

# Chapter Summary

## Islamic Civilization

### Lesson 1 *A New Faith*

- In the 600s, Arab people on the Arabian peninsula created a new empire that eventually spread to Southwest Asia.
- To survive the harsh desert climate, Arabs formed tribes. The tribes settled towns, such as Makkah (Mecca), around desert oases. Towns brought trade to Arabia. Trade brought change to tribal customs and a new religion arose.
- The new religion, called Islam, drove the growth of the empire.
- Muhammad lived in Makkah. According to Islamic tradition, Muhammad was called by God to preach Islam in 610.
- Muhammad preached there was only one God, Allah; that God valued good deeds, not wealth; and that the wealthy should give to the poor. Many people in Makkah did not like that.
- Muhammad went to Madinah (Medina) where people accepted him as a prophet of God and their ruler. He formed an army and built an empire. When he died in 632, the entire Arabian peninsula was part of the Islamic state.
- Islam shares beliefs with Judaism and Christianity. Islam teaches there is one God and that it is important to obey the laws of God in order to have a happy afterlife.
- Makkah is a holy site in Islam and the place of the Kaaba, a holy structure. The Quran is the holy book of Islam. It provides guidelines on how to live and forbids murder, lying, and stealing.
- Followers of Islam, called Muslims, follow the Five Pillars of Islam: belief, prayer, charity, fasting, and pilgrimage. Islam encourages followers to make a pilgrimage to Makkah if possible in their lifetime.

# Chapter Summary *Cont.*

## Islamic Civilization

### Lesson 2 *The Spread of Islam*

- When Muhammad died, he left no instructions as to who should be the next leader of Islam. Muslim leaders chose a new leader called a caliph, or successor.
- Caliphs known as the Umayyads conquered new lands, including Spain. The Umayyads let the people they conquered follow their own religions.
- Muslims divided into Shia and Sunni. As Muhammad left no sons, the Shia believe caliphs have to be descendants of Muhammad. The Sunni believe the caliphs do not have to be descendants of Muhammad, but can be elected.
- The Shia and the Sunni agree on the principles of Islam, including the Five Pillars. Most Muslims today are Sunni, although in Iran and Iraq there are many Shia.
- In 750 the Shia rebelled and the Abbasid caliphs ruled the Arab Empire from Baghdad. They focused not on conquest, but on trade and culture.
- The Seljuk Turks from central Asia seized Baghdad in 1055. The Arab Empire ended in 1258 when the Mongols burned Baghdad.
- In the 1400s the Ottomans from Turkey conquered the Arab and Byzantine Empires. The Ottoman Empire lasted until the early 1900s.
- Suleiman I, known as the Lawgiver, was the greatest ruler of the Ottoman Empire.
- In Persia the Safavid dynasty ruled until the 1700s and was not conquered by the Ottomans. The Persian language and culture spread to South Asia.

# Chapter Summary *Cont.*

**networks**

## Islamic Civilization

### Lesson 3 *Life in the Islamic World*

- From 700 to the 1400s, Muslim merchants controlled much of the trade between Asia and Africa. Muslim merchants introduced coins for trading and kept detailed records. These practices led to a banking system.
- Muslim cities were located on trade routes and became centers for government, education, and culture. Every Muslim city had mosques for worship and bazaars for trading.
- Most Muslims lived in towns and villages and farmed the land of wealthy landowners. Government leaders, landowners, and wealthy merchants had the most power in Muslim society. Women managed families and households. Women could also own property, invest in trade, and inherit wealth.
- The widespread use of Arabic promoted the exchange of ideas among people. Muslim scholars preserved ancient Greek writings by translating them into Arabic, which was later translated into Latin.
- Muslim scholars made contributions in science, including creating the study of chemistry and medicine. In mathematics, Muslim scholars invented algebra.
- Literature flourished in the Islamic world, and Islamic architects designed and built famous buildings that still stand today.