

# Grade 4 History & Geography

## Unit 4: Medieval Islamic Empires

5 lessons and a unit quiz. Use this pack with the **Medieval Islamic Empires Student Reader** (print it, or download it once from the course) to teach the whole unit without the internet.

### What is in this pack

- A lesson plan for each chapter: the Big Question, words to know, which pages to read, questions to talk over and the activity pages.
- The unit quiz, ready to print.
- Answers for the teacher at the back: every discussion question and the quiz key.

This course is based on an original work of the Core Knowledge® Foundation ([www.coreknowledge.org](http://www.coreknowledge.org)) made available through licensing under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. This does not in any way imply that the Core Knowledge Foundation endorses this work. PGAMO added the lesson pages, study packs and quizzes layout, and shares them under the same license. License: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>).

## Lesson schedule

Two or three lessons a week, about 30 minutes each. Tick each one off as you go.

|                          | Lesson                          | Reader pages    | Activity pages                    |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter 1: The Pillars of Islam | PDF pages 5–14  | AP 1.1, AP 1.2                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter 2: Muhammad             | PDF pages 15–20 | AP 1.1                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter 3: Islamic Expansion    | PDF pages 21–28 | AP 3.1, AP 3.2                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter 4: Islamic Culture      | PDF pages 29–36 | AP 4.1                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chapter 5: The Crusades         | PDF pages 37–46 | AP 1.1, AP 4.1,<br>AP 5.1, AP 5.2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <b>Unit quiz</b>                | —               | —                                 |

Page numbers are the PDF page numbers of the Student Reader file, so they match what your PDF reader shows.

## Chapter 1: The Pillars of Islam

### THE BIG QUESTION

**Within the religion of Islam, who is Muhammad?**

### Words to know

- **minaret** — a high tower on a mosque, from which Muslims may be called to prayer  
*The man climbed the stairs of the minaret to issue the call to prayer.*
- **muezzin** — a religious official who calls Muslims to prayer  
*A muezzin must have a strong and clear voice.*
- **mosque** — a place of worship for Muslims  
*Many Muslims attend Friday prayers at their local mosque.*
- **prophet** — someone chosen by God to bring a message to people  
*Khadija hopes to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca in two years.*
- **vision** — an image in one's mind or imagination that others cannot see  
*Muhammad had a vision of the angel Gabriel.*
- **verse** — a part of a poem, song, or religious text, such as the Bible, or rhymed prose, such as the Koran  
*Each verse that Muhammad recited became part of the Koran.*
- **idol** — an object, such as a statue or carving, that represents a god and is worshipped  
*Before Islam, the people of Arabia worshipped many different idols.*
- **shrine** — a place considered holy because it is associated with a religious person or saint  
*The city of Jerusalem contains Jewish, Christian, and Muslim shrines.*
- **Ramadan** — a holy month in the Islamic calendar when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset  
*Musa is not eating lunch today because it is Ramadan. He will not eat until after the sun goes down.*

### Read

Read Chapter 1 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 5–14. Look at the pictures and maps together.

### Talk it over

1. What is Khalid ibn Zayd's job?
2. What are the followers of the religion of Islam called?
3. What is the name of the building in which Muslims might pray?
4. Why do Muslims consider Mecca a holy city?
5. Who is Muhammad?
6. What was the Kaaba when Muhammad first started to spread his message? What is the Kaaba today?
7. Why was Muhammad's message so unpopular at first?
8. What are the Five Pillars of Islam?

## 9. What is the Koran?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

### **Check for understanding**

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Within the religion of Islam, who is Muhammad?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

### **Activity pages**

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 164
- Activity Page 1.2: The Five Pillars of Islam — Teacher Guide PDF page 64

## Chapter 2: Muhammad

### THE BIG QUESTION

**What does Muhammad's decision regarding the replacement of the holy stone reveal about his character?**

### Words to know

- **sacred** — related to religion; holy *The city of Jerusalem is sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.*
- **clan** — a group of families claiming a common ancestor *Even members of Muhammad's clan turned against him when he began to preach that the rich should give to the poor.*
- **meditate** — to think quietly or carefully about something *Even before he received a revelation, Muhammad used to go into the hills around Mecca to meditate.*

### Read

Read Chapter 2 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 15–20. Look at the pictures and maps together.

