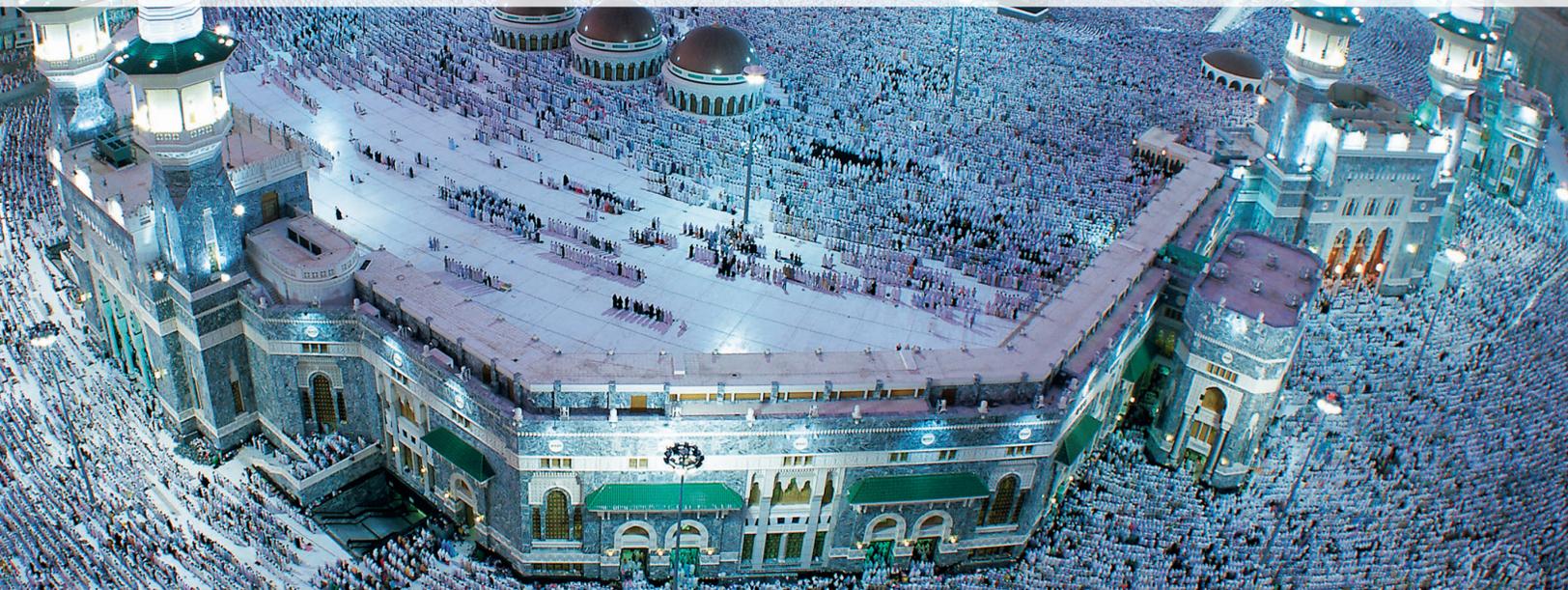


The Rise of Islam



Essential Question

Why were Muslim leaders able to spread Islam and create an empire?



About the Photo: This photo shows thousands of people praying in Mecca, the place where Islam began. Mecca is the most sacred place in the Islamic world.

In this module you will learn about a religion called Islam and how it spread into lands outside of Arabia.

What You Will Learn...

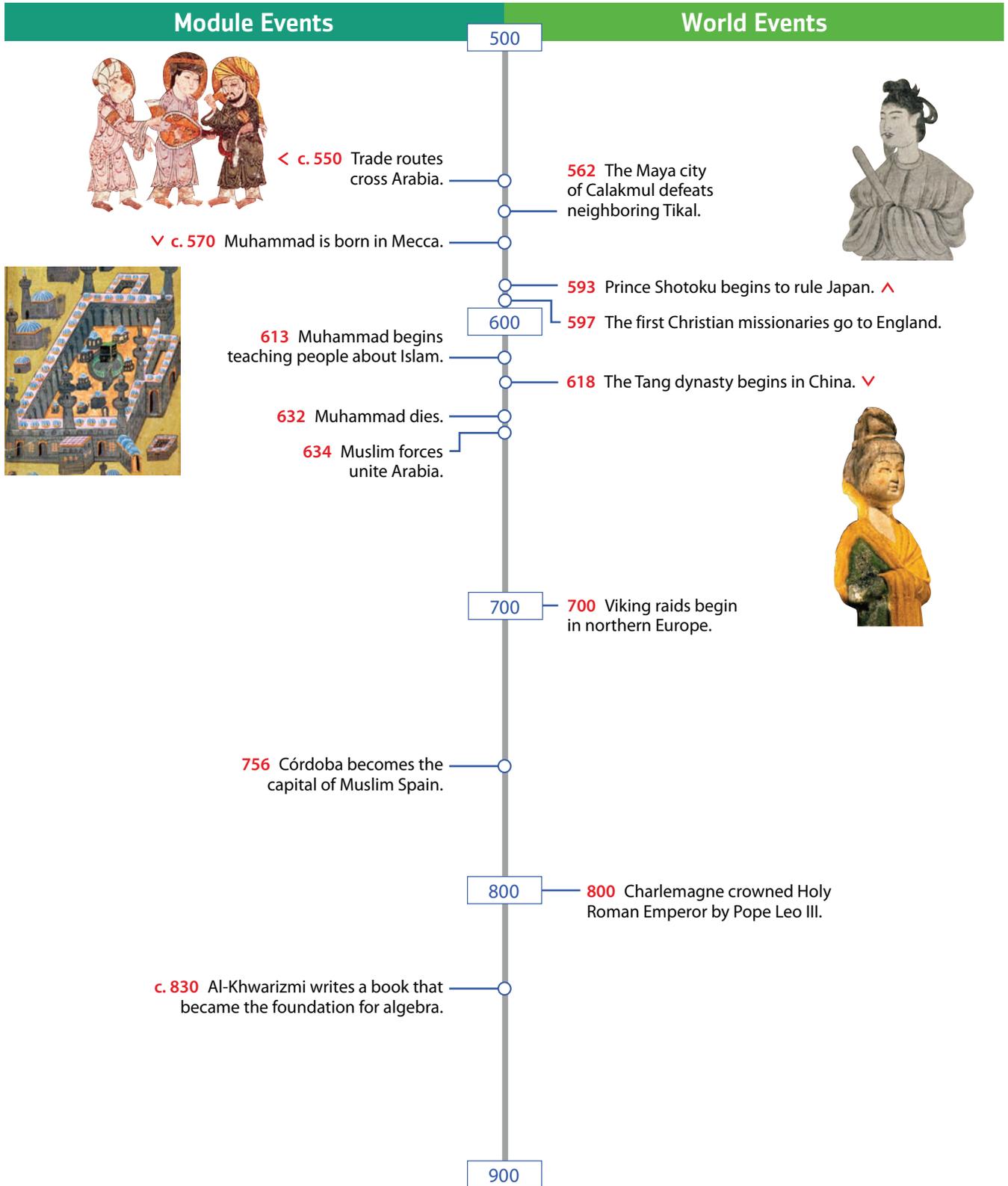
Lesson 1: Geography and Life in Arabia.	432
The Big Idea Life in Arabia was influenced by the harsh desert climate of the region.	
Lesson 2: Origins of Islam.	437
The Big Idea Muhammad, a merchant from Mecca, introduced a major world religion called Islam.	
Lesson 3: Expansion of Islam.	448
The Big Idea Conquest and trade led to the spread of Islam, the blending of cultures, and the growth of cities.	
Lesson 4: Muslim Cultural Achievements.	456
The Big Idea Muslim scholars and artists made contributions to science, art, and literature.	

Explore ONLINE!



VIDEOS, including...
• Machines of the East

- Document-Based Investigations
- Graphic Organizers
- Interactive Games
- Image with Hotspots: Nomads and Townspeople
- Image Carousel: The Mosque at Medina
- Interactive Map: Early Muslim Conquests



Reading Social Studies

THEME FOCUS:

Religion

This module explains the rise of Islam, a religion that began in Arabia in the early 600s. First, you'll learn about Arabia, including where it is and how the desert climate affected trade in the area. Then, you'll learn about Muhammad, the person who brought the religion of Islam to the Arabs. You will see how Islam guides its followers in their religious practices and their daily lives. You will also learn about great conquests and powerful Muslim rulers. Finally, you will read about the outstanding achievements of Muslim scholars, artists, and scientists. Studying the rise of Islam helps you understand the faith of the Muslims.

READING FOCUS:

Descriptive Text

Writers often use descriptive words to paint a picture of a particular place or event. These descriptive words can help readers better understand what they are reading about.

Descriptive Words The two main types of descriptive words are adjectives and action verbs. An **adjective** is a word that describes a person, place, thing, or idea. An **action verb** is a word that expresses action or movement. Descriptive words can also communicate the degree to which something is true—like the difference between *hungry* and *starving*. To better understand geographical places and historical events, pay attention to the use of descriptive words. As you read, you can use adjectives and action verbs to create a picture in your mind. This can help you better understand the text.

Adjectives

huge, sandy,
large, high

Physical Features

Huge, sandy deserts cover large parts of Arabia. Sand dunes, or hills of sand shaped by the wind, can rise to 800 feet high and stretch for hundreds of miles!

Action Verbs

cover, shaped,
rise, stretch

You Try It!

Read the following passage and then answer the questions below.

Arabia is one of the hottest, driest places in the world. With a blazing sun and clear skies, summer temperatures in the interior reach 100°F daily. This climate makes it hard for plants and animals to survive.

Desert plants do live in areas that get little rain. Many of them have roots that stretch deep or spread out far to collect as much water as possible. Just as plants have adapted to life in Arabia, so too have people found ways to live there.

Answer these questions based on the passage you just read.

1. What adjectives in the first sentence of the passage help describe the climate of Arabia?
2. Why do you think the writer used the action verb *reach* in the second sentence?
3. What would happen to the meaning of the fourth sentence if the adjective *little* were removed?
4. What picture is painted by the action verbs *stretch* and *spread* in the fifth sentence?

As you read this module, be on the lookout for descriptive words in the text. Use those words to form a picture in your mind and support your understanding.

Key Terms and People

Lesson 1

sand dunes
oasis
sedentary
caravan
souk

Lesson 2

Muhammad
Islam
Muslim
Qur'an
shrine
pilgrimage
mosque
jihad
Sunnah
Five Pillars of Islam

Lesson 3

Abu Bakr
caliph
tolerance

Lesson 4

Ibn Battutah
Sufism
Omar Khayyám
patrons
minaret
calligraphy



Geography and Life in Arabia

The Big Idea

Life in Arabia was influenced by the harsh desert climate of the region.

Main Ideas

- Arabia is mostly a desert land.
- Two ways of life—nomadic and sedentary—developed in the desert.

