SSWH 5

Examine the political, economic, and cultural interactions within the Medieval Mediterranean World between 600 CE/AD and 1300 CE/AD.
SSWH 5 A

Explain the origins of Islam and the growth of the Islamic Empire.
Origins of Islam

- Islam originated on the Arabian Peninsula
- 600 CE the northern portion of Middle East was dominated by the Christian Byzantine Empire
- 570 CE Muhammad was born in a prosperous trading town, Mecca
- Muhammad had a lucrative career as a merchant
- Financially secure, Muhammad turned to spiritual pursuits
Origins of Islam

• About 610, Muhammad began to have visions while meditating.
  – believe that these visions were the Angel Gabriel who had been charged by the one true God (Allah in Arabic) to deliver a message to Muhammad.
  – revelation outlined the basic beliefs of Islam and were eventually recorded in the Quran.
Origins of Islam

- Muhammad began to share his message
- The message was not well received
  - threatened Mecca’s traditional role as a pilgrimage destination for the polytheistic Arabs
- Muhammad led his followers to the city of Medina in 622
  - population of Medina accepted Muhammad as the Messenger of God and converted to the new faith
Origins of Islam

- Formed the Umma, a political and religious union led by Muhammad
- There was conflict with the city of Mecca until 630 when the armies of the Umma successfully defeated Mecca.
- After this defeat, the Umma led by Muhammad continued to expand
- After defeating Mecca and returning to the city, Muhammad built the first Muslim Mosque there, called the Kaaba
Islamic Beliefs

- Muslims believe
  - only the Quran contains the exact words of God
  - In one God
  - God sent a series of messengers (prophets) including Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus
  - Each prophet delivered a divine message
  - Muhammad is God’s final messenger and delivered God’s exact words in the form of the Quran.
• Muslims look to the words and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad for guidance.
• Basic practices of Islam are outlined in the Five Pillars of Islam
• Muslim scholars used various sources of religious truth to compile the Shariah or Islamic law that regulated public and private affairs in the Muslim states.
Key Notes
As Islam Spread.....

Surrounding countries that were soon being influenced by Islam through trade often found one attractive feature or another about Islam and Muslims.

Islam was popular among some African kings because Muslims were better skilled than local court officials in writing and bureaucracy.
Mecca

- Mecca is the holiest city
- Vital to the foundation of Islam
- Location of the Kaaba
  - Kaaba: an ancient stone building where all Muslims face to pray
Medina

- The city where Muhammad
  - Was accepted
  - Was buried.

*Vital to the foundation of Islam*
Jerusalem, Israel is a holy city for Christians, Jews, and Muslims.
The Quran
- The holy book of Islam
- Islam means “peace through submission to the will of Allah”
- The Quran contains ethical guidelines and laws for Muslims
- States the Muhammad is a messenger of god

The Hadith
- a collection of traditions containing sayings of the prophet Muhammad
Key Belief:
• The four major concepts are at the center of Islam:
  – God (Allah)
  – the community (Uma)
  – the divine revelation (Koran)
  – the law (Shari’ a) additional Islamic laws based on the Quran and the example set by Muhammad while he was alive
What was the draw to Islam?

- Allah, all powerful, good, just, and merciful
- Advocated justice
- Spiritual equality for all
- Expressed concern for the poor
The Teachings of Muhammad

5 Pillars of Islam:

1. **Faith**: a person must make a statement of their faith
2. **Prayer**: 5 times a day facing Mecca
3. **Alms**: giving to the poor, religious tax
4. **Fasting**: abstaining from eating, especially during Ramadan
5. **Pilgrimage or haj**: those Muslims that can afford it must make a trip to Mecca at least once in their life
Islamic Religion Spreads
Islam Continues to Spread

• A New Leader
  • In 632 Muhammad dies; Muslims elect Abu-Bakr to be the first caliph.
  • Caliph—title for a Muslim leader—means “successor” or “deputy.
  • “Rightly Guided” Caliphs
    ■ The first four caliphs are guided by the Qur’an and Muhammad’s actions.
Islam Continues to Spread

- Jihad—an armed struggle against unbelievers—is used to expand Islam.
- Muslims control all of Arabia, and armies conquer Syria and lower Egypt.
- By 750, the Muslim empire stretches from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indus River.
Islam Continues to Spread

- Reasons for Success
  - Muslim armies are well disciplined and expertly commanded.
  - Byzantine and Sassanid empires are weak from previous conflict.
  - Persecuted citizens of these empires welcome Islam.
  - People are attracted to Islam’s offer of equality and hope.
  - Silk Roads connected Muslim lands to China allowing Islam to spread east.
Islam Continues to Spread

