Language and Religion – Geoinquiry

Go to this link:
http://education.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=cbb3f933cf5f4b7f8bdbcea294fcdacc

Part A – Languages of the world – Language is an aspect of culture – people who share a cultural hearth often have similar languages. This part of the geoinquiry will help you identify patterns of languages in the world

1. Click on the "Show Contents of Map" button
2. Turn off the layer "Major World Religions"
3. Turn on the layer "Language Families of the World"
4. Click on the bookmark "South America"
5. Click on each of the colors shown – what TWO language families are most dominant in South America?

6. Click on the bookmark "Africa"
7. The Sahara Desert separates the blue area from the green area. What language family is north of the Sahara (blue)?

8. What is the largest language family south of the Sahara (green)?

9. Click the home button
10. Which region of the world has the most linguistic diversity (most different language families) – highlight your answer.
      Asia   North America   Europe   Africa   South America   Oceana

11. Turn off the layer "Language Families of the World"
12. Turn on the layer "Indo-European Language Branches" – Look for patterns
13. The pink color indicates the branch is Germanic – this includes both English and German. Why do you think this language branch is so dominant in places that are not European like North America, Australia and South Africa?

14. The blue color indicates the branch is Romance – this includes Spanish, Portugese, French and Italian. Why do you think this language branch is so dominant in places that are not European like South America?

Part B – World Religions
1. Turn off the layer "Indo-European Languages"
2. Turn on the layer "Major World Religions"
3. Click on the bookmark for "South Asia"
4. Look for the city "New Delhi." in India. **What is the major religious tradition in New Delhi?**

5. Look for the city "Lahore." in Pakistan. **What is the major religious tradition in Lahore?**

6. Find the city "Ho Chi Minh City" in Vietnam. **Do you think the religious culture of Vietnam was more influenced by India or by China?   Why?**

7. Click on the bookmark for Africa.
8. Turn on and off the layer for "Language families of the world"
9. In sub-saharan Africa, indigenous religious traditions continue, especially in places where African languages have also persisted. **Choose one or two language families that are strong in areas where indigenous religious practices have continued.**

10. Click the home button
11. Turn off the layers "Language families of the world" and "Major World Religions"

12. Turn on the layer "Islam" – The cultural hearth for Islam is in Saudi Arabia (you can type Saudi Arabia in the search bar if you don't know where that is – then click home again)
13. Turn on the layer "Old Silk Roads" – these were trade routes (blue was by sea, yellow was overland)
14. **Describe the connection between the Old Silk Roads trade routes and where Islam is the dominant world religion.**

15. **Based on your answer to #14, how do you think Islam became the dominant religion in both East and West Africa?**

Part C – Religion in the country you are studying
1. **What is the country you are studying this semester?**

2. Click the map at the link: http://d3tt741pwxqwm0.cloudfront.net/WGBH/sj14/sj14-int-religmap/index.html#
3. Find your country on the map (ask your teacher if you need help)
4. **What religious traditions are present in your country (list the top 4 names and percentages)**

5. **Describe how you think this pattern will affect the cultures of your country?**
[How does this religious pattern shape ideas about government, education, time (days off), architecture, etc. What customs might be more common as a result? If you are not sure, try searching the internet for some resources]