

The Islamic World

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Muslim armies conquered many lands into which Islam slowly spread.
2. Trade helped Islam spread into new areas.
3. Three Muslim empires ruled large areas of Asia and Africa and parts of Europe from the 1400s to the 1800s.

Key Terms and People

Abu Bakr one of Islam's first converts, appointed caliph after Muhammad's death

caliph title of the highest Islamic leader

tolerance acceptance

Janissaries slave boys converted to Islam and trained as soldiers

Mehmed II Ottoman ruler who defeated the Byzantine Empire

Suleyman I Ottoman ruler who led the empire to its heights

Shia Muslims who believed only members of Muhammad's family should be caliphs

Sunni Muslims who believed caliphs did not have to be related to Muhammad

Section Summary

MUSLIMS ARMIES CONQUER MANY LANDS

After Muhammad's death **Abu Bakr** (uh-boo bak-uhr) was the leader of Islam. He was the first **caliph** (kay-luhf). This title was used for the highest Islamic leader. Abu Bakr unified Arabia. The Arab army conquered the Persian and Byzantine empires.

Later caliphs conquered lands in Central Asia, northern India, and North Africa. They controlled eastern Mediterranean trade routes. After many years of fighting, the Berbers of North Africa converted to Islam. A combined Arab and Berber army conquered Spain and ruled for 700 years.

TRADE HELPS ISLAM SPREAD

Arab merchants took Islamic beliefs and practices with them to new lands. Coastal trading cities developed into large Muslim communities.

Who was the first caliph?

Why do think trade flourishes in coastal cities?

Section 3, continued

Muslims generally practiced **tolerance**, or acceptance, of other religions. More people began speaking Arabic and practicing Islam. The Arabs also took on non-Muslim customs.

THREE MUSLIM EMPIRES

In the 1200s, Muslim Turks known as Ottomans attacked the Byzantine Empire. They trained **Janissaries**, boys from conquered towns who were enslaved and converted to Islam. The Janissaries fought fiercely. In 1453 the Ottomans led by **Mehmed II** took Constantinople. This ended the Byzantine Empire. The Ottoman Empire peaked under **Suleyman I** (soo-lay-MAHN). By 1566 the Ottomans took control of the eastern Mediterranean and parts of Europe.

Meanwhile, the Safavids (sah-FAH-vuhds) gained power in the east. Before long, the Safavids came into conflict with the Ottomans and other Muslims. The conflict stemmed from an old disagreement about who should be caliph. In the mid-600s, Islam had split into two groups—the **Sunni** and the **Shia**. The Ottomans were Sunni, and the Safavids were Shia. The Safavid Empire conquered Persia in 1501.

East of the Safavid Empire, in India, lay the Mughal (MOO-guhl) Empire. The Mughals united many diverse peoples and were known for their architecture—particularly the Taj Mahal. Under the leader Akbar, the Mughal Empire was known for its religious tolerance. But more restrictive policies after his death led to the end of the empire.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences Draw a timeline marking the major Muslim conquests and a map to show the size of Islamic territory.

Underline the phrase that tells where the Ottomans found fierce soldiers to fight in their armies.

When did the Byzantine Empire end?

Into what two groups did Islam split into in the mid-600s?

Section 3, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Write a word or phrase that defines or describes the term given.

1. Abu Bakr _____

2. caliph _____

3. Janissaries _____

4. Mehmed II _____

5. Shia _____

6. Suleyman I _____

7. Sunni _____

8. tolerance _____