

Islam Vocabulary



Key Terms:

Ka'aba: An ancient Islamic shrine

Islam: A monotheistic religion practiced by Muslims; means "submission to the will of Allah"

Hijrah: The migration of Muhammad from Mecca to Medina; marks year one of the Islamic calendar

Dome of the Rock: Islamic monument in Jerusalem containing the rock from which Muhammad ascended into heaven

Five Pillars of Islam: The five duties carried out by Muslims; include: Creed, prayer, alms, fasting, and pilgrimage

Mosque: Islamic house of worship

Hajj: A pilgrimage made by Muslims to Mecca

Qur'an (Koran): Islamic holy book containing the revelations of Muhammad; written in Arabic

Sunna: A model for proper living based on Muhammad's example

Shari'a: An Islamic law code that regulated family life, moral conduct, and business and community life

Jihad: An inner struggle against evil or an armed struggle against nonbelievers; means striving

Astrolabe: Scientific instrument used to calculate time, celestial events, and relative position

House of Wisdom: A library, academy, and translation center located in Baghdad

Calligraphy: The art of beautiful handwriting

The Thousand and One Nights: Islamic collection of fairy tales, parables, and legends

Ramadan: Sacred month during which Muslims fast from dawn until sunset. Celebrates the month when the Qur'an was revealed to Muhammad

Battle of Tours: Battle between the Moors and the French. Moors were defeated and retreat from France. Stops the spread of Islam into Western Europe

Minaret: Towers attached to mosques from which Muslims are called to prayer

Turn Over!! Important People on the back!!

Important People:

Bedouins: Arab nomads that lived in tribes or clans

Allah: Islamic name for God

Muhammad: Trader and business manager who received a vision of the angel Gabriel and founded the Islamic religion

Muslims: Followers of Islam; means “one who has submitted”

Caliph: Title of Islamic leader; means “successor”

Abu-Bakr: Friend of Muhammad who became the first caliph in 632 AD

Shi'a (Shi'ite): Group of Muslims who believe the caliph must be a descendant of Muhammad

Sunni: Group of Muslims who believe that any Muslim who follows Muhammad's example can be caliph

Sufi: Group of Muslims who pursued a life of poverty and devotion to a spiritual path

Imams: Islamic community leader who conducts prayers in a mosque

Al-Razi: Muslim physician who wrote an encyclopedia called Comprehensive Book and Treatise on smallpox and measles

Moors: Muslims living in Spain