



ISLAM

A simulation of Islamic history and culture, 610-1100

Student Guide

Introduction

You are beginning a simulation of the history and culture of Islam. It is important to study the origins of this religion and how it has affected mankind. The study of religion is one of the most important aspects of what shapes the history, culture, and contributions of a great civilization. It is impossible to study Islam without understanding the relationship between the teaching of Prophet Muhammad and the entire Mid-Eastern culture. It was the early Muslims, primarily the Arabs, who shaped the future of a wide area of Europe, Africa, and Asia. Muslim contributions are extraordinary in art, architecture, philosophy, science, mathematics, government, and, of course, religion.

From the beginning, you and your classmates will become Muslims. You will be a member of a caravan starting from a trading center based around an Islamic city. The task of each caravan group is to be the first group to complete a pilgrimage to Makkah, the holiest of Islamic cities, with the most amount of dirhams (Arabic money). This pilgrimage or "hajj" is a requirement of all faithful Muslims once in their lifetime. During your journey, you will travel in caravans, enact generosity and hospitality, engage in trade, dress up as a desert nomad or Bedouin, eat authentic food from the Islamic

world, build Islamic structures, produce poetry, create works of art, and race to be the first caravan to reach Makkah.

Goals

Just as Muslims value education and knowledge, so should you. Your participation in this simulation is important to your own personal enrichment, to your group, and, indeed, to your entire class' enjoyment. Your goals should be learning a great deal about Islam and its culture, striving for group success, and having a memorable time while you are experiencing the simulation.

Length and Phases

This simulation lasts from 10 to 15 days, depending on your teacher. Your teacher, because of time constraints, may decide to do the short version, but hopefully time will permit you to enjoy this simulation over the whole 15 days. The simulation has five phases, each divided into several experiences. Your teacher may decide to do all or part, depending on the time.

Introduction (Phase 1)

First you will read a short history of Islam, be briefed on coming assignments, be placed in one of six Middle Eastern city groups, and pick an Muslim name. In addition, you will receive a specific role to play inside the group such as, **caliph** (the leader), **khazim** (the banker), **kattib** (the secretary), or **muwatin** (the citizen).

Caravan Days (Phase 2)

The caravan was an important way of life to many early Muslims. In this phase your group or city will compete with other groups to collect as many dirhams (the name of value points awarded for doing well on Quiz Cards) and Wisdom Cards as possible. You may also be attacked by a rival city or be a victim of a Bulletin Card which describes a good or bad desert experience. These dirhams and Wisdom Cards will be used later as your group tries to be the first to conclude the sacred pilgrimage to Makkah. Finally, the class will occasionally become a Bazaar (marketplace) where you can look for bargains in buying and selling Wisdom Cards from other groups.

Oasis Days (Phase 3)

These cultural days, interspersed with the Caravan Days, allow you to earn more dirhams by completing projects with other group members. One important Phase 3 activity is learning Islam's Five Pillars of Faith by imitating a requirement of each Pillar. Also, your group will work together on such projects as building a mosque, creating a map or timeline, or working on other group assignments to learn about Islamic history and the Islamic faith. You will meet, in addition, several important caliphs in Islamic history and have the opportunity to interview them in the MEET THE CALIPHS activity. Finally, during the most important event, you will listen to a compan-

ion of Prophet Muhammad explain about Muhammad's life, his teachings, and his influence on the world today.

Festival Days (Phase 4)

During Festival Days, each group will present a research project from an extensive list. These projects require you to complete several interesting tasks which will culminate in a group presentation of your choosing during "Festival." You will possibly decide to serve food from the Islamic world, play Middle-Eastern music, present a Middle Eastern dance, explain and wear Islamic clothing, or do any one of many different options. This presentation is not only a good peer teaching experience for you, it is also great fun and, likely, will become a major part of your grade during ISLAM.

Islamic Bowl (Phase 5)

Your group will have one final chance to collect dirhams by competing against rival groups during the Islamic Bowl—a sort of World Series of Islamic knowledge. Here you review the knowledge you have learned in the last three weeks, as well as help your group gain enough dirhams to complete your pilgrimage and win the race. This final activity reviews information which will be used during a possible final test on Islam. (A unit test consisting of questions based on those asked during the Islamic Bowl activity, plus possibly an essay question or two, ends the unit.)

