Objectives

- Understand how Muhammad became the "prophet of Islam."
- Describe the teachings of Islam.
- Explain how Islam helped shape the way of life of its believers.
Terms and People

- **Bedouins** – nomadic herders who lived in the Arabian desert
- **Muhammad** – Muslim prophet born in Mecca around A.D. 570
- **Mecca** – birthplace of the prophet Muhammad; most holy city for Islamic people
- **Yathrib** – city that became Medina, or “city of the Prophet,” where Muhammad fled in 622
Terms and People (continued)

- **hijra** – Muhammad’s trip from Mecca to Yathrib (Medina) in 622
- **Medina** – former city of Yathrib; city of the Prophet
- **Kaaba** – holiest site in Islam; the temple where it is believed that Abraham prayed
- **Quran** – the sacred text of Islam
Terms and People (continued)

- **mosque** – Muslim house of worship
- **hajj** – one of the Five Pillars of Islam, the pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims are expected to make at least once in their lifetimes
- **jihad** – in Islam, an effort in God’s service
- **Sharia** – body of Islamic law that includes interpretation of the Quran and applies Islamic principles to everyday life
What messages or teachings did Muhammad spread through Islam?

The religion of Islam, whose followers are called Muslims, emerged in the Arabian Peninsula in A.D. 622. This desert region of southwestern Asia was home to many Arab tribes and nomadic herders called Bedouins.

Competition for water and grazing land often led to warfare.
The Muslim religion, or Islam, began when Muhammad, a 40-year-old Bedouin from Mecca, was meditating alone.

- Muhammad, who led caravans of people across the desert, was a successful merchant known for his honesty.
- Muhammad had been troubled by the materialistic behavior of the people of Mecca.
- According to Muslim belief, Muhammad was embraced by the angel Gabriel.
The Quran says that Muhammad became the messenger of God.

The merchants of Mecca feared that he would disrupt their business and threatened Muhammad.

In 622, he fled to Yathrib, soon renamed Medina or the “city of the Prophet.” His journey, called the hijra, led to the beginning of the Muslim religion.
The Rise of Islam

- In 630, Muhammad returned to Mecca with an army.
- Pagan idols were removed from the Kaaba, now the holiest Muslim site. The **Kaaba** is believed to be Abraham’s first temple to God.
- Family rivalries were soon replaced with a community of Islam.
- In 630, Muhammad returned to Mecca with an army.
Islam is a monotheistic religion based on the belief in one God.

Muslims believe:

• God is all-powerful and compassionate.

• People are responsible for their own actions.

• Priests are not needed to mediate between man and God.

Abraham, Moses, and Jesus are seen as prophets, but Muhammad is the last and greatest prophet.
Muslims believe that the Quran contains the sacred word of God as revealed to Muhammad.

- The Quran provides a set of ethical beliefs that emphasize honesty, generosity, and social justice.
- It contains harsh punishments for crimes such as murder.
- According to the Quran, each individual will stand before God on judgment day.

The Quran is read in Arabic. This language has helped unite Muslims.
All must follow the Five Pillars of Islam.

- Proclaim one’s faith in the one true God.
- Face Mecca and pray five times a day.
- Give charity to the poor.
- Fast from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, the month when Muhammad received the Quran.
- Make a hajj, or pilgrimage to Mecca, if able.
Islam is both a religion and a way of life that shapes the behavior of all Muslims.

**Sharia** is a system of law based on scholarly interpretation of the Quran.

Sharia governs all aspects of business, government, family life, and criminal law.

A man and women seek judgment from a judge in this Persian painting.
Islam taught equality for women, but each gender had different roles.

- Before Islam, the position of women varied, but most had limited rights.
- Islam promised salvation to all, male or female, who follow the Quran.
- The rule for modesty led to wearing of veils.

In time, Muslims adopted customs of conquered peoples, which led to restrictions on women’s rights.
Section Review

QuickTake Quiz

Know It, Show It Quiz

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