

Islamic World Study Guide

1. Why did Muslims expand their rule? (Review “Spread of Islam” text in WHIN)
2. How did culture spread through the Arabian Empire? (Review “Spread of Islam” text in WHIN)
3. What person started the religion Islam? (Review “Life of Muhammad Guided Notes” in WHIN and storyboard of Muhammad)
4. Explain the beginning of Muhammad’s life that led to the religion that is now known as Islam. (Review “Life of Muhammad Guided Notes” in WHIN and “Storyboard of Muhammad” in WHIN)
5. What are the similarities and differences between Islam, Christianity, and Judaism? (Review “Three Religions Chart” and “Comparison Matrix” in WHIN)
6. What is the Qur’an? What is the Sunnah? What is the significance of these two sources? (See notes on Qur’an in WHIN)
7. What are the similarities and differences between the Sunni and the Shi’ites/Shia? Review “Sunni and Shia” text and T-Chart in WHIN)
8. Explain the major contributions that Muslims made in science, geography, mathematics, philosophy, medicine, art, and literature. (Review “Muslim Contributions Chart” and “Muslim Contributions Foldable” in WHIN)
9. What is the significance of the Taj Mahal? (Review “Taj Mahal” text in WHIN)
10. Who was Mehmed II the Conqueror? (Review “Mehmed II” text in WHIN)
11. Who was Suleiman the Magnificent? (Review “Suleiman I” text in WHIN)

(Background notes for this unit if needed)

The Big Idea

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

Main Ideas

- Arabia is mostly a desert land.
 - The Arabian Peninsula lies near the intersection of three continents, so it is called a “crossroads” location. (Africa, Asia, Europe)
 - Arabia’s location has shaped its physical features.
 - Arabia lies in a region with hot, dry air.
 - The climate makes it hard for plants and animals to survive.
 - Huge **sand dunes**, or hills of sand shaped by the wind, cover large parts of Arabia.
 - Water exists mainly in **oases**, wet, fertile areas that are scattered across the deserts.
- Two ways of life—nomadic and sedentary—developed in the desert.
 - In a nomadic life, people moved from place to place within tribes for protection and as the seasons changed.
 - Sedentary people settled in oases, where they could farm. These settlements often became towns. Towns became centers of trade. Many had a **souk**, a market or bazaar, where goods were traded.

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.
 - A man named Muhammad taught a new religion to the people of Arabia.
 - Muslims believe that God spoke to Muhammad through an angel and made him a prophet.
 - The messages he received were the basis for Islam and were collected in the holy book of Islam called the Qur’an.

- Muhammad’s teachings had similarities to Judaism and Christianity, but they also presented new ideas.
 - Muhammad taught that there was only one God, Allah, which means “the God” in Arabic. This is similar to Christianity and Judaism.
 - Muslims also recognize many of the same prophets as Christians and Jews.
 - Muslims don’t believe that Jesus was the son of God.
 - Arabs were used to worshipping many gods, so many of them rejected Muhammad’s teachings.
 - Muhammad said the rich and poor should be equal. Many wealthy merchants did not like this idea.
- Islam spread in Arabia after being rejected at first.
 - Islam spread from Mecca to Medina.
 - Rulers of Mecca began to threaten Muhammad and his followers with violence as Islam started to influence more people.
 - Muhammad left Mecca and went to Medina. This departure became known in Muslim history as the hegira, or journey.
 - Islam thrived in Medina, and other Arab tribes in the region accepted Islam.
 - Muhammad’s house became the first mosque, or building for Muslim prayer.
 - He reported new revelations about rules for society, government, and worship.
 - Mecca finally welcomed Muhammad back to the city and accepted Islam as its religion.

The Big Idea

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

Main Ideas

- The Qur’an guides Muslims’ lives.
 - The Qur’an sets out guidelines for moral behavior, acts of worship, and rules for social life
- The Sunnah tells Muslims of important duties expected of them.
 - The hadith is the written record of Muhammad’s words and actions. It is the basis for the **Sunnah**.
 - The Sunnah provides a model for the duties and way of life expected of Muslims.
 - 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 Five Pillars are:
 - Saying “There is no god but God, and Muhammad is his prophet”
 - Praying five times a day
 - Giving to the poor and needy
 - Fasting during the holy month of Ramadan
 - Traveling to Mecca at least once on a hajj
- Islamic law is based on the Qur’an and the Sunnah.
 - The Qur’an and the Sunnah form the basis of Islamic law, or Shariah.
 - Shariah is a system based on Islamic sources and human reason that judges the rightness of actions taken.

