

The Muslim World**Lesson 1****The Rise of Islam****Key Terms and People****Allah** the one God of Islam**Muhammad** founder of Islam**Islam** religion based on submission to Allah**Muslim** follower of the religion of Islam**Hijrah** Muhammad's move from Mecca to Yathrib (Medina) in 622**mosque** Islamic house of worship**hajj** pilgrimage to Mecca**Qur'an** holy book of Islam**Sunna** Islamic model for living based on the life and teachings of Muhammad**shari'a** body of Islamic law**Before You Read**

In the last lesson, you read about how new ideas about rights and democracy led to new governments in America and France.

In this lesson, you will read about the rise of Islam.

As You Read

Use a diagram to list important aspects of Islam.

DESERTS, TOWNS, AND TRADE ROUTES**How did the desert help shape Arab life?**

The harsh environment of the Arabian Peninsula left its mark on the Arab peoples. The land is almost completely covered by desert. The desert people were nomads. They herded animals, leading them from one fertile spot, or oasis, to another. Over time, many of these people, called Bedouins, began to live in towns and cities. They also began to trade goods.

By the early 600s, trade became an important activity in the Arabian

Peninsula. Merchants from the north brought goods to Arabia. They traded for spices and other goods. They also brought new ideas.

At this time, some Arabs believed in one God, called **Allah** in Arabic. Others believed in many gods. Religious pilgrims went to the western city of Mecca to worship at an ancient shrine called the Ka'aba.

1. When did trade become important in the Arabian Peninsula?

Lesson 1, *continued*

MUHAMMAD, PROPHET OF ISLAM

Who was Muhammad?

Around the year 570, **Muhammad** was born into this Arab society. At around age 40, he took religion as his life’s mission. According to Muslim belief, the angel Gabriel visited Muhammad and told him to speak the word of God to his people. Muhammad believed that he was the last of the prophets.

Muhammad began to teach that Allah was the one and only God. The religion based on his teachings is called **Islam**. Its followers are called **Muslims**.

At first many people in Mecca opposed Muhammad’s views. They feared Meccans would neglect traditional Arab gods. Muhammad and his followers were forced to leave Mecca for Yathrib (later called Medina) in 622. This became known as the **Hijrah**. The Hijrah was a turning point for Muhammad.

Gradually, Muhammad and his followers gained power. Finally, in 630, Muhammad went to the Ka’aba in Mecca and destroyed the idols. Many of the people of Mecca adopted Islam. They began to worship Allah as the only God. Muhammad died soon after, in 632. Much of the Arabian Peninsula was already united under Islam.

2. What was the Hijrah?

BELIEFS AND PRACTICES OF ISLAM

What do Muslims believe and practice?

The main principle of Islam is that there is only one God. In Islam, people are responsible for their own actions.

Muslims have five duties to perform, called the Five Pillars of Islam. These duties include faith, prayer, alms, fasting, and pilgrimage to Mecca. The duties show a person’s acceptance of the will of Allah:

- A Muslim must state the belief that “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”
- A Muslim must pray to Allah, facing Mecca, five times every day. This may be done at a **mosque**, an Islamic house of worship, or anywhere else.
- A Muslim must give alms, or money for the poor, through a tax.
- A Muslim must fast during the holy month of Ramadan. Muslims eat only one meal a day, after sunset, every day during this month.
- A Muslim should perform a **hajj**—a trip to the holy city of Mecca—at least once in his or her life.

The central ideas of Islam are found in the **Qur’an**. Muslims believe this book states the will of Allah as revealed to Muhammad. Muslims are also guided by the example of Muhammad’s life, called the **Sunna**, and by a set of laws and rules, the **shari’a**.

Muslims believe Allah is the same God that Jews and Christians worship. To Muslims, the Qur’an perfects the earlier teachings of God found in the Jewish Torah and the Christian Bible. Because their holy books were related to the Qur’an, Jews and Christians were called “people of the book” in Muslim societies. The laws of shari’a also require Muslim leaders to show tolerance to Christians and Jews.

3. What are the five duties of Muslims?

Lesson 1, *continued*

As you read about Muhammad’s life and the rise of Islam, fill out the charts below to help you understand causes and effects. There can be one or several answers to each question.

The Prophet Muhammad		
	Answer (Cause)	Effect
1. What happened to Muhammad in his 40s?		
2. Why were Muhammad’s ideas unpopular in Mecca?		
3. In what way(s) was the Hijrah a turning point?		
4. Why was Muhammad’s return to Mecca important?		
Beliefs and Practices of Islam		
	Answer (Cause)	Effect
5. What does Islam teach its followers?		
6. How does praying affect the daily lives of Muslims?		
7. How did observing Islamic teachings create unity among Muslims?		
8. What is similar about Islam, Christianity, and Judaism?		