Key Terms and People

sand dunes
oasis
sedentary
caravan
souk

Academic
Vocabulary
features
characteristics

If YOU were there . . .

Your town is a crossroads for traders and herders. You have always lived in town, but sometimes you envy the freedom of the desert travelers. Your uncle, a trader, says you are old enough to join his caravan. It would mean traveling many days by camel. Your parents don't like the idea but will let you decide.

Will you join the caravan? Why or why not?

A Desert Land

The Arabian Peninsula, or Arabia, is mostly a hot and dry desert land. Scorching temperatures and a lack of water make life difficult. But in spite of the difficulty, people have lived in Arabia for thousands of years. During this time, Arabia's location, physical features, and climate have shaped life in the region.

Crossroads Location The Arabian Peninsula is located in the southwest corner of Asia. As you can see on the map, it lies near the intersection of three continents—Africa, Asia, and Europe. Trade routes linking the three continents have passed through the region for thousands of years. Geographers call Arabia a “crossroads” location.

Merchants carried goods such as spices, silk, and gold along the trade routes. Some of these trade routes were on land. Others were water routes along the coast or across the seas. Trade brought many different groups of people through Arabia. These people introduced products and ideas from around the world, influencing Arabian culture and society.

Physical Features Arabia's location has also shaped its physical **features**. It lies in a region with hot and dry air. This climate has created a band of deserts across Arabia and northern Africa.

Huge, sandy deserts cover large parts of Arabia. **Sand dunes**, or hills of sand shaped by the wind, can rise to 800 feet high and stretch for hundreds of miles! The world's

largest sand desert, the Rub' al-Khali (ROOB ahl-KAH-lee), covers much of southern Arabia. Rub' al-Khali means “Empty Quarter,” a name given to the desert because there is so little life there.

Arabia’s deserts have a very limited amount of water. There are no permanent lakes or rivers. Water exists mainly in oases scattered across the deserts. An **oasis** is a wet, fertile area in a desert. These wet areas form where underground water bubbles to the surface. Oases have long been key stops along Arabia’s overland trade routes.

Although deserts cover much of the interior of Arabia, other landforms appear along the edges of the peninsula. Mountains border the southern and western coasts, and marshy land lies near the Persian Gulf. Most of the settlement in Arabia has been in these milder coastal regions.

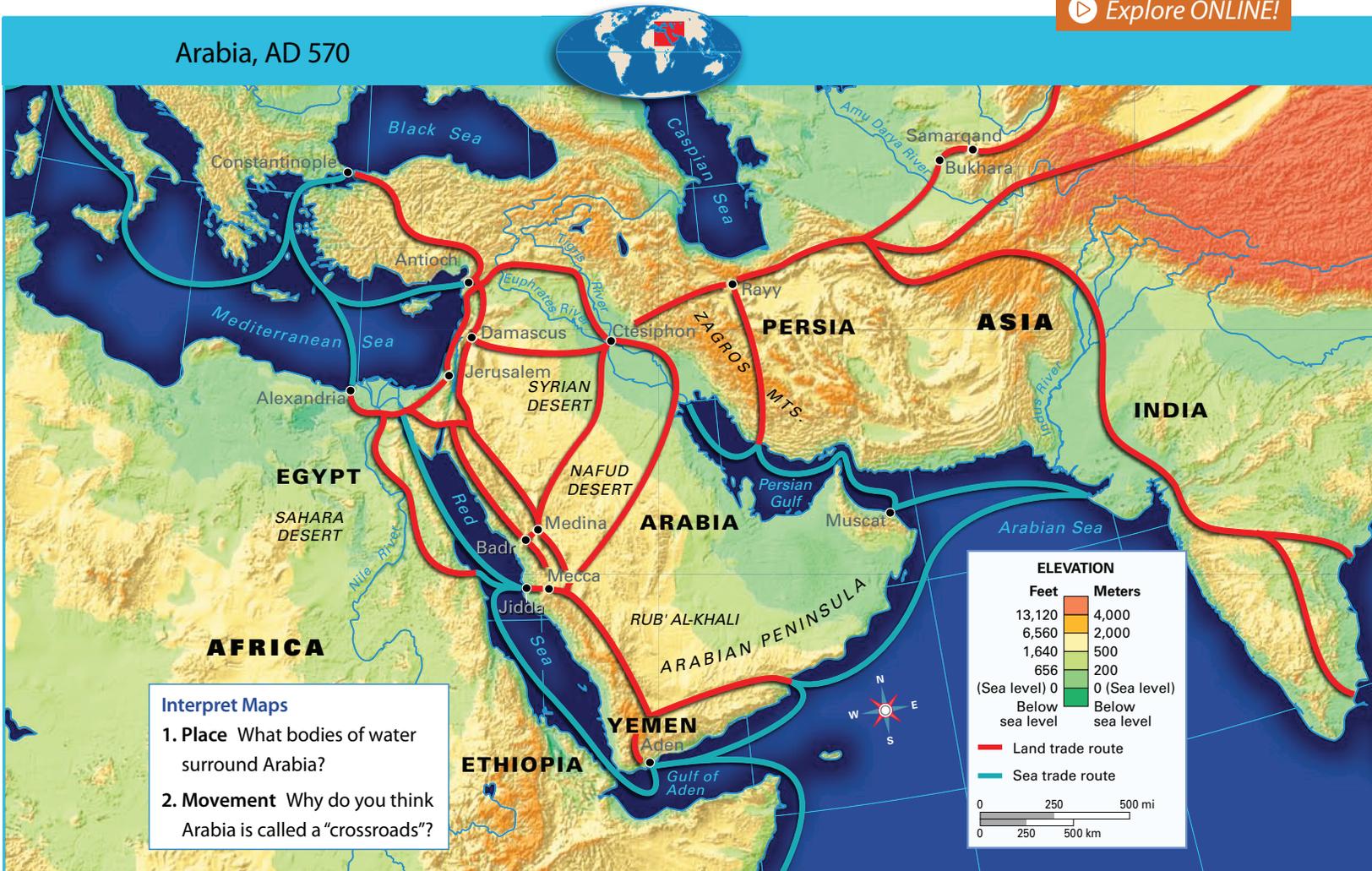
Desert Climate Arabia is one of the hottest, driest places in the world. With a blazing sun and clear skies, summer temperatures in the interior reach 100°F daily. This climate makes it hard for plants and animals to survive.

Desert plants do live in areas that get little rain. Many of them have roots that stretch deep or spread out far to collect as much water as possible. Just as plants have adapted to life in Arabia, so too have people found ways to live there.

Reading Check
Summarize What are the main physical features of Arabia’s environment?

▶ Explore ONLINE!

Arabia, AD 570



Interpret Maps

- Place** What bodies of water surround Arabia?
- Movement** Why do you think Arabia is called a “crossroads”?



Much of Arabia is covered by a vast, sandy desert.

Two Ways of Life

To live in Arabia's difficult desert environment, people developed two main ways of life. Some people lived a nomadic life, moving from place to place. Others lived a **sedentary**, or settled, life in towns.

Nomads Nomads lived in tents and raised herds of sheep, goats, and camels. The animals provided milk, meat, and skins for the nomads' tents. Nomads traveled with their herds across the desert, moving along regular routes as seasons changed, to get food and water for their animals. They depended on camels for transportation and milk.

Among the nomads, camels and tents belonged to individuals. Water and grazing land belonged to tribes. Membership in a tribe, a group of related people, was important to nomads. The tribe offered protection from desert dangers, such as violence that often took place when people competed for water and grazing land.

Townspople While nomads moved around the desert, other people settled in oases, where they could farm. These settlements, particularly the ones in oases along trade routes, became towns. Most people in Arabia lived in towns. Merchants and craftspeople lived there and worked with people in the caravan trade. A **caravan** is a group of traders that travel together.

Trade Centers Towns became centers of trade for both nomads and townspeople. Many towns had a **souk** (SOOK)—a market or bazaar. In the market, nomads traded animal products and desert herbs for goods such as cooking supplies and clothing. Merchants sold spices, gold, leather, and other goods brought by the caravans.

Arabian towns were important stations on the trade routes linking India with Northeast Africa and the Mediterranean. Some of these towns

Nomads and Townspeople

The city of Mecca is shown here as it might have looked in the late 500s. Nomads from the desert and merchants from distant countries all came to trade at Mecca. Trade made some Meccan merchants wealthy.

Towns developed near oases, where access to water allowed people to grow food.

Nomads traveled across Arabia, moving their animals as the seasons changed.

Towns became centers of trade for both nomads and townspeople. Merchants traded goods such as leather, food, spices, and blankets.

Analyze Visuals

How can you tell which figures are nomads and which figures are townspeople?



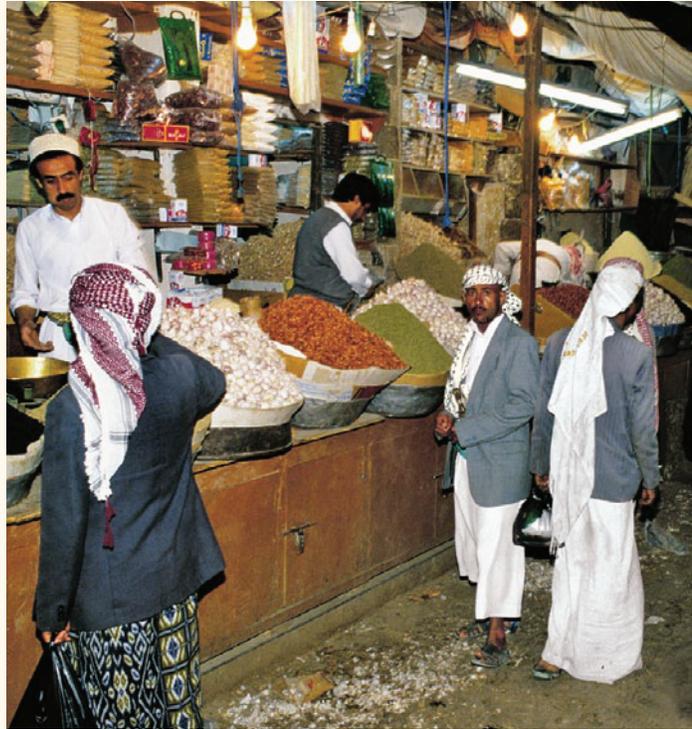
Shopping

Did you know that the mall you go to today is similar in some ways to the souks of early Arabia? For example, souks sold clothing, home goods, and food. Often, similar products were grouped in different areas, sort of the way restaurants in a mall are often grouped together in a food court. Souks were open and busy during the day but closed at night. The larger ones were covered with a roof. People went to souks to socialize as well as to shop.

Souks weren't just the same as malls are, however. The shops in souks were smaller than most shops in modern malls, and prices were not fixed. Instead, the buyer and seller bargained to try to agree on a price.

Analyze Information

Why might people want to shop at a souk or a mall?



