

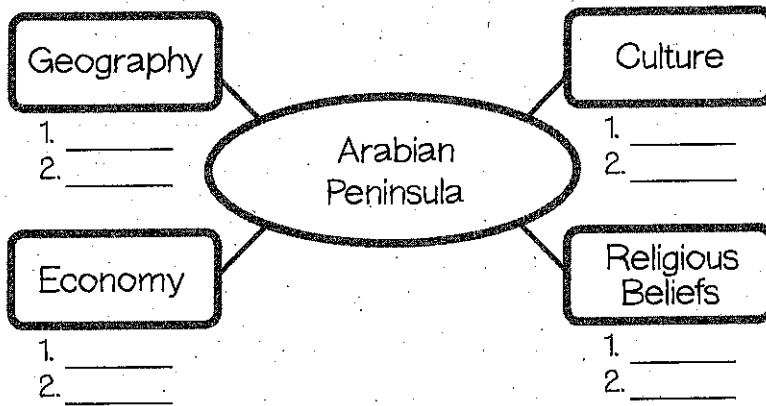
## CHAPTER 3 | LESSON 1 Life on the Arabian Peninsula

**Lesson 1 Life on the Arabian Peninsula****BEFORE YOU READ**

In this lesson, you will learn about how the Arabian Peninsula influenced the way of life of the Arab people.

**AS YOU READ**

Use this cluster diagram to take notes about life on the Arabian Peninsula. Answering the question at the end of each section will help you fill in the chart.

**TERMS & NAMES**

- **nomad** people who move from place to place instead of settling permanently
- **oasis** a desert area that contains water
- **clan** families of people related by blood or marriage
- **Allah** in Islam, the name of God
- **monotheism** belief in a single God
- **pilgrimage** a journey to a sacred place

**A Desert Culture**

(pages 85–86)

*How did the geography of the Arabian peninsula encourage a nomadic way of life?*

The deserts of the Arabian Peninsula cover hundreds of thousands of square miles. One of the largest of these deserts is called the Rub al Khali. Rub al Khali is an Arabic word. It means “the empty quarter.”

The Arabian Peninsula is a region of southwest Asia. It lies between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. It is about one-fourth the size of the United States. The region is very dry. Only a small amount of land receives enough water to support farming.

Arab herders called Bedouins have lived on this land for centuries. Bedouins are **nomads**. They move from place to place to find water and grazing land for their herds. This movement happens within a fixed area. The path that Bedouins follow is affected by

the type of landscape they must cross, the amount of rainfall, and the location of the **oasis**, a desert area that contains water.

Bedouins interacted with people who lived at oases. These people did not move from place to place. Instead, they remain settled at their oasis. These settled people gave Bedouins food and clothes. In return, the Bedouins protected them from other Bedouins.

Bedouins organized themselves into groups called **clans**. Clans provided security in the harsh desert. Bedouins were proud of their fighting skills. The fighting skills of the Bedouin also helped them to serve the Islamic Empire. They became the core of the army that helped form this empire.

1. Why does the Arabian peninsula have small amounts of farming?

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## READING STUDY GUIDE CONTINUED

**Crossroads of Three Continents**

(pages 87–88)

*What made the Arabian peninsula important for trade?*

The Arabian Peninsula is in a good location for trade. It is a crossroads of three continents—Asia, Africa, and Europe. Also, bodies of water surround it.

Many Arabs had moved to market towns or oases by the early 600s. Market towns grew into cities because of trade. Larger cities became centers for local, regional, and long-distance trade. These cities were located near the western coast of Arabia.

Other areas, such as larger oases, prospered because they supported farming. Oases were also important for trade. They became stops along trade routes. Mecca and Medina were such oasis cities.

Sea and land routes connected Arabia to major trade centers. Products and inventions from three continents moved along these routes. Camel caravans transported these goods. Merchants traded animals, textiles, paper, steel, and crops.

