

Origins of Islam

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. Arabia is mostly a desert land, where two ways of life, nomadic and sedentary, developed.
2. A new religion called Islam, founded by the prophet Muhammad, spread throughout Arabia in the 600s.

The Big Idea:

In the harsh desert climate of Arabia, Muhammad, a merchant from Mecca, introduced a major world religion called Islam.

Key Terms and Places

Mecca, p. 172

Islam, p. 172

Muslim, p. 172

Qur'an, p. 172

Medina, p. 173

mosque, p. 173

TAKING NOTES As you read, take notes on key places, people, and events in the origins of Islam. Organize your notes in a series of boxes like the ones below.

Places	People	Events

If YOU lived there...

You live in a town in Arabia, in a large merchant family. Your family has grown rich from selling goods brought by traders crossing the desert. Your house is larger than most others in town, and you have servants to wait on you. Although many townspeople are poor, 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?

BUILDING BACKGROUND For thousands of years, traders have crossed the deserts of Arabia to bring goods to market. Scorching temperatures and lack of water have made the journey difficult. However, Arabia not only developed into a thriving trade center, it also became the birthplace of a new religion.

Life in a Desert Land

The Arabian Peninsula, or Arabia, is located in the southwest corner of Asia. It lies near the intersection of Africa, Europe, and Asia. For thousands of years Arabia's location, physical features, and climate have shaped life in the region.

Physical Features and Climate

Arabia lies in a region with hot and dry air. With a blazing sun and clear skies, summer temperatures in the interior parts of the peninsula reach 100°F (38°C) daily. This climate has created a band of deserts across Arabia and northern Africa. Sand dunes, or hills of sand shaped by the wind, can rise to 800 feet (240m) high and stretch across hundreds of miles!

Arabia's deserts have a very limited amount of water. What water there is exists mainly in scattered oases. An oasis is a wet, fertile area in a desert. Oases have long been key stops along Arabia's overland trade routes.

Two Ways of Life

To live in Arabia's harsh deserts, people developed two main ways of life. Nomads lived in tents and raised herds of sheep, goats, and camels. The animals provided milk, meat, wool, and leather. The camels also carried heavy loads. Nomads traveled with their herds across the desert in search of food and water for their animals.

Among the nomads, water and land belonged to tribes. Membership in a tribe, a group of related people, offered safety from desert dangers.

While nomads moved around, other Arabs lived a more settled life. They made their homes in oases where they could farm. These settlements, particularly the ones along trade routes, became towns.

Towns became centers of trade. There, nomads traded animal products and herbs for goods like cooking supplies and clothes. Merchants sold spices, gold, leather, and other goods brought by caravans.

READING CHECK Categorizing What two ways of life were common in Arabia?

Close-up

Life in Arabia

The city of Mecca in Arabia is shown here as it might have looked in the late 500s. Nomads from the desert and merchants from distant lands came to trade in Mecca. As a result of this trade, many Meccan merchants became very wealthy.

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

Towns were centers of trade for both nomads and townspeople. They traded goods like food and cloth.



A New Religion

In early times, Arabs worshipped many gods. That changed, however, when a man named Muhammad brought a new religion to Arabia. Historians know little about Muhammad. What they do know comes from religious writings.

FOCUS ON READING

What clues in this paragraph can help you track the sequence of events?

Muhammad Becomes a Prophet

Muhammad was born into an important family in the city of **Mecca** around 570. As a small child, he traveled with his uncle's caravans. Once he was grown, he managed a caravan business owned by a wealthy woman named Khadijah (ka-DEE-jah). 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. Traditionally, wealthy people in Mecca had helped the poor. As Muhammad was growing up, though, many rich merchants ignored the needy.

Concerned about these changes, Muhammad often went to the hills to pray and meditate. One day, when he was about 40 years old, he went to meditate in a cave. According to religious writings, an angel spoke to Muhammad, telling him to "Recite! Recite!" 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. The messages that Muhammad received form the basis of the religion called **Islam**. In Arabic, the word *Islam* means "to submit to God."

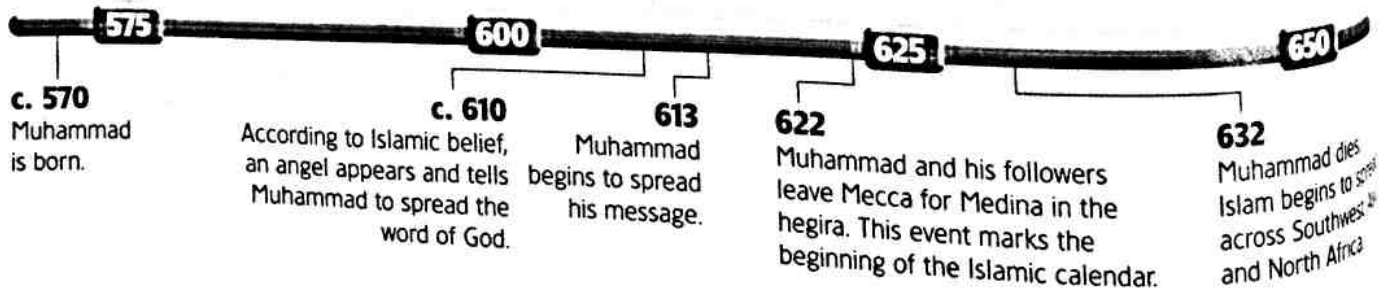
Muslims, or people who follow Islam, believe that God chose Muhammad to be his messenger to the world. They also believe that Muhammad continued to receive messages from God for the rest of his life. Eventually, these messages were collected in the **Qur'an** (kuh-RAN), the holy book of Islam.

Muhammad's Teachings

In 613 Muhammad began to talk about his messages. He taught that there was only one God, Allah, which means "the God" in Arabic. Like Judaism and Christianity, Islam is monotheistic, or based on the belief in one God. Although people of all three religions believe in one God, their beliefs about God are not the same.

Time Line

Beginnings of Islam



ANALYSIS SKILL READING TIME LINES

How many years did Muhammad spend spreading his message before he died?

Muhammad's teachings also dealt with how people should live. He taught that all people who believed in Allah were bound together like members of a family. As a result, he said, people should help those who are less fortunate. For example, he thought that people who had money should use that money to help the poor.

Islam Spreads in Arabia

At first Muhammad had few followers. Slowly, more people began to listen to his ideas. As Islam spread, Mecca's rulers grew worried. They threatened Muhammad and even planned to kill him.