Reading Check

Summarize What two ways of life were common in Arabia?

were located on overland trade routes. Camel caravans carried goods on these routes. Other towns were ports located on the Arabian coasts. Ships sailed to and from these ports carrying goods from as far away as India. Trade brought Arabs into contact with people and ideas from around the world.

Summary and Preview The geography of Arabia encouraged trade and influenced the development of nomadic and sedentary lifestyles. In the next lesson, you will read about a religion that began to influence many people in Arabia.

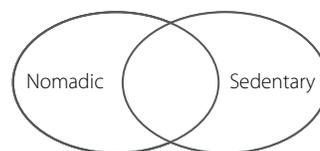
Lesson 1 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Define** What is an oasis?
 b. **Explain** How has Arabia's "crossroads" location affected its culture and society?
 c. **Elaborate** How might modern developments have changed trade routes through Arabia since the 500s?
2. a. **Identify** Where were nomads and townspeople likely to interact?
 b. **Make Generalizations** Why did towns often develop near oases?
 c. **Elaborate** What are some possible reasons nomads chose to live in the desert?

Critical Thinking

3. **Compare and Contrast** Draw a graphic organizer like this one. Use it to show some differences and similarities between nomadic and sedentary lifestyles in Arabia





Origins of Islam

The Big Idea

Muhammad, a merchant from Mecca, introduced a major world religion called Islam.

Main Ideas

- Muhammad became a prophet and introduced a religion called Islam in Arabia.
- Muhammad's teachings had similarities to Judaism and Christianity, but they also presented new ideas.
- Islam spread in Arabia after being rejected at first.
- The Qur'an is the holy book of Islam.
- Along with the Qur'an, the Sunnah guides Muslims' lives.
- Islamic law is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Key Terms and People

Muhammad
Islam
Muslim
Qur'an
shrine
pilgrimage
mosque
jihad
Sunnah
Five Pillars of Islam

If YOU were there . . .

You live in a town in Arabia, in a large family of wealthy merchants. Your family's house is larger than most others in the town. You have beautiful clothes and many servants to wait on you. Many townspeople are poor, but you have always taken such differences for granted. Now you hear that some people are saying the rich should give money to the poor.

How might your family react to this idea?

Muhammad Becomes a Prophet

A man named **Muhammad** brought a different religion to the people of Arabia. Historians don't know much about Muhammad. What they do know comes from religious writings.

Muhammad's Early Life Muhammad was born into an important family in Mecca around 570. Muhammad's early life was not easy. His father, a merchant, died before he was born; and his mother died later, when he was six.

With his parents gone, Muhammad was first raised by his grandfather and later by his uncle. As a child, he traveled with his uncle's caravans, visiting places such as Syria and Jerusalem. Once he was grown, he managed a caravan business owned by a wealthy woman named Khadijah (ka-DEE-jah). Eventually, at age 25, Muhammad married Khadijah.

The caravan trade made Mecca a rich city. But most of the wealth belonged to just a few people. Poor people had hard lives. Traditionally, wealthy people in Mecca had helped the poor. But as Muhammad was growing up, many rich merchants began to ignore the poor and keep their wealth for themselves.

A Message for Muhammad Concerned about the changing values in Mecca, Muhammad often went by himself to the hills outside the city to pray and meditate. One day, when he was about 40 years old, Muhammad went to meditate in a cave. Then, according to Islamic teachings, something

happened that changed his life forever. An angel appeared and spoke to Muhammad, telling him to “Recite! Recite!” Confused at first, Muhammad asked what he should recite. The angel answered:

“Recite in the name of your Lord who created, created man from clots of blood! Recite! Your Lord is the Most Bountiful One, who by the pen taught man what he did not know.”

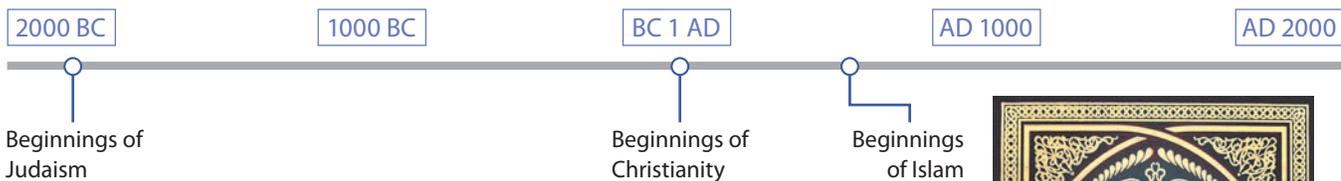
—From *The Koran*, translated by N. J. Dawood

Muslims believe that God had spoken to Muhammad through the angel and had made him a prophet, a person who tells of messages from God. At first Muhammad was afraid and didn’t tell anyone except his wife about the voice in the cave. A few years later, in 613, Muhammad began to tell other people about the messages.

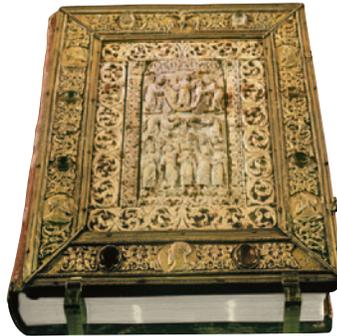
The messages Muhammad received form the basis of the religion called **Islam**. The word *Islam* means “to submit to God.” A follower of Islam is called a **Muslim**. Muslims believe that Muhammad continued receiving messages from God for the rest of his life. These messages were collected in the **Qur’an** (kuh-RAN), the holy book of Islam.

Reading Check
Summarize How did Muhammad bring Islam to Arabia?

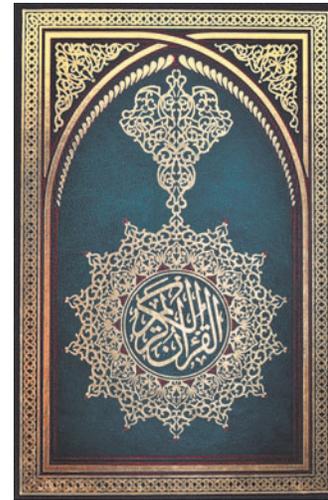
Timeline: Three Religions Begin



The Torah, part of the Hebrew Bible, the holy book of Judaism



The Christian Bible, the holy book of Christianity



The Qur'an, the holy book of Islam

Three Religions

The three main monotheistic religions in the world are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Each religion has its own particular beliefs and practices. Yet they also have important similarities. For example, all three began in the same part of the world—Southwest Asia. Also, all three religions teach similar ideas about kindness to fellow people and belief in one God.

Analyze Timelines

About how long after the beginnings of Christianity were the beginnings of Islam?

Muhammad's Teachings

Not all of Muhammad's early teachings were new. In fact, some were much like the teachings of Judaism and Christianity. But Muhammad's teachings challenged and upset the people of Arabia. These teachings brought changes to many aspects of life in Arabia.

A Belief in One God Muhammad taught that there was only one God, Allah, which means “the God” in Arabic. In that way, Islam is like Judaism and Christianity. It is a monotheistic religion, a religion based on a belief in one God. Although people of all three religions believe in one God, their beliefs about God are not all the same.

Jews, Christians, and Muslims also recognize many of the same prophets. Muhammad taught that prophets such as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus had lived in earlier times. Unlike Christians, Muslims do not believe Jesus was the son of God, but they do believe many stories about his life. Muhammad told stories about these prophets similar to the stories in the Torah and the Christian Bible. Muhammad respected Jews and Christians as “people of the Book” because their holy books taught many of the same ideas that Muhammad taught.

A Challenge to Old Ideas Some of Muhammad's teachings would have seemed familiar to Jews and Christians, but they were new to most Arabs. For example, most people in Arabia believed in many different gods, a belief system called polytheism.

Before Muhammad told them to believe in one God, Arabs worshipped many gods and goddesses at shrines. A **shrine** is a place at which people worship a saint or a god. A very important shrine, the Kaaba (KAH-buh), was in Mecca. People traveled there every year on a **pilgrimage**, a journey to a sacred place.

BIOGRAPHY

Fatimah c. 605—633

Muhammad's daughter Fatimah holds a place of honor in the Islamic religion. Stories describe Fatimah as a loyal daughter who cared for her father and suffered hunger and other hardships with him as he preached. Fatimah can also be linked, through her husband, Ali, to the origin of the split between Sunni and Shia Muslims. Members of the Shia branch of Islam believe that Muhammad wanted Ali to be the next leader of Islam. Those who did not believe that Ali was the rightful leader formed the Sunni branch of Islam.

Explain

Why does Fatimah hold a place of honor in Islam?



Several of Muhammad's teachings upset many Arabs. First, they didn't like being told to stop worshipping their gods and goddesses. Second, Muhammad's new religion seemed like a threat to people who made money from the yearly pilgrimages to the Kaaba. Mecca's powerful merchant leaders thought they would lose business if people didn't worship their gods at the Kaaba.

Another of Muhammad's teachings also worried Mecca's wealthy merchants. Muhammad said that everyone who believed in Allah would become part of a community in which rich and poor would be equal. But the merchants wanted to be richer and more powerful than the poor people, not equal to them.

Muhammad also taught that people should give money to help the poor. However, many wealthy merchants didn't want to help the poor. Instead, they wanted to keep all of their money. Because many of the people in Mecca didn't want to hear what Muhammad had to say, they rejected his teachings.

Reading Check

Compare How were Islamic teachings like the teachings of Judaism and Christianity?

Islam Spreads in Arabia

At first Muhammad did not have many followers. Mecca's merchants refused to believe in a single God and rejected the idea of equality. They even made Muhammad leave Mecca for a while. Eventually, however, Muhammad's teachings began to take root.

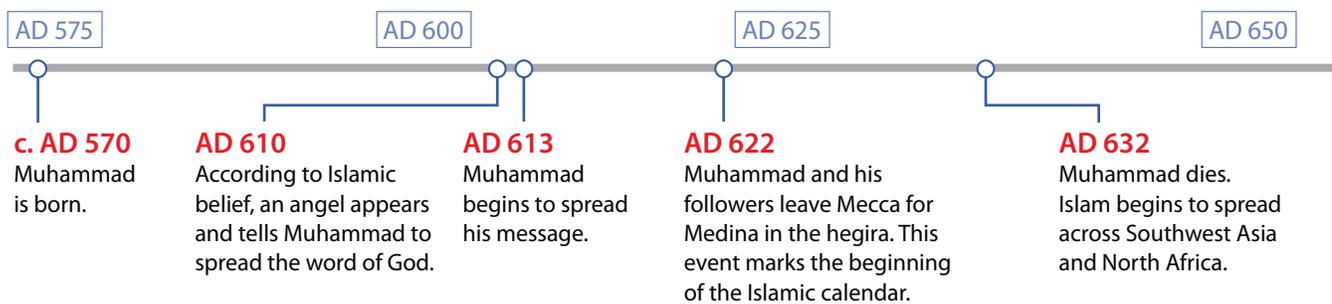
From Mecca to Medina Slowly, more people began to listen to Muhammad's ideas. But as Islam began to **influence** people, the rulers of Mecca became more and more worried. They began to threaten Muhammad and his small group of followers with violence. They even planned to kill Muhammad. As a result, Muhammad had to look for support outside of Mecca.

