Chapter 10: The Muslim World, 600–1250

Essential Question
How did Islam and the achievements of the Muslim world spread between 600 and 1250?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will follow the amazing rise and spread of Islam, whose followers conquered lands on three continents while also preserving and furthering learning in many areas.

SECTION 1 The Rise of Islam
Main Idea Muhammad unified the Arab people both politically and through the religion of Islam.

SECTION 2 Islam Expands
Main Idea In spite of internal conflicts, the Muslims created a huge empire that included lands on three continents.

SECTION 3 Muslim Culture
Main Idea Muslims combined and preserved the traditions of many peoples and also advanced learning in a variety of areas.

Previewing Themes

RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS | Islam, a monotheistic religion begun by Muhammad, developed during the 600s. Its followers, called Muslims, spread Islam through Southwest and Central Asia, parts of Africa, and Europe.

Geography Study the timeline and the map. What were some of the major cities of the Muslim world? Locate them on the map.

EMPIRE BUILDING | The leaders following Muhammad built a huge empire that by A.D. 750 included millions of people from diverse ethnic, language, and religious groups.

Geography How did the location of the Arabian Peninsula—the origin of the Muslim world—promote empire building?

CULTURAL INTERACTION | Tolerance of conquered peoples and an emphasis on learning helped to blend the cultural traits of people under Muslim rule.

Geography How far might cultural interaction have spread if the Muslims had won a key battle at Tours in 732?

The Muslim World

Empire Building
Four major Muslim caliphates build empires on parts of three continents.
- 661–750: Umayyad caliphate
- 750–1258: Abbasid caliphate
- 756–976: Umayyads of al-Andalus (Spain)
- 909–1171: Fatimid caliphate (North Africa, Egypt, Western Arabia, and Syria)

Culture
Muslim scholars preserve, blend, and expand knowledge, especially in mathematics, astronomy, architecture, and medical science.

Religion
- Muhammad receives revelations from Allah.
- The Five Pillars of Islam are Muslims’ basic religious duties.
- The sources of authority—the Qur’an and the Sunna—guide daily life.
- Islam divides into several branches, including Sunni and Shi’a.
Social History

Muslim Prayer

Five times a day—dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and evening—Muslims face toward Mecca to pray. Worshippers are called to prayer by a muezzin. The call to prayer sometimes is given from a minaret and even over public address systems or the radio in large cities.

Because they believe that standing before Allah places them on holy ground, Muslims perform a ritual cleansing before praying. They also remove their shoes.

Basic Differences Between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunni</th>
<th>Shi'a</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Believe that the first four caliphs were “rightly guided”</td>
<td>Believe that Ali Muhammad's son-in-law, should have succeeded him</td>
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<tr>
<td>Believe that Muslim rulers should follow the Sunna, or Muhammad's example</td>
<td>Believe that all Muslim rulers should be descended from Muhammad; do not recognize the authority of the Sunna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claim that the Shi'a have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur'an</td>
<td>Claim that the Sunni have distorted the meaning of various passages in the Qur'an</td>
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</table>

Percentage Today of Sunni and Shi'a Muslims Worldwide

- Sunni: 80%
- Shi'a: 16%
- Other: 4%
The Rise of Islam

Terms and Names

- **Allah**: One God of Islam
- **Muhammad**: Founder of Islam
- **Islam**: Religion based on submission to Allah
- **Muslim**: Follower of the religion 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 section, you read about early civilizations in South America.

In this section, 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 (Pages 263–264)

*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 came to Mecca to worship at an ancient shrine called the Ka’aba.

1. When and how did trade become important?

MUHAMMAD, PROPHET OF ISLAM (Pages 264–265)

*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 (Pages 267–268)
What do Muslims believe and practice?

Muslims have five duties to perform. 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.

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 the 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 that 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.

