



# Religion in the Caribbean

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Religious faiths and practices in the Caribbean are varied because of the multi-ethnic nature of the Caribbean. The strongest religions are Christianity and African religious survivals. However Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Bahai are also represented.

The slaves who came from West Africa brought with them their religions, which, because they were banned, had to survive in secrecy until the end of slavery.

Over the years the influence of Christianity and the religions of Africa combined to form new religions. The earliest is Revivalism, which is widespread in the Caribbean, especially in Jamaica. This contains elements from the Baptist Church and from Mayalism, a West African religion.

## Rastafarianism

Rastafarianism is now an important religious and social movement, particularly in Jamaica. In 1930 the Prince Regent of Abyssinia, Ras Tafari Makonnen was crowned King Negus Negusta and on November 2 he became Emperor Haile Selassie I. This made a huge impact on black people. It was from this that the cult first appeared in the late 1930s.

The world became aware of Rastafarianism through Bob Marley and the Wailers. Rastafarians share the belief that Africa is the Black race's spiritual home, to which they are destined to return.



1. Make a table of the different religions found in the Caribbean.
2. Write a sentence or two explaining the variety of the religions practised in the Caribbean.
3. Complete the following: Rastafarianism first emerged in \_\_\_\_\_ in the late \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Write a brief explanation of Rastafarianism.
5. Draw a picture of a stereotypical Rastafarian.