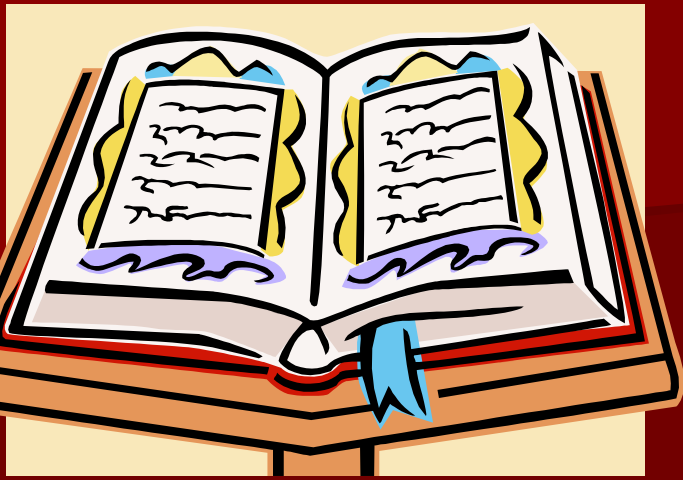




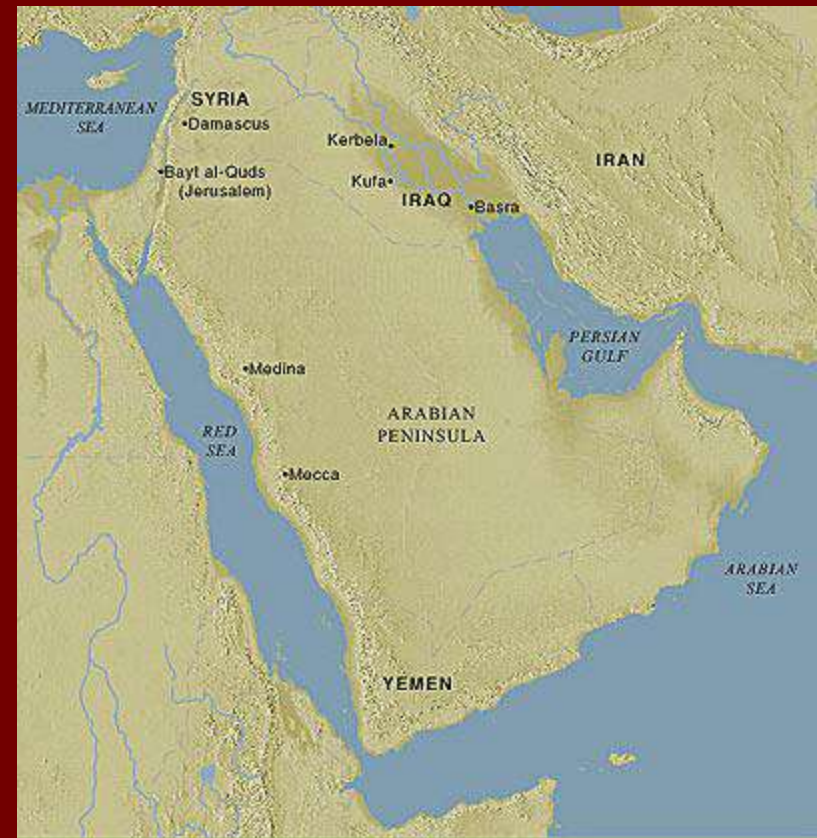
# Islam

## Roots and Beliefs



- Arabian Peninsula is where Islam begins
  - Modern day Saudi Arabia
- Arabian Peninsula was a major trading area
  - Difficult to trade here
    - Large, hot deserts with very little water
- Along with trading, Arabia was birthplace of new ideas
  - Arabian Peninsula is the crossroads between Europe, Asia, and Africa

## Life in a Desert Land



# Physical Features and Climate

- Arabia is very hot and dry
  - Summer temperatures can reach 100°F daily
  - Sand dunes in desert can rise to over 800 ft high
- There is very little water in Arabia
  - Where there's water, there's an oasis
  - Oasis – Wet, fertile area in a desert



# Two Ways of Life

- Nomads lived in tents and raised livestock
  - Animals provided milk, meat, wool, and leather
- Other people settled in communities
  - Lived in oases where they could farm
- Eventually settlements became towns
  - Worked in caravan trading
  - Caravan – A group of traders that travel together
- Towns become major centers of trade
  - Major town becomes Mecca