3. What are the five duties of Muslims?
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>EFFECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What were Muhammad’s revelations?</td>
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<td>2. Why were Muhammad’s ideas unpopular in Mecca?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. In what way(s) was the Hijrah a turning point?</td>
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<td>4. Why was Muhammad’s return to Mecca important?</td>
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### Beliefs and Practices of Islam

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<tr>
<th>CAUSE</th>
<th>EFFECTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. What does Islam teach its followers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. How does carrying out the Five Pillars and other laws of Islam affect the daily lives of Muslims?</td>
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<td>7. How did observing Islamic teachings create unity among Muslims?</td>
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<td>8. How did Islamic law affect Muslim attitudes toward Christians and Jews?</td>
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Islam Expands

Terms and Names

caliph  Highest political and religious leader in a Muslim government

Umayyads  Dynasty that ruled the Muslim Empire from A.D. 661 to 750

Shi'a  Branch of Islam whose members believe the first four caliphs are the rightful successors of Muhammad

Sunni  Branch of Islam whose members believe Ali and his descendants are the rightful successors of Muhammad

Sufi  Muslim who tries to achieve direct contact with God

Abbasids  Dynasty that ruled much of the Muslim Empire from A.D. 750 to 1258

al-Andalus  Muslim-ruled area in what is now Spain

Fatimid  Member of a Muslim dynasty that traced its ancestry to Muhammad’s daughter Fatima

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the rise of Islam.

In this section, you will read about the spread of Islam.

As You Read

Use a chart to summarize developments that occurred in Islam during the rule of the rightly guided caliphs, the Umayyads, and the Abbasids.

MUHAMMAD’S SUCCESSORS
SPREAD ISLAM (Pages 269–270)

How did other leaders spread Islam?

When Muhammad died, his followers elected a new leader, Abu-Bakr. He had been loyal to Muhammad. He was given the title caliph. This means “successor” or “deputy.” A successor is a person who comes after and takes the place of someone else. A deputy is an assistant who acts on behalf of a leader who is absent.

Abu-Bakr reacted quickly when a group of Arabs abandoned Islam. He defeated them in battle over a two-year period. Abu-Bakr died soon after. But his army began to conquer new lands. By 750, the Muslim Empire stretched from the Indus River in India west to the Atlantic Ocean.

Many of the people conquered by the Muslims accepted Islam. Some found the message of Islam appealing. Others liked the fact that by becoming Muslims they avoided paying a tax put only on non-Muslims. But the Qur’an prevented Muslims from forcing others to accept the religion. Muslim rulers allowed people to follow whatever beliefs they chose.

1. How did Abu-Bakr spread Islam?

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INTERNAL CONFLICT CREATES A CRISIS (Pages 270–271)

What disagreements arose?

After the murder of a ruling caliph in 656, different Muslim groups began to struggle for control of the empire. Ali, a cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad, was chosen caliph. After a few years, he was also killed. The system of electing caliphs died with him.

A family known as the Umayyads took control of the empire. They did not follow the simple life of earlier caliphs. Instead, they surrounded themselves with wealth. This created a split in the Muslim community.

Most Muslims accepted Umayyad rule. But a different view of the office of caliph also developed. The Shi’a group—the “party” of the deceased Ali—felt that caliphs needed to be relatives of Muhammad. Those who did not openly resist Umayyad rule became known as the Sunni. Among them were many Muslims who felt that the Umayyads had lost touch with their religion. Another group, the Sufi, reacted to the Umayyads’ life of luxury. The Sufis emphasized a more spiritual way of life.

2. How did the Shi’a and Sunni groups arise?

CONTROL EXTENDS OVER THREE CONTINENTS (Pages 271–272)

What Muslim states arose?

After 750, there were Muslim caliphates on three continents. The Abbasids (750–1258) took power and murdered members of the Umayyad family.

The Abbasids controlled the lands of modern Iraq, Iran, and central Asia. They built the city of Baghdad in southern Iraq as their capital. They used their location to control the rich trade between China and Europe.

One Umayyad prince escaped the murders and went to Spain. Muslims known as Berbers already lived there. The prince set up a Muslim state called al-Andalus. The Umayyads of al-Andalus (756–976) controlled parts of Spain and North Africa. Another Muslim state—the Fatimid caliphate (909–1171)—sprang up in North Africa. This caliphate spread to western Arabia and Syria. Although the Muslims were divided politically, all of the different communities were linked by religion, language, culture, and trade.