Trade was also important in cultural exchange. Merchants carried information, as well as products. For example, trade helped to spread Judaism and Christianity.

2. Why is the Arabian Peninsula in a good location for trade?

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**The Holy City of Mecca**

(pages 88–89)

*Why was Mecca important as a religious center?*

Mecca was important as a trading center. But it was important as a religious center as well. Caravans stopped in Mecca during certain holy months. They brought people who came to worship at a religious shrine called the Ka'aba.

Arabs connected the Ka'aba with a Biblical figure named Abraham. Abraham is important in Jewish and Christian religions. Arabs believed that Abraham and his son Ishmael built the Ka'aba. They built it, Arabs believed, as a reminder of their faith in one God. This one God is called **Allah** in Arabic. The belief in a single God is called **monotheism**.

Other Arabs believed in many gods. Many of these Arabs lived in the desert. Over the years, they began to worship at the Ka'aba. Each year, people flocked to Mecca from all over the peninsula to worship at the Ka'aba. This journey to a sacred place is called a **pilgrimage**.

Many Jews and Christians lived in Arab lands. Some Arabs blended Christian and Jewish beliefs with their own traditions. It was into this environment of religious diversity that Muhammad was born. He was born in Mecca in A.D. 570. Muhammad became the prophet of the Islamic religion.

3. What religious traditions were practiced on the Arabian Peninsula before 570?

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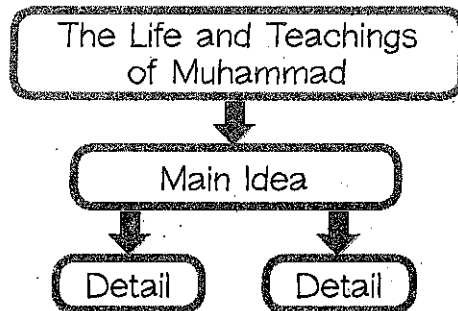
## Lesson 2 Islam and Muhammad

### BEFORE YOU READ

In this lesson, you will learn about the Prophet Muhammad and the beliefs and practices of Islam.

### AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes about the life of Muhammad, the beliefs of Islam, and the sources of Islamic authority. Answering the questions at the end of each section will help you fill the chart.



### TERMS & NAMES

- **Islam** Monotheistic religion based on the teachings of Muhammad
- **Muslim** Follower of Islam
- **Hijrah** Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Yathrib (Medina)
- **Qur'an** Muslim holy book, which contains God's revelations to Muhammad
- **Sunnah** Islamic guide for proper living, based on the words and deeds of Muhammad
- **mosque** Building used for Muslim worship

### The Life and Teachings of Muhammad

(pages 93–94)

*Why did Muhammad spread Islam?*

Muhammad was born in A.D. 570. He was orphaned as a child and had to work in the caravan trade. He married at the age of 25. Eventually, Muhammad became a successful merchant.

At about the age of 40, Muhammad's life changed. He spent time praying on nearby Mount Hira. One day, he thought he heard the Angel Gabriel call to him. The angel said, "You are the Messenger of God." Soon Muhammad began preaching that there was only one God (Allah in Arabic). He also taught that all other gods must be rejected. People who agreed with this basic belief of **Islam** were called **Muslims**.

Muhammad's preaching had little success at first. So, in 622, he left Mecca with some supporters. They moved to the town of Yathrib. Yathrib was 200 miles north of Mecca. This

move is called the **Hijrah**. Later, Muhammad's followers renamed the town Medina. There, Muhammad's teachings won many converts.

Muhammad and 10,000 of his followers returned to Mecca. They forced the city to surrender. Muhammad then went to the shrine known as the Ka'aba. He dedicated the shrine to Allah.

Muhammad was a strong religious leader. He was also a talented political and military leader. In Medina, Muhammad united his followers with the town's other Arabs and the Jews. Later, Muhammad made treaties of alliance with nomadic tribes. He used his military abilities to spread Islam. Muhammad died in 632. By this time, he had unified much of the Arabian peninsula under Islam.

