Essential Question: Why was Islam able to spread so quickly and convert so many to the new religion?

I. Pre-Islam
- Islam = Arabic for “submission”
- Arabs began as nomads – people who move from place to place (Bedouins)
- Ubar established by nomad traders
  - 500 B.C.-300 A.D.
  - Very, very hot
  - Center for trade and business
  - Oasis provided city with water

The Geography of the Arabian Peninsula
- Arabian Peninsula stretches 1,300 miles from E-W.

Geography
- Surrounded by water – Mediterranean, Red & Arabian Seas, and the Persian Gulf

Geography
- Supports little agriculture thus farmland is very limited
- Farming done on a strip of land along the northern coastline and an area in the southern mountains

II. Islam Begins
- Arabs moved from Ubar to other oases when the water ran out
- Clans developed for security
- Large group of people with common ancestors
- Shaikh = leader of these tribes
- Religion develops
- Arabs believed in many gods
- Created idols to worship them
II. Islam Begins

- Mecca created to honor one god
  - Abraham ordered by God to build it
  - City became center of trade/worship
  - Contains Ka’bah
    - Cube-shaped shrine
    - Dedicated to one god (Monotheism)
    - Arabs/nomads journey to Mecca every year
      - Pilgrimage: Holy journey to a sacred place
    - Believed in many smaller gods that helped main deity

The Ka’bah

- The Ka’bah
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- The Ka’bah

Muhammad

- Background
  - Made journey to Mount Hira each yr.
  - Claimed he met Gabriel who took him to Allah
  - Muhammad spreads word after being to “recite” it by Gabriel
  - Given Koran by Angel Gabriel in 610 A.D.
    - Islamic Bible: 1st written record of God’s words?

- Muhammad spreads word
  - Christian God = Arabic Allah
  - Some rich families converted to Islam but most hated him
    - Angered Quraysh tried to kill him
  - Escaped to Medina in 622
    - Helped city to stop their civil war
    - Grateful citizens formed army to attack Mecca

- Conquered Mecca in 630 w/o fighting
  - Forgave all who opposed him
  - Other tribes began to follow him after Quraysh were defeated
  - Muslims celebrate this as first year in their calendar (0 A.H. – “Year of Hijra”)
- By his death (632 AD), Islam covered western Arabia
IV. What made Islam so appealing?
- Christians perceived by non-Christians as prejudiced. Muslims were not.
- Islam viewed as a simpler religion.
- Arabs were traders — it became profitable for non-Muslims to convert for business purposes.
- Easily “portable” — Islam ‘traded’ on the trade routes.
- Muslim armies were adept at desert fighting.

V. Islam After Muhammad
- Muhammad’s death created arguments over the rightful heir to his leadership.
- Caused divisions within Islam that persist to this day.
  - Sunnis: Caliph should be chosen by those close to Muhammad — not a direct relative of Muhammad.
  - Shia: Only a direct descendent of Muhammad could become Caliph.

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VI. The Most Muslims (85%) are Sunni.
- Disagreement led to internal battles and assassinations of leaders, but Islam spread rapidly throughout the Middle East and into Europe.
- Expansion stopped in France at the Battle of Tours in 732 AD.

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VI. The Judeo-Christian Foundations of Islam
- Muslims are strict monotheists.
- They believe in the Judeo-Christian God, which they call Allah.
- Muslims believe that the Torah and the Bible, like the Qur’an, is the word of God.
- Peoples of the Book

The Prophetic Tradition
- Adam
- Noah
- Abraham
- Moses
- Jesus
- Muhammad

The Mosque
- The Muslim place of worship.

‘Non-aligned Practices’
- In ancient times, up to four wives allowed at once, provided law allows.
- No alcohol or pork.
- No gambling.
- Jesus — Not the son of God, merely a prophet.
- Three holiest cities in Islam: Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem.
The Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem

Mount Moriah Rock where Muhammad ascended into heaven.

Muslims in the World Today

Countries with the Largest Muslim Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>183,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>134,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>121,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>114,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>86,000,000</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Iran</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>31,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>29,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VI. Arabs make up only 20% of the total Muslim population of the world.

VII. Islam in America

Essential Question:
Why was Islam able to spread so quickly and convert so many to the new religion?

Muslims in America

What are Islamic extremists’ main complaints against America?

- American support of Israel which, in their view, unlawfully invaded & occupied Palestine, a former Islamic territory.
- American moral decadence despite its reputation as a “Christian” nation.
- The Crusades (1095) soured views of Christianity, which is the dominant religion of the US.
Student Questions
- Differences between Islam/Muslim?
  - Muslims are people who worship Islam
- Why aren’t women allowed to show their faces?
  - Depends on the country, but most wear to cover most parts of themselves because the Qur’an says so — some countries view them as second-rate
- Where is Islam located?
  - No country — Islam is a religion
- Why do they wear turbans?
  - Keeps harsh weather away from faces

Student Questions
- What holidays are celebrated?
  - Muhammad’s birthday, Koran memorization, birth, fasting
- What time zone is Islam located?
  - No one time zone
- Do they have modern technology?
  - Yes; not evenly distributed among people
- Why no girlfriends until marriage?
  - Not accepted in their society; Koran

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