A group of people from a city north of Mecca invited Muhammad to live in their city. As the threats from Mecca's leaders got worse, Muhammad accepted the invitation. In 622 he and many of his followers, including his daughter Fatimah, left Mecca and went to Medina (muh-DEE-nuh). Named after Muhammad, Medina means "the Prophet's city" in Arabic, the language of the Arabs. Muhammad's departure from Mecca became known in Muslim history as the hegira (hi-JY-ruh), or journey.

Academic Vocabulary

influence change, or have an effect on

Timeline: Beginnings of Islam



Analyze Timelines

For about how long did Muhammad live?

From Medina to the Rest of Arabia Muhammad's arrival in Medina holds an important place in Islamic history. There he became both a spiritual and a political leader. His house became the first **mosque** (MAHSK), or building for Muslim prayer. The year of the hegira, 622, became so important to the development of Islam that Muslims made it the first year in the Islamic calendar.

According to Islamic belief, in Medina Muhammad reported new revelations about rules for Muslim government, society and worship. For example, God told Muhammad that Muslims should face Mecca when they pray. Before, Muslims faced Jerusalem like Christians and Jews did. Muslims recognized the importance of Mecca as the home of the Kaaba. They believe the Kaaba was built by Abraham and was dedicated to the worship of one God.

As the Muslim community in Medina grew stronger, other Arab tribes in the region began to accept Islam. Geography played a part in this political development, since Muhammad's ideas were especially popular among poorer people who lived in areas with little fertile soil. Even as Islam spread, conflict with the Meccans increased. In 630, after several years of fighting, the people of Mecca gave in. They welcomed Muhammad back to the city and accepted Islam as their religion.

In Mecca Muhammad and his followers destroyed the statues of the gods and goddesses in the Kaaba. Soon most of the Arabian tribes accepted Muhammad as their spiritual leader and became Muslims.

Muhammad died in 632 at his home in Medina. Although he didn't live long after Mecca became Muslim, the beliefs he preached would live on and spread widely, thanks in part to a book known as the Qur'an.

Reading Check
Summarize How did Islam spread in Arabia?

[Explore ONLINE!](#)

Islam in Arabia, AD 632



The Qur'an

During Muhammad's life, his followers memorized his messages from God along with his words and deeds. After Muhammad's death, they collected his teachings and wrote them down to form the book known as the Qur'an. Muslims consider the Qur'an to be the exact word of God as it was told to Muhammad.

Beliefs The central teaching in the Qur'an is that there is only one God—Allah—and that Muhammad is his prophet. The Qur'an says people must obey Allah's commands. Muslims learned of these commands from Muhammad.

Islam teaches that the world had a definite beginning and will end one day. Muhammad said that on the final day God will judge all people. Those who have obeyed his orders will be granted life in paradise. According to the Qur'an, paradise is a beautiful garden full of fine food and drink. People who have not obeyed God, however, will suffer.

Guidelines for Behavior Like holy books of other religions, the Qur'an describes acts of worship, guidelines for moral behavior, and rules for social life. Muslims look to the Qur'an for guidance in their daily lives. For example, the Qur'an describes how to prepare for worship. Muslims must wash themselves before praying, so they will be pure before Allah. The Qur'an also says what Muslims shouldn't eat or drink. Muslims aren't allowed to eat pork or drink alcohol.

In addition to guidelines for individual behavior, the Qur'an describes relations among people. Many of these ideas changed Arabian society. For example, before Muhammad's time many Arabs owned slaves. Although slavery didn't disappear among Muslims, the Qur'an encourages Muslims to free slaves. Also, women in Arabia had few rights. The Qur'an describes rights of women, including rights to own property, earn money, and get an education. However, most Muslim women still had fewer rights than men.

Another important subject in the Qur'an has to do with **jihad** (ji-HAHD), which means "to make an effort, or to struggle." Jihad refers to the inner struggle people go through in their effort to obey God and behave according to Islamic ways. Jihad can also mean the struggle to defend the Muslim community, or, historically, to convert people to Islam. The word has also been translated as "holy war."

The Sunnah

The Qur'an is not the only source of Islamic teachings. Muslims also study the hadith (huh-DEETH), the written record of Muhammad's words and actions. This record is the basis for the Sunnah. The **Sunnah** (SOOH-nuh) refers to the way Muhammad lived, which provides a model for the duties and the way of life expected of Muslims. The Sunnah guides Muslims' behavior.

The Five Pillars of Islam The first duties of a Muslim are known as the **Five Pillars of Islam**, which are five acts of worship required of all Muslims. The first pillar is a statement of faith. At least once in their lives,

Reading Check
Analyze Causes
Why is the Qur'an
important to Muslims?

Sources of Islamic Beliefs

Qur'an

Holy book that includes all the messages Muhammad received from God

Sunnah

Muhammad's example for the duties and way of life expected of Muslims

Shariah

Islamic law, based on interpretations of the Qur'an and Sunnah

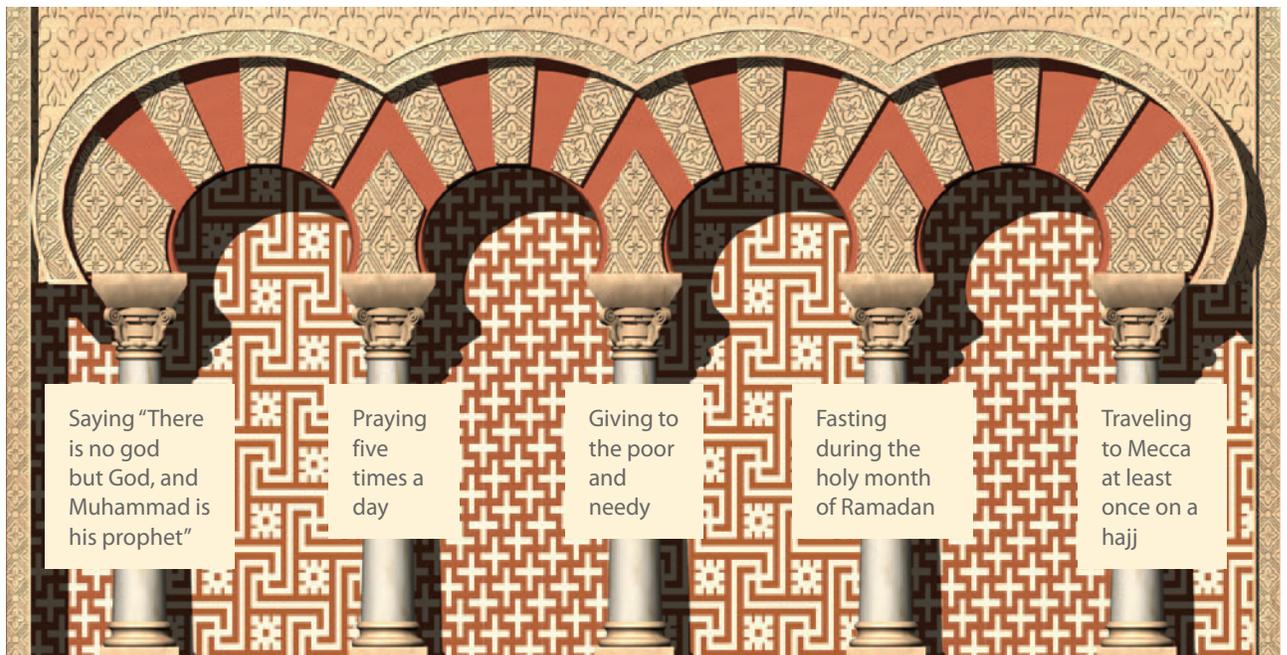
Muslims must state their faith by saying, "There is no god but God, and Muhammad is his prophet." Muslims say this when they accept Islam. They also say it in their daily prayers.

The second pillar of Islam is daily prayer. Muslims must pray five times a day: before sunrise, at midday, in late afternoon, right after sunset, and before going to bed. At each of these times, a call goes out from a mosque, inviting Muslims to come pray. Muslims try to pray together at a mosque. They believe prayer is proof that someone has accepted Allah.

The third pillar of Islam is a yearly donation to charity. Muslims must pay part of their wealth to a religious official. This money is used to help the poor, build mosques, or pay debts. Helping and caring for others is important in Islam.

The fourth pillar is fasting—going without food and drink. Muslims fast daily during the holy month of Ramadan (RAH-muh-dahn). The Qur'an says Allah began his revelations to Muhammad in the month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, most Muslims will not eat or drink anything

The Five Pillars of Islam



Analyze Visuals

Which of the five pillars shows how Muslims are supposed to treat other people?



The Qur'an plays a central role in the lives of many Muslims. Children study and memorize verses from the Qur'an at home, at Islamic schools, and in mosques. Muslims who memorize the entire book are respected as "Keepers" of the Qur'an.

between dawn and sunset. Muslims believe fasting is a way to show that God is more important than one's own body. Fasting also reminds Muslims of people in the world who struggle to get enough food.

The fifth pillar of Islam is the hajj (HAJ), a pilgrimage to Mecca. All Muslims must travel to Mecca at least once in their lives if they can. The Kaaba, in Mecca, is Islam's most sacred place.

The Sunnah and Daily Life In addition to the five pillars, the Sunnah has other examples of Muhammad's actions and teachings. These form the basis for rules about how to treat others. According to Muhammad's example, people should treat guests with generosity.

The Sunnah also provides rules for how followers of Islam should treat one another :

“Do not envy one another; do not inflate prices one to another; do not hate one another; do not turn away from one another; and do not undercut one another, but be you, O servants of Allah, brothers.”

—Hadith #35

In addition to describing personal relations, the Sunnah provides guidelines for relations in business and government. For example, one Sunnah rule says that it is bad to owe someone money. Another rule says that people should obey their leaders.

Reading Check
Form Generalizations
What do Muslims
learn from the
Sunnah?

Islamic Law

The Qur'an and the Sunnah are important guides for how Muslims should live. They also form the basis of Islamic law, or Shariah (shuh-REE-uh). Shariah is a system based on Islamic sources and human reason that judges the rightness of actions an individual or community might take. These actions fall on a scale ranging from required to accepted to disapproved to forbidden. Islamic law makes no distinction between religious beliefs and daily life, so Islam affects all aspects of Muslims' lives.

Shariah sets rewards for good behavior and punishments for crimes. It also describes limits of authority. It was the basis for law in Muslim countries until modern times. Most Muslim countries today blend Islamic law with Western legal systems like we have in the United States.

Islamic law is not found in one book. Instead, it is a set of opinions and writings that have changed over the centuries. Different ideas about Islamic law are found in different Muslim regions.