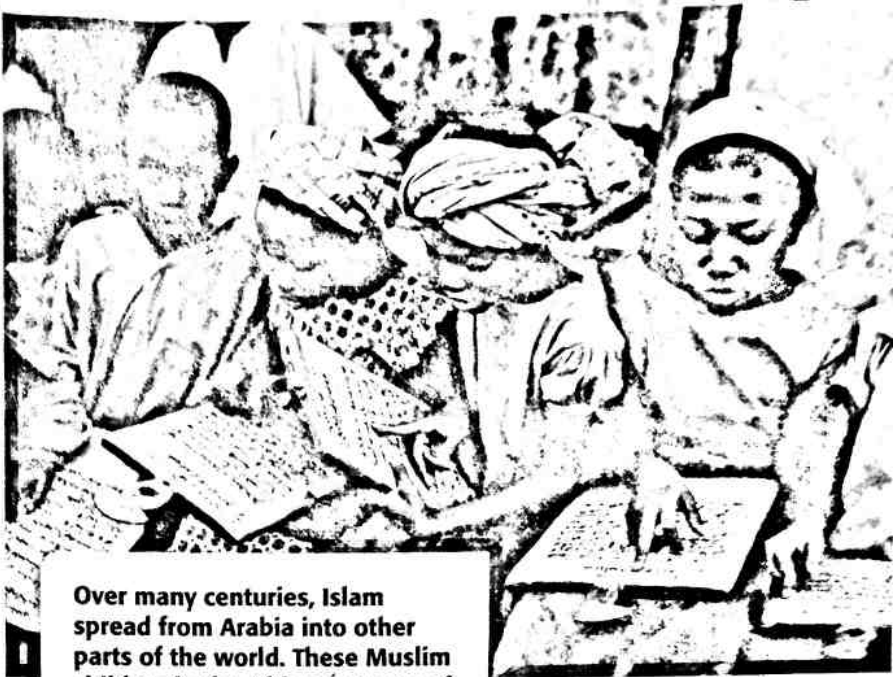
A group of people living north of Mecca invited Muhammad to move to their city. So in 622 Muhammad and many of his followers went to **Medina** (muh-DEE-nuh). The name *Medina* means "the Prophet's city" in Arabic. Muhammad's departure from Mecca is called the *hegira* (hi-JY-ruh), or journey. It is so important a date in the history of Islam that Muslims made 622 the first year of the Islamic calendar.

Muhammad became a spiritual and political leader in Medina. His house became the first **mosque** (MAHSK), or building for Muslim prayer.

As the Muslim community in Medina grew stronger, other Arab tribes began to accept Islam. Conflict with the Meccans, however, increased. In 630, after several years of fighting, the people of Mecca gave in. They accepted Islam as their religion.

Before long, most people in Arabia had accepted Muhammad as their spiritual and political leader and become Muslims. Muhammad died in 632, but the religion he taught would soon spread far beyond the Arabian Peninsula.

READING CHECK Summarizing How did Islam spread in Arabia?



Over many centuries, Islam spread from Arabia into other parts of the world. These Muslim children in the African country of Nigeria are studying the Qur'an.

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW In the early 600s Islam was introduced to Arabia by Muhammad. In the next section, you will learn more about the main Islamic teachings and beliefs.

Section 1 Assessment

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Online Quiz

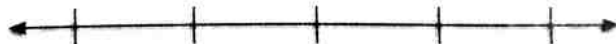
KEYWORD: SK7 HP7

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- Define** What is an oasis?
 - Make Generalizations** Where did towns develop? Why?
 - Predict** Do you think life would have been better for nomads or townspeople in early Arabia? Explain.
- Identify** What is the Qur'an?
 - Explain** According to Islamic belief, what was the source of Islamic teachings?
 - Elaborate** Why did Muhammad move from Mecca to Medina? What did he accomplish there?

Critical Thinking

- Sequencing** Draw a time line like the one below. Using your notes on Muhammad, identify the key dates in his life.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Thinking about Muhammad and Islam** In this section you read about Muhammad and the beginnings of Islam. How might you organize these two topics on your Web site? Write down some notes.

Islamic Beliefs and Practices

What You Will Learn

Main Ideas

1. The Qur'an guides Muslims' lives.
2. The Sunnah tells Muslims of important duties expected of them.
3. Islamic law is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

The Big Idea

Sacred texts called the Qur'an and the Sunnah guide Muslims in their religion, daily life, and laws.

Key Terms

- jihad, p. 175
- Sunnah, p. 175
- Five Pillars of Islam, p. 176

TAKING NOTES As you read, take notes on the most important beliefs and practices of Islam. You can organize your notes in a table like this one.

Religious beliefs	Daily life	Laws

If YOU lived there...

Your family owns an inn in Mecca. Usually business is pretty calm, but this week your inn is packed. Travelers have come from all over the world to visit your city. One morning you leave the inn and are swept up in a huge crowd of these visitors. They speak many different languages, but everyone is wearing the same white robes. They are headed to the mosque.

What might draw so many people to your city?

BUILDING BACKGROUND One basic Islamic belief is that everyone who can must make a trip to Mecca sometime during his or her lifetime. More Islamic teachings can be found in Islam's holy books—the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

The Qur'an

During Muhammad's life, his followers memorized his messages and 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 believe 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.



Studying the Qur'an

The Qur'an, pictured below, plays a central role in the lives of many Muslims. Both children and adults study and memorize verses from the Qur'an at home, at Islamic schools, and in mosques.

ANALYZING VISUALS Where do you think these children are studying the Qur'an?



Guidelines for Behavior

Like holy books of other religions, the Qur'an describes Muslim acts of worship, guidelines for moral behavior, and rules for social life.

Some of these guidelines for life are stated **explicitly**. For example, the Qur'an clearly describes how a person should prepare for worship. Muslims must wash themselves before praying so they will be pure before Allah. The Qur'an also tells Muslims what they should not eat or drink. Muslims are not allowed to eat pork or drink alcohol.

Other guidelines for behavior are not stated directly but are **implicit** in the Qur'an. Even though they are not written directly, many of these ideas altered early Arabian society. For example, the Qur'an does not expressly forbid the practice of slavery, which was common in early Arabia. It does, however, imply that slavery should be abolished. Based on this implication, many Muslim slaveholders chose to free their slaves.

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."

