A highly decorated Islamic ceramic lamp

A page from the Quran

500 A.D.–1300 A.D.

- Muhammad born 570 A.D.
- Muhammad flees from Makkah to Yathrib 622 A.D.
- Moors invade Spain 710 A.D.
- Abbasids become rulers of Arab Empire 750 A.D.
- Ottoman dynasty founded in Asia Minor c. 1290 A.D.

UNIT 7 EMERGENCE OF NEW EMPIRES
Chapter Focus

Read to Discover

- How Islam developed around the teachings of Muhammad.
- What religious beliefs are held by Muslims.
- How Islam spread beyond the Arabian Peninsula.
- What early Islamic life was like.
- What the Arab Empire contributed to science, mathematics, medicine, and the arts.

Why It’s Important

Between the northeast coast of Africa and central Asia lies the Arabian Peninsula. The people who live there are known as Arabs. At one time, most were Bedouins (bed’ uh wuhnz). They were herdsmen who roamed the desert in search of grass and water for their camels, goats, and sheep. They lived in tents woven from camel or goat hair.

Bedouin warriors during the 600s raided other peoples and fought one another over pastures and springs. They valued their camels and swords above all else. They enjoyed poetry and music. They believed in many gods.

In the 600s, a religion called Islam (is’ luhm) began in the mountainous area of western Arabia known as the Hejaz (hej az’). Within 100 years, an Arab empire based on Islamic beliefs had developed. It controlled an area larger than that of the Roman Empire.

Terms to Learn
- pillars of faith
- mosque
- imam
- hajj
- alchemists

People to Know
- Muhammad
- al-Idrisi
- ar-Rāzi
- Omar Khayyám
- Ibn Khaldun

Places to Locate
- Makkah
- Madina (Yathrib)
- Damascus
- Baghdad

SECTION 1 Islam

The word “Islam” is an Arabic word. It means “the act of submitting, or giving oneself over, to the will of God.” The Islamic faith was founded by an Arab merchant named Muhammad (mō ham’ id). Muhammad came to be known as the prophet of Allah (ahl’ uh). The word “Allah” is an Arabic word meaning
Muhammad 570 A.D.–632 A.D.

Prophet of Islam

Muhammad is one of the great figures in world history. His revelations and teachings form the basis of Islam, a faith that now claims more than one billion followers. While living in Yathrib (Madina), he established a model for future Islamic states in which religious leaders oversee government. His appeal for Islamic unity helped Muhammad to extend his Islamic state to the entire Arabian Peninsula.

“the God.” Muhammad called those who followed his faith Muslims, which means “followers of Islam.”

Islam shook the foundations of Byzantium and Persia, the two most powerful civilizations of the time. It brought into its fold people from different races and continents. It came to shape a way of life for one of every seven persons on Earth.

Makkah (Mecca)  By the middle of the 500s, three major towns had developed in the Hejaz. They were Yathrib (yath’ ruhb), Taif (tah’ if), and Makkah (mak’ uh). Of the three, Makkah was the largest and the richest.

Makkah was supported by trade and religion. Traders stopped there for food and water on their way north to Constantinople. Arab pilgrims, or travelers to a religious shrine, came there to worship. Arabia’s holiest shrine, the Ka’bah (kah’ buh), stood in the center of Makkah. It was a low, cube-shaped building surrounded by 360 idols. A black stone believed to have fallen from paradise was set in one of its walls. Nearby was a holy well.

Muslims believe that the Ka’bah was first built by Adam. Later, Abraham and his son, Ishmael, rebuilt it. They had dedicated it to the worship of the one God. Later, however, people filled it with idols that represented the gods and goddesses of different tribes.

Muhammad  In 570, Muhammad was born to a widow of a respectable clan in Makkah. When he was six years old, his mother died, and he went to live with an uncle. When he reached his teens, he began working as a business person. At the age of 25, he married a rich 40-year-old widow named Khad’juh (kahd’ yuh).

Muhammad was very successful in the caravan business. He was troubled, however, by the drinking, gambling, and corruption in Makkah. He began spending much time alone in a cave on a hillside outside the city. There, he thought and fasted. He decided that the people of Makkah had been led into evil by their belief in false gods. He concluded that there was only one God, Allah, the same god as the God of the Jews and the Christians.

