**Cultural Diffusion in South and Southeast Asia Graphic Organizer**

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| **Cultural diffusion** is the spread of cultural beliefs and social activities from one group to another. | |
| **Facts** | **How does this connect to the concept of cultural diffusion?** |
| Southeast Asia has astrong Christian influence (Catholic) because of centuries of occupation by European powers; however, the region is predominantly Buddhist today. Buddhism was founded in India (a South Asian country) about 500 B.C. and has about 488 million followers worldwide. |  |
| The age of Islam began on the Arabian Peninsula in AD 622, when the prophet Mohammed fled to Medina from the holy city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia (Southwest Asia). Indonesia, a country located in Southeast Asia, has the highest Muslim population in the world. Islam affects dietary choices (no pork) and other social/cultural rules including the use of modest dress in public. |  |
| Hinduism is the major religion of India. It has about 950 million followers. Although most Hindus live in India, Hindu literature and philosophy have influenced people throughout the world. For example, the religion thrives on Bali and on other Indonesian islands.  Diwali is perhaps the most well-known of the Hindu festivals. The word Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps'. Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because houses, shops and public places are decorated with small earthenware oil lamps called *diyas*. |  |