### Talk it over

1. What is the story that Muslims tell about Muhammad and a problem in the Kaaba? How did Muhammad solve the problem?
2. How did the story show that Muhammad possessed the necessary qualities for a good leader?
3. What were the main points of Muhammad's message?
4. Why were some people unhappy with Muhammad's messages?
5. Why did Muhammad leave Mecca?
6. How is the Hegira honored today in the Muslim world?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

### Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What does Muhammad's decision regarding the replacement of the holy stone reveal about his character?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

### Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 164

## Chapter 3: Islamic Expansion

### THE BIG QUESTION

**Why was the flight to Medina the start of a new period in the history of Islam?**

### Words to know

- **convert** — to change from one belief or religion to another *Muslim rulers did not force Jews or Christians to convert to Islam.*
- **revelation** — something that is made known to humans by God *The angel Gabriel shared a revelation with Muhammad.*
- **caliph** — a successor of Muhammad; the leader of Islam *Abu Bakr was the first caliph after Muhammad's death.*

### Read

Read Chapter 3 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 21–28. Look at the pictures and maps together.

### Talk it over

1. What are some of the religious practices of Islam that you just read about?
2. How did Mecca become the center of Islam?
3. What is the Koran?
4. Who were the caliphs?
5. How did the two branches of Islam that continue to exist today, the Shiite and the Sunni, come about?
6. How did Islam spread throughout the Middle East, Europe, and Asia?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

### Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why was the flight to Medina the start of a new period in the history of Islam?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

### Activity pages

- Activity Page 3.1: Islamic Expansion — Teacher Guide PDF pages 65–66
- Activity Page 3.2: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 1–3 — Teacher Guide PDF page 67

## Chapter 4: Islamic Culture

### THE BIG QUESTION

**How did the Islamic Empire contribute to the development of Western knowledge and culture?**

### Words to know

- **scribe** — a person whose job is copying written information *Muslim scribes copied and translated the works of Greek and Roman thinkers.*
- **navigation** — the act of planning and directing the movement of a ship, plane, or other vehicle *The discoveries of Muslim astronomers and mathematicians made navigation easier for ships.*
- **algebra** — a type of advanced mathematics *Students in middle school and high school mathematics often study algebra.*
- **stucco** — a type of rough plaster; a material used to make walls *Muslim builders often created designs on stucco walls.*
- **calligraphy** — artistic handwriting *Muslim artists often include calligraphy of verses from the Koran in their artwork.*

### Read

Read Chapter 4 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 29–36. Look at the pictures and maps together.

### Talk it over

1. In 750 CE, the center of Islamic government moved from Damascus to what city?
2. What was the primary language Muslims of medieval Islam spoke? How do you know?
3. What contributions by Muslim scholars are described in this section?
4. Who was Ibn Sina?
5. Why is the Spanish city of Córdoba important in Islamic history?
6. What were some of the characteristics of medieval Islamic art?
7. Who were the Seljuk Turks?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

### Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: How did the Islamic Empire contribute to the development of Western knowledge and culture?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

### Activity pages

- Activity Page 4.1: Islamic Art and Architecture — Teacher Guide PDF pages 68–69

## Chapter 5: The Crusades

### THE BIG QUESTION

### What events caused the First Crusade?

#### Words to know

- **cause** — something that a group of people believe in or fight for *Saladin rallied Muslims to the cause of expelling the crusaders from Jerusalem.*
- **crusader** — someone who participated in religious wars during the Middle Ages in which Christians from Europe attempted to take back the Holy Land and other territories from Muslims in the Middle East *The fact that Christians and Muslims viewed one another as infidels led to war in medieval times.*

#### Read

Read Chapter 5 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 37–46. Look at the pictures and maps together.

#### Talk it over

1. Why did Pope Urban II call for war against the Muslims?
2. Why did Christians consider the land around Jerusalem to be the Holy Land?
3. Who were the Crusaders?
4. Did the Crusades end quickly or go on for a long time?
5. Did the Crusades succeed in freeing the Holy Land from Muslim rule?
6. Who were Richard the Lionhearted and Saladin?
7. What was the outcome of the Third Crusade?
8. How did Crusaders' contact with Muslim society change European ideas about Islam?
9. What did the Ottoman Turks accomplish in 1453?
10. What did the Ottoman Turks rename the city of Constantinople?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

#### Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What events caused the First Crusade?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

#### Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 164
- Activity Page 4.1: Islamic Art and Architecture — Teacher Guide PDF pages 68–69
- Activity Page 5.1: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 4–5 — Teacher Guide PDF page 70
- Activity Page 5.2: The Crusades — Teacher Guide PDF pages 71–73

