



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Demystifying Differences

An activity of the Maria Hertogh series

Have you heard of Racial and Religious Harmony Circles in Singapore? These circles help to build trust and unite people of all races and religions.

Such networks did not exist during Maria Hertogh's childhood. If they had existed, perhaps there would not have been so much tension between people of different religions and races when Maria's court case took place here. And, perhaps, the bloody riots of 1950 would not have happened.

We learnt our lesson from history that racial and religious harmony does not simply happen by waving a magic wand. That is why we need networks like the Racial and Religious Harmony Circles. Their efforts work only if you and I also try our best at the personal level, wherever we are.

Learning about diverse beliefs and practices can help you to understand our world better! This activity is a small step in that direction.

1. Work in small groups. The table below lists ten religions practiced in Singapore. Jot down any questions you have about each religion. Your questions can be about beliefs, rituals, festivals, foods or anything else that is related to that religion.
2. Look for the answers to your questions. Talk to friends who practice that religion, visit your community library, call the places of worship or related agencies of the religions to get your answers. Record your findings in the table below.
3. Share your table of questions and answers with your class.
4. Don't stop here. Continue to ask questions about different communities you come across.

	Religion	Our questions	The answers we found	Our sources of information
1	Baha'I Faith			
2	Buddhism			
3	Christianity			
4	Hinduism			
5	Islam			
6	Jainism			
7	Judaism			
8	Sikhism			
9	Taoism			
10	Zoroastrianism			