Summary and Preview You have just read about Muhammad's life, about some of his teachings, and about the main Islamic beliefs. Inspired by the life of Muhammad, many people in Arabia accepted Islam and became Muslims. In the next lesson you will learn more about Muslim culture and the spread of Islam from Arabia to other lands.

Reading Check

Find Main Ideas

What is the purpose of Islamic law?

Lesson 2 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. **Recall** When did Muhammad begin teaching people about Islam?

b. **Explain** According to Islamic belief, what was the source of Islamic teachings and how did Muhammad receive them?
- a. **Identify** What is one key Islamic belief about God?

b. **Compare** In what ways are Islamic beliefs similar to those of Judaism and Christianity?
- a. **Recall** Where was the first mosque?

b. **Explain** Why did Muhammad go to Medina?

c. **Describe** What role did geography play in the acceptance of Islam in Arabia?
- a. **Recall** What is the central teaching of the Qur'an?

b. **Explain** How does the Qur'an help Muslims obey God?
- a. **Recall** What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

b. **Make Generalizations** Why do Muslims fast during Ramadan?
- a. **Identify** What is Islamic law called?

b. **Make Inferences** How is Islamic law different from law in the United States?

c. **Elaborate** What is a possible reason that opinions and writings about Islamic law have changed over the centuries?

Critical Thinking

- Sequence** Draw a timeline. Use it to identify key dates in Muhammad's life.



Literature in History

Sacred Texts of Islam

Word Help

compassionate caring

merciful kind

articulate clear and understandable

adoration praise

transgress violate

jinn (plural) or **jinnee** (singular) a type of spirit

abide last

beseech beg

① Palms, grain, and herbs are among the small number of plants that grow in the Arabian desert.

② Jinn are spirits that appear in many Arabic tales. In English, the word is also spelled *djinn* or *genies*.

③ “The two easts” and “the two wests” refer to the different locations where the sun appears to rise and set in summer and winter. The “two oceans” are fresh water and salt water. *What is the Qur’an saying in this passage?*

About the Reading The Qur’an (or Koran), the holy book of Islam, is divided into 114 chapters called suras (SUR-uhs). The suras vary widely in length. In general, the longest suras are at the beginning of the Qur’an, and the shortest are at the end. Each sura opens with the same phrase, translated here as “In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful.”

As You Read Look for words and phrases that are repeated within the text. Think about the reasons for this repetition.

from *The Koran*

translated by N. J. Dawood

The Merciful Sura 55:1–55

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

It is the Merciful who has taught the Qur’an.

He created man and taught him articulate speech. The sun and the moon pursue their ordered course. The plants and the trees bow down in adoration.

He raised the heaven on high and set the balance of all things, that you might not transgress it. Give just weight and full measure.

He laid the earth for His creatures, with all its fruits and blossom-bearing palm, chaff-covered grain and scented herbs. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny? ①

He created man from potter’s clay and the jinn from smokeless fire. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny? ②

The Lord of the two easts is He, and the Lord of the two wests. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny? ③

He has let loose the two oceans: they meet one another. Yet between them stands a barrier which they cannot overrun. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

Pearls and corals come from both. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

His are the ships that sail like banners upon the ocean. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

All who live on earth are doomed to die. But the face of your Lord will abide for ever, in all its majesty and glory. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

All who dwell in heaven and earth beseech Him. Each day some new task employs Him. Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

Mankind and jinn, We shall surely find the time to judge you! Which of your Lord’s blessings would you deny?

Word Help

asunder into parts
brocade a rich silk fabric with woven patterns

4 What does the Qur'an say will happen to bad people when they die?

5 This section of the Qur'an describes the Muslim idea of paradise. What is paradise like, according to the Qur'an?

Mankind and jinn, if you have power to penetrate the confines of heaven and earth, then penetrate them! But this you shall not do except with Our own authority. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Flames of fire shall be lashed at you, and molten brass. There shall be none to help you. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

When the sky splits asunder and reddens like a rose or stained leather (which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?), on that day neither man nor jinnee shall be asked about his sins. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

The wrongdoers shall be known by their looks; they shall be seized by their forelocks and their feet. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny? 4

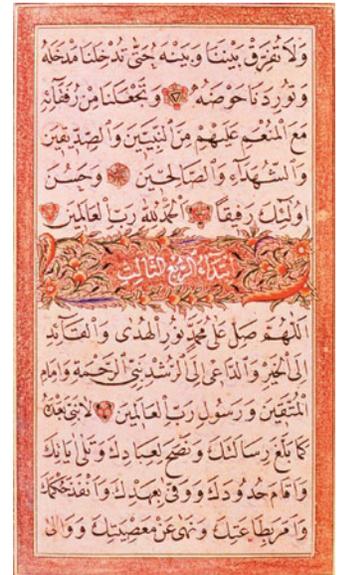
That is the Hell which the sinners deny. They shall wander between fire and water fiercely seething. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

5 But for those that fear the majesty of their Lord there are two gardens (which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?) planted with shady trees. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Each is watered by a flowing spring. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

Each bears every kind of fruit in pairs. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?

They shall recline on couches lined with thick brocade, and within their reach will hang the fruits of both gardens. Which of your Lord's blessings would you deny?



Muslims read about Allah in the Qur'an.

Connect Sacred Texts to History

1. **Analyze** Muslims believe that Allah created the world. What words and phrases in this passage illustrate that belief?
2. **Analyze** The first Muslims lived in an area that was mostly desert. How does this passage reflect the early Muslims' desert location?



Expansion of Islam

The Big Idea

Conquest and trade led to the spread of Islam, the blending of cultures, and the growth of cities.

Main Ideas

- Muslim armies conquered many lands into which Islam slowly spread.
- Trade helped Islam spread into new areas.
- A mix of cultures was one result of Islam's spread.
- Islamic influence encouraged the growth of cities.

Key Terms and People

Abu Bakr
caliph
tolerance

If YOU were there . . .

You are a farmer living in a village on the coast of India. For centuries, your people have raised cotton and spun its fibers into a soft fabric. One day, a ship arrives in the harbor, bringing traders from far away. They bring interesting goods you have never seen before. They also bring new ideas.

What ideas might you learn from the traders?

Muslim Armies Conquer Many Lands

After Muhammad's death, many of the Muslim leaders chose **Abu Bakr** (uh-boo BAK-uhr), one of Muhammad's first converts, to be the next leader of Islam. He was the first **caliph** (KAY-luhf), a title that Muslims use for the highest leader of Islam. In Arabic, the word *caliph* means "successor." As Muhammad's successors, the caliphs had to follow the prophet's example. This meant ruling according to the Qur'an. Unlike Muhammad, however, early caliphs were not religious leaders.

Although not a religious leader, Abu Bakr was a political and military leader. Under his rule, the Muslims began a series of wars in which they conquered many lands outside of Arabia.

Beginnings of an Empire Abu Bakr directed a series of battles against Arab tribes that did not follow Muhammad's teachings. By his death in 634, he had made Arabia a unified Muslim state.

With Arabia united, Muslim leaders turned their attention elsewhere. Their armies won many stunning victories. They defeated armies of the Persian and Byzantine empires, which were weak from years of fighting.

When the Muslims conquered lands, they made treaties with any non-Muslims there. These treaties listed rules that conquered people—often Jews and Christians—had to

follow. For example, some non-Muslims could not build places of worship in Muslim cities or dress like Muslims. In return, the Muslims would not attack them. One such treaty was the Pact of Umar, named after the second caliph. It was written in about 637, after Muslims conquered Syria.

During this period, differences between groups of Muslims solidified into what became the Shia-Sunni split. Shias believed that caliphs should be descended from Muhammad's family, specifically, Ali, the husband of Fatimah, his daughter. Sunnis believed that the faithful or religious leaders should elect caliphs. One prominent incident in the history of the Shia-Sunni split was the killing of Hussein, grandson of Muhammad. He represented the hopes of the Shia Muslim branch. Today, most of the Muslims across the world are Sunni. Shia Muslims live mostly in Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and India.

Growth of the Empire Many early caliphs came from the Umayyad (oo-MY-uhd) family. The Umayyads moved their capital from Medina to Damascus and continued to expand the empire. They took over lands in Central Asia and in northern India. The Umayyads also gained control of trade in the eastern Mediterranean and conquered part of North Africa.

In the late 600s, battles with the Berbers slowed the growth of Muslim rule in North Africa. The Berbers are the native people of North Africa. After years of fighting, many Berbers converted to Islam. Following their conversion, they joined the Arabs in efforts to spread Islam.

[Explore ONLINE!](#)

Early Muslim Conquests



Interpret Maps

Movement About how far did Muslim rule spread in the 118 years after Muhammad's death?

Next, the Muslims tried to expand their empire into Europe. A combined Arab and Berber army invaded Spain in 711 and quickly conquered it. The army moved on into what is now France, but it was stopped by a Christian army near the city of Tours (TOOR). Despite this defeat, Muslims called Moors continued to rule parts of Spain for the next 700 years.

In continuing the expansion, a new dynasty, the Abbasids (uh-BAS-idz), came to power in 750. The Abbasids reorganized the government to make it easier to rule such a large region. In addition to reorganizing, the philosophy of government also changed. Some scholars consider the government of the Abbasids to be a theocracy. Unlike the Umayyads, the Abbasids claimed to rule by divine right, on behalf of Allah.

Reading Check
Form Generalizations
What role did armies play in spreading Islam?

Trade Helps Islam Spread

Islam gradually spread through areas the Muslims conquered. At the same time trade helped spread Islam into other areas as well. Arabia's crossroads location gave Muslim merchants easy access to South Asia and Africa. After the fall of the Roman Empire, trade between the Arab world and Europe had decreased. As the Islamic faith expanded, trade between the two regions increased once again.



A far-reaching trade network brought wealth and new knowledge to the Muslim world and helped spread Islam. In this drawing, an Arab trader prepares perfume, a valuable trade good.

Merchants and the Spread of Islam Along with their trade goods, Arab merchants took Islamic beliefs to new lands. For example, merchants introduced Islam into India. Although many Indian kingdoms remained Hindu, coastal trading cities soon had large Muslim communities. In Africa, societies often reflected both African and Muslim culture. For example, Arabic influenced local African languages. Also, many African leaders converted to Islam.