## UNIT QUIZ

# Medieval Islamic Empires

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. The person who calls Muslims to prayer is a
  - a) minaret.
  - b) madrasa.
  - c) muezzin.
  - d) mosque.
2. The Koran is the
  - a) place of prayer for Muslims.
  - b) leader of prayer for Muslims.
  - c) mosque schoolteacher.
  - d) holy book for Muslims.
3. Which is not one of the Five Pillars of Islam?
  - a) helping the poor
  - b) crusade
  - c) pilgrimage
  - d) prayer
4. Muslims follow only the word of
  - a) Gabriel.
  - b) Jesus.
  - c) Abraham.
  - d) God.
5. A group of families claiming a common ancestor is called a
  - a) kingdom.
  - b) clan.
  - c) dynasty.
  - d) caravan.
6. Who is the main prophet of Islam?
  - a) Ali
  - b) Muhammad
  - c) Yusuf
  - d) Khalid
7. The Hegira was
  - a) the city to which Muhammad and his followers moved.
  - b) Muhammad's escape to Medina.
  - c) an extraordinary effort and struggle.
  - d) the name of the chief clan of Mecca.

- 8.** Muhammad's successors were called
- a) prophets.
  - b) kings.
  - c) emperors.
  - d) caliphs.
- 9.** In the field of medicine, the Islamic Empire was
- a) behind Europe.
  - b) ahead of Europe.
  - c) about the same as Europe.
  - d) without any doctors at all.
- 10.** Who urged Christians to free the shrines of the Holy Land from the Muslims?
- a) Saladin
  - b) Avicenna
  - c) Pope Urban II
  - d) Genghis Khan
- 11.** In 1453, the Ottoman Turks succeeded in capturing
- a) Medina.
  - b) Constantinople.
  - c) Spain.
  - d) Mecca.

## Answers

### Chapter 1: The Pillars of Islam

1. **What is Khalid ibn Zayd's job?**

Khalid ibn Zayd is a muezzin. He calls people to prayer.

2. **What are the followers of the religion of Islam called?**

The followers of Islam are called Muslims.

3. **What is the name of the building in which Muslims might pray?**

Muslims might pray in a mosque.

4. **Why do Muslims consider Mecca a holy city?**

Mecca is the birthplace of Muhammad, the prophet of Islam. (Students may also say that Mecca is the location of the Kaaba because it is mentioned at the end of this section. They will learn more about the Kaaba in the next section.)

5. **Who is Muhammad?**

In Islam, Muhammad is considered God's, or Allah's, greatest messenger.

6. **What was the Kaaba when Muhammad first started to spread his message?  
What is the Kaaba today?**

The Kaaba was first a shrine where many gods were worshipped. Today it is the holiest place in Islam.

7. **Why was Muhammad's message so unpopular at first?**

He told people that there was the only one God, Allah, and that they should not worship any other gods. At the time, most Arabs prayed to many different gods and idols.

8. **What are the Five Pillars of Islam?**

The Five Pillars are: belief that there is only one God; prayer five times a day; giving to the poor; fasting during Ramadan; and making a pilgrimage to Mecca, or hajj.

9. **What is the Koran?**

It is the holy book of Islam.

### Chapter 2: Muhammad

1. **What is the story that Muslims tell about Muhammad and a problem in the Kaaba? How did Muhammad solve the problem?**

The problem was that a flood knocked a stone loose from one of the Kaaba's walls. Since the Kaaba is a holy shrine, every clan wanted the honor of putting the stone back in its proper place. Muhammad solved the problem by having the clans cooperate to replace the stone. He put the stone on top of his cloak and asked all of the clan leaders to lift it together to put it back in the wall.

2. **How did the story show that Muhammad possessed the necessary qualities for a good leader?**

The story shows that Muhammad was thoughtful, creative, and intelligent in coming up with a solution to the problem that did not favor just one clan. He was able to think

of a way to get all of the clans to cooperate, so that all were happy.

3. **What were the main points of Muhammad's message?**

People should pray to Allah, who was the only God; all believers were equal; the rich should share their wealth with the poor; people would be judged by what they did, not how rich they were.

4. **Why were some people unhappy with Muhammad's messages?**

They were concerned about his message saying that people should pray to only one God, Allah, (monotheism) instead of to the many gods who were worshipped at the Kaaba (polytheism). They worried that pilgrims who believed in many gods would stop visiting Mecca and stop spending money in Mecca.

5. **Why did Muhammad leave Mecca?**

Muhammad's enemies were plotting to kill him because they did not like what he had to say.