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
explicit fully revealed without vagueness

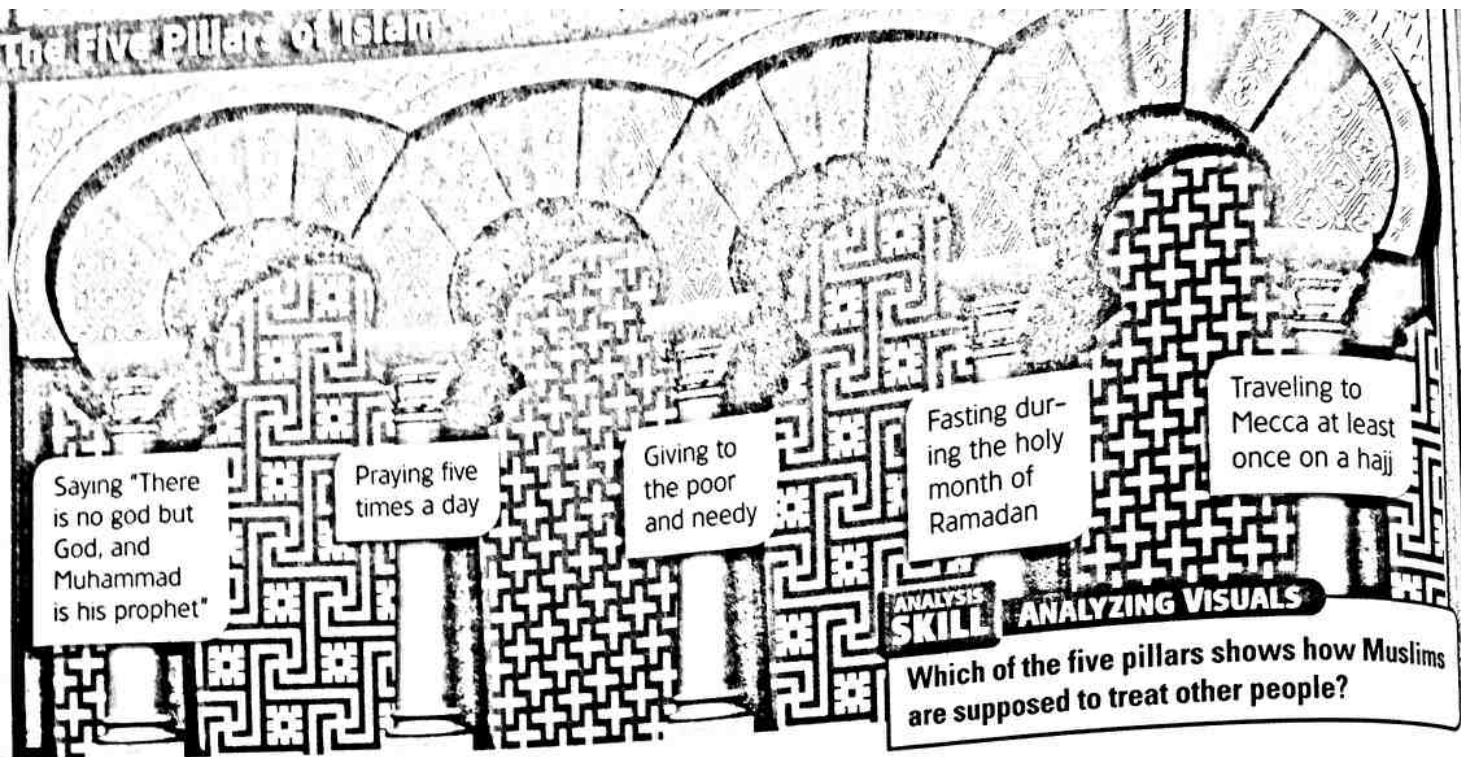
READING CHECK Analyzing Why is the Qur'an important to Muslims?

The Sunnah

The Qur'an is not the only source for the teachings of Islam. Muslims also study the hadith (huh-DEETH), the written record of Muhammad's words and actions. It is also 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.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
implicit understood though not clearly put into words

The Five Pillars of Islam



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

Besides 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 guidelines for how people should conduct their 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 **Generalizing** What do Muslims learn from the Sunnah?

Islamic Law

Together, 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 uses both Islamic sources and human reason to judge the rightness of actions a person or community might take. All 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.

Sources of Islamic Beliefs

Qur'an	Sunnah	Shariah
Holy book that includes all the messages Muhammad received from God	Muhammad's example for the duties and way of life expected of Muslims	Islamic law, based on interpretations of the Qur'an and Sunnah

Today, though, most Muslim countries blend Islamic law with legal systems like those in the United States or western Europe.

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

READING CHECK **Finding Main Ideas** What is the purpose of Islamic law?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW The Qur'an, the Sunnah, and Shariah teach Muslims how to live. In the next chapter, you will learn more about Muslim culture and the spread of Islam from Arabia to other lands in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Section 2 Assessment

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Online Quiz
KEYWORD: SK7 HP7

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- Recall** What is the central teaching of the Qur'an?
 - Explain** How does the Qur'an help Muslims obey God?
- Recall** What are the **Five Pillars of Islam**?
 - Make Generalizations** Why do Muslims fast during Ramadan?
- Identify** What is Islamic law called?
 - Make Inferences** How is Islamic law different from law in the United States?
 - Elaborate** What is one possible reason that opinions and writings about Islamic law have changed over the centuries?

Critical Thinking

- Categorizing** Draw a chart like the one to the right. Use your notes to list three key teachings from the Qur'an and three teachings from the Sunnah.

Qur'an	Sunnah

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Describing Islam** What information would you include on your Web site about the beliefs and practices of Islam? Note how you might organize one page of your Web site about this topic.

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.

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 held 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.

Europe and the Americas

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



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.



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.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING 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 Empires

What You Will Learn

Main Ideas

1. Muslim armies conquered many lands into which Islam slowly spread.
2. Trade helped Islam spread into new areas.
3. Three Muslim empires controlled much of Europe, Asia, and Africa from the 1400s to the 1800s.

The Big Idea

After the early spread of Islam, three large Muslim empires formed—the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires.

Key Terms and Places

caliph, p. 180
 tolerance, p. 182
 Baghdad, p. 182
 Córdoba, p. 182
 janissaries, p. 182
 Istanbul, p. 182
 Esfahan, p. 184

TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes on the spread of Islam and three large Muslim empires. Organize your notes in a chart like the one below.

Spread of Islam	Muslim Empires

If YOU lived 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 carrying Muslim 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?

BUILDING BACKGROUND For years traders traveled from Arabia to markets far away. As they traveled, they picked up new goods and ideas, and they introduced these to the people they met. Some of the new ideas the traders spread were Islamic ideas.