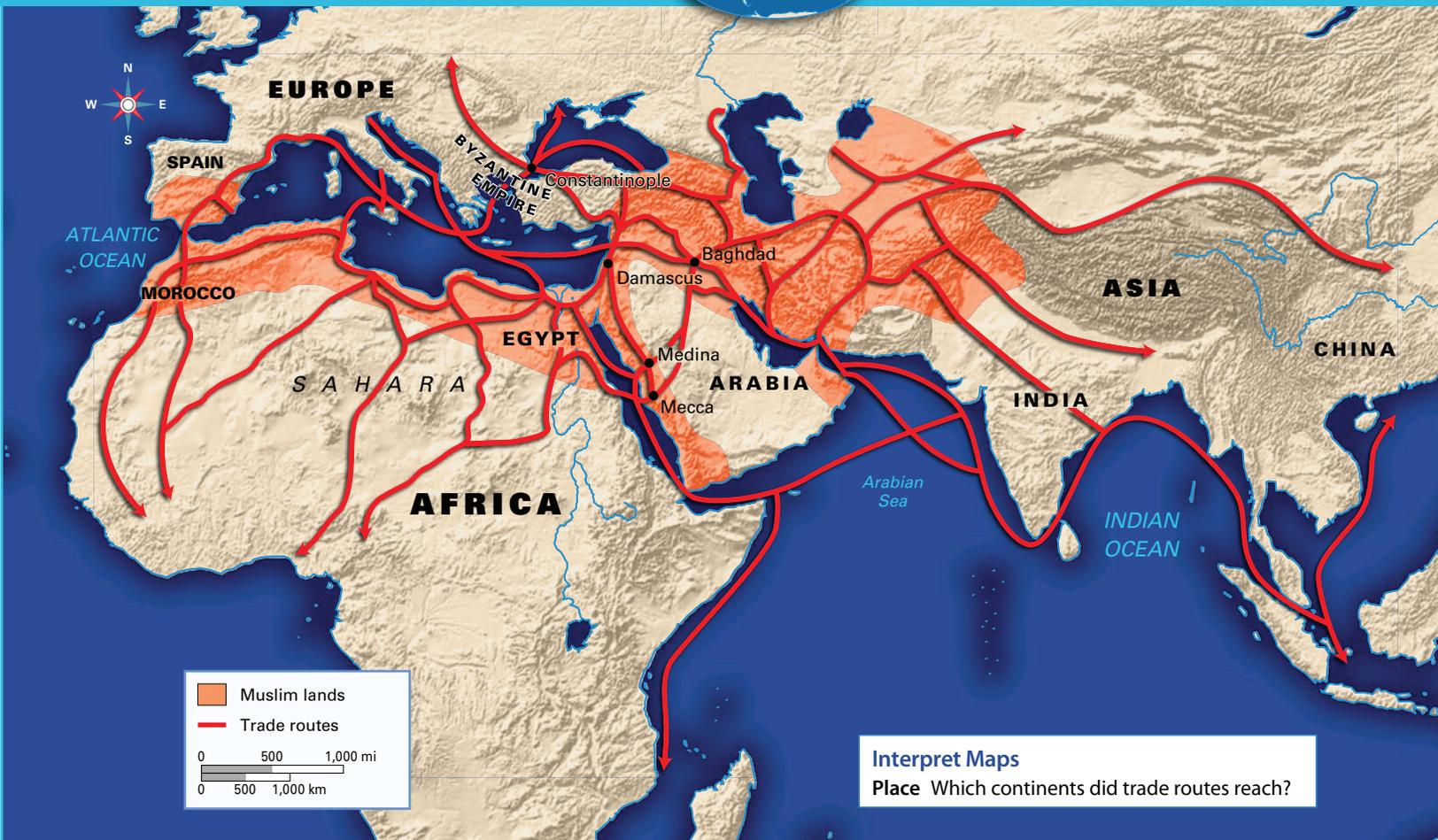
Between 1200 and 1600, Muslim traders carried Islam as far east as what are now Malaysia and Indonesia. Even today, Islam is a major influence on life there.

Products and Inventions In addition to helping spread Islam, trade brought new products to Muslim lands and made many people rich. First, new products and inventions created by other peoples made their way to the Muslim world. For example, Arabs learned from the Chinese how to make paper and use gunpowder. New crops such as cotton, rice, and oranges arrived from India, China, and Southeast Asia. Second, traders made money on trade between regions.

In addition to trade with Asia, African trade was important to Muslim merchants. Many merchants set up businesses next to African market towns. They wanted slaves and also African products such as ivory and cloves. In return they offered fine white pottery called porcelain from China, cloth goods from India, and iron from Southwest Asia and Europe. Arab traders even traveled south across the Sahara, the world's largest desert, to get gold. In exchange, they brought the Africans salt, which was scarce south of the desert.

Reading Check
Find Main Ideas
How did trade affect the spread of Islam?

Trade in the Muslim World



Interpret Maps

Place Which continents did trade routes reach?

A Mix of Cultures

As Islam spread through trade, warfare, and treaties, Arabs came in contact with people who had different beliefs and lifestyles than they did.

Muslims generally practiced religious **tolerance**, or acceptance, with regard to people they conquered. In other words, the Muslims did not ban all religions other than Islam in their lands. Jews and Christians in particular kept many of their rights, since they shared some beliefs with Muslims.

Although Jews and Christians were allowed to practice their own religions, they had to pay a special tax. They also had to follow the rules of the treaties governing conquered peoples.

Many people conquered by the Arabs converted to Islam. Along with Islamic beliefs, these people often adopted other parts of Arabic culture. For example, many people started speaking Arabic. The Arabs also adopted some of the customs of the people they conquered. For example, they copied a Persian form of bureaucracy in their government.

As Islam spread, language and religion helped unify the many groups that became part of the Islamic world. Cultural blending changed Islam from a mostly Arab religion into a religion of many different cultures.

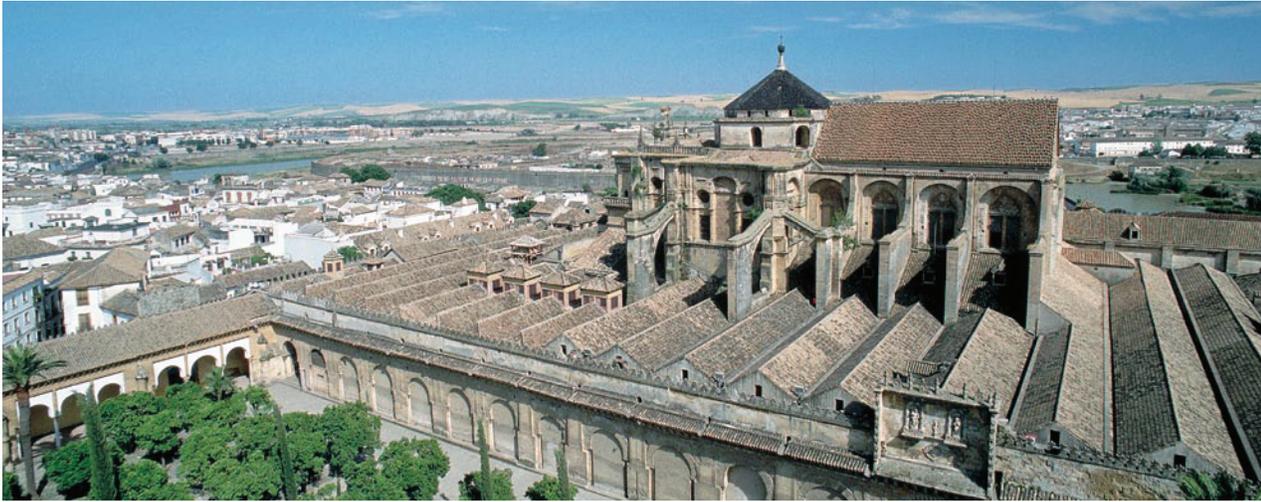
Reading Check

Draw Conclusions

Did Muslim tolerance encourage or limit the spread of Islam?

The City of Córdoba

Córdoba, Spain, was a great center of Islamic learning. In fact, in the early 900s, its inhabitants were some of the richest and most educated in Europe.



A Center of Learning

This map of the world was created by the Muslim geographer al-Idrisi in the 1100s. Al-Idrisi studied in Córdoba and used many different sources, including sailors' stories, to make this map.

Analyze Visuals

How do the Great Mosque and al-Idrisi's map suggest that Córdoba was a center of culture and learning?



The Great Mosque

Córdoba's Great Mosque is famous for its beautiful marble columns and red and white arches. The mosque was just one of the many impressive buildings constructed in Córdoba.

Academic Vocabulary

development the process of growing or improving

The Growth of Cities

The growing cities of the Muslim world reflected this blending of cultures. Trade had brought people, products, and ideas together. It had also created wealth, which supported great cultural **development** in cities such as Baghdad in what is now Iraq and Córdoba (KAWR-doh-bah) in Spain.

Baghdad Baghdad became the capital of the Islamic Empire in 762. Located near both land and water transportation routes, it was a major trading center. In addition to trade, farming contributed to a strong economy. Dates and grains grew well in the fertile soil. Trade and farming made Baghdad one of the world's richest cities in the 700s and early 800s.

The center of Baghdad was known as the “round city,” because three round walls surrounded it. Within the walls was the caliph’s palace, which took up one-third of the city. Outside the walls were houses and souks for the city’s huge population.

Caliphs at Baghdad supported science and the arts. For example, they built a hospital and an observatory. They also built a library that was used as a university and housed Arabic translations of many ancient Greek works. Because Baghdad was a center of culture and learning, many artists and writers went there. Artists decorated the city’s public buildings, while writers wrote literature that remains popular today.

Córdoba Córdoba, too, became a great Muslim city. In 756, Muslims chose it to be the capital of what is now Spain. Like Baghdad, Córdoba had a strong economy based on agriculture and trade. It was also located along a large river that served as a trade route. Córdoba exported textiles and jewelry, which were valued throughout Europe.

By the early 900s, Córdoba was the largest and most advanced city in Europe. It had mansions and mosques, busy markets and shops, and aqueducts. It also had public water and lighting systems.

Córdoba was a great center of learning. Men and women from across the Muslim world and Europe came to study at the university there. They studied Greek and Roman scientific writings and translated them into Arabic. In addition, they studied writings produced in the Muslim world and translated them from Arabic to Latin. As a result, Arabic writings on such subjects as mathematics, medicine, astronomy, geography, and history could be studied throughout Europe.

Córdoba was also a center of Jewish culture. Many Jews held key jobs in the government. Jewish poets, philosophers, and scientists made great contributions to Córdoba’s cultural growth.

Summary and Preview Through wars and treaties, Muslim territory grew tremendously, and Islam spread through this territory. In the next lesson, you will learn about some other achievements of the Islamic world.

Reading Check
Compare What did Baghdad and Córdoba have in common?

Lesson 3 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Define** What is a caliph?

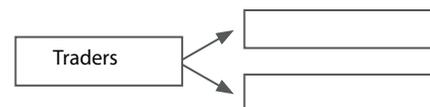
b. Sequence To what regions, and in what general order, had Islam spread by 750?
- a. Recall** What were three places Islam spread to through trade?

b. Explain How did trade spread Islam?
- Identify** What helped unify the groups that became part of the Islamic world?
- a. Identify** What were two important cities in the Islamic world?

- b. Analyze** How did life in Córdoba show a mix of cultures?
- c. Evaluate** Do you think tolerance is a good or bad policy for governing people? Why?

