

The Rise and Spread of Islam

Geography of the Arabian Peninsula

Muhammad lived **On the Arabian Peninsula**

Where is Mecca located on the Arabian Peninsula **On the eastern edge of a large desert**

The Arabian Peninsula was mainly made up of **harsh desert weather**

Mecca was a **crossroads of trade** goods and resources were transported by **camel caravans filed through the city**

What were the items that were traded along the trade routes of the Arabian Peninsula
perfumes, ivory, spices, silk, and precious metals such as gold

From Mecca caravans traveled **northwest** to Syria and then shipped across the **Mediterranean Sea to Europe**

Also from Mecca caravans traveled **northeast** through the **desert**

Arab people known as, **Bedouins** were **nomads** which are **people who moved from one area to another**

Were Bedouins merchants for a living? Yes or No. **No**, if no then what did they do for a living
they herded sheep, camels, and goats

Bedouins acted as **guides for trade caravans** sometimes they would **raid one of the caravans, stealing all the trade goods.**

Meccan traders would make **agreements** and used **religion to make alliances with Bedouins**

What was the Kabah? **a cube-shaped building in the center of Mecca**

What made the Kabah sacred to Meccans? **It held a rock known as the Black Stone, a meteorite that had fallen to the Earth from Space.**

Muhammad's Life

Muhammad grew up **poor** and also an **orphan**

Muhammad made a living in **Mecca's brisk caravan trade**
He worked under **Khadijah** who became his wife

In his free time Muhammad **he would walk the hills to be alone to pray and think**

The Arab people were worshipping **many idols or false gods** instead of God

God's mission to Muhammad by an angel **He was to pass on to the people all the messages that he would receive from God.**

People who accepted Muhammad's teachings known as **Muslims** which means "**persons who submit**" The religion became known as **Islam** which means "**submission to God**"

Few Meccans listening to Muhammad, They treated him **badly, threw stones and garbage when he preached, Muhammad was threatening their old gods**

Muhammad and his followers fled to **Yathrib** where they accepted them into the city

Muhammad was seen as a **prophet** to the people of the city, which means **a person who carried God's message**

What was the hijra **the movement of early Muslims from Mecca to Yathrib, means "the migration"**

The year of the hijra was **622 became year 1 on the Muslim calendar**

The city Yathrib was changed to **Medina** meaning "**city**" short for "**city of the prophet**"

Expansion of Islam

Muhammad's death in **632 Islam had spread across the Arabian Peninsula**

One reason for the fast spread of Islam **people did not like the rulers of the Byzantine and Persian Empires, the new religion promised a new way of life that made sense**

Merchant followers of Muhammad would spread **the religion while traveling for trade throughout the empire**

Another reason was **Muhammad united the Arabs of the region into one big community**

How did Islam see the other religions of the area **they respected the other religions, Jews and Christians were able to practice their own faiths**