Muslim Armies Conquer Many Lands

After Muhammad's death his followers quickly 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 that they had to rule according to the Qur'an. Unlike Muhammad, however, the early caliphs were not religious leaders.

Beginnings of an Empire

Abu Bakr directed a series of battles to unite Arabia. By his death in 634, he had made Arabia into a unified Muslim state. With Arabia united, Muslim leaders turned their attention elsewhere. Their armies, strong after their battles in Arabia, won many stunning victories. They defeated the Persian and Byzantine empires, which were weak from many years of fighting.

When the Muslims conquered lands, they set certain rules for non-Muslims living there. For example, some non-Muslims could not build churches in Muslim cities or dress like Muslims. However, Christians and Jews could continue to practice their own religion. They were not forced to convert to Islam.

Growth of the Empire

Many early caliphs came from one family, the Umayyad (oom-EYE-yuhd) family. The Umayyads moved the capital to Damascus, in Muslim-conquered Syria, 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 parts of North Africa.

The Berbers, the native people of North Africa, resisted Muslim rule at first. After years of fighting, however, many Berbers converted to Islam.

In 711 a combined Arab and Berber army invaded Spain and quickly conquered it. Next, the army moved 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 ruled parts of Spain for the next 700 years.

A new Islamic dynasty, the Abbasids (uh-BAS-idz), came to power in 749. They reorganized the government to make it easier to rule such a large region.

READING CHECK Analyzing What role did armies play in spreading Islam?

Trade Helps Islam Spread

Islam gradually spread through areas the Muslims conquered. Trade also helped spread Islam. Along with their goods, Arab merchants took Islamic beliefs to India, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Though Indian kingdoms remained Hindu, coastal trading cities soon had large Muslim communities. In Africa, many leaders converted to Islam. As a result, societies often had both African and Muslim customs. Between 1200 and 1600, Muslim traders carried Islam even farther east. Muslim communities grew up in what are now Malaysia and Indonesia.

Trade also brought new products to Muslim lands. 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.

Many Muslim merchants traveled to African market towns, too. They wanted African products such as ivory, cloves, and slaves. In return they offered fine white pottery called porcelain from China, cloth goods from India, and iron from Europe and Southwest Asia. Arab traders grew wealthy from trade between regions.

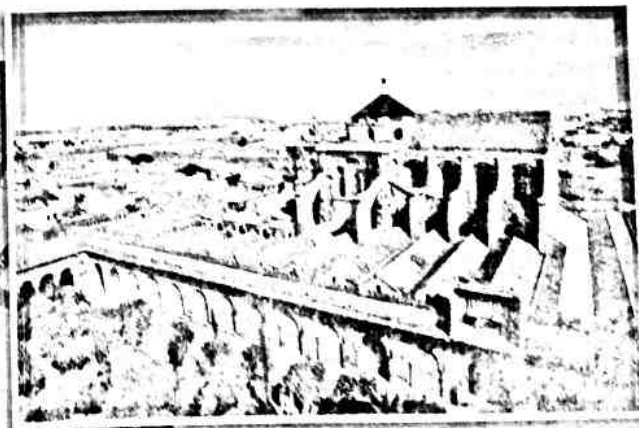
FOCUS ON READING

As you read this page, look for words that give clues to the sequence of events.

THE IMPACT TODAY

Indonesia now has the world's largest Muslim population.

The City of Córdoba



By the early 900s, Córdoba, Spain, was one of the wealthiest cities in Europe and a center of Islamic learning. Rich examples of Islamic architecture can still be seen in the city.

A Mix of Cultures

As Islam spread, Arabs came into contact with people who had different beliefs and lifestyles than they did. Muslims generally practiced **tolerance**, or acceptance, with regard to the people they conquered. For example, Muslims did not ban all other religions in their lands. Because they shared some beliefs with Muslims, Christians and Jews in particular kept many of their rights. They did, however, have to pay a special tax. Christians and Jews were also forbidden from converting anyone to their religions.

Many people conquered by the Arabs converted to Islam. These people often adopted other parts of Arabic culture, including the Arabic language. The Arabs, in turn, adopted some customs from the people they conquered. This cultural blending changed Islam from a mostly Arab religion into a religion that included many other cultures. However, the Arabic language and shared religion helped unify the different groups of the Islamic world.

Growth of Cities

The growing cities of the Muslim world reflected the blending of cultures. Trade had brought people together and created wealth, which supported great cultural development in Muslim cities.

Baghdad, in what is now Iraq, became the capital of the Islamic Empire in 762. Trade and farming made Baghdad one of the world's richest cities. The caliphs there supported science and the arts. The city was a center of culture and learning.

Córdoba (KAWR-doh-bah), a great city in Spain, became another showplace of Muslim civilization. By the early 900s Córdoba was the largest and most advanced city in western Europe.

READING CHECK **Finding the Main Idea** How did trade affect the spread of Islam?

Three Muslim Empires

The great era of Arab Muslim expansion lasted until the 1100s. Afterward, three non-Arab Muslim groups built large, powerful empires that took control of much of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The Ottoman Empire

