



## What Did We Learn About?

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- The origins, beliefs, traditions, customs and spread of Islam
- Spread of Islam
- Historical turning points in Islam
- Cultural and scientific contributions of the Islamic civilization

WHI.8a

**Essential Question:** *Where did the Islamic religion originate? Where did it spread?*

The revelations of Muhammad form the basis of the Islamic religion, a monotheistic faith. Islam began on the Arabian Peninsula in the early Muslim cities of Mecca and Medina.

Muhammad and his followers spread Islam. It spread across Asia and Africa and into Spain.

**Essential Question:** *What are the beliefs, traditions, and customs of Islam?*

Islamic traditions and customs developed over centuries and created a distinctive Muslim culture.

Beliefs, traditions, and customs of Islam

- monotheism: Allah
- Holy book = the Qur'an (Koran)
- Five Pillars of Islam
- Acceptance of Judeo-Christian prophets including Moses and Jesus

WHI.8b

**Essential Question:** *How did geography influence the rapid expansion of territory under Muslim rule?*

In the first three centuries after Muhammad's death, Muslim rule expanded rapidly, overcoming geographic barriers, and facilitated by weakened political empires.

### Geographic influences on the origin and spread of Islam

- Diffusion along trade routes from Mecca to Medina
- Expansion despite great distances, desert environments, and mountain barriers
- Spread into Fertile Crescent, Iran, and Central Asia facilitated by weak Byzantine and Persian Empires

**Essential Question:** How did political and cultural geography facilitate trade and cultural activity in the early Islamic lands?

Political unity and the Arabic language facilitated trade and stimulated intellectual activity.

### Geographic influences on economic, social, and political development

- Political unity of the first Muslim empire was short-lived
- Arabic language spread with Islam and facilitated trade across Islamic lands
- Slavery was not based on race

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### WHI.8c

**Essential Question:** What were some major historical turning points that marked the spread and influence of Islamic civilization?

### Historical turning points

- Death of Ali led to the Sunni - shia division
- Muslim conquests of Jerusalem and Damascus
- Islamic capital moved to Baghdad
- Muslim defeat at the Battle of Tours
- Fall of Baghdad to the Mongols

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### WHI.8d

**Essential Question:** How did Islamic civilization preserve and extend ancient Greek, Persian, and Indian learning?

**Essential Question:** What were some contributions of Islamic civilization?

Early Islamic civilization was characterized by achievements in science and the arts that transformed the Islamic world and contributed to world civilization.

Cultural contributions and achievements

- Architecture – Dome of the Rock
- Mosaics
- Arabic alphabet
- Universities
- Translation of ancient texts into Arabic



Scientific contributions and achievements

- Arabic numerals – adapted from India, including zero
- Algebra
- Medicine
- Expansion of geographic knowledge