# A New Religion

- Early on, Arabs were mainly polytheistic
- Muhammad changes that
  - We know little of Muhammad
  - What we do know comes from religious writings
- The prophet Muhammad introduces a monotheistic religion





# Muhammad the Prophet

- Muhammad was born in 570 in Mecca
- Many people in Mecca were poor and the rich were not helping
- Muhammad was disturbed by this, so he would often pray and meditate
- One day Muhammad had a vision where an angel told him to write down messages from God
  - He was around 40 years old
- Muhammad received messages from God for the rest of his life

# Islam

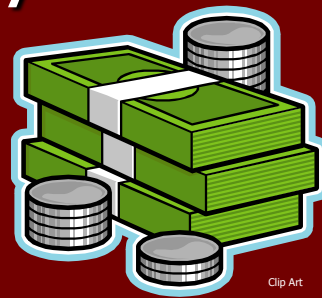
- The messages Muhammad received form the basis of the religion Islam
  - Islam – to submit to god (in Arabic)
- A follower of Islam is called a Muslim
- The messages collected by Muhammad are put together in the Qur'an
  - Qur'an – The Holy Book of Islam





# Muhammad's Teachings

- 613 – Muhammad begins to preach about messages
  - Main teachings:
    - Only one God – “Allah”
    - Arabs should stop being polytheistic
    - Begin a community where rich and poor were equal
    - Rich people should give money to the poor
- New ideas for Arabs – upsetting to many





# Islam Spreads in Arabia

- As Islam spread, rulers in the city of Mecca wanted to kill Muhammad
- Muhammad moves to Medina (a city north of Mecca)
  - Medina – Prophet's City (in Arabic)
- Muhammad's house in Medina becomes the first Mosque
  - Mosque – Muslim house of prayer
- 630 – After years of fighting, people of Mecca accept Islam
  - Many tribes accept Muhammad as their spiritual leader
- 632 – Muhammad dies
  - Religion lives on and spreads beyond Arabia

# The Qur'an

- Like the Christian Gospels, Muhammad's messages were spread by word of mouth
  - Eventually Muhammad's messages were written down in the Qur'an
- Muslims believe the Qur'an to be the exact word of God as it was told to Muhammad

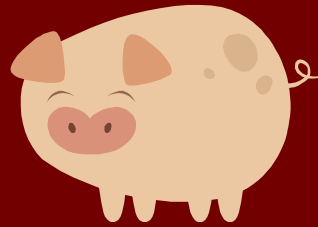


# Islam Beliefs

- Central Belief is that there is only one God
  - Allah is his name and Muhammad is his prophet
- Everyone must obey Allah's Commands
  - Commands given to Muslims through Muhammad
- The world had a beginning and will end someday
  - On the final day, Allah will judge all people
  - Those who obey = eternal paradise
  - Those who are evil = eternal suffering

# Guidelines for Behavior

- Muslims must wash themselves before praying
  - So they will be pure
- Do not eat pork or drink alcohol
- No slavery
- Women's rights:
  - Own property, earn money, and get an education
- These ideas are very different from traditional Arab society
- Jihad – To make an effort or to struggle
  - Muslims believe people struggle to obey Allah
  - Can also mean the struggle to defend Islam
  - Can also mean "holy war"