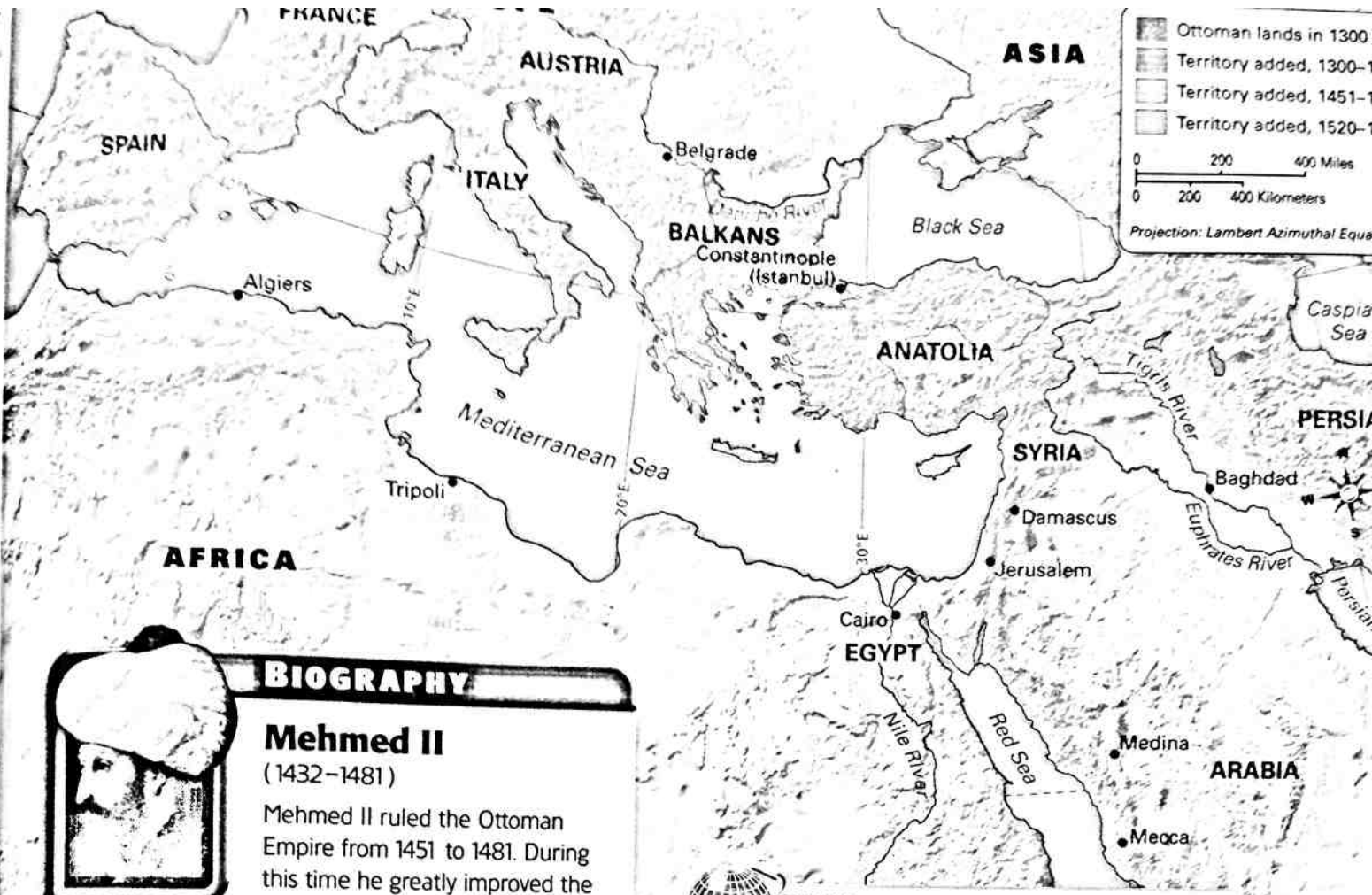
In the mid-1200s Muslim Turkish warriors known as Ottomans began to take territory from the Christian Byzantine Empire. They eventually ruled land from eastern Europe to North Africa and Arabia.

The key to the empire's expansion was the Ottoman army. The Ottomans trained Christian boys from conquered towns to be soldiers. These slave soldiers, called **janissaries**, converted to Islam and became fiercely loyal warriors. The Ottomans also benefitted from their use of new weapons, especially gunpowder.

In 1453 Ottomans led by Mehmed II used huge cannons to conquer the city of Constantinople. With the city's capture, Mehmed defeated the Byzantine Empire. He became known as the Conqueror. Mehmed made Constantinople, which the Ottomans called **Istanbul**, his capital. He also turned the Byzantines' great church, Hagia Sophia, into a mosque.

After Mehmed's death, another ruler, or sultan, continued his conquests. This sultan expanded the empire to the east through the rest of Anatolia, another name for Asia Minor. His armies also conquered Syria and Egypt. The holy cities of Mecca and Medina then accepted Ottoman rule.

The Ottoman Empire reached its height under Suleyman I (SOO-lay-MAHN), "the Magnificent." During his rule from 1520 to 1566, the Ottomans took control of the eastern Mediterranean and pushed farther into Europe, areas they would control until the early 1800s.



BIOGRAPHY

Mehmed II
(1432–1481)

Mehmed II ruled the Ottoman Empire from 1451 to 1481. During this time he greatly improved the new capital, Istanbul. He repaired

damage caused by fighting and built palaces, mosques, and a huge, covered bazaar. He encouraged people from all over the empire to move to the city.

The Safavid Empire

As the Ottoman Empire reached its height, a group of Persian Muslims, the Safavids (sah-FAH-vuhds), was gaining power to the east, in the area of present-day Iran. Before long, the Safavids came into conflict with the Ottomans and other Muslims.

The conflict arose from an old dispute among Muslims about who should be caliph. In the mid-600s, Islam split into two groups. The two groups were the Shia (SHEE-ah) and the Sunni (SOO-nee). Shia Muslims thought only Muhammad's descendants could become caliphs. The



map zone Geography Skills

Regions The Ottoman Empire ruled large parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

- 1. Location** What region was at the heart, or center, of the Ottoman Empire?
- 2. Analyze** Why was Istanbul a good location for the empire's capital?

Sunni did not think caliphs had to be related to Muhammad. The Ottomans were Sunni, and the Safavid leaders were Shia.

The Safavid Empire began in 1501 when a strong Safavid leader named Esma'il (is-mah-EEL) conquered Persia. He took the ancient Persian title of shah, or king.

Esma'il made Shiism—the beliefs of the Shia—the official religion of the empire. But he wanted to spread Shiism farther.



Most Muslims today belong to the Sunni branch of Islam.