In 610, Muhammad had a revelation, or vision. It is said that, when he was meditating in the cave, an angel appeared and ordered him to read some writing. According to Muslim tradition, he heard the voice of the angel Gabriel (gâ’ brē uhl) telling him to preach about God. Muhammad told Khad’juh what had happened. She went to see a holy man, hoping he could explain the meaning of Muhammad’s story. The holy man told her that the heavenly visitor was the same one who had visited Moses and other prophets and that Muhammad was to be the prophet of his people.
In 613, Muhammad began to preach to the people of Makkah. He told them that there is only one God, Allah, before whom all believers are equal. He urged the rich to share with the poor. Muhammad saw life as a preparation for the Day of Judgment, or the day on which people would rise from the dead to be judged for their actions on Earth.

At first, the rich leaders of Makkah laughed at Muhammad. As he continued to preach, however, they began to feel threatened. They were afraid that people would stop coming to Makkah to worship at the Ka’bah. When pilgrims visited Makkah, they spent money on meals and clothing. The leaders thought that if fewer pilgrims came to Makkah, the city’s economy would be ruined. Then, the leaders would no longer be rich. Because of this fear, they started persecuting Muhammad and his followers.

In 620, Muhammad preached to a group of pilgrims from Yathrib. They invited him to come there and be their leader. During the summer of 622, he and several hundred of his followers fled from Makkah to Yathrib. The year 622, called *Anno Hijrah* (ənˈ oʊ hi jɪˈ ruh), or “Year of the Migration,” became the first year of the Muslim calendar. The city of Yathrib was renamed Madinat al-Nabi, “the city of the prophet,” or Madina.

In Madina, Muhammad proved himself an able leader. He gave the people a government that united them and made them
The people of Makkah were very angry with Muhammad’s success in Madina. With far superior armies, they invaded Madina several times to crush the newly established Muslim community. The Muslims defended their city with great courage every time. In 628, Muhammad signed a peace treaty with the people of Makkah, which they violated in 630. It was in that year that Muhammad and his companions triumphantly entered their home city, Makkah. Their conquest was peaceful. Muhammad issued general forgiveness to all who had persecuted and opposed him. Within two years, all the tribes of Arabia declared their faith in Islam and their loyalty to Muhammad. In 632 Muhammad died.

**The Quran**  
As Muhammad preached, his followers wrote down or memorized his teachings. After Muhammad’s death, his successor Abu Bakr ordered Muslims to retrieve those teachings wherever they could be found. It took 20 years to compile the teachings into the Quran, the Muslim scriptures followed today. At the heart of Islam is the Quran (kō ran’), or Muslim scriptures. Muslims believe it is the direct word of God as revealed to Muhammad. For this reason, they feel they should follow it exactly.

The Quran is written in Arabic. It tells how good Muslims should live. They should not eat pork, drink liquor, or gamble. The Quran also gives advice on marriage, divorce, inheritance, and business.
The Quran describes the **pillars of faith**, or the five duties all Muslims must fulfill. The first duty is the confession of faith. All Muslims must recite the Islamic creed that states, “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.”

The second duty deals with prayer. Muslims must pray five times a day, facing Makkah each time. The prayers are said at dawn, noon, late afternoon, sunset, and evening. The prayers can be said anywhere. The only exception is the Friday noon prayer. It is usually recited at a **mosque** (mosk), or Muslim house of worship. There, believers are led by an **imam** (i mam’), or prayer leader.

The third duty has to do with the giving of **zakah**, or charity. This is a donation that every Muslim has to give at the rate of 2.5 percent of his or her annual savings. It can be given to needy people or to institutions that are involved in education and social services.

---

**ISLAMIC FAITH**

Muslims learn the teachings of the Quran at an early age. A child in the photograph (left) studies passages from the Quran. From the prayer tower (right) of each mosque, announcers call the people to prayer. **What are the five duties that all Muslims must fulfill called?**

---

**Reading Check**

What are the **pillars of faith**?

