

Origins of Islam



Warm Up Question

- **What was the name of the Roman emperor who issued the Edict of Milan? What was the Edict of Milan?**
- **Who spread Jesus teachings? What was his name?**



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Geography and Life in Arabia

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



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.**



Muhammad The Prophet

- 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.

- Muslims believe that God spoke to **Muhammad** through an **angel (Gabriel)** 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 **Quran**.



Allah

- 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.

Islam 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 **journey**.
 - Islam thrived in **Medina**, and other Arab tribes in the region accepted Islam.



Islam Spreads from Medina to the Rest of Arabia

- 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 Quran and the Sunnah

Sacred texts called the **Quran** and the **Sunnah** guide Muslims in their religion, daily life, and laws.

Main Ideas

- The Quran **guides Muslims' lives.**
- The Sunnah tells Muslims of **important duties** expected of them.
- **Islamic law** is based on the Quran and the Sunnah.



The Sunnah

- 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.

History Close-up

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

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

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

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

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





Beginnings of Judaism

Beginnings of Christianity

Beginnings 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.



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

Beginnings of Islam



c. AD 570
Muhammad is born.

AD 610
According to Islamic belief, an angel appears and tells Muhammad to spread the word of God.

AD 613
Muhammad begins to spread his message.

AD 622
Muhammad and his followers leave Mecca for Medina in the hejira. This event marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar.

AD 632
Muhammad dies. Islam begins to spread across Southwest Asia and North Africa.

ANALYSIS SKILL READING TIME LINES

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

Arabia, 570



ELEVATION

Feet	Meters
13,120	4,000
6,560	2,000
1,640	500
656	200
(Sea level) 0	0 (Sea level)
Below sea level	Below sea level

— Land trade route
— Sea trade route

0 250 500 Miles
0 250 500 Kilometers

Islam in Arabia, 632



This drawing shows the mosque at Medina as it appeared in the 1100s.

What features of the building can you see?

In 622, Muhammad and his followers left Mecca for Medina in a journey called the hegira. In Medina, Muhammad gained many new followers.

 The hegira
 Islamic lands at the death of Muhammad

0 250 500 Miles
0 250 500 Kilometers

ARABIA

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Movement About how many miles was the hegira?

The Five Pillars of Islam

QUICK
FACTS

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

ANALYSIS
SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

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