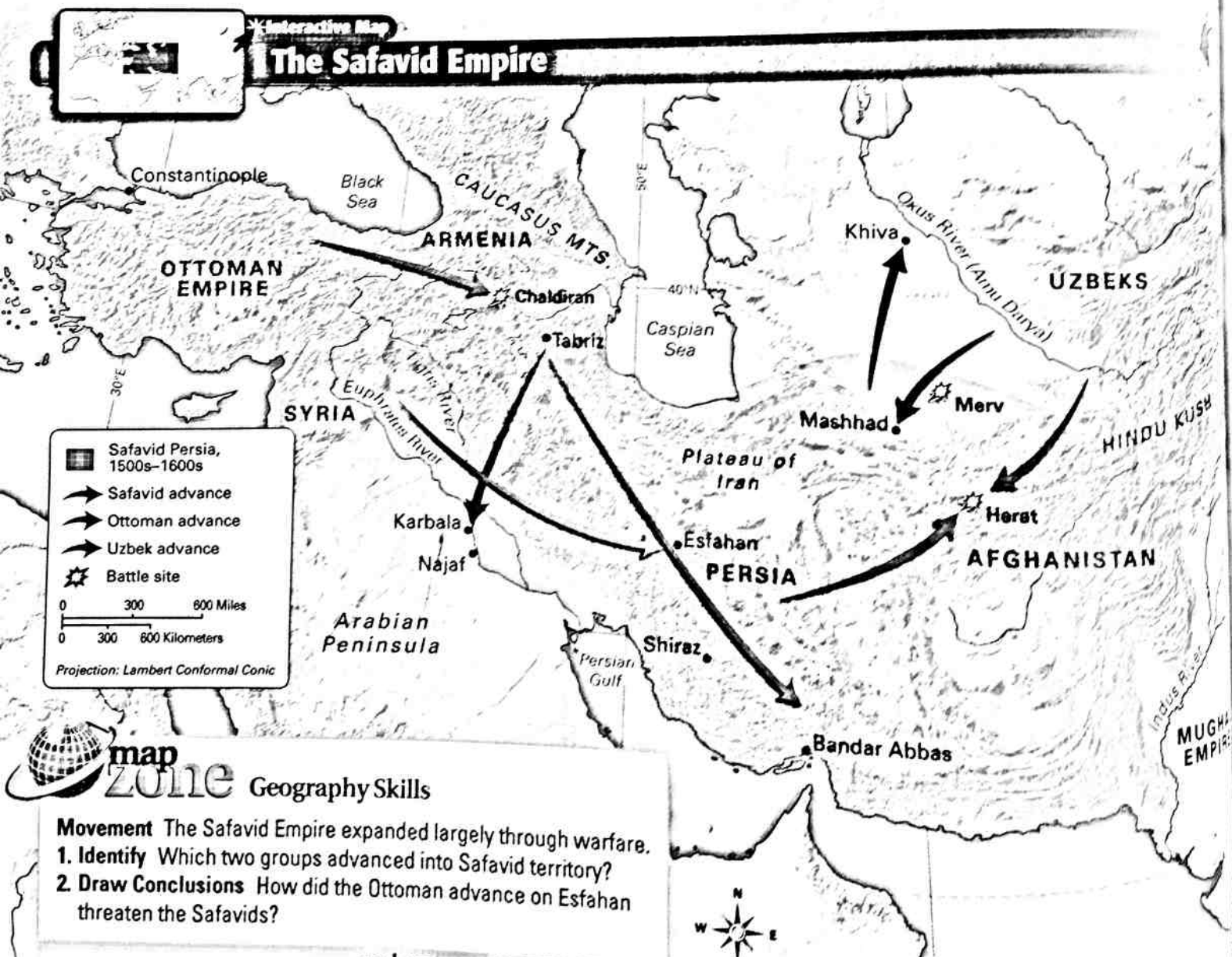
He tried to gain more Muslim lands and convert more Muslims to Shiism. He fought the Uzbek people, but he suffered a major defeat by the Ottomans in 1514.

In 1588 the greatest Safavid leader, 'Abbas, became shah. He strengthened the military and gave his soldiers gunpowder weapons. Copying the Ottomans, 'Abbas trained foreign slave boys to be soldiers. Under 'Abbas's rule the Safavids defeated the Uzbeks and took back land that had been lost to the Ottomans.

The Safavids blended many Persian and Muslim traditions. They grew wealthy from trade and built glorious mosques in their capital, **Esfahan** (es-fah-HAHN). The Safavid Empire lasted until the mid-1700s.

The Mughal Empire
East of the Safavid Empire, in northern India, lay the Mughal (MOO-guhl) Empire. The Mughals were Turkish Muslims from Central Asia. Their empire was established by a leader named Babur (BAH-boohr), or "tiger." He tried for years to build an empire in Central Asia. When he did not succeed there, he decided to create an empire in northern India instead. The result was the Mughal Empire, created in 1526.

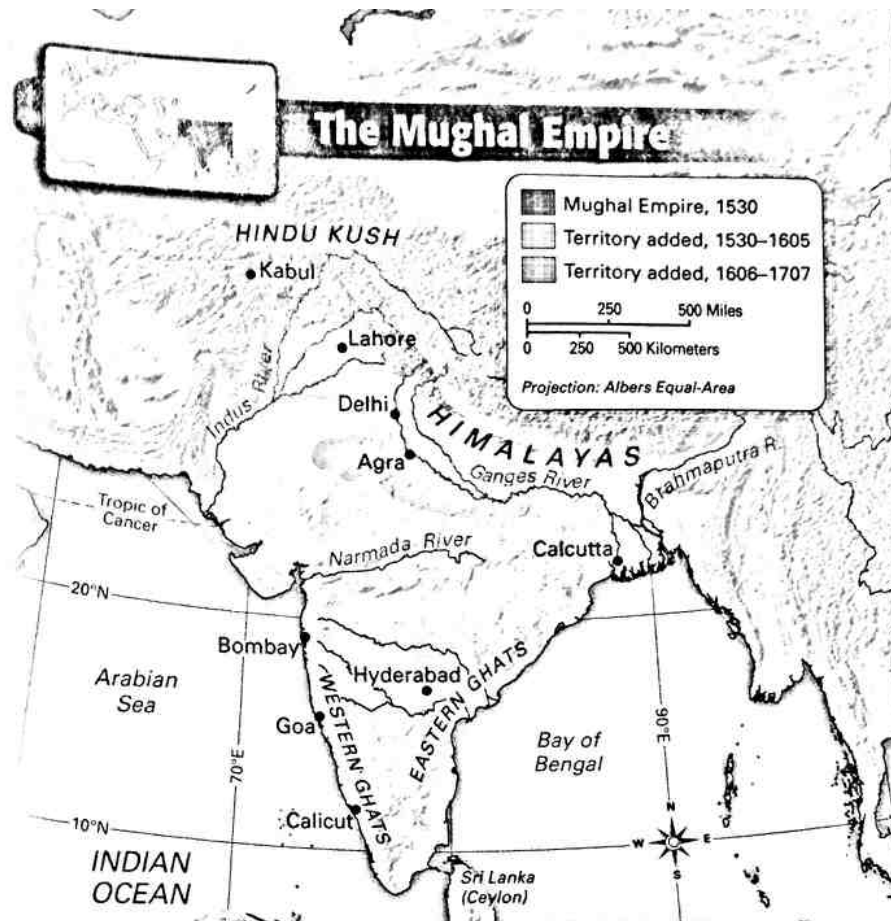
In the mid-1500s an emperor named Akbar conquered many new lands and worked to strengthen the government of the empire. He also instituted a tolerant religious policy. Akbar believed members of all religions could live and work together.