**Reading Check**

What is a **mosque**, and what does an **imam** do there? What action is called for in the giving of **zakah**?
The fourth duty deals with fasting. The young, sick people, pregnant women, and travelers do not have to fast. Everyone else, however, must fast each year during the daylight hours of the holy month of Ramadan (ram’ uh dahn).

The fifth duty involves a pilgrimage. Each able Muslim, at least once in his or her lifetime, must travel to Makkah two months after Ramadan. The journey is called the hajj (haj). For three days, Muslims from all over the world come together for ceremonies and sacrifice.

The Quran promises that all believers who fulfill their duties will go to Paradise, which has shade, fruit trees, beautiful flower gardens, cold springs, and singing birds. Hell is a flame-filled pit where drinking water comes from a salty well and where food is a strong-smelling plant that causes hunger.

**Reading Check**
What religious duty is performed in the hajj?

**Section 1 Assessment**

1. **Define:** pilgrims, pillars of faith, mosque, imam, zakah, hajj.
2. According to Muslim tradition, what caused Muhammad to begin his preachings?
3. What does the Quran say will happen after death?

**Critical Thinking**
4. **Identifying Cause and Effect** What effect did the rise of Islam have on Byzantium and Persia?

**Graphic Organizer Activity**
5. Draw this diagram, and use it to summarize the five pillars of faith.

---

**SECTION 2**

The Arab Empire

When Muhammad died in 632, his followers needed a new leader. Without someone to guide them, the community could have broken up, and the faith could have been lost. A group of Muslims chose a new leader whom they called khalifa, or caliph (kā’ lif), which means “successor.”

**The Rightly Guided Caliphs** The first caliph was Abu Bakr (uh bu’ bak’ uhr), Muhammad’s father-in-law and close friend. Bakr and the next three caliphs were elected for life. These caliphs ruled from Madina. They kept in close touch with the people and asked advice of their most trusted friends. For this reason, they were called the Rightly Guided Caliphs.
The Rightly Guided Caliphs honored Muhammad’s wish to carry Islam to other peoples. They sent warriors into Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Persia, Egypt, and North Africa. Throughout all these places, the Arabs were victorious.

The Arabs were successful for many reasons. Islam held them together. They were united in striving for a common goal which they considered holy—to carry Islam to other people. Their religious beliefs helped them fight against the enemies of their religion. Arab warriors believed that struggling on behalf of Islam earned them an eternal place in Paradise if they died in battle. Arab leaders were mentally and physically tough. They planned and carried out attacks. They also handled their camels and horses with great skill.

The Arab way of treating the people they conquered also contributed to their success. Those who gave in without a fight had to pay taxes. In return, the Arabs protected them and allowed them to keep their land. Those who fought and were defeated not only had to pay taxes, but also lost their land.

**The Umayyads**  
Ali, Muhammad’s son-in-law and the last of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, was killed in 661. Mu’awiyah (mü uh’ wi yuh), the new caliph, moved the capital from Madina to Damascus and founded the Umayyad (u mı’ yuhd) Dynasty. From that time on, the title of caliph was hereditary.

---

**MAP STUDY**

**THE WORLD IN SPATIAL TERMS**

By 750 the Muslims ruled a vast empire that extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indus River. Which caliphs added most of the territory in Asia?

---

**The Expansion of Islam**

![Map of the Expansion of Islam](image)
The Umayyads ruled more like kings than religious leaders. They reorganized the government and made Arabic the official language. They minted the first Arab money. They set up horseback postal routes. They repaired and maintained irrigation canals. They also built beautiful mosques and encouraged the arts.

Many of these changes helped the people of the empire. However, the Umayyads had social and economic troubles that, in the end, led to their downfall. The conquered people who became Muslim complained that they were not treated the same as those who were born Muslim. They received less money for serving in the army. They also had to pay higher taxes.

The Muslims themselves divided into two groups. The smaller group was called the Shi’ah (shē’ ah). Its followers, called Shi’ites (shē’ı̂ts), believed the office of caliph should be held only by descendants of Ali. The larger group, called the Sunni (sūn’ ē), followed the Rightly Guided Caliphs and the caliphs after them. After a while, war broke out between the Umayyads and a group of Muslims called Abbasids (uh’ bas uhdz). In 750, the Abbasids defeated the Umayyads. They then became the new rulers of the Arab Empire.

