Chapter 3: The Beginnings of Islam
Lesson 1: Life on the Arabian Peninsula

I. A Desert Culture

Summarize:
Deserts cover hundreds of thousands of miles
Arabs call it Rub al-Khali = "the empty quarter"

A. Physical Features and Climates
1. Southwest Asia,
2. Btw Red Sea and Persian Gulf
3. About 1/4 size of the U.S.
4. Very arid, little rain, covered mostly by desert
5. Desert climate = only small amount of land is useful for agriculture

B. Nomads
1. Arab herders called Bedouins are nomads—people who move from place to place instead of settling permanently.
2. Bedouins travel seeking water and grazing land for cattle; path depends on geographical features of land and amount of rainfall.
3. Oasis—desert area that contains water. Bedouins interact w/ people living at oases, trade food for animals and animal products.

C. Family Life
1. Bedouins organized into clans—families of people related by blood or marriage.
2. Each clan was its own gov’t, provided security & protection
3. Clans proud of adaptability to desert and fighting skills. Often had to defend themselves from other clans (later become core of armies to help create Muslim empire).
II. Crossroads of the Three Continents

Summarize:
Arabian pen. is crossroads of 3 continents- Asia, Africa, Europe
Surrounded by water- Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf

A. Growth of Trade Cities
1. By early 600s, many Arabs moved into market towns or oases
2. Meet travelers from near and far to trade goods, like spices from India and ivory from Africa. Many become important trade centers.
3. Large oases and other areas prosper b/c they have good soil and water for farming. Important for trade b/c travelers stop on the way (ex: Mecca and Medina)

B. Trade Routes and Trade Goods
1. Sea and land routes connect Arabia to major trade centers- run from southern tip of pen. to Byzantine and Persian empires in north.
2. Products (animals, textiles, metals, crops, spices) and inventions travel by camel caravan - a company of travelers journeying together.
3. Cultural exchange also important. Trade knowledge of different religions (Judaism and Christianity spread).

III. The Holy City of Mecca

Summarize:
Located along trade routes, caravans stop in Mecca during holy months
People worship at Ka'aba= cube-shaped shrine in middle of the city
A. Abraham in Mecca
1. Abraham important figure in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic religions.
2. Arabs believe Abraham and his son, Ishmael, built Ka'aba as temple to God (Allah).
3. Belief in one god = monotheism.

B. Many Religions
1. Other Arabs (esp. in desert) believe in many gods= polytheism.
2. People go to Mecca to worship Ka'aba. Journey to sacred place = pilgrimage. HAJJ
3. Many Jews and Christians live in Arab lands, blend rituals with their own traditions.

*Prophet of Islam, Muhammed, born around 570 during this time.

Lesson 2: Islam and Muhammad

I. The Life and Teachings of Muhammad

Summarize:
Muhammad born around 570 into powerful Meccan family
Orphaned as child, had to work in caravan trade
Married wealthy businesswoman
Prospers as merchant

A. Muhammad the Prophet
1. At age 40, Muhammad believed God spoke to him through the angel Gabriel, "You are the messenger of God"
2. Starts preaching that there is only one god (Allah), and all other gods should be rejected
3. People who believe in Islam are Muslims
4. In Arabic, Islam means "peace through the submission to the will of God"
B. Muhammad Begins Preaching
1. Little success at first. Meccans persecute early Muslims
2. 622- Muhammad and followers flee to Yathrib
3. Migration known as Hijrah, followers rename city Medina or "city of the Prophet"
4. In Medina, many people convert to Islam; find simple message to obey Allah appealing and like Muhammad's strength as a leader

C. Muhammad's Leadership
1. Many battles btw Meccans and Muhammad/followers.
   - Ex: 630 he and 10,000 Muslims force Mecca to surrender, Muhammad forgives them all, dedicated Ka'aba to Allah
2. Religious leader- unites Christians, Jews, and Arabs
3. Political and Military leader- Makes treaties with nomadic tribes, military defends Medina against attacks= spreads PEACE and UNIFIES much of Arabian peninsula

II. Islamic Beliefs, Practices, and Law

Summarize:
Muslims have 2 sources that they go to for guidance on how to live their lives: the Qur'an and the Sunnah

A. The Qur'an and the Sunnah
1. Muhammad's followers recite and write down his teachings= Muslim Holy Book
2. Qur'an- book that contains the teachings of Allah as revealed to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel, in Arabic- Muslim holy book
3. Sunnah- Muhammad's words and deeds that Muslims use to guide their everyday living
4. Sunnah and Qur'an form basis of Muslim law, include rules for inheritance and punishment for criminals
B. Muslim Daily Life
1. Muslims try to connect religious and personal lives by following Five Pillars of Islam (duties all Muslims must perform to demonstrate submission to will of God):
   a. Faith
   b. Prayer
   c. Alms
   d. Fasting
   e. Pilgrimage
2. Other Islamic customs
   a. No pork, no alcohol
3. Friday afternoons for worship/prayer
4. Mosques – building for Muslim worship, all face Mecca for prayer