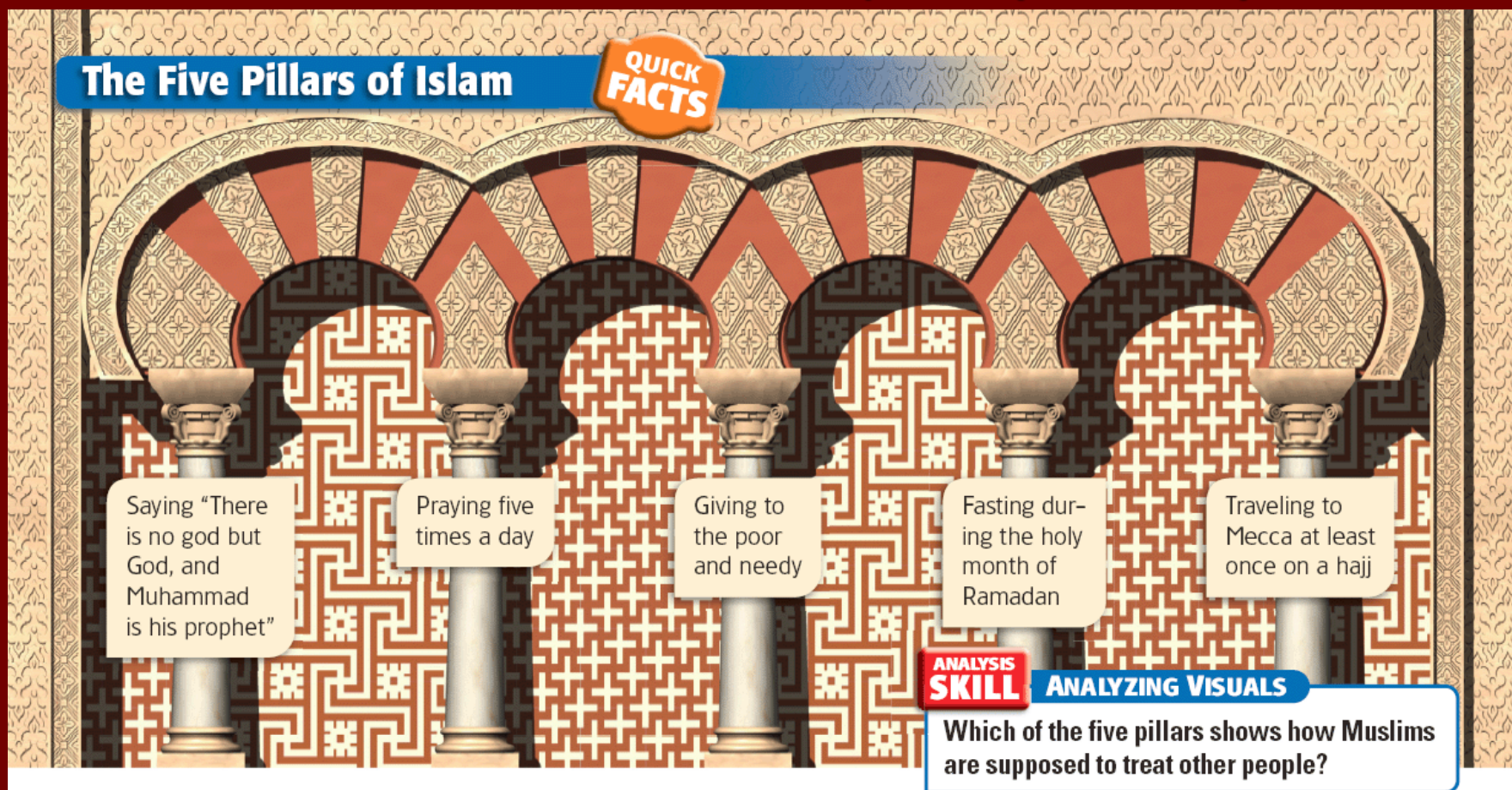
# The Sunnah

- Qur'an is not the only source for Islamic teachings
- Hadeeth – written record of Muhammad's words and actions
- Sunnah – refers to the way Muhammad lived
  - Provides a model for the duties and way of life expected of Muslims
- Sunnah guides Muslim behavior