The Abbasids

The Abbasids ruled the Arab Empire from 750 to 1258. Their first 100 years in power was known as the Golden Age of Islam.

The Abbasids built a new capital called Baghdad (bag’ dad) on the east bank of the Tigris River. The city was designed by a Jewish astronomer and a Persian engineer. Over 100,000 people worked four years to build it.

Baghdad was built in the shape of a circle. Around it were three huge, sloping brick walls and a deep moat, or wide ditch filled with water. Each wall had four large gates linked together by two highways that crossed in the center of the city. At that point stood the great mosque and the caliph’s magnificent palace. A number of public officials had luxurious homes there also. The highways divided Baghdad into four pie-shaped sections. From the gates, each highway led to a different part of the empire.

Under the Abbasids, all that remained of Arab influence was the Arabic language and the Islamic religion. The name Arab no longer meant only a person from Arabia. It meant any subject of the empire who spoke Arabic.

The Abbasids created the government post of vizier (vi zir’), or chief adviser. The person serving as vizier stood between the throne and the people. He took charge of running the empire and chose the governors of the provinces.

The Abbasids did not try to conquer new lands. Instead, they made Baghdad one of the major trading centers of the world. Improved trade between countries led to a fresh
CHAPTER 22 THE SPREAD OF ISLAM

The exchange of ideas. Many writers and philosophers flocked to Baghdad. The Syrian Christians and Jews were instructed by the caliph to translate Greek writings into Arabic. Other scholars translated Indian literature into Arabic. The world’s store of knowledge advanced greatly. Mathematical and scientific achievements were recorded. Mathematicians adapted numeric systems developed by the Guptas of India which are still in use today. Practical applications of this mathematics were used.

Life in the empire changed. Advanced farming methods were used to produce wheat, rice, beans, melons, cucumbers, celery, and mint. Orchards provided almonds and olives. Trade made many Arabs rich. They desired so many luxury goods that Arab artisans began producing some themselves. As trade

Carpets Arab carpets were among the most sought-after items in the markets of the Islamic Empire. Carpets adorned the floors of mosques, palaces, and the tents of shepherds (below). Today, skilled Islamic weavers (right) continue to make some of the world’s most prized carpets, including the prayer rugs used for kneeling in daily prayers. What effect did the growth of trade have upon daily life in the Islamic Empire?
grew, more records had to be kept. This led to the opening of banks. People had time to play games like polo and chess. Men stopped wearing the traditional Arab robe and began wearing pants. Meals were now served on tables instead of on the floor.

The empire soon became too large for one caliph to control. It began to break up into independent kingdoms. In 836, the caliph moved to a new capital city called Samarra. He returned to Baghdad in 892 and tried to regain power. By then, however, it was too late. In 945, the Persians took control of Baghdad.

The Golden Age of Muslim Spain The Muslim Arabs who conquered North Africa intermarried with the Berbers and became known as Moors (mürz). In 710, they invaded Spain. With the help of Spanish Jews, they defeated the West Goths, who had taken the country from the Romans. Then, the Moors set up a kingdom that allowed religious freedom.

For the next 400 years, a rich culture flourished in Spain. Many beautiful buildings, such as the Alhambra (al ham’ bru) in Granada, were built all through the country. Schools were founded in which Muslims, Jews, and Christians studied medicine and philosophy together.

During this time, Jews traveled to and traded in every part of the Arab Empire and beyond. In southeastern Rus, they met the Khazars (kuh zarz’), a half-Mongolian people who had converted to Judaism. From India and China, they brought back spices and silks to Spain.

THE ALHAMBRA Under Islamic rule, many beautiful buildings were built in Spain. The Alhambra, a palace in Granada, is considered the finest example of Islamic architecture in Europe. What Islamic group invaded Spain in 710?
Seljuq Turks c. 900-1258

Seljuq c. 900
Chief from central Asia; settled with a group of followers near city of Bokhara and became Muslim.

Toghril c. 1055
Grandson of Seljuq, conquered Baghdad; took title al-sultan, meaning “he with authority”; set up Muslim kingdom in western Asia.

Mongols c. 1206-1300

Genghis Khan c. 1220
United central Asian nomads; conquered Arab territory and created empire that covered most of Asia and eastern Europe.

