Icons of World Religions

A study of cultures often extends into the underlying religions of the world, since many of the beliefs of the people are embedded in their art work and cultural icons.  Below is a brief survey of some of today’s religions. This is not an exhaustive list.  
  
Choose two very different religions or philosophies from the selection below, that are NOT your religion. Avoid 2 of the same types, like two Christian or Islamic sects.  
  
Anglicanism                                          20.  Mormon  
Aztec                                                      21.  Native North American – Shamanism  
Baha’i Faith                                            22.  Protestantism  
Buddhism                                              23.  Russian Orthodox  
Catholicism                                            24.  Safavid                 
Celtic                                                      25.  Scientology  
Confucianism                                        26.  Shi-ite / Shi-a Muslim  
Coptic                                                    27.  Shintoism  
Druidism                                                28.  Sikhism  
Ancient Egypt Polytheism                    29.  Sunni Muslim  
Episcopalian                                            30.  Taoism / Daoism  
Fatimide                                                  31.  Toltec  
Greco-Roman Polytheism                    32.  Unitarianism  
Greek Orthodox                                    33.  Viking / Norse Mythology           
Hinduism                                                34.  Voudou  
Jainism                                                    35.  Wicca  
Judaism                                                  36.  Yoruba mythology  
Lutheranism                                          37. Zoroastrianism  
Satanism  
Research your religions and provide a contrasting summary in bullet point format.  Use relevant books; go beyond internet sites.   
  
You could include:  
  
Creation stories                                                                Symbols / icons  
  
Time periods                                                                        Location, region  
  
Central deity or deities, (prophets)                                  General belief system  
  
# of followers today                                                        What happens after this life?  
  
Major holidays, celebrations, festivals                       
  
            -Explain and expand on these – purpose, traditions, when, why, how?  
  
            (not all holidays – one or two of the most important)  
  
Sins or prohibited activities  
  
Icons and their uses, meanings or significance  
  
Avoid simple lists – expand and explain significant holidays or festivals. How and when are they celebrated? What rituals are associated with them?  
  
A good paper includes editing down to relevant facts, not simply a restatement of everything found in your research.  
  
Incorporate at least 3 pertinent images of iconography for each religion; more if necessary. Identify the significance and common use of each. What do they symbolize? (Churches and photographs of people are not motifs or icons.) Images should be incorporated into your text, not stand-alone images at the end. Images should be icons, not merely artifacts.  
  
Your paper must conclude with an insightful page that is devoted to a relevant and revealing comparison and contrast of both religions. Include a personal statement that reveals a reflection or connection.  
  
Include a comment on inclusivity, diversity and / or gender equality.  
  
Cite several points for comparison.  
This should ultimately include your own reasoned and rational point of view.  
Add a personal statement or opinion. Perhaps compare them to your own religion  
Be prepared to briefly discuss the most interesting part of your research in class!  
  
Plagiarism includes the use of sentence fragments. Avoid the possibility of plagiarism. Synthesize and summarize your research in your own words.  
  
Images  
  
3 – 5 images of motifs or icons associated with each religion – minimum of 6 iconic images  
  
Images are large enough to be recognizable and identifiable  
  
All images should be cited  
  
Name and use of each icon  
  
Meaning or significance of each icon         
  
Images should be incorporated into and identified in your paper                 
  
                                                                                                                                      \_\_\_\_\_/15  
  
Body of Paper - Content                                                     
  
Time period  
  
Location, region  
  
Central deity or deities, (prophets)  
  
Major holidays, celebrations, festivals  
  
General belief system  
  
Afterlife  
  
# of followers today                                                                                              \_\_\_\_\_/15  
  
  
  
Compare and contrast paragraph   
  
Proper compare and contrast of customs  
  
Relevant, well thought out, rational conclusion (not just opinion)  
  
Add a personal comment / perspective                                                    \_\_\_\_\_\_/10                                           
  
Citations  
  
Quality of Research (at least 50% books)  
  
Explain uncommon terms, deities, practices  
  
Bibliography  - at least 3 references                                                              \_\_\_\_\_/5  
  
  
  
Format  
  
Bullet points for comparison, narrative for conclusion  
  
Typed  
  
Double spaced  
  
Readability / style  
  
Spell check, grammar, punctuation  
  
Well organized, Rubric included                                                                    \_\_\_\_\_/5