6. **How is the Hegira honored today in the Muslim world?**

Muslims begin their calendar year with the date of the Hegira.

### **Chapter 3: Islamic Expansion**

1. **What are some of the religious practices of Islam that you just read about?**

A muezzin calls followers to prayer. Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan. Muslims pray facing Mecca. Friday is the holy day of the week.

2. **How did Mecca become the center of Islam?**

Meccans unhappy with the spread of Islam attacked Medina. In response, Muhammad returned to Mecca with a large army. He destroyed the idols in the Kaaba and dedicated the shrine to the one God, Allah. The dedication of the Kaaba made Mecca the center of Islam.

3. **What is the Koran?**

It is the holy book of Islam, a collection of revelations to Muhammad. Muslims believe the Koran is the final word of God and therefore has no errors.

4. **Who were the caliphs?**

They were the successors to Muhammad and the rulers of the Muslim world.

5. **How did the two branches of Islam that continue to exist today, the Shiite and the Sunni, come about?**

The branches were formed because of a disagreement about who should succeed Muhammad as the leader of Islam. Those who supported Abu Bakr, the first caliph chosen by the elders of Medina, became the Sunni. Those who supported Ali, Muhammad's cousin and his daughter's husband, became the Shiite.

6. **How did Islam spread throughout the Middle East, Europe, and Asia?**

Islam spread through the leadership of the caliphs and through military battles fought by Islamic warriors.

### **Chapter 4: Islamic Culture**

1. **In 750 CE, the center of Islamic government moved from Damascus to what city?**  
Baghdad
2. **What was the primary language Muslims of medieval Islam spoke? How do you know?**  
Medieval Muslims spoke Arabic. Muslim scholars translated works written originally in Greek (and Latin) into Arabic.
3. **What contributions by Muslim scholars are described in this section?**  
Muslim scholars translated the works of ancient Greek and Roman thinkers. They also borrowed and spread the use of written numerals 0–9.
4. **Who was Ibn Sina?**  
He was a gifted Muslim doctor and philosopher who wrote a medical encyclopedia and books on philosophy, astronomy, and mathematics.
5. **Why is the Spanish city of Córdoba important in Islamic history?**  
It became a center of Muslim art and learning after the Muslim conquest of Spain in the 700s.
6. **What were some of the characteristics of medieval Islamic art?**  
Medieval Islamic art often contained patterns. Some artists created mosaics. Others were calligraphers. Artists often used bright colors.
7. **Who were the Seljuk Turks?**  
They were a group of Muslims who took control of the Islamic Empire and seized more than half of the Byzantine Empire. Page 33 G4\_U4\_Chap04\_SR.indd 33

## **Chapter 5: The Crusades**

1. **Why did Pope Urban II call for war against the Muslims?**  
The Byzantine emperor asked for help in turning back the Seljuk Turks, who were conquering parts of the Byzantine Empire and making it difficult for Christians to visit the Holy Land.
2. **Why did Christians consider the land around Jerusalem to be the Holy Land?**  
Jesus had lived there.
3. **Who were the Crusaders?**  
The Crusaders were European Christians who went to the Middle East to try to take back control of the Holy Land and other territories from the Muslims.
4. **Did the Crusades end quickly or go on for a long time?**  
The Crusades went on for a long time. The series of wars lasted nearly two hundred years.
5. **Did the Crusades succeed in freeing the Holy Land from Muslim rule?**  
The Crusades succeeded for only a short time. By the time they ended, the Muslims had regained control of the Holy Land.
6. **Who were Richard the Lionhearted and Saladin?**  
In the Third Crusade, Richard was the leader of the Crusaders (Christians). Saladin was leader of the Muslims. Richard was king of England, and Saladin was the Sultan of

Egypt and Syria.

7. **What was the outcome of the Third Crusade?**

The Crusaders did not recapture Jerusalem, but Christian pilgrims were allowed to visit Jerusalem as long as they did not carry any weapons.

8. **How did Crusaders' contact with Muslim society change European ideas about Islam?**

Although Muslims and Europeans continued to distrust one another, Crusaders came in contact with Islamic scientific discoveries, knowledge, and art. Christian universities began to teach Arabic and Muslim subjects. Arabic works were translated into European languages.

9. **What did the Ottoman Turks accomplish in 1453?**

They captured Constantinople, which had been the center of the Byzantine Empire for more than 1,100 years.

10. **What did the Ottoman Turks rename the city of Constantinople?**

Istanbul

**Unit quiz key**

1. c 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. b 6. b 7. b 8. d 9. b 10. c 11. b