Hulagu c. 1258
Grandson of Genghis Khan; led attack on Baghdad in 1258; became first khan, or overlord, of a kingdom that stretched from Syria to India.

Mamelukes c. 1250-1517

Shajar c. 1250
Freed slave who became first Mameluke ruler of Egypt; only Muslim woman to rule a country.

Baybars c. 1260
Seized throne of Egypt; restored caliphate in Cairo; created Mameluke dynasty.

Ottoman Turks c. 1290-1922

Osman c. 1290-1326
Founded Ottoman dynasty in Asia Minor.

Muhammad II c. 1451-1481
Captured Constantinople in 1453; established Ottoman Empire.
Islamic Life  

Islam was born in a society where men could have an unlimited number of wives and the killing of female children was common. Islam attempted to correct this situation.

Muhammad taught that raising a female child guaranteed a reward in Paradise for her parents. Before Islam, women could not inherit property from their parents. Islam, however, entitled them to half the share of their husband’s wealth. Islam recognized a woman’s right to an inheritance. In Islam, only under extreme circumstances is a man allowed to have up to four wives. One condition of this is that a man must be able to afford to provide equal treatment to each of his wives.

Both men and women were obligated to seek knowledge. Islamic society produced some women of great knowledge and power. At the time of the birth of a Muslim baby, the call for prayer was recited into the baby’s ears. By doing this, the child was brought into a life of Islamic culture. Reciting and memorizing the Quran was an important requirement in education. The mosques served as neighborhood schools. The boys were sent for higher education to institutions in major cities. People would travel from country to country within the Muslim world seeking more knowledge. There was tremendous interest in traveling and exploration.

Section 2 Assessment

1. **Define:** caliph, vizier.
2. What were some of the accomplishments of the Umayyads?
3. How did the Arab Empire change under the Abbasids?

Critical Thinking

4. **Drawing Conclusions**  Why were the years from 710 to around 1300 called the Golden Age of Muslim Spain?

Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to show how the teachings of Islam tried to improve the treatment of women in Arab society.

---

**SECTION 3** Arab Contributions

Between the 770s and the 1300s, Arab scholars helped preserve much of the learning of the ancient world that otherwise would have been lost. They also made many other contributions to the modern world. The use of Arabic as a common language helped unite scholars and promote the sharing of knowledge. The Quran being written in Arabic contributed to this advancement.
Many Arab scientists tried to turn base metals, such as tin, iron, and lead, into gold and silver. These scientists, called **alchemists** (al’ kuh mists), used both chemistry and magic in their work. The word “chemistry” comes from the Arabic word “Al-Chemist.” Alchemists were never able to turn base metals into gold and silver. However, their work led to the practice of making experiments and keeping records of the results. The Arabs are considered the founders of modern chemistry.

Arab astronomers studied the heavens. They gave many stars the names they still carry today. They correctly described the eclipses of the sun. They also proved that the moon affects the tides, or the rise and fall of the oceans. The astronomers worked with Arab geographers to determine the size of Earth and the distance around it. From their studies, they decided that Earth might be round. The astronomer-geographer al-Idrisi (al i dré’ si) drew the first accurate map of the world.

Arab mathematicians invented algebra and taught it to Europeans. Arab mathematicians also borrowed the numerals 0-9 from Gupta mathematicians and passed them to Europeans.

The Arabs gave much to the field of medicine. Unlike doctors in most other countries, Arab doctors had to pass a test before they could practice medicine. The Arabs set up the world’s first school of pharmacy. They also opened the world’s first drugstores. They organized medical clinics that traveled all through the empire giving care and medicines to the sick.

Arab doctors were the first to discover that blood *circulates*, or moves, to and from the heart. They were the first to diagnose certain diseases. The Persian doctor ar-Razi (al rā sé’) discovered differences between measles and smallpox. Another Persian, Avicenna (ä vä sēn ä), was the first to understand that tuberculosis is *contagious*, or can be passed from person to person.

Arab doctors informed the scientific community about their discoveries by publishing their findings. Avicenna’s *Canon of Medicine*, an encyclopedia of medicine, was used in European medical schools for 500 years.