Akbar's tolerance allowed Muslims and Hindus in the empire to live in peace. In time, cooperation between the two groups helped create a unique Mughal culture. It blended Persian, Islamic, and Hindu elements. The Mughals became known for their monumental works of architecture. One famous example of this architecture is the Taj Mahal, a tomb built in the 1600s by emperor Shah Jahan for his wife. Its graceful domes and towers are a symbol of India today.

In the late 1600s, an emperor reversed Akbar's tolerant policies. He destroyed many Hindu temples, and violent revolts broke out. The Mughal Empire fell apart.

READING CHECK Analyzing How did the Ottomans gain land for their empire?



map zone Geography Skills

Place The Mughal Empire began in northern India and spread southward over time.

- 1. On the Map** Between what two years was Calcutta added to the empire?
- 2. Analyze** What two landforms acted as natural northern borders for the Mughal Empire?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW Islam spread beyond Arabia through warfare and trade. The Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals built empires and continued the spread of Islam. In Section 4, you will learn about the cultural achievements of the Islamic world.

Section 3 Assessment

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Online Quiz
KEYWORD: SK7 HP7

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- 1. a. Define** What is a caliph?
 - b. Evaluate** Do you think the rules that Muslims made for conquered non-Muslims were fair? Why or why not?
- 2. a. Identify** Name three places Islam spread to through trade.
 - b. Explain** How did trade help spread Islam?
 - c. Elaborate** What was life in Córdoba like?
- 3. a. Recall** Who were the janissaries?
 - b. Contrast** How did Sunni and Shia beliefs about caliphs differ?
 - c. Evaluate** Which of the Muslim empires do you think made the greatest achievements? Why?

Critical Thinking

4. Comparing and Contrasting Draw a chart like the one below. Use your notes to compare and contrast the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires.

	Ottomans	Safavids	Mughals
Leaders			
Location			
Religious policy			

FOCUS ON WRITING

5. Collecting Information about Empires You will need one Web page on Muslim empires. Note one or two points you will make about each empire.

Cultural Achievements

What You Will Learn

Main Ideas

1. Muslim scholars made lasting contributions to the fields of science and philosophy.
2. In literature and the arts, Muslim achievements included beautiful poetry, memorable short stories, and splendid architecture.

The Big Idea

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

Key Terms

Sufism, p. 187
minarets, p. 189
calligraphy, p. 189

TAKING NOTES

As you read, take notes on the achievements and advances the Muslims made in various fields. In each outer circle of this word web, describe one achievement or advance. You may need to add more circles.

Achievements and Advances

If YOU lived there...

You are a servant in the court of a powerful Muslim 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. The dangerous journey will take him across seas and deserts. He can take only a few servants with him. He has not ordered you to come but has given you a choice.

Would you join the expedition? Why or why not?

BUILDING BACKGROUND Muslim explorers traveled far and wide to learn about new places. They used what they learned to make maps. Their contributions to geography were just one way Muslim scholars made advancements in science and learning.

Science and Philosophy

The empires of the Islamic world made great advances in many fields—astronomy, geography, philosophy, math, and science. Scholars at Baghdad and Córdoba translated ancient writings on these subjects into Arabic. Scholars all over the Arabic world then used these ancient writings as the bases for their own works.

Islamic Achievements

Astronomy

The use of observatories allowed Muslim scientists to make other significant advances in astronomy. This observatory was built in the 1700s in Delhi, the capital of Mughal India.



Astronomy

Many Muslim cities had observatories. In these observatories, Muslim scientists worked to increase their knowledge of astronomy. Their study of the sky had practical benefits as well. For example, scientists used astronomy to improve their understanding of time, which let them build better clocks. They also improved the astrolabe, a device that allowed people to calculate their location on Earth.

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. The explorer Ibn Battutah traveled to Africa, India, China, and Spain in the 1320s. As a result of such travels, Muslim geographers made more accurate maps than were available before.

Philosophy

Many great thinkers lived in the Muslim world. Some studied classical writings and, like the ancient Greeks, believe in the importance of reason. Other philosophies taught that religion was more important than science. One of these philosophies was **Sufism** (SOO-fi-zuhm), which taught people they could find God's love by having a personal relationship with God.

Math

Muslim scholars also made advances in mathematics. For example, in the 800s they combined the ancient Indian system of numbers—including the use of zero—with Greek mathematical ideas. The results of these Muslim advances still affect how we think of math today. The number system we use is based on ancient Muslim writings. In addition, the field of algebra, an advanced type of mathematics, was first developed by Muslim scholars.

Medicine

The greatest of all Muslim achievements may have come in medicine. They based their medical skills on ancient Greek and Indian knowledge and added many new discoveries of their own.

Muslim doctors started the world's first pharmacy school to teach people how to make medicine. They built hospitals and learned to cure many serious diseases, such as smallpox. A Muslim doctor known in the West as Avicenna (av-uh-SEN-uh) recorded medical knowledge in an encyclopedia. It was used throughout Europe until the 1600s and is one of the most famous books in the history of medicine.

READING CHECK Drawing Conclusions

How did Muslims influence the fields of science and medicine?

THE SWAC TODAY

We still call the numerals 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 Arabic or Hindu-Arabic numerals.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

classical
referring to the cultures of ancient Greece or Rome



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.



Medicine
Muslim doctors made many advances in medicine, including the use of surgery and the discovery of smallpox. They also built hospitals and pharmacies to help the sick.

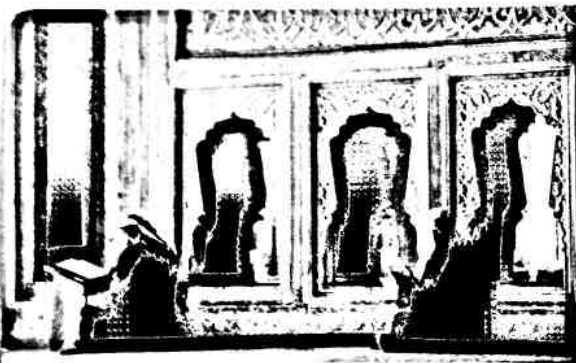
Close-up

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.



