

CHAPTER 4 REINFORCING SKILLS ACTIVITY

Creating an Electronic Database

An electronic database is a collection of information that is stored as a file on a computer. Information is added, deleted, or changed by using a database management system (DBMS), computer software designed for record keeping. The DBMS can retrieve and organize the information in many different ways, depending on the commands given to it. Using a DBMS allows you to easily add, delete, change, and update information.

The table shows information that appears in a database on world religions. Fields, or categories of information, were established, and facts about the religions were entered under the appropriate fields.

Database of World Religions				
Religion	Area of Origin	Major Figures	Date	Major Sacred Text(s)
Buddhism	India	Siddhartha Gautama	500 B.C.	Tripitaka
Christianity	Southwest Asia	Jesus	A.D. 30	Bible (Old and New Testaments)
Confucianism	China	Konfuzi	500 B.C.	Analects
Daoism	China	Laozi	550 B.C.	Dao De-Jing
Hinduism	India	Priests; sages	1500 B.C.	Vedas; Upanishads
Islam	Southwest Asia	Muhammad	A.D. 622	Quran
Jainism	India	Mahavira	550 B.C.	Agama
Judaism	Southwest Asia	Moses	1200 B.C.	Hebrew Bible
Shintoism	Japan	Priests; sages	500 B.C.	Kojiki; Nihongi

Practicing the Skill

DIRECTIONS: Use the database of world religions to answer the following questions.

- What fields are included in this database? _____
- How would you tell the DBMS to organize the religions as they are listed in the database?

- If you commanded the DBMS to retrieve the names of religions that originated in Southwest Asia, which names would be produced? _____
- Which fields other than religion could be organized alphabetically? _____

- If you commanded the DBMS to organize the names of sacred texts alphabetically, which would appear last? _____
- If you commanded the DBMS to list religions by their area of origin, which area(s) would have three or more religions listed? _____