Other responsibilities

During ISLAM you will have several important responsibilities. Working in your group as a responsible member is important to

you and your group. Attendance, punctuality, and sharing group work all help to insure you and your group a good experience. Dressing as a Muslim and trying to be involved will increase your learning and enjoyment. Finally, trying your best at all tasks will guarantee you an excellent grade and a more enjoyable time.

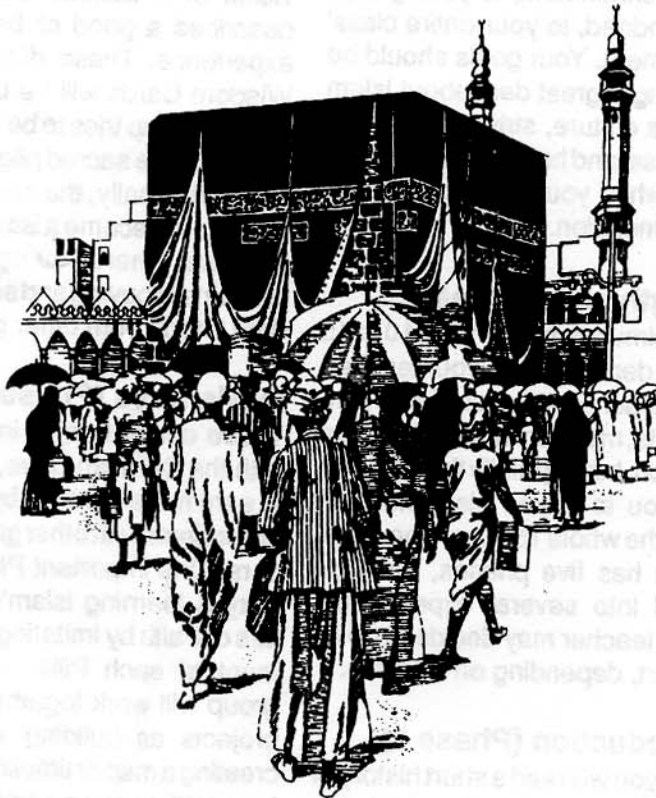
Surprises

As Muslims during the time of Prophet Muhammad, you will be affected by Bulletin Cards which will aid or hinder your progress on your pilgrimage. You could be attacked by a rival tribe, misdirected by a "jinn" (devil), or confronted by a severe dust storm. You could sell a valuable cargo, make a pilgrimage to Makkah, or host a dignitary. Whatever you experience, you should find this simulation to be exciting and challenging.

Debriefing

With so much information, what is important? Your teacher and group members will help you organize the key information you need to truly understand Islamic culture. Given the historical and present-day importance of the Islamic World, it is very important that you ask questions if you don't understand something brought up in this unit.

Good luck!



Today the Arab world is not isolated; it is inter-related with other countries throughout the globe.

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ISLAM: A HISTORY - 1

"In the name of Allah..."

Introduction

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

These words are called the exordium, or passage, which is the start of every sura, or chapter, (except the ninth) in the Qur'an, the holy book of Islam. It is recited often, including every time a Muslim eats or drinks, begins a journey, and enters a building. Though this simulation is about the history and culture of the Arabs, it is impossible to understand it without understanding the influence of Islam. Today with more than a billion believers, Islam is the world's second largest religion. Only Christianity is larger. Prophet Muhammad has been called the most influential man in history. With this much influence, the religion of Islam cannot be ignored.

Arabia The area in southwest Asia, between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, is called the Arabian Peninsula. The people who live there are known as Arabs. Largely a desert region, the peninsula stretches for about a million and a quarter square miles. Some areas, such as Yemen, feature well-watered fertile mountains in its interior.

Bedouins Before and after the establishment of Islam, many Arabs were Bedouins, or nomads of the desert. Bedouins lived in tents woven from goat or camel hair and spent most of their time traveling in the desert in search of good grass and water for their herds of camels, sheep, and goats. Bedouins also staged raids on other desert peoples and fought over pastures and wells. Arabs also were farmers, craftsmen, and merchants. Today, Bedouins are but a small minority of the Arab population, as most Arabs live in cities and surrounding urban areas.