3. Who were the Abbasids?
In the years following the death of Muhammad, the Muslims created a huge empire. Take notes to answer the questions about how Muhammad’s successors spread Islam during this period of expansion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The “Rightly Guided” Caliphs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What did the “Rightly Guided” caliphs use as guides to leadership?</td>
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<td>2. What changes did they make during their rule?</td>
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<td>3. Why were they successful in their quest to expand the empire and spread Islam?</td>
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<th>The Umayyads</th>
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<tr>
<td>4. What ended the elective system of choosing a caliph?</td>
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<td>5. What changes did the Umayyads make during their rule?</td>
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<td>6. What led to the downfall of the Umayyads?</td>
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<th>The Abbasids</th>
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<tr>
<td>7. How did the Abbasids come to power?</td>
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<td>8. What changes did they make during their rule?</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. What major problem did the Abbasids face?</td>
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Muslim Culture

Terms and Names

**House of Wisdom** Center of learning established in Baghdad in the 800s

**calligraphy** Art of beautiful handwriting

Before You Read

In the last section, you read about the expansion of Islam.

In this section, you will read about the cultural achievements of Muslim society.

As You Read

Use a web diagram to take notes on the key elements of Muslim culture.

**MUSLIM SOCIETY** (Pages 273–274)

*Where and how did Muslims live?*

The Muslim Empire included people of many different lands and cultures. Major cities arose in the Muslim world. They included Córdoba and Cairo, centers of Muslim rule in Spain and North Africa, and Baghdad, the Abbasid capital.

Muslim society was divided into four groups. At the top were people who were Muslims from birth. Next came those who converted to Islam. The third group included Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians—protected because Muslims shared some of their beliefs. The fourth group was slaves, none of whom were Muslims.

According to Muslim law, women should obey men. But Muslim women still enjoyed more rights than did those living in European society at the time. The Qur'an gave Muslim women some economic and property rights. In early Muslim society, women could also have an education and take part in public life. Later they lost those rights.

1. Name the four groups of Muslim society.

**MUSLIM SCHOLARSHIP EXTENDS KNOWLEDGE** (Pages 274–276)

*How did Muslim scholars keep learning alive?*

Muslims placed a high value on learning and scholarship. Muslim scholars added much to human knowledge. Europe was in chaos and much of the knowledge of Europeans was in danger of being lost.

During this time, Muslim scholars collected ancient Greek, Indian, and Persian works of science and philosophy. The scholars translated these works into Arabic. One center of this study was the **House of Wisdom** in Baghdad. Later, this ancient learning returned to Europe when the works of Muslim scholars were translated.
2. Explain how Muslim scholars helped save the learning of the West.

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ARTS AND SCIENCES FLOURISH
(Pages 276–278)
What were some achievements of Muslim society?

Literature was a strong tradition before Islam. Later, the Qur’an became the standard for all Arabic literature and poetry. The collection The Thousand and One Nights included many entertaining stories, fairy tales, and legends.

Muslims had their own special practices in art. For instance, artists could not draw pictures of people. Only Allah, the religion said, could create life. Unable to draw these images, Muslims developed a new art form. They practiced calligraphy, or the art of beautiful handwriting.

Muslim scholars made great advances in medicine and mathematics. The physician al-Razi wrote an encyclopedia that collected all that was known about medicine from Greece to India. In science, Muslims studied the work of ancient Greek scientists but used logic rather than experiments to reach conclusions. One Muslim scientist made new discoveries about how people see. His findings helped lead to the invention of the telescope and microscope. A mathematician named al-Khwarizmi wrote a textbook that developed algebra.

3. Name four achievements of Muslim scientists and mathematicians.

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PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION
BLEND VIEWS (Pages 278–279)
How did philosophy blend with Islam?

Philosophers at the House of Wisdom also translated works of the ancient Greek philosophers. Muslim philosopher Ibn Rushd was criticized for trying to join their ideas with Muslim ideas. But he argued that Greek philosophy and Islam both searched for the truth. The Jewish philosopher Maimonides, who lived in the Muslim Empire, was also criticized for his ideas. He wrote a book that blended philosophy, religion, and science. Philosophers reflected the different people who lived in the Muslim Empire. Muslims came to recognize the value of their differences.

4. Why was Ibn Rushd criticized?

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As you read about Muslim culture, write notes to help you summarize Muslim achievements in each area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Muslim society</th>
<th>2. Medicine, math, and science</th>
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<th>3. Philosophy</th>
<th>4. Literature and the arts</th>
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