III. Connections to Judaism and Christianity

Summarize:
Muslims, Jews, and Christians all believe Abraham was prophet of God
Muslims believe Allah is same God worshipped by other religions
Believe Jesus was prophet, not son of God (Xian belief)

A. People of the Book
1. Muslims call Xians and Jews “people of the book” b/c they all have holy books with teachings like the Qur'an
2. All 3 believe God's word is revealed in their holy books
3. Muslims think Qur'an is FINAL book and Muhammad was last prophet
4. All 3 believe in heaven, hell, and final judgement day

B. Religious Toleration
1. Muslim law says leaders must be tolerant to non-Muslims
2. Non-Muslims have less rights, pay extra taxes
3. Toleration is important in later Muslim expansion
Lesson 3: The Beginnings of Islam

I. New Muslim Leaders Emerge

Summarize:
For more than 20 years, Muhammad spread word of Allah, est. Muslim empire
Arab nomads respond to message--> Islam brings order, justice, & hope of heaven into their lives
June 632- Muhammad dies= Muslims have no leader

A. After Muhammad's Death
1. Muhammad didn't name a successor or tell anyone how to choose the next leader= Muslims panic when he dies
2. Abu Bakr= Muhammad's father-in-law and friend, becomes next leader

B. Abu Bakr Succeeds Muhammad
1. 632- Abu Bakr "selected" as first caliph- secular and religious leader of Muslim community, means "successor"
2. Many clans abandon Islam, refuse to pay taxes, some declare themselves prophets
3. Abu Bakr uses military power to reunite Muslim community, brings central Arabia under Muslim control and starts conquests to the north (lands that are now Iraq and Syria)

II. First Four Caliphs

Summarize:
First 4 Caliphs= Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali
All knew Muhammad, supported mission to spread Islam
Use Qur'an to guide them= "rightly guided caliphs"
Their rule= caliphate
A. Caliphs Expand the Muslim Empire
1. **Umar**, 2nd caliph, used armies to conquer Syria and lower Egypt (parts of Byzantine empire), and parts of Persian empire
2. Next 2 caliphs complete conquest of Persia
3. By 661 **Muslim empire increased in size 4 times**, includes all of Southwest Asia, and into North Africa

B. Reasons for Success
1. Muslims see military victories as signs of Allah's support= willing to fight to spread Islam
2. **Muslim armies disciplined, leaders skilled, & Byzantine and Persian empires are weak** from fighting one another
3. Byz. and Persian empires persecute people who don't support their conqueror's religions= persecuted people welcome Muslim invaders as liberators & Muslims allow them to keep their religions

C. Muslims Rule
1. **Cultures blend under Muslim rule**
2. Many people on Muslim territory convert to Islam= attracted to equality, hope for salvation
3. Economic benefit= Muslims don't pay taxes
4. Jews and Xians pay poll tax so they don't have to do military duties, hold important positions in Muslims state (cannot convert others to their religion)

III. Split in Islam

**Summarize:**
Although successful on battlefield, Muslims have hard time staying unified
A. Umayyads Sieze Power
1. 656–Uthman is murdered by rebel group, Ali succeeds him but is assassinated in 661→ Muslim system of selecting a caliph ends
2. Umayyads take power– rulers come from one family & inherit right to rule
3. Move capital from Medina to Damascus (in Syria)→ people think it’s to far away, disapprove of Umayyad’s claims to religious authority, say they abandon bedouin ways of early caliphs & surround themselves in luxury

B. Muslim Community Splits
1. Most Muslims want peace= accept Umayyads, minority resists= believe caliph should always be relative of Muhammad
2. Shi’a– branch of Islam that resisted rule of Umayyads, members are Shiites
2. Sunni– didn’t resist rule of Umayyads, accepted elected caliphs, “Sunni”=followers of Sunnah/Muhammad’s example
*Split becomes permanent

Basic Differences Between Muslims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sunni Beliefs</th>
<th>Shi’a Beliefs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early caliphs</td>
<td>First 4 caliphs were rightful rulers</td>
<td>Only Ali, Muhammad’s son-in-law, was legitimate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim ruler</td>
<td>Any Muslim who follows Muhammad’s example may be ruler</td>
<td>Only a descendant of Muhammad and Ali may be imam, or ruler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sources of Islam</td>
<td>Qur’an and Sunnah of Muhammad</td>
<td>Qur’an, Sunnah, and teachings of imams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>