- Spread mainly through military conquest, trade, and missionary activity.
  - Universal Message
  - Tolerance for other beliefs
  - Economic Incentive
  - Legitimized roles of the merchants
SSWH 5 B

Understand the reasons for the split between Sunni and Shi’á Muslims.
Chronological Order of First Islamic Leaders

- Muhammad
- First 4 Caliphs “rightly guided ones”
  - Abu Bakr
  - Uthman
  - Umar
  - Ali
- They all knew Muhammad and followed his example as left in the Quran
- While alive Muhammad never established a plan for leadership of the Umma after his death
Fighting Starts

• First three caliphs were selected from his close companions
  – ruled without controversy
  – 656 rebels from the army assassinated Uthman, the third caliph
• then nominated Ali, a relative of Muhammad for the position
  – believed that Ali was Muhammad’s legitimate heir
  – Ali accepted position of caliph
Fighting Starts

• Results in fighting by the Uthman who were challenging him - Battle of Camel
  – Ali wins

• faced another challenge from a relative of the slain Uthman, Mu’awiya
  – led to more armed conflict but this time the battles were inconclusive
    • Ali and Mu’awiya agreed to a truce
Fighting Starts

- Ali is assassinated by some of his own followers, because of his willingness to negotiate – cleared the way for Mu’awiya to assume the caliph and establish the Umayyad Caliphate
- Ali’s son, Husayn, revolted in 680 hoping to reestablish his family’s right to rule.
  - The Umayyad caliph ordered Husayn and his family massacred.
The violent death of Husayn made him a martyr to his followers.

This caused the break and those who believe:
- that a descendant of Muhammad’s should rule formed the Shi’a branch.
- that support the Umayyads formed the Sunni.

split into Sunni and Shia divisions of Islam can be traced to a dispute over the question of Muhammad's successor.
THE SPREAD OF ISLAM, 622 – 750 CE

Islamic world under Muhammad, 622–632
Territory added by first four Caliphs, 632–661
Territory added by Umayyad Caliphs, 661–750
Non-Islamic kingdoms
Military campaigns

MAP LEGEND:

- Kingdom of the Franks
- Byzantine Empire
- Kingdom of Iberia
- Maghreb
- Tripoli
- Egypt
- Arabia
- Ottoman Empire
- Non-Islamic kingdoms

KEY:

- Islamic world under Muhammad, 622–632
- Territory added by first four Caliphs, 632–661
- Territory added by Umayyad Caliphs, 661–750
- Non-Islamic kingdoms
- Military campaigns

MAP FEATURES:

- Rivers: Nile, Euphrates, Tigris, Indus
- Oceans: Atlantic Ocean, Caspian Sea, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea
- Landmarks: Meroë, Jerusalem, Aswan

MAP SCALE:

- 0 250 500 miles
- 0 250 500 kilometers

MAP ORIENTATION:

- North indicator
Who are these new groups?

**Sunni**
- Be the caliph could be a follower of Muhammad - support of the Umayyads
- Has the majority of the believers
- Claim the Shi’a have distorted passages of the Quran
- Saudi Arabia is their place of origin

**Shi’a**
- Believe the caliph should be a descendant of Muhammad
- Claim the Sunni have distorted passage of the Quran
- REJECT the Hadith because it was not written by Muhammad or his descendants
- Egypt is their place of origin
Extent of the Islamic Empire
Assess the economic impact of Muslim trade routes to India, China, Europe and Africa
Economic Control Extends over Three Continents

- Islamic World centered in the middle of four of the world’s major trade routes
  - stability offered by the Islamic caliphates fostered the growth of these trade routes
  - trade routes include the Mediterranean, trans Saharan caravan route, Silk Road, and the Indian Ocean maritime system
  - linked the markets of China, Southeast Asia, India, East Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, West Africa, and Europe
Economic Control Extends over Three Continents

- Islamic World:
  - trade on these routes include the exchange of:
    - silk and porcelain from China
    - spices and textiles from South and Southeast Asia
    - ivory, slaves, and gold from Africa
    - glass from Europe, and metalware, slaves, and textiles from the Middle East
Muslim Trade Routes = Cultural Diffusion
Economic Control Extends over Three Continents

