

Name _____

Date _____

**Unit Three: The Rise of Islam
Geography Challenge**

Directions: Using the information in this packet, answer the following questions and label your map. Then, paste each of these papers in your history notebooks, under unit three.

1. Which seas and oceans do you see on the map? Label them on your map, and color these bodies of water blue.

2. What cities were important to trade on the Arabian Peninsula? Label the Arabian Peninsula and its important trade cities.

3. What continents surround the Arabian Peninsula? Label the continents on your map.

4. In what city was Muhammad born? Add a symbol to your map to show Muhammad's birthplace. Label your symbol.

5. How did Arab traders from Makkah (Mecca) and Baghdad reach China? On your map, draw one land route to China from Baghdad. Also draw one sea route to China from Makkah.

6. What body of water did Arab traders cross to reach Europe? On your map, draw one trade route across that body of water.

7. What is the approximate distance along trade routes between Venice, Italy, and Guangzhou, China? Give your answer in miles and kilometers. Add a scale to your map.

8. How many trade routes meet in Makkah (Mecca)? On your map, draw these trade routes from Makkah to their nearest destinations

Setting the Stage

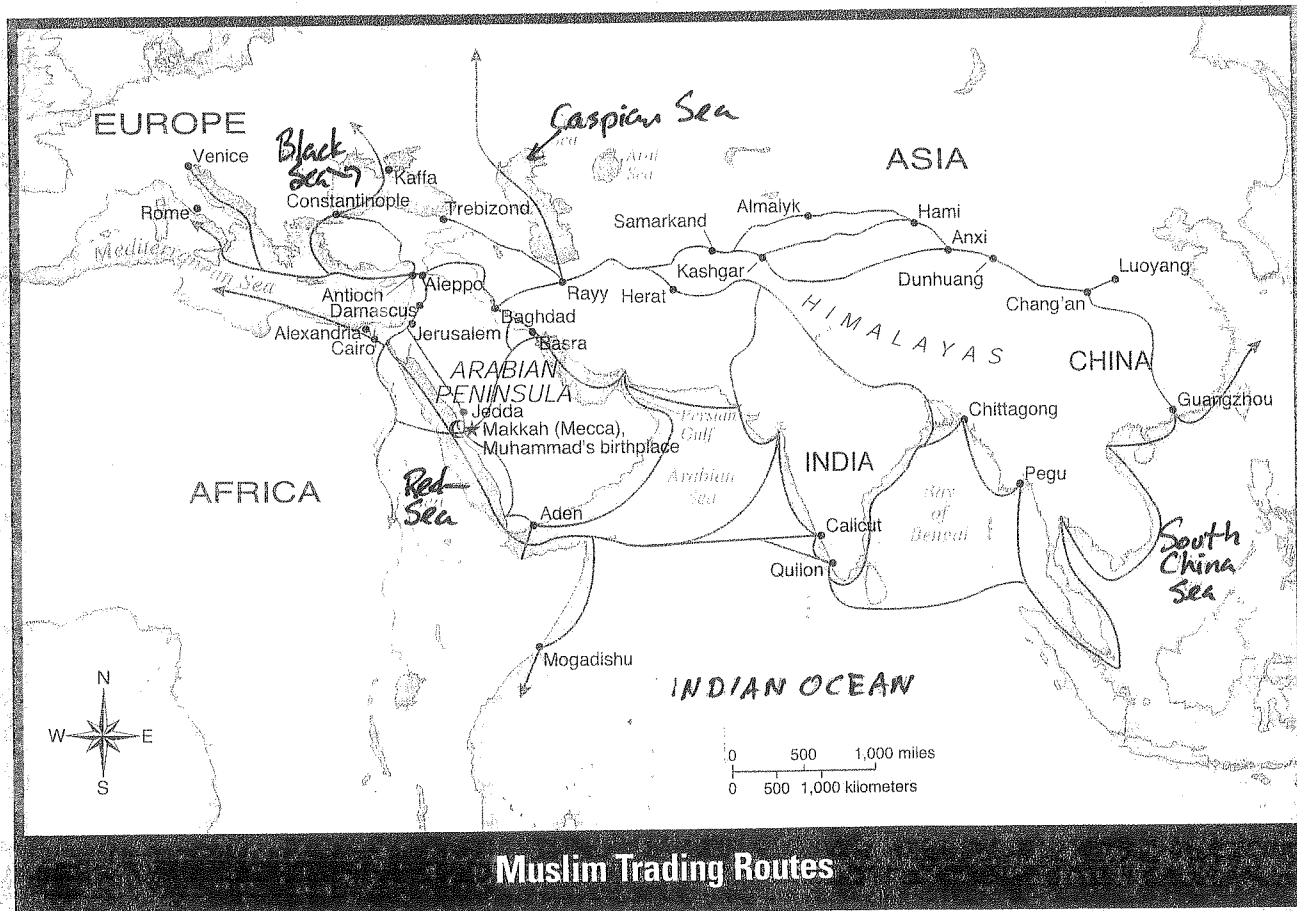
The Rise of Islam

In the last unit, you learned about Europe and the Byzantine Empire. In this unit, you will explore rise of Islam and the history of Muslim empires, from about 600 to 1500 c.E. Islam is one of the world's major religions, and those who practice the religion are called Muslims.

Islam began in Arabia, a peninsula of southwest Asia between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. The Arabian Peninsula is part of the region known as the Middle East. Today the peninsula includes the countries of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

Most of the people living on the Arabian Peninsula when Islam arose were Arabs. Arabs also lived in other places. What all Arabs shared was a common language, Arabic.

In the early 600s c.E., an Arab man named Muhammad introduced Islam to the people of the Arabian Peninsula. His followers became known as Muslims. Among other things, Muslims believe there is one God (the Arabic word for God is Allah) and that Muhammad is his prophet.



Although the first Muslims lived in Arabia, Islam spread throughout the Middle East, North Africa, Persia (now called Iran), and other parts of Asia and Europe. Many non-Arabs became Muslims. In fact, today Arabs are a small minority of Muslims worldwide.

If you look at a map of the Middle East, you will see that the Arabian Peninsula is located at the crossroads of North Africa, Europe, and Asia. Arab Muslims were very active traders. It's not surprising, then, that one of the ways Islam spread was along Muslim trading routes. You'll learn more about the spread of Islam in this unit.

In this unit, you will also learn about Muhammad, the teachings of Islam, and some of the contributions Muslims have made to world civilization. You will take a close look at the crusades, a series of religious wars that European Christians waged against Muslims during medieval times. You'll also find out how Islam and Muslim societies continued to thrive and spread after the crusades.

Let's start our explorations with a closer look at the geography of the Arabian Peninsula, where Islam first arose.