Religion Before God revealed His message to Prophet Muhammad, the Arabs worshiped many gods. They believed spirits dwelled in rocks and trees. Arabs sometimes made statues of their gods. Each Arab town and tribe believed in different gods and basically did what they thought was right. There were organized religions in this region, however. Judaism and Christianity had been present in Arabia for several centuries. Jews and Christians had participated in many caravans and their influence was strong throughout the Arabian peninsula. This was Arabia in 570, the year in which the Prophet Muhammad was born.

Muhammad—the prophet of Islam Prophet Muhammad was born in 570 in Makkah which is located about halfway down western Arabia near the Red Sea. During Prophet Muhammad's time, it was an important trading stop between the Arabian Sea



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and the Mediterranean Sea. Prophet Muhammad's father died a few months before he was born. When Prophet Muhammad was six, his mother died, and he was raised by his grandfather and eventually by his uncle, Abu Talib. As a young man, Prophet Muhammad traveled in trading caravans between Makkah and Syria.

Angel Gabriel directs Prophet Muhammad When Prophet Muhammad was 25, he married Khadija, a rich widow. Prophet Muhammad became very successful in the caravan business and was known for his honesty and wisdom. Prophet Muhammad, however, was troubled by the drinking, gambling, and corruption in Makkah and other Arabian cities. While meditating in a cave in the desert, he had a vision of an angel. He was told by the angel Gabriel to be the apostle of God and to "warn" the people. From this date, around 610, Prophet Muhammad spent the rest of his life preaching the faith of Islam. At first people laughed at him, but eventually Prophet Muhammad became an important religious leader in the region. In 622 he migrated to Medina, a central event in the establishment of Islam. Eight years later he led an army into Makkah; the city surrendered without bloodshed. He destroyed the idols inside the ancient Kaaba. Makkah was now the center of Islam, and Prophet Muhammad was the leader. God's revelations were written down over a period of 23 years which today constitutes the Qur'an, the holy book of Muslims. When Prophet Muhammad died in 632, Islam was a religion about to shake the foundations of the Asian, African, and European worlds.

ALLAH

... submission to God ...

Muslims There are more than one billion Muslims—the fastest growing group in the world today. More than 40 Islamic countries have populations with between 70% to 100% Muslims. Africa has the largest number of Muslims; followed by India. The biggest predominantly Muslim country is Indonesia. Only about 18 percent of the world's Muslim population is Arab. Although Muslims from many different countries speak different languages, they all recite prayers and read the Qur'an in Arabic. Traditional Islamic customs and names are shared in different countries.



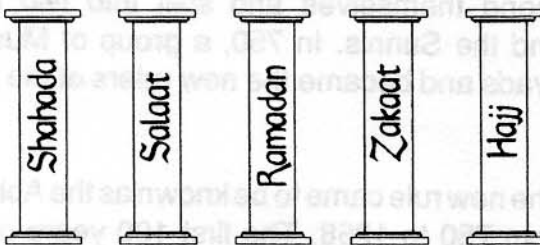
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Islam The word Islam in Arabic means “submission to God.” People who believe in Islam are called Muslims. Just as Christians and Jews believe the Bible is the word of God, Muslims believe the word of God, or Allah, is written down in the Qur’an, the holiest book of Islam. The Qur’an is a book of teachings of Allah whose word Muslims believe was revealed to Prophet Muhammad over a period of 23 years. In the Qur’an are listed all the details of how to become a good Muslim. Also important for every Muslim is the Hadith, the remembered sayings and traditions of Prophet Muhammad. The Hadith, written during Islam’s first two centuries and compiled in various collections, gives further direction to all Muslims as a guide to conduct, behavior, and a proper way of life.

Five Pillars of Faith Central to being a faithful Muslim is the Five Pillars of Faith—or five important duties of a faithful Muslim.