- Trade facilitated by technological advances
  - Arab dhow made travel in the Indian Ocean easier.
    - equipped with a triangular lateen sail - increased the ship’s maneuverability
  - Arabian camel saddles
    - improved the security and efficiency of trans-Saharan trade
    - diffused to North Africa
- Muslims were the leading merchants in the Middle East until the 1400s
- They traded spices, cloth, glass, carpets and other items
- Arabic became the language of trade.
- Muslim traders kept excellent records and, over time, this developed into a new business – banking.
- Important effect of the Islamic expansion - helped keep alive knowledge from ancient civilizations.
Economic Control Extends over Three Continents

- The moral code that Islam offered promoted the growth of trade.
- These trade routes spurred the entire region’s economic growth.
- This growth is evidenced by the increased prosperity in major trading cities like
  - Timbuktu
  - Mombasa
  - Alexandria
  - Constantinople
  - Venice
  - Baghdad
Impact of the Spread of Islam

• Political Impact
  – Saw a rise in the West African Kingdoms
• Economic Impact
  – VAST trading network
  – Merchants and powerful elites
• Achievements
  – Technological Exchange
  – Mathematics and Medicine
• Cultural Impacts
  – Focus on literature and learning
    • The Arabian Nights
    • Universities built
    • Blending of religions due to cultural diffusion
Identify the contributions of Islamic scholars in science, math, and geography.
Two key reasons that the Islamic world became a center of learning:

- **First**, the Islamic world was at the intersection of Afro-Eurasia’s major trade routes
  - fostered a place where intellectuals from different regions could meet and exchange ideas
Islamic Scholarship

- Scholarship from Greece & Rome was preserved and improved upon.
- Indian mathematics including the number system is improved upon.
- Chinese paper making technology allowed the creation of vast libraries
- Chinese technologies related to navigation, astronomy, and gunpowder were refined
Second, the expectation that all believers read the Quran
- promoted literacy
- established an extensive educational system

This intellectual development was centered on the madrasas, a religious college where scholars studied many disciplines of learning.
Islamic Scholars

• Muslim scholars borrowed medical ideas from the Greeks, Syrian, Arabs and Indian Scholars
• Muslim medical knowledge far surpassed that of the West
• Muslim scientists used astronomy to explain geography in dealing with trade routes
• First to:
  – the first Algebra book
  – development of the Scientific Method
  – first to describe coronary circulation
  – first dissection of cadavers
Ibn Sina - aka Avicenna

medical scholars
Ibn Sina or Avicenna

• “Ibn” an Islamic name meaning “son of”
  
Known for his contributions in the areas of Math, Medicine

• Wrote 2 books: *The Book of Healing* and *The Canon of Medicine*
  
  – Both were used as Medical textbooks up until the 19th century
  
  – Combined thoughts from the Greeks with his own
Ibn Battuta

- Traveled throughout the Muslim world in the 14th century
- One of the greatest travelers of all time
- Wrote about his travels in Africa and the Mansa Musa Kingdom in Mali
Ibn Battuta

- Traveled some 73,000 miles over 30 years
- A lot of what we know about early Islam comes from his writings
- His travels have been great use to the study of geography
- His journeys were recorded in his book, The Rihla
Analyze the relationship between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
All three monotheistic religions considered Abraham to be a patriarch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muhammad</td>
<td>Muhammad</td>
<td>Abraham (Moses)</td>
<td>Jesus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Date Founded**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
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<tr>
<td>622 CE</td>
<td>622 CE</td>
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<td>c. 33 CE</td>
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**Believers Known as...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>Muslims</td>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>Christians</td>
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## Name of God

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam</th>
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<th>Christianity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allah</td>
<td>Yahweh</td>
<td>God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Sacred Writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qur’an (Koran)</td>
<td>Hebrew Bible including the Torah</td>
<td>The Holy Bible</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- Judaism served as the foundation for both Christianity and Islam

### Beliefs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muhammad and Jesus were prophets</td>
<td>Jesus was a prophet</td>
<td>Jesus was son of God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Religious Law

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shari’a</td>
<td>Halakhah</td>
<td>Canon Law</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## House of Worship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mosque</td>
<td>Synagogue</td>
<td>Church, chapel, cathedral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### View of Fellow Religions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
<th>Christianity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jews and Christians are respected as “People of the Book,” but they have wrong beliefs and only partial revelation.</td>
<td>Islam and Christianity are false interpretations and extensions of Judaism.</td>
<td>Judaism is a true religion, but with incomplete revelation. Islam is a false religion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relationship

• The Five Pillars of Islam and the Ten Commandments both provide a guide to proper and ethical behavior.

• Islam, Judaism and Christianity - “Abrahamic religions” - All trace their history to Abraham in the Hebrew Bible

• The “Dome of the Rock” is important to both Judaism and Islam
Relationship

All three religions were founded in the Middle East (on the continent of Asia)