1. How did Muhammad's life change at about the age of 40?

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## READING STUDY GUIDE CONTINUED

**Islamic Beliefs, Practices, and Law**

(pages 94–95)

*How do the teachings of Islam provide laws and guidelines for religious practice and everyday life?*

Muslims find guidance on how to live their lives in two sources of authority. Those sources are the **Qur'an** and the **Sunnah**.

The main teaching of Islam is that there is only one God, Allah. Muslims believe that the Angel Gabriel revealed God's will to Muhammad. Muhammad taught his followers these revelations. After he died, his followers collected the revelations in a book. This book is the Qur'an, the Muslim holy book.

Muslims believe that part of Muhammad's mission was to receive these revelations. Another part of his mission was to show how to apply them to life. Muhammad achieved this goal through his words and deeds. These words and deeds are recorded in a book called the Sunnah. Muslims use the Sunnah as a guide for proper living.

Scholars later organized the guidelines found in the Qur'an and Sunna into a system of law. These laws allow Muslims to apply the will of God to their daily lives.

Muslims follow the Five Pillars of Islam. The Five Pillars are duties that Muslims must perform to show their submission to God's will. Muslims also follow the Five Pillars of Islam to serve their community.

Other Islamic customs and laws affect daily lives. Believers are forbidden to eat pork. They are also forbidden to drink alcoholic beverages. Community worship takes place on Friday afternoons. Those who are able gather at a **mosque** to worship.

2. What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

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**Connections to Judaism and Christianity**

(pages 95–96)

*What are the connections between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity?*

Muslims trace the beginnings of their religion to Abraham. They believe he was a prophet of God. Jews and Christians also believe that Abraham was a prophet. To Muslims, Allah is the same God that is worshipped by Christians and Jews. But Muslims view Jesus as a prophet. They do not view Jesus as the son of God, as Christians do.

Christians and Jews both have holy books. Their teachings are similar to the Qur'an. Because of this, Muslims call both Christians and Jews "people of the book." Muslims believe the Qur'an is the word of God, as revealed to Muhammad. Jews and Christians also believe that God's word is revealed in their holy books. But Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the final holy book. They also think that Muhammad is the last prophet. All three religions believe in heaven, hell, and a final judgment day. Muslim law states that Muslims should tolerate the Jewish and Christian religions.

3. How do Muslims view the Qur'an?

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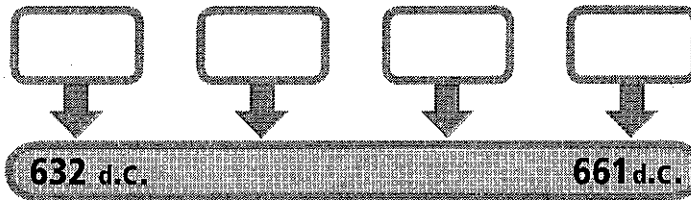
## CHAPTER 3 | LESSON 3 Islam After Muhammad's Death

**Lesson 3 Islam After Muhammad's Death****BEFORE YOU READ**

In the last lesson, you read about the Prophet Muhammad and Islam. In this lesson, you will learn how the Islamic Empire expanded and was governed after Muhammad's death.

**AS YOU READ**

Use this timeline to take notes about the expansion and rule of the Islamic Empire. Answering the question at the end of each section will help you fill in the chart.

**TERMS & NAMES**

- **caliph** the highest religious and political leader in a Muslim government
- **Shi'a** Muslim group that believed the caliph should be always be a relative of the Prophet Muhammad
- **Sunni** Muslim group that accepted the Umayyads and the rule of elected caliphs

**New Muslim Leaders Emerge**

(pages 99–100)

*Who were the leaders who spread Islam after Muhammed's death?*

Muhammad spread Islam across the Arabian Peninsula for more than 20 years. He had begun to establish an Islamic Empire. Then, in June 632, Muhammad died. Muslims were suddenly without a leader.