- **Shahada** Profession of one’s faith publicly that there is only one God, and Muhammad is his prophet
- **Salaat:** Prayer five times daily facing Makkah
- **Zakaat:** Charity or alms for the poor
- **Ramadan:** Fasting during the ninth month of the Islamic Calendar
- **Hajj:** Pilgrimage (religious journey) to the city of Makkah (in present-day Saudi Arabia) once during a Muslim’s lifetime if he/she is financially and physically able to do so. During the Hajj, Muslims are required to visit the ancient shrine of the Kaaba. The Kaaba is a large cubelike structure in the center of the courtyard of the Holy Mosque in Makkah. The Kaaba, originally built by Adam as the first building to glorify God, was later rebuilt by Abraham and his son Ismail. Muslims circumambulate around the Kaaba, beginning at the corner in which the Black Stone is placed. It is the most sacred shrine of Islam.

Five Pillars of Faith



Other religions The religions of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism have many similarities. All three believe in only one God, heaven and hell, in many of the same moral standards, and in many of the same historical figures such as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus. Christianity has split into three main divisions: Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox. In a similar fashion, there is a division in Islam—the Sunni and Shi’a sects. Even though Christians, Jews, and Muslims have fought battles and wars throughout history, Muslims believe Christians and Jews are “People of the Book” or people deserving respect for their religious beliefs.



Umayyad Dynasty 661 to 750

Islamic Empire From the time of Prophet Muhammad's death in 632, Islam's leaders were called caliphs or successors. Like Prophet Muhammad, the early caliphs were inspired by their faith in Islam. When a caliph died, however, disputes would arise over who would succeed him. When Ali, Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law, was killed in 661, Mu'awiyah I, the new caliph, moved the capital from Medina to Damascus, in present-day Syria. This was the beginning of the first great empire period called the Umayyad Dynasty.

Umayyad Dynasty The Umayyad Dynasty lasted from 661 to 750. The Umayyad caliphs continued to expand the Umayyad empire to include Afghanistan, Turkestan, North Africa, most of Spain, and parts of southern France. While some caliphs raised taxes and lived more like kings than religious leaders, they expanded Arab culture to include many new innovations. They

made Arabic the official language, minted the first Arabic currency, set up postal routes, and built and improved irrigation canals. They encouraged the arts and built beautiful mosques in Damascus and Jerusalem. Damascus became the cultural center of Islam.

and flourished as a center of trade, government, and religion. The Umayyads, however, had economic and social problems which led to their downfall. At about this time, Muslims divided among themselves and split into two main groups—the Shi'a and the Sunnis. In 750, a group of Muslims overthrew the Umayyads and became the new rulers of the Arab empire.

Abbasid Dynasty The new rule came to be known as the Abbasid Dynasty. It lasted from 750 to 1258. The first 100 years of this dynasty is known as the first Golden Age of Islam, the second

being the period when the Moors ruled Spain from 711 to 1492. Under the Abbasids, Muslim cities became great centers of learning and art. In 762, the second Abbasid caliph, al-Mansur, moved the capital from Damascus to Baghdad. Baghdad became the new capital and economic center of Islam and the Arab world.

Abbasid Dynasty 750 to 1258

The Islamic world changed under the Abbasid rule. The name Arab came to mean any subject of the empire who spoke Arabic—not just people from Arabia. This new Islamic empire began to



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absorb the traditions and cultures of the many different people now a part of the Islamic world. Centered around Baghdad, trade became international. The Abbasid caliphs, like many successful tradesmen, lived like Persian kings and became very rich and powerful. Banks opened, luxury items became more in demand, and the arts and learning flourished under their rule. Interest in Greek science and philosophy increased. Games such as backgammon and chess became popular.

Contributions Between the eighth and 14th centuries, Islamic scholars contributed much to the world's knowledge of medicine, astronomy, and mathematics. Islamic art and architecture are some of the most beautiful in the world, while Arab and Persian literature and poetry is world renown for its style and beauty. Since trade was the most important business of early Arabia, caravans brought more closely together the cultures of Europe and Asia. Today the Arab world controls the vast majority of the world's oil supplies—thus influencing the world's economy more than any other single region.

Conclusion So why study Islam? It is important to have knowledge of such an important region and people. Early Muslims perfected the number system originally from India that we use today, including the concept of zero. They are known as the Arabic numerals. Through them we also were introduced to paper that originated in China, and it was they who introduced rhythmic music, rhyming poetry, different courses at meals, and table manners. Today, many Muslim countries supply the world with energy resources, such as oil and natural gas. Once we understand the immense contributions that have been made by Muslims throughout history, and that our economic and industrial life depends to a great extent on their sources of energy, we will come to realize that it is vital for us individually and as a nation to understand the people whose resources we depend on. Only by studying the history, religion, and contributions of a people can we

make intelligent decisions as a people and country. Because so much of our lives is directly affected by the Muslim world, it is important to understand how it is directly affected by Islam.





