



Shinto



Shinto is the earliest religion in Japan. It teaches that every natural thing – people, animals, rocks, trees, volcanoes, rivers and so on – has a spirit or a kami.

From this belief sprang the myths and legends of ancient Japan.

Shinto shrines marked by the torii (gate) are everywhere in Japan. They still enshrine a natural deity, who is part of the culture of the area.

So, this belief system is quite similar to that of the Australian Aboriginal people.

The Shinto shrines are often right next to a Buddhist temple. People visit and ask for blessings at both.

Many Japanese people are married in a Shinto shrine but buried in a Buddhist temple.