Muhammad had not named a successor. A successor is a person who replaces another person in an office or position. He also had not told his followers how to choose a successor. The Muslim community selected Abu-Bakr as Muhammad's successor. Abu-Bakr was respected for his devotion to Muhammad and to Islam.

In 632, Abu-Bakr became the first **caliph**, or "successor." Soon some clans on the Arabian Peninsula abandoned Islam. Others refused to pay taxes. A few individuals even declared themselves prophets. But Abu-Bakr reunited the Muslim community by using military force. He brought central Arabia

under Muslim control. He also started to conquer lands to the north. Abu-Bakr ruled only for two years.

1. What two major events happened in the Muslim community in 632?

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**First Four Caliphs**

(pages 100–101)

*How did the caliphs who expanded the Muslim Empire treat those they conquered?*

Abu Bakr and the next three caliphs had known Muhammad. They used the Qur'an and Muhammad's actions to guide them. Because of this, they are known to some Muslims as "rightly guided" caliphs. Their rule was called a caliphate.

Abu-Bakr died in 634. Muslims controlled most of Arabia by this time. Umar, the second elected caliph, ruled until 644. His armies conquered Syria and lower Egypt. These

## READING STUDY GUIDE CONTINUED

Muslim armies also took territory from the Persian Empire.

The next two caliphs were Uthman and Ali. They completed the conquest of Persia. They also conquered the rest of Southwest Asia and parts of North Africa. By 661, the size of the Islamic Empire had increased nearly four times. This expansion was done through conquest or by treaty.

Muslims saw the military victories as signs of Allah's support. They were energized by their faith. In battle, Muslim armies were disciplined and highly skilled.

The Muslims' success also resulted from weaknesses in the Byzantine and Persian empires. These two empires had been fighting each other for a long time. Their armies were exhausted. Also, the Byzantines and Persians persecuted people who did not support their religions. Persecuted people often welcomed Muslim invaders as liberators.

Many conquered people converted to Islam while under Muslim rule. They liked Islam's message of equality and salvation. There was also an economic benefit to converting. Muslims did not have to pay a poll tax. Muslims let conquered people keep their own religions, if they wished to do so.

Jews and Christians received special treatment because they were "people of the book." This treatment included being able to hold important roles in the Muslim state. But Jews and Christians were not allowed to spread their religion.

2. What regions did Muhammad's successors conquer by 661?

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## A Split in Islam

(pages 102–103)

*How did the issue of choosing leaders divide the Muslims?*

In 656, a group of rebels murdered Uthman. His murder started a civil war. The logical

choice for the next caliph was Ali. He was Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law. Mu'awiyah, a governor of Syria, challenged him. In 661, Ali was assassinated. The system of electing a caliph died with him.

A family known as the Umayyads took power. Mu'awiyah, a member of this family, became caliph. The Umayyads set up a hereditary dynasty. This meant that rulers would come from one family. The Umayyads also moved the Muslim capital from Medina to Damascus. Damascus was located in Syria. Its location made it easier to control conquered territories.

Arab Muslims felt Damascus was too far away from their lands. Some of them were also upset about the Umayyads' lifestyle. The Umayyads had abandoned the simple life of previous caliphs. Instead, they had surrounded themselves with wealth. These actions divided Muslims. The actions of the Umayyads also raised questions about how a leader should be chosen.

Most Muslims wanted peace. So they accepted the Umayyads' rule. But a minority resisted. They believed that the caliph should always be a relative of the Prophet. This group was called **Shi'a**, meaning the "party" of Ali. Its members were called Shiites. Those who accepted the Umayyads and the rule of the elected caliphs were called **Sunnis**. This meant followers of Muhammad's example.

This split in the Muslim community became permanent. It led to the collapse of Umayyad rule.

3. What happened in 661 that greatly changed the governing of the Islamic Empire?

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