Critical Thinking

- 5. Analyze Effects** Draw a graphic organizer like this one. Use it to identify two ways Arab traders affected the Islamic world.



History and Geography

The Hajj

Every year, as many as 2 million Muslims make a religious journey, or pilgrimage, to Mecca, Saudi Arabia. This journey, called the hajj, is one of the Five Pillars of Islam—all Muslims are expected to make the journey at least once in their lifetime if they can.

Mecca is the place where Muhammad lived and taught more than 1,300 years ago. As a result, it is the holiest city in Islam. The pilgrims who travel to Mecca each year serve as a living reminder of the connection between history and geography.



Europe and the Americas Many countries in Europe and the Americas have a Muslim population. These pilgrims are from Germany.

On the Road to Mecca

- Before entering Mecca, pilgrims undergo a ritual cleansing and put on special white garments.
- At Mecca, guides help pilgrims through religious rituals.
- One important ritual is the “Standing,” on Mount Arafat, near Mecca. Pilgrims stand for hours, praying, at a place where Muhammad is said to have given his last sermon.
- Pilgrims then participate in a three-day ritual of “Stoning,” in which they throw pebbles at three pillars.
- Finally, pilgrims complete their journey by returning to the Grand Mosque in Mecca, where a great feast is held.



Africa Pilgrims also come from Africa. These pilgrims are from Nigeria, just one of the African countries that is home to a large Muslim population.

Southeast Asia These pilgrims are from Indonesia, in Southeast Asia. Like all pilgrims, they wear simple white garments that symbolize the equality and unity of all Muslims.



MECCA

SAUDI ARABIA

Southwest Asia Pilgrims from Southwest Asia live closest to Mecca. Because of their close relative location, some are able to make the hajj more than once.



Interpret Maps

- 1. Movement** What are some of the places from which Muslims begin their journey to Mecca?
- 2. Place** Why is Mecca the holiest city in Islam?

Arabian Sea



Muslim Cultural Achievements

The Big Idea

Muslim scholars and artists made contributions to science, art, and literature.

Main Ideas

- Muslim scholars made advances in various fields of science and philosophy.
- Islam influenced styles of literature and the arts.

Key Terms and People

Ibn Battutah
Sufism
Omar Khayyám
patrons
minaret
calligraphy

If YOU were there...

You are a servant in the court of a powerful ruler. Your life at court is comfortable, though not one of luxury. Now the ruler is sending your master to explore unknown lands and distant kingdoms in Africa. The dangerous journey will take him across oceans and deserts. He can take only a few servants with him. He has not ordered you to come but has given you a choice.

Will you join your master's expedition or stay home? Why?

Science and Philosophy

The empires of the Islamic world contributed to the achievements of Islamic culture. Muslim scholars made advances in astronomy, geography, math, and science. Scholars at Baghdad and Córdoba translated many ancient writings on these subjects into Arabic.

Having a common language helped scholars throughout the Islamic world share what they learned, even though many scholars came from different cultures and spoke other languages.

In addition, the Islamic world helped preserve education and learning in the Mediterranean area after the fall of the Roman Empire. Advances in science and technology were eventually introduced into western Europe by the Muslim conquest of Spain.

Astronomy Many cities in the Muslim world had observatories where people could study astronomy—the sun, moon, and stars. Scientists studied astronomy to better understand time and clockmaking. Muslim scientists also improved the astrolabe, which the Greeks had invented to chart the position of the stars. Arab scholars used the astrolabe to figure out their location on the earth. This helped Muslims know what direction to turn so they could face Mecca for their prayers. The astrolabe became an important contribution to

Islamic Achievements



Geography

Muslim travelers collected much information about the world, some of which was used to make this map. New and better maps led to even more travel and a greater understanding of the world's geography.



The Astrolabe

Muslim scientists used astrolabes like this one to figure out their location, direction, and even the time of day. Although the Greeks invented the astrolabe, Muslim scholars greatly improved it.



Astronomy

Muslim scientists made remarkable advances in astronomy. This observatory was built in the 1700s in Delhi, the capital of Mughal India.

the exploration of the seas. In fact, this technological advancement helped Muslim explorers spread Islam to different parts of the globe. As a result, the size of the Islamic world increased.

Geography Studying astronomy also helped Muslims explore the world. As people learned to use the stars to calculate time and location, merchants and explorers began to travel widely. For example, **Ibn Battutah** traveled to Africa, India, China, and Spain in the 1320s. To help travelers on their way, Muslim geographers made more accurate maps than were available before. They also developed better ways of calculating distances.

During the mid-1100s, a Muslim geographer named al-Idrisi (uhl-i-DREE-see) collected information from Arab travelers. He was writing a geography book and wanted it to be very accurate. When al-Idrisi had a question about where a mountain, river, or coastline was, he sent trained geographers to figure out its exact location. Using the information the

Travels in Asia and Africa

Ibn Battutah wrote detailed descriptions of his pilgrimage to Mecca. In this passage, he talks about crossing the desert from Syria to Medina.

Analyze Historical Sources

What parts of Ibn Battutah's description would be useful to a mapmaker?

“The caravan then sets out from Tabuk and pushes on speedily night and day, for fear of this wilderness. Halfway through is the valley of al-Ukhaidir. . . . One year the pilgrims suffered severe distress in this place, by reason of the samoom-wind which blows [there], their water supplies dried up and the price of drink of water rose to a thousand dinars, but both seller and buyer perished. The story of this is inscribed on one of the rocks in the valley.”

—Ibn Battutah, from *The Travels*

geographers brought back, al-Idrisi made some important discoveries. For example, he proved that land did not go all the way around the Indian Ocean, as many people thought.

Math Muslim scholars also made advances in mathematics. In the 800s they combined the Indian number system, including the use of zero, with the Greek science of mathematics. The Muslim mathematician al-Khwarizmi (al-KWAHR-iz-mee) then used these new ideas to write a math textbook on what he called *al-jabr*, or “algebra.” It laid the foundation for the modern algebra that students around the world learn today. When the book was brought to Europe in the 1500s, Europeans called the new numbers “Arabic” numerals.

Medicine Muslims made many advances in other sciences, but their greatest scientific achievements may have come in medicine. They studied Greek and Indian medicine, adding to this knowledge with discoveries of their own.

As early as the 800s, Muslim doctors in Baghdad began to improve medicine. As they studied, Muslim doctors

- created tests for doctors to pass before they could treat people
- made encyclopedias of drugs with descriptions of each drug's effects
- wrote descriptions of diseases
- started the first pharmacy school to teach people how to make medicines

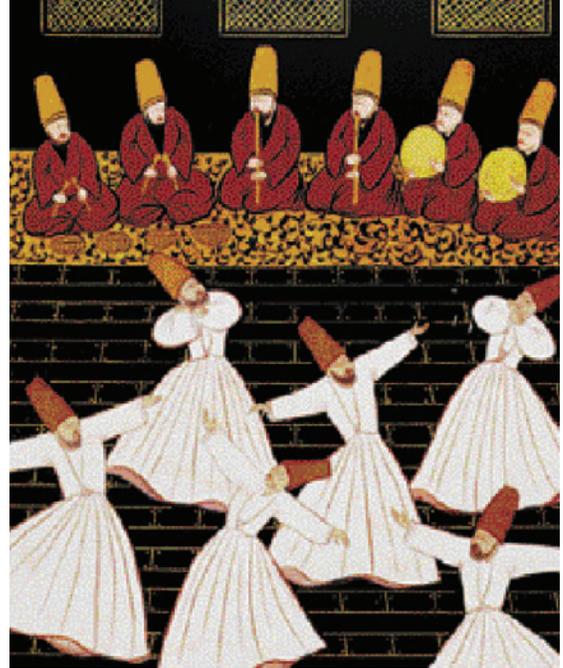
The first Muslim public hospital was built in Baghdad. In that hospital, a doctor named Ar-Razi discovered how to diagnose and treat the deadly disease smallpox. Another doctor, Ibn-Sina, who was known in the West as Avicenna (av-uh-SEN-uh), wrote a medical encyclopedia. This encyclopedia, which was translated into Latin and used throughout Europe until the 1600s, is one of the most famous books in the history of medicine.

Contributions of Islamic Scholars



Medicine

Muslim doctors made medicines from plants like this mandrake plant, which was used to treat pain and illnesses. Muslim doctors developed better ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat many diseases.



Philosophy

Muslim philosophy led to the development of Sufism. Sufis celebrated their love of God through music and dance. These dancers whirl in circles as they dance with joy.

$$2x + 4$$

Math

Muslim mathematicians combined Indian and Greek ideas with their own to dramatically increase human knowledge of mathematics. The fact that we call our numbers today "Arabic" numerals is a reminder of this contribution.

Reading Check
Analyze Events In your opinion, what was the most important advance in science and learning in the Muslim world?

Philosophy Many Muslim doctors and scientists also studied the ancient Greek philosophy of reason and rational thought. Other Muslims developed a new philosophy. Worried about the growing interest in worldly things, they focused on spiritual issues. Many of them lived a simple life of devotion to God.

The focus on spiritual issues led to a movement called Sufism (soo-fi-zuhm). People who practice Sufism are called Sufis (soo-fee-z). **Sufism** teaches that people can find God's love by having a personal relationship with God. They focus on loving God and call him their Beloved. Sufism had a strong impact on Islam.

Literature and the Arts

The blending of traditional Islam and the cultures of conquered peoples produced fresh approaches to art, architecture, and writing. As a result, literature and the arts flourished in the Islamic world.



Omar Khayyám was a Persian mathematician, astronomer, and poet. Now, he is best known for his poetry.

Literature Two forms of literature were popular in the Muslim world—poetry and short stories. Poetry was influenced by Sufism. Some Sufis wrote poems about their loyalty to God. Through their poetry, the mystical ideas of Sufism spread among other Muslims. One of the most famous Sufi poets was **Omar Khayyám** (OH-mahr ky-AHM). In a book of poems known as *The Rubáiyát*, Khayyám wrote about faith, hope, and other emotions. Some of his poems express deep sadness or despair. Others, like this one, describe lighter, happier scenes.

“A Book of Verses underneath the bough,
A Jug of Wine, a Loaf of Bread—and Thou,
Beside me singing in the Wilderness—
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow [enough].”

— Omar Khayyám, from *The Rubáiyát*, translated by Edward FitzGerald

Muslims also enjoyed reading short stories. One famous collection of short stories is *The Thousand and One Nights*. It includes stories about legendary heroes and characters. A European compiler later added short stories that were not part of the medieval Arabic collection. Among these were some of the most famous, such as “Sinbad the Sailor,” “Aladdin,” and “Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves.” Many of these tales came from India, Egypt, and other lands that had become part of the Muslim world. Another popular collection was *The Book of Golden Meadows*, by a writer from Baghdad called al-Masudi (mas-OW-dee). It contained historical stories about the caliphs. Some of these stories were humorous, while others were more serious.