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



The Big Idea

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

Main Ideas

- The revered leader of the new and rapidly growing Muslim faith, Muhammad, never chose a successor. That means there was not a living prophet of the Muslims when Muhammad died. This was when the Muslims were divided over their beliefs. Put simply, Muslims became divided over who should be the next Caliph (leader) of the Islamic community.
 - **Shia** believed that Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law, was the rightful heir and that future caliphs needed to be descendants (relatives) of Muhammad.
 - **Sunni** believe that caliphs do not have to be descendants of Muhammad.
 - Today most Muslims are Sunni.
 - Similarities: both believe in one God, both believe that the Quran is Islam's holy book, and both believe in the 5 Pillars of Faith.
- Muslim armies conquered many lands into which Islam slowly spread.
 - Abu Bakr became the first **caliph**, the title that Muslims use for the highest leader of Islam.
 - Caliphs were not religious leaders, but political and military leaders.
 - Abu Bakr directed a series of battles against Arab tribes who did not follow Muhammad's teachings.
 - Growth of the Empire:
 - Muslim armies battled tribes that did not follow Muhammad's teachings.
 - The Muslim armies united Arabia, then defeated the Persian and Byzantine empires.
 - After years of fighting Muslim armies, many Berbers, a native people of North Africa, converted to Islam and joined forces with the Arabs.
 - A combined Berber and Arab army invaded Spain and conquered it in AD 711.
- Trade helped Islam spread into new areas.
 - Along with their trade goods, Arab merchants took Islamic beliefs to new lands.
 - Islam spread to India, Africa, Malaysia, and Indonesia.
 - Trade also brought new products to Muslim lands and made many people rich.
 - Travelers learned how to make paper from the Chinese.
 - Merchants brought crops of cotton, rice, and oranges from India, China, and Southeast Asia.
 - Muslim merchants set up trade businesses in Africa.
- A mix of cultures was one result of Islam's spread.
 - As Islam spread through trade, warfare, and treaties, Arabs came into contact with people who had different beliefs and lifestyles.
 - Language and religion helped unify many groups that became part of the Islamic world.
 - Muslims generally practiced tolerance, or acceptance, with regard to these people.
 - Jews and Christians in particular could keep their beliefs.
- Islamic influence encouraged the growth of cities.
 - Baghdad
 - Capital of Islamic Empire
 - Located near land and water trade routes
 - Walled city
 - Built hospitals, observatories, and a library that was used as a university
 - Cordoba
 - Capital of what is now Spain
 - Strong economy based on agriculture and trade
 - By the AD 900s, was the largest and most advanced city in Europe
 - Great center of learning
 - Also a center of Jewish culture

The Big Idea

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

Main Ideas

- The Ottoman Empire covered a large area in eastern Europe.
 - The Ottomans were aided by slave soldiers called Janissaries.
 - They had new gunpowder weapons, such as the cannon.
 - Mehmed II and Suleiman I led conquests that turned the Ottomans into a world power.
 - Mehmed II the Conqueror:
 - 1453 seized the Byzantine capital of Constantinople
 - Renamed Constantinople, Istanbul.
 - Conquered lands in southeastern Europe, Southwest Asia and North Africa.
 - Controlled much of the Mediterranean Region until the late 1500s.
 - Spread Islam
 - Suleiman the Magnificent, ruled for 46 years.
 - Became sultan of the Ottoman Empire in 1520 at the age of 26.
 - His reign is known as the Golden Age of the Ottoman Empire.
 - “The Lawgiver” because he organized Ottoman laws.
 - Built many schools and mosques throughout the empire.
 - Responsible for the empire’s greatest achievements in law, art, architecture and literature.
- The Safavid Empire blended Persian cultural traditions with Shia Islam.
- The Mughal Empire in India left an impressive cultural heritage.

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.
 - Muslim scholars made advances in astronomy, geography, math, and science.
 - Many ancient writings were translated into Arabic.
 - **Geography:** Geographers made more accurate maps than before.
 - **Math:** A Muslim mathematician laid the foundations for modern algebra.
 - **Astronomy:** They made improvements to the astrolabe, which the Greeks had invented to chart the positions of the stars.
 - **Medicine:** The Muslims’ greatest scientific achievements may have come in medicine. A doctor discovered how to diagnose and treat the deadly disease smallpox.
 - **Philosophy:** The Muslim philosophy focused on spiritual issues, which led to a movement called Sufism. Sufism teaches that people can find God’s love by having a personal relationship with God.
- Islam influenced styles of literature and the arts.
 - **Literature:** Two forms of literature were popular in the Muslim world—poetry and short stories.
 - **Architecture:** The greatest architectural achievements were mosques. They often had a dome and **minarets**—narrow towers from which Muslims are called to prayer. **Patrons**, or sponsors, used their wealth to pay for elaborately decorated mosques.
 - **Art:** Because they could not represent people or animals in paintings due to their religion, Muslim artists turned **calligraphy**, or decorative writing, into an art form. They used this technique to decorate buildings and mosques.