The Arabs also made many contributions to the arts. One of their best known writings is *The Arabian Nights*, a collection of tales put together from Persian stories. The tales paint an exciting picture of Islamic life at the height of the empire. The Persian poet Omar Khayyám’s (ō’ mahr kī yahm’) *Rubáiyát* (rū’ bē aht) has been translated into many languages. It is considered one of the finest poems ever written.

Islamic art is distinct and full of color. It is used on walls, books, rugs, and buildings. It differs from most other art because of the Muslim belief that Allah created all living creatures. Islamic artists think it is a sin to make pictures of Allah’s creations. As a result, most of their art is made up of geometric designs entwined with flowers, leaves, and stars.
Much of what is known about this time comes from Arabs who wrote down the history of Islam. They began to write about events centered around rulers and peoples. This is how most historians present history today. The Muslim historian Ibn Khaldun (ib’ uhn kal dun’) wrote about the Arabs, the Berbers, and the Persians. His writings were the first to take into account the influence of geography and climate on people.

**Section 3 Assessment**

1. **Define:** alchemists.
2. How did the use of the Arabic language promote learning?
3. What are two of the best-known Arab writings?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Drawing Conclusions** Do you think the numerals 0 through 9 should be called Arabic or Gupta numerals? Explain.

**Graphic Organizer Activity**

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to show Arab contributions to science, math, and the arts.

---

**Chapter Summary & Study Guide**

1. Muhammad was born in Makkah in 570.
2. In 613, Muhammad began to preach that the only god is Allah. This was the start of the Islamic religion.
3. In 622, Muhammad and his followers went from Makkah to Yathrib, where they organized a new government and army.
4. In 630, Muhammad led his followers into Makkah and dedicated the Ka’bah to Allah.
5. In 631, delegates throughout Arabia declared their loyalty to Muhammad and their belief in teachings such as the five pillars.
6. After Muhammad’s death in 632, his followers chose a new leader, known as a caliph, and began building a huge empire.
7. In 661, the capital of the Arab Empire was moved to Damascus and the Umayyad Dynasty began.
8. In 750, the Abbasids took control of the Arab Empire and concentrated on trade rather than war.
9. The Moors in Spain combined Arab and Jewish cultures and allowed religious freedom.
10. The Arabs made many contributions to modern civilization, especially in science, math, and the arts.

**Self-Check Quiz**

Visit the *Human Heritage* Web site at [humanheritage.glencoe.com](http://humanheritage.glencoe.com) and click on Chapter 22—Self-Check Quiz to assess your understanding of this chapter.
Using Key Terms

Imagine you are a traveler in the Arab Empire. Use the following words to write a journal entry describing your impressions of the empire.

- pilgrims
- pillars of faith
- mosque
- imam
- zakah
- hajj
- caliph
- vizier
- alchemists

Understanding Main Ideas

1. How did Bedouins earn a living?
2. Why did Muhammad begin to spend time alone in a cave outside Makkah?
3. Why did Makkah’s leaders persecute Muhammad and his followers?
4. What is the Islamic creed?
5. In what direction do Muslims face when they pray?
6. What does the Quran promise all believers who fulfill their duties?
7. What brought about the downfall of the Umayyad Dynasty?
8. What did the name “Arab” mean under the Abbasids?
9. What discoveries did Arab doctors make?

Critical Thinking

1. What role did religion play in Arab life?
2. How did the Moorish kingdom in Spain show it had been influenced by different cultures?
3. Which Arab contribution do you think has most affected other civilizations? Explain your choice.
4. What parts of life in the Arab Empire would you have liked? What parts would you have disliked?

Graphic Organizer Activity

History
Create a time line like the one shown, and use it to summarize the main events in Muhammad’s life. (Dates have been provided to help you get started.)

Geography in History

The World in Spatial Terms
Islam spread across a wide area, as seen on the map on page 337. It included most of the area from the western edge of the Mediterranean Sea to the eastern shores of the Arabian Sea. What longitude and latitude lines mark the approximate location of this area?

Using Your Journal

Review any details you may have noted about the ways the Arabs influenced other civilizations. Then choose three contributions made by the Arabs that you see in your everyday life. Write a paragraph explaining how these contributions affect you.