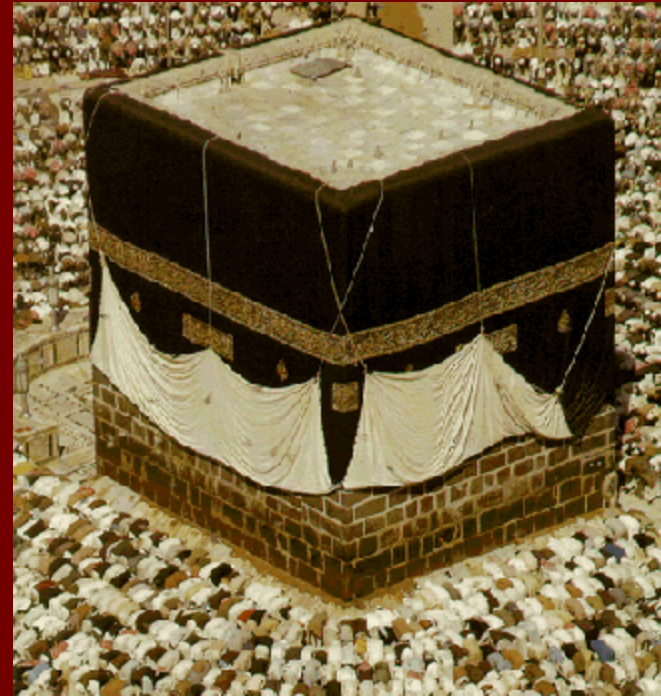
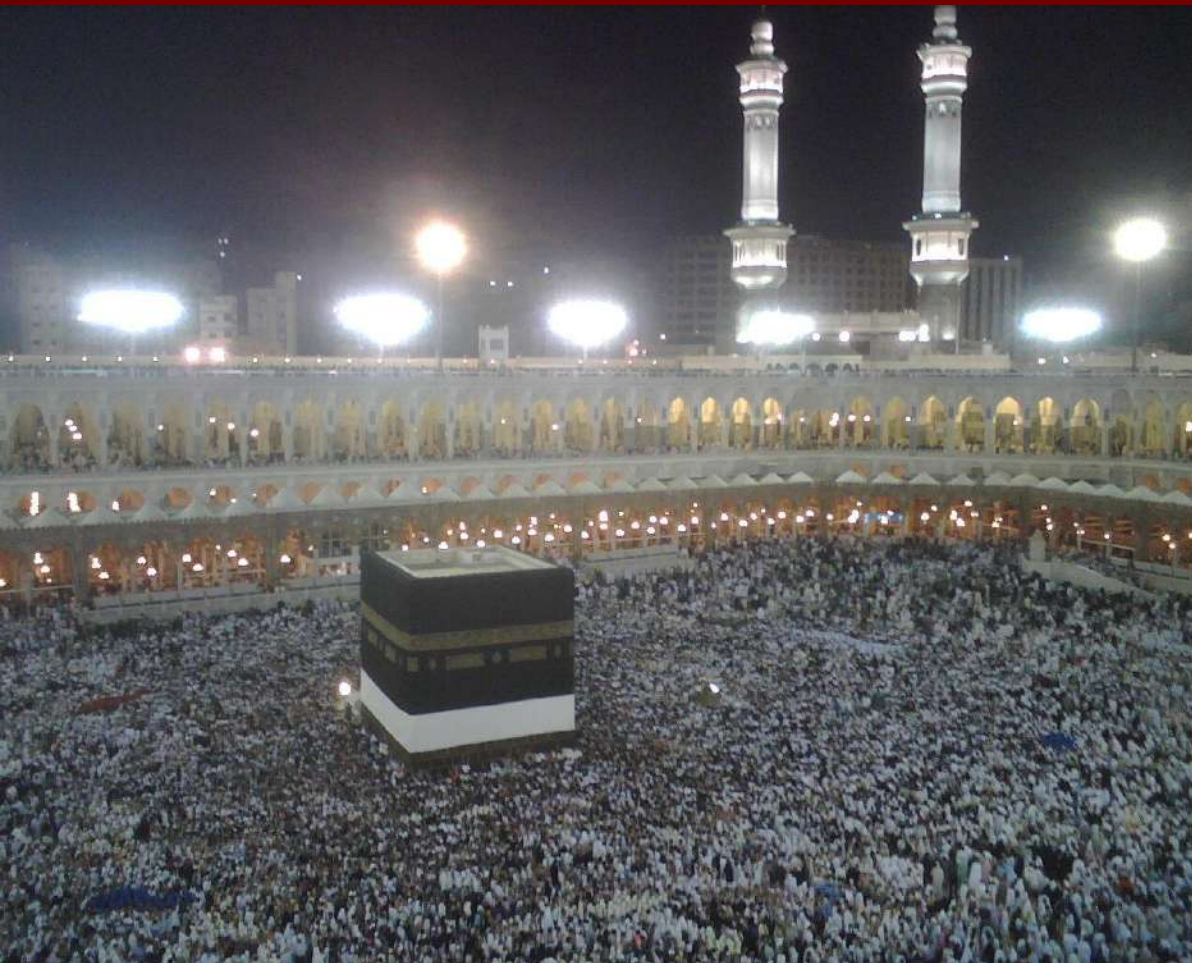


# Five Pillars of Islam

- Five Pillars of Islam – Five acts of worship required by Muslims
  - Kaaba – Islam's most sacred place (in Mecca)









# Islamic Law



- The Qur'an and the Sunnah form the basis of Islamic Law
  - Islamic Law – Shariah
  - Based on interpretations of the Qur'an and Sunnah
- Shariah sets rewards for good behavior and punishments for crimes
  - The Shariah is the basis of laws in Muslim countries
- Now, Islamic law is blended with legal systems like the United States