Historical Source

The Book of Golden Meadows

Al-Masudi, a writer from Baghdad, wrote stories about caliphs. This story about Haroun Al Rashid illustrates the caliph’s greatness. Al-Masudi includes details that show why Al Rashid was a good leader.

Analyze Historical Sources

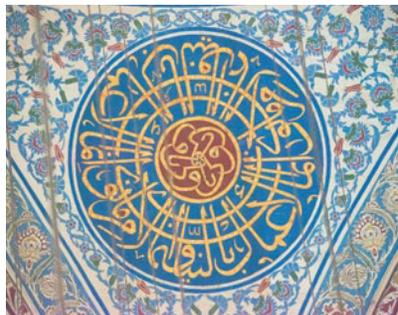
What are two of the examples al-Masudi gives that show Al Rashid was a good caliph?

“Haroun Al Rashid became Caliph in the year A.D. 786, and he ranks among the Caliphs who have been most distinguished by eloquence, learning, and generosity. . . . His daily prayers exceeded the number fixed by the law, and he used to perform the pilgrimage on foot, an act which no previous Caliph had done. When he went on pilgrimage he took with him a hundred learned men and their sons, and when he did not perform it himself he sent three hundred substitutes, whom he appareled richly, and whose expenses he defrayed with generosity.”

—Al-Masudi,
from *The Book of Golden Meadows*

The Blue Mosque

The Blue Mosque in Istanbul was built in the early 1600s for an Ottoman sultan. It upset many people at the time it was built because they thought its six minarets—instead of the usual four—were an attempt to make it as great as the mosque in Mecca.



Calligraphy is an important feature of Islamic art.



The most sacred part of a mosque is the mihrab, the niche that points the way to Mecca.



The mosque gets its name from its beautiful blue Iznik tiles.

Architecture Architecture was one of the most important Muslim art forms. Most people would say that the greatest architectural achievements of the Muslim empires were mosques. Like the great medieval cathedrals in Europe, mosques honored God and inspired religious followers.

The first mosques were simple. They were built to look like the courtyard of Muhammad's house in Medina where he had led the community in prayer. As the Muslim world grew richer, rulers became great **patrons**, or sponsors, of architecture. They used their wealth to pay for elaborately decorated mosques.

The main part of a mosque is a huge hall where people gather to pray. Many mosques have a dome and a **minaret**, or narrow tower from which Muslims are called to prayer. Some mosques, such as the Blue Mosque in

Istanbul, have many domes and minarets. Great mosques were built in major cities such as Mecca, Cairo, Baghdad, and Córdoba.

In addition to the mosques, Muslim architects built palaces, marketplaces, and libraries. These buildings have complicated domes and arches, colored bricks, and decorated tiles. Many also feature colorful mosaics that create repeating geometric patterns. Muslim architecture is known for these features.

Art Although Muslim buildings are often elaborately decorated with art, most of this art does not show any animals or humans. Muslims think only Allah can create humans and animals or their images. As a result, most Muslim artists didn't include people or animals in their works.

Because they couldn't represent people or animals in paintings, Muslim artists turned **calligraphy**, or decorative writing, into an art form. They used calligraphy to make sayings from the Qur'an into great works of art that they could use to decorate mosques and other buildings. They also painted decorative writing on tiles, wove it into carpets, and hammered it into finely decorated steel sword blades. Muslim art and literature show the influence of Islamic beliefs and practices. They also reflect the regional traditions of the places Muslims conquered. This mix of Islam with cultures from Asia, Africa, and Europe gave literature and the arts a unique style and character.

Summary As Islam spread through Europe and Asia, powerful new empires developed. These empires blended Islamic traditions with the traditions of conquered peoples. The result was a new kind of Islamic culture, unified by a common language and religion, but not specifically Arab in character.

Reading Check

Form Generalizations
What two architectural elements were usually part of a mosque?

Lesson 4 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Identify** Who traveled to India, Africa, China, and Spain and contributed his knowledge to the study of geography?
b. Explain How did Muslim scholars help preserve learning from the ancient world?
c. Rank In your opinion, what was the most important Muslim scientific achievement? Why?
- a. Describe** What function do minarets play in mosques?
b. Summarize What did patrons do for art and architecture in the Muslim world?
c. Make Inferences What is the connection between Islamic belief and calligraphy?
d. Summarize How did Muslim artists create art without showing humans or animals?

Critical Thinking

- 3. Categorize** Draw a graphic organizer like this one. In the second column, identify one important achievement or development Muslims made in each category listed in the first column.

Category	Achievement or Development
Astronomy	<i>Improved astrolabe</i>
Geography	
Math	
Medicine	
Philosophy	

Social Studies Skills

Interpret Timelines

Define the Skill

Timelines are visual summaries of what happened when. They show events in chronological order—that is, the sequence in which events occurred. Timelines also illustrate how long after one event another event took place. They help you to see relationships between events and to remember important dates.

A timeline covers a span of years. Some timelines cover a great number of years or centuries. Other timelines, such as the one here, cover much shorter periods of time. Timelines can be horizontal or vertical. Whichever direction they run, timelines should always be read from the earliest date to the latest date.

Learn the Skill

Follow these steps to interpret a timeline.

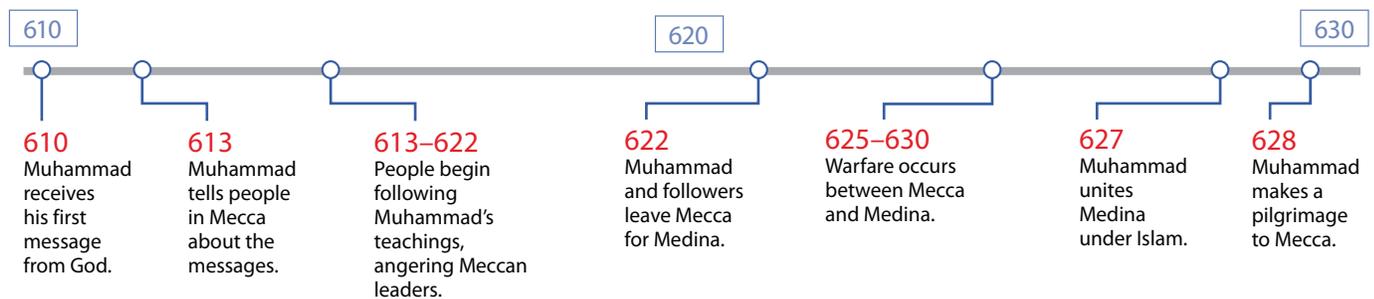
1. *Determine the timeline's framework.* Note the range of years covered and the intervals of time into which it is divided.
2. *Study the order of events on the timeline.* Note the length of time between events.

3. *Supply missing information.* Think about the people, places, and other events associated with each item on the timeline.
4. *Note relationships.* Ask yourself how an event relates to earlier or later events on the timeline. Look for cause-and-effect relationships and long-term developments.

Practice the Skill

Study the timeline about Muhammad and the early spread of Islam. Use it to answer the following questions.

1. What is the framework of this timeline?
2. How long was it before Muhammad told many people in Mecca about the messages?
3. For how long did Muhammad spread his teachings in Mecca before going to Medina?
4. What event or events led to warfare between Mecca and Medina?



Module 13 Assessment

Review Vocabulary, Terms, and People

For each statement, write **T** if it is true and **F** if it is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term that would make the sentence a true statement.

1. Muslims gather to pray at a souk.
2. Traders often traveled in caravans to take their goods to markets.
3. A(n) Islam is a person who submits to God and follows the teachings of Muhammad.
4. According to Islamic belief, God's messages to Muhammad during his lifetime make up the Sunnah.
5. Some people might worship gods or saints at a shrine.
6. A hill of sand shaped by the wind is called a(n) oasis.
7. Jihad is a journey to a sacred place.
8. Abu Bakr was the first caliph.
9. Calligraphy teaches that people can find God's love by having a personal relationship with God.
10. Many mosques have a dome and a minaret.

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

Lesson 1

11. **a. Describe** What are some important characteristics of the Arabian Peninsula's physical geography?
b. Contrast What are the two main ways of life that developed in Arabia? How are they different?
c. Predict How would Arabia's location affect its trade relationships?

Lesson 2

12. **a. Recall** What is the holy book of Islam?
b. Compare and Contrast How did Muhammad's teachings compare to Judaism and Christianity? How did they contrast with common beliefs of Arabs at the time?
c. Elaborate Why is 622 an important year in Islamic history?
d. Define What is the hajj?
e. Analyze How are the Qur'an and the Sunnah connected to Shariah?
f. Elaborate How do the Five Pillars of Islam affect Muslims' daily lives?

Lesson 3

13. **a. Identify** Who was Abu Bakr, and what did he do?
b. Draw Conclusions How did trade affect the Arab world?
c. Elaborate What was Baghdad like in the early 800s? What was Córdoba like in the early 900s?

Lesson 4

14. **a. Describe** What were the major contributions of Ibn Battutah and Omar Khayyám?
b. Compare In studying astronomy, how were Muslims similar to the Greeks?
c. Contrast In what major way was Muslim art different from ancient Egyptian art?
d. Predict Of all the accomplishments of Muslim scholars and artists, which do you think would have the most lasting impact on people around the world?

Module 13 Assessment, continued

Review Themes

15. **Religion** In what ways did Islam change life in Arabia?
16. **Religion** What teachings or beliefs does Islam share with Judaism and Christianity?

Reading Skills

Descriptive Text Use the Reading Skills taught in this module to answer the following questions about using descriptive words when writing.

17. List action verbs that could be used to describe Muhammad's trip to Mecca.
18. What adjectives could be used to describe Islamic art?
19. Write a sentence about the geography of Arabia using the two main types of descriptive words.

Social Studies Skills

Interpret Timelines Use the Social Studies Skills taught in this module to answer the question below.

20. Draw a timeline like the one shown. Use it to show relationships among the people and events listed from Lesson 2. Include any dates you may know on your timeline.



- a. Mecca's merchants reject Muhammad's teachings.
- b. Muhammad dies in Medina.
- c. Muhammad begins to tell other people about the messages from God.

- d. The people of Mecca welcome Muhammad back to their city.
- e. Muhammad is born in Mecca.
- f. Muhammad tells his wife Khadijah about the voice in the cave.
- g. Muhammad and some followers are forced to leave Mecca for Medina.
- h. The people of Medina accept Islam.
- i. Muhammad hears a voice in a cave.

Focus On Writing

21. **Write an "I Am" Poem** Write an "I Am" poem about one person—real or imaginary—from this period of Muslim history. You might choose an actual person, such as Omar Khayyám, or an imaginary person, such as a Muslim merchant. Read over the text carefully to find details about the person, and then fill in information with your imagination. Choose descriptive language, including adjectives and action verbs, to help create a picture in your reader's mind. Your poem should be six lines long. The lines should begin, "I am . . ." "I believe . . ." "I see . . ." "I feel . . ." "I want . . ." and "I am . . ."

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