

Things to Study:

1. Explain the “Five Pillars of Islam”

1. faith - based on the words of the call to prayer and the belief in one God
2. prayer - communicate with God, muezzin calls Muslims to prayer from the minaret five times a day - morning, noon, afternoon, sunset, and evening
3. sharing - Muslims who can do so give a generous share of what they own to the poor/sick
4. fasting - occurs during a special month called Ramadan, fast from sunrise to sunset, in the evening Muslims have a sweet and cool drink then a evening breakfast
5. hajj - pilgrimage or sacred journey to Mecca once in their lives

2. Explain what the Quran is. Also explain what the Quran is similar to.

- the holy book of Islam containing what God revealed to Muhammad, the rules, stories, promises, warnings, and instructions
- it is similar to the Jewish holy book the Torah and the Christian holy book the Bible

3. Explain why Jews and Christians were capable of practicing their own religion and business.

Muslim empire saw Jews and Christians as “protected people”. As long as they accepted Muslim rule, Jews and Christians were allowed to practice their religions and pursue business. They had to pay a special tax called jizyah

4. Explain the roles of Muslim men and women.

- Muhammad stated that all Muslims were equal in spirit.
- Men - were more likely to be involved outside of the home, inherited greater share of property when parents died, expected to treat their wives kindly and to provide for them
- Women - allowed to have many rights, had a right to an education and could not be married without their agreement
- Both men and women were to dress modestly

5. Explain what caused the schism between the Muslims.

In 656 Uthman the ruler of the Muslim empire was assassinated. His death split the Islamic world in two.

6. Explain what the two Muslim groups are and what they believe in.

Shiites - the ruler should be a direct descendant of Muhammad, believed that Muhammad’s descendant would be inspired by God as Muhammad was, the leader should tell Muslims what the Quran means

Sunnis - any truly religious Muslim could lead the community, believed that no one man should tell what the Quran taught, a group of Muslim scholars could best say what the holy book means