this is a state of perfect understanding – (once you reach this you are moving to the next level – reincarnation is done) | Reincarnation  Nirvana is the final level  You must live by the four noble truths (p. 69) |
| **3. gods** | Vishnu- known as the protector  Brahman – known as the creator  Shiva – known as the destroyer  (these are the main three, there are actually many more that take care of smaller issues) | They do not really have a “god” – but you should live your life as Buddha wrote it down. They look up to him.  Buddha was not really a god – he was a man, a teacher. |
| **4. sacred literature** | Upanishads – written teachings – the sacred text that the Hindu religion is based on. | Jatakas – also known as Dharma – the teachings of Gautama or Buddha.  These are nothing more than the teachings and thoughts of Buddha written down |
| **5. effect on society**  **Hindus and Buddhists do not agree on the caste system** | Hinduism strengthened the caste system (social class system) – they like to think that everyone has a purpose in life – if you are born a poor farmer, that’s where you should stay!  There were also outsiders – if you were born into that family, you were there to stay.  Dominated every aspect of a person’s daily life | Rejected the caste system – think you should take every opportunity to improve your life.  Use what Buddha is teaching you and become better.  If you are very dedicated to Buddhism, you will become a monk or a nun. Monks and Nuns choose this life. |
| **6. modern-day traditions** | The beliefs are used for guidance.  You must choose your own path. | 3 bases of beliefs today – 1. Know who Buddha was  2. surround yourself with a religious community,  3. follow the teachings |
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