Ramadan

Directions: Your teacher will go over the definitions and pronunciations of these Islamic words. Study them. Be prepared for daily quizzes to master the terms and people. This knowledge will help you to answer the Quiz Cards.

Terms

1. **Qur'an** (koo-RAN), also Koran (ko-RAN), the holy book of Islam
2. **Hadith:** (ha-DEETH) sayings and traditions of Prophet Muhammad
3. **Shi'a:** (SHEE-a) branch of Islam in which Muslims believe Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law (also cousin) Ali was the rightful leader after Prophet Muhammad's death
4. **Sunni:** (SOONI) branch of Islam in which Muslims believe Prophet Muhammad's father-in-law Abu Bakr was the rightful leader after Prophet Muhammad's death
5. **Mosque:** (MOSK) Muslim house of worship
6. **Minaret:** (min-eh-RET) tower from which Muslims are called to prayer
7. **Muezzin:** (moo-IS-in) calls the faithful to prayer from a minaret
8. **Caliph:** (KAY-lif) successor or leader
9. **Jihad:** (ji-HAD) to struggle against oppression
10. **Kaaba:** (KA-ba) Islam's holiest shrine, located in Makkah
11. **Kafir:** (KA-fir) unbeliever
12. **5 Pillars of Faith:** five duties all Muslims must fulfill
13. **Ramadan:** (ram-eh-DON) holy month of fasting for Muslims
14. **Dromedary:** (DROM-e-dar-e) single-humped camel
15. **Muslim:** (MUS-lim) one who submits to the Will of God
16. **Bedouin:** (BED-oo-win) desert nomad
17. **Islam:** (Iss-LAHM) name of second largest religion in the world today; means "submission to God's Will"
18. **Arabic:** (AIR-uh-bick) language of the Arabs
19. **Allah:** (AI-LAH) Arabic word for God
20. **Allahu Akbar:** (AI-LAH-ou AK-bar) Arabic words for "God is great"
21. **Monotheism:** (MON-eh-thee-iz-em) practice of religion where there is only one God
22. **Hajj:** (HAJ) Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah
23. **Pilgrimage:** (PILL-gra-mij) a holy journey
24. **Caravan:** (CARE-a-van) a company of travelers, especially of merchants or pilgrims
25. **Oasis:** (oh-A-sis) a fertile place in the desert where there is water and trees



Muhammad



People

1. **Muhammad:** (moo-HAM-ed) God's final prophet who perfected Islam, 570-632
2. **Abu Bakr:** (a-BOO BAK-er) first caliph of Islam
3. **Omar Khayyam:** (O-mar ki-YAM) Muslim poet who wrote the *Rubaiyat*
4. **Ali:** (A-lee) Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law; a leading figure in the Shi'a branch of Islam
5. **Ibn Sina:** (IB-en SEE-na) great Muslim scientist, 980-1037
6. **Muawiya:** (MOO-ah-wee-ya) caliph of Umayyad Dynasty, 661-680
7. **Abd al Malik:** (AB-dool MAY-lik) caliph of Umayyad Dynasty, 685-705
8. **al-Mansur:** (al-MAN soor) second Abbasid caliph, 754-775
9. **Harun al-Rashid:** (HAROON al-RASHID) fifth Abbasid caliph, 786-809
10. **Abd al-Rahman III:** (AB-dool RAH-man) caliph who ruled the western Islamic Empire, 912-961



Phrases

1. **Assalam aleikoom:** (salam oo-ALAY-kum) Peace be with you
2. **Wa aleikoom assalam** (wa oo-ALAY-kum salam) And may peace be with you
3. **Ismi:** (ISMI) my name is
4. **Ma'assalama:** (MA-a SALA-ma) Go with peace
5. **Shookran:** (SHUK-ran) thank you
6. **In sha Allah:** (IN sha AL-LAH) God willing