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

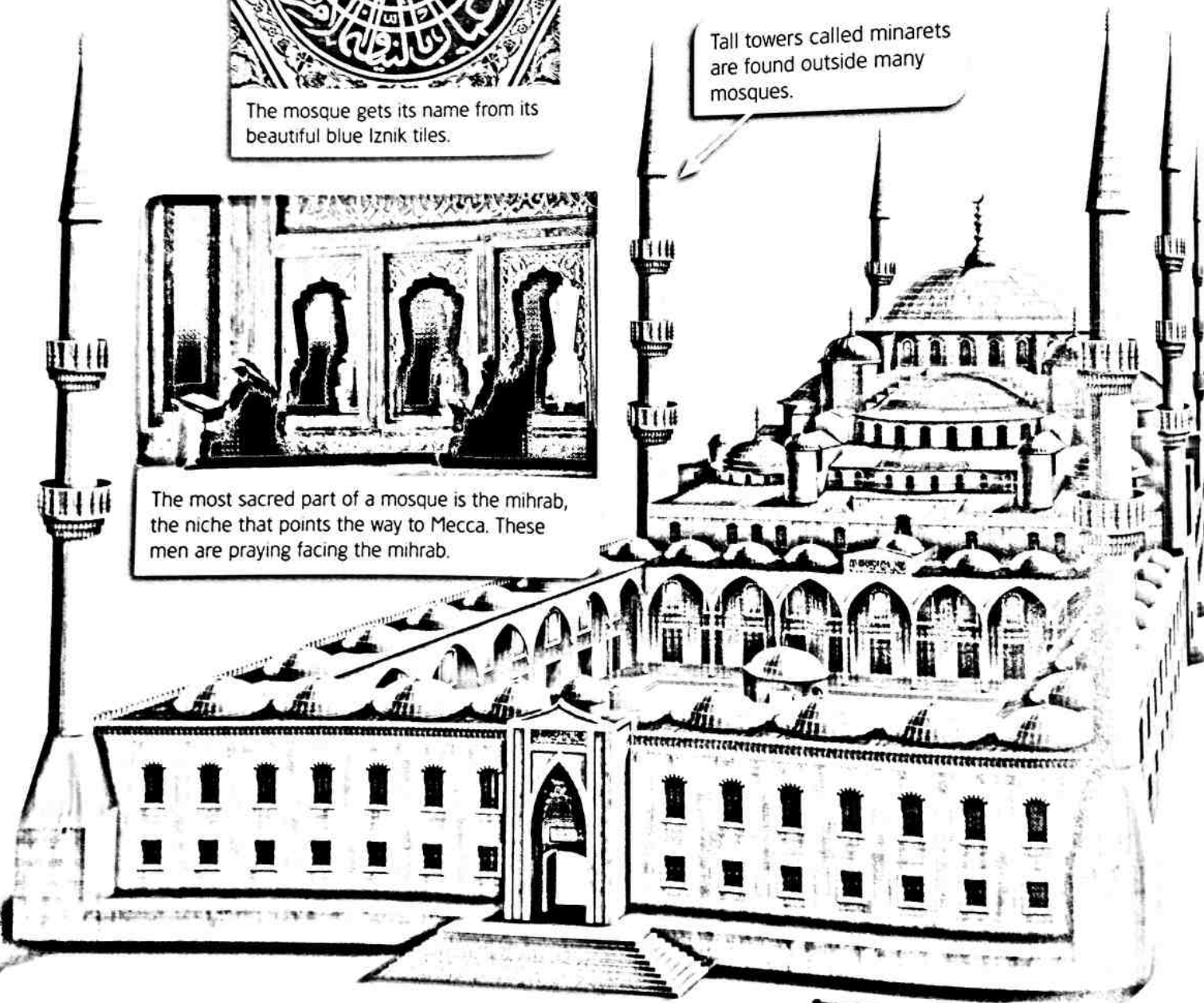


The most sacred part of a mosque is the mihrab, the niche that points the way to Mecca. These men are praying facing the mihrab.



Domes are a common feature of Islamic architecture. Huge columns support the center of this dome, and more than 250 windows let light into the mosque.

Tall towers called minarets are found outside many mosques.



ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

Why do you think the decoration of the Blue Mosque is so elaborate?

Literature and the Arts

In addition to scientific achievements, the Muslims made great advances in the arts. Some of these artistic advances can be seen in literature and the visual arts.

Literature

Literature, especially poetry, was popular in the Muslim world. Much of this poetry was influenced by Sufism. Sufi poets often wrote about their loyalty to God. One of the most famous Sufi poets was Omar Khayyám (oh-mahr ky-AHM). In a book of poems known as the *Rubáiyát*, he wrote about faith, hope, and other emotions.

Muslims also enjoyed reading short stories. Many stories are collected in *The Thousand and One Nights*. This collection includes tales about legendary characters such as Sinbad, Aladdin, and Ali Baba.

Visual Arts

Of the visual arts, architecture was the most important in the Muslim world. Rich Muslim rulers used their wealth to have beautiful mosques built to honor God and inspire religious followers. Many mosques feature large domes and graceful **minarets**, tall towers from where Muslims are called to prayer.

Muslim architects also built palaces, marketplaces, and libraries. Many of these buildings have complicated domes and arches, colored bricks, and decorated tiles.

Although most Muslim buildings were highly decorated, most Muslim art does not show any people or animals. Muslims think only God can create humans and animals or their images. Instead, Muslim artists created complex geometric patterns. Muslim artists also turned to **calligraphy**, or decorative writing. They made sayings from the Qur'an into works of art to decorate mosques and other buildings.

Muslim art and literature combined Islamic influences with 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.

READING CHECK Generalizing What were two Muslim artistic achievements?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW The Muslims made great advances in science and art. In the next chapter, you'll learn about an area where many of these advances were made—the Eastern Mediterranean.

Section 4 Assessment

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Online Quiz

01/05/02/42-901

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and Places

- Identify** Who traveled to India, Africa, China, and Spain and contributed his knowledge to the study of *geography*?
 - Explain** How did Muslim scholars help preserve learning from the ancient world?
 - Rank** In your opinion, what was the most important Muslim scientific achievement? Why?
- Describe** What function do **minarets** serve in mosques?
 - Explain** How did Muslim artists create art without showing humans or animals?

Critical Thinking

- Analyzing** Using your notes, complete a chart like the one below. For each category in the first column, list one important achievement or advance the Muslims made.

Category	Achievement or Advance
Astronomy	
Geography	
Math	
Medicine	
Philosophy	

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Describing Muslim Achievements and Advances** Review your notes on key Muslim achievements and advances in science, philosophy, literature, and the arts. Now decide what information about each of these topics you will include on your Web site.