

Notes on Arabia

Arabia-desert, hot, good location for trade.
Oasis-wet, fertile area in desert.

Nomads-tribes, families, moved with seasons-
camels, tents, sheep, goats.

Towns--sedentary life, souk (market place)
trade, built near oasis.

Caravan-traders who travel together.

Origins of Islam

Muhammad--born 570, Mecca
---hard early life, managed caravan business.

40 years old-Angel from God (Allah) told
him to "Recite."

Messages from God started religion "Islam."
Followers of Islam called "Muslims."

Messages in holy book called the "Qur'an."

Arabs worshipped many gods at shrines.
Many traveled to Mecca on pilgrimages.

Rich leaders did not like Muhammad's ideas.
--One God
--Everyone equal
--Rich should help poor.

Chased Muhammad out of Mecca to Medina.
--hegira--journey to Medina.
--first mosque (place of Muslim prayer.)

Later, he came back and converted Mecca.

Muslim Beliefs

Qur'an--Muslim holy book
--messages from God.
--how to worship, guidelines for moral
behavior, rules for social life.
--Jihad--to make effort, to struggle, "holy
war."

Hadith-Written record of Muhammad's
words and actions.
Sunnah--the way Muhammad lived. Model
for how to live.

Muhammad's Teachings

Islam recognizes Abraham, Moses, Jesus as
prophets (messengers) (not son of God).

---Jews, Christians, Muslims are all "People
of the Book."
---One God
---prayer
---Charity

The Kaaba, in Mecca, is Islam's most sacred
place. Built by Abraham for worship.

Five Pillars of Islam

The five acts of worship

1. Statement of Faith--"There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his prophet."
2. Daily prayer.--5 times a day.
3. Yearly donation to charity.
4. Fasting--going without food or drink.
5. The hajj--journey to Mecca at least once in one's lifetime.

Islamic Law

Islamic law--Shariah

Laws based on the Qur'an and Sunnah.

--judges the rightness of actions.

--guides all aspects of daily life.

Fatimah-loyal daughter of Muhammad.