A Century of Expansion:

Expansion under Umayyad Rule:

- Muslim soldiers who fought Byzantines at Damascus helped to create empire(of province ruled by same people)
- After capturing Syria, the muslims conquered Mesopotamia in 637 AD
- By mid-600's, Persia fell to muslims which expanded farther east by securing Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Umayyads:

- The Umayyads fought for Islam in the eastern conquest
- Muawiya (Umayyad Leader) was a soldier who helped conquer Damascus in 635
- He was governor of Syria for 25 years, and had built up a devoted army of followers, and took control of the empire in 661

Umayyad changes:

- Muawiya moved the capital from Medina to Damascus where he could control the empire
- Muawiyah began the practice of appointing a son as the next caliph, and founded the tradition of continuous rule by one family. The Umayyads ruled for 90 years.

Westward Expansion:

- Umayyads were talented military leaders and from 661-750 Muslim Empire expanded.
- Armies went west into Africa
- Berbers, who lived along the north coast and the Sahara, converted to Islam
- Muslims moved north across Strait of Gibraltar in 71.
- They were determined to conquer the Iberian Peninsula, and they burned all of their boats so that all they could do is march forwards.
- They conquered Spain in 7 years or less
- Catholic Visigoths rule was no longer popular, weren't able to raise large enough army.
- Persecution of Jews and Christians who disagreed with church rulers helped cause their defeat.
- In the end the Muslims drove out the Visigothic leaders and almost all of the Peninsula was Umayyad territory.
- From bases in Spain, Muslim armies repeatedly crossed the Pyrenees and raided France.
- In 732, Muslims confronted Charles Martell (the Hammer) and army of Franks.
- One of the most decisive in European history, Martel's troops stopped the Muslims at Battle of Tours. This battle determined that Europe would be Christian and not Muslim.

An Empire of Many People:

- As Muslims were conquering, they went far past Arabia. Among the people that were conquered were Christians and Jews and people who believed in polytheism
- Over centuries many people who lived in land under Muslim rule converted to Islam

- Many Christians and Jews kept traditional faiths
- When non-Arabs converted to Islam, they were not always accepted socially to the Arab community. They wanted to keep the culture influence-free from other sources. In time, this changed and Muslim culture developed and included non-Arab customs.
- Umayyad Muslims were generally tolerant of people who believed in monotheism.
- Muslims considered Jews and Christians to be “people of the box.”
- Christians and Jews had full religious freedom. They built churches and synagogues, and several were financed by the state.
- The state didn't ask Christians or Jews to perform military service, but did require them to pay a head tax, called jizya. Many Christians, Jews, and non-Muslims held key positions in government.
- All Muslims were required to pay zakat, the 2.5% charity tax.
- Many people benefited from Muslim tolerance. Jews lived in Mesopotamia since the 500s B.C. and when the Romans destroyed Judaea in 70A
- Their academies helped build Judaism as a religion defined by the Torah (the Jewish Bible), the Rabbis (teachers), and the synagogue (temple).
- By 500, scholars had collected a vast amount of learning about the Torah in a work called the Talmud, which became one of the greatest cornerstones of Judaism.
- Sassanid and Christian rulers had persecuted Jews, but Muslim rulers often protected them.

Government:

- The Umayyad caliph Muawiya patterned his highly organized government on the Byzantine model he had first seen when he captured Damascus, and even kept some of the Christians in their old government posts.
- This system of order and rule was a bureaucracy, many departments managed by workers appointed by the caliph or representatives
- Under Muawiya, the provinces were ruled by emirs or governors appointed by caliphs
- Muawiya encouraged his emirs to rule strictly in order to take out disagreement

Umayyad Unity:

- Abd Al Malik (caliph 685-705) helped shape a new Muslim culture
- Abd al Malik declared Arabic to be official language of the empire
- Umayyads brought diverse cultures of their empire under control.
- Until Abd malik adopted adopted arabic as the official , local government workers had been mostly non arabic.
- Anyone who wanted to fully participate in the culture had to speak arabic
- Government started minting coins around 640.
- Abd malik made the first pure muslim coins around 700.
- They had no images but were inscribed with important arabic quotations from the Qur’an
- Coins gave muslims a symbol of power over their empire, also made commerce easier through parts of empire
- One of the first things Arabs did when they conquered new land is they built a mosque

so they could give thanks to allah
- The mosques were made from materials common to the area
- In 688 north africa was conquered and Mosques there were made from adobe and wood
- The same features that were important to islamic religion were: minaret, mihrab, and a ablution fountain.

The Umayyad downfall:
- The Umayyads conquered many new lands and people for Islam but by 750, after 90 years of rule they started facing economic and political problems.
- Many non-muslims by now have converted to islam and started paying less taxes and therefore caused the the amount of the tax money they can spend to decrease
- By 732 armies were making fewer conquests thus slowing down their captured wealth
- The Umayyads were getting the reputation for a worldly kingdom and that they weren't contributing enough to the religious ideals of the prophet muhammad
- Abbasids started a successful rebellion against the muslims from Khurasan in Persia
- One of the abbasids leaders, Abdullah invited 80 umayyad leaders to a feast and while they were eating his men attacked them
- 750, Abbasid family gained control of the Muslim Empire in the East
- One man, Abd al Rahman, escaped out a window, disguised, he fled back to Spain and started a new Umayyad government there
- The muslim state was now split so Umayyads ruled europe and the Abbasids in asia and africa.

Lesson 2: The Golden Age

- Baghdad in Mesopotamia became Abbasid capital ideal location to be a world marketplace
- located in between many trade routes, grew into a huge city that was the center of trade, learning, and government
- river traffic passed up the Tigris and Euphrates, on it traveled the produce of Meso...
- Persian Royal Road, camels, carts, and ships were all methods of transportation
- Cargoes and Items traveled to and from China, India, and Africa

Under Abbasid Rule (pg 86)
- Abbasids forcibly took over most of the old Umayyad territories
- Caliph Abu Jafar al Mansur moved capital from Damascus to Baghdad because there was more support, and was a very rich region/land
- Abbasids held onto their power because of their strong standing army
- Abu also used the postal system as a communication and spy network to relay information about any dissents
- Muslim empire absorbed different traditions and cultures, because of the fact that the empire moved farther East
- Arabic language continued to be the vehicle of government, education, poetry, & religion

The New Capital of Baghdad (pg 87)

- Baghdad's economy relied on taxes and wealth from trade
- empire was rich in the gold, silver, copper and iron used in trade
- pearls and precious gems were also in great demand
- Abbasids also preserved and improved wells, canals, and water wheels
- Dates, rice, and other grains flourished under the Abbasids
- they also introduced new breeds of livestock and hastened the spread of cotton
- traders from Scandinavia to Africa came for the products as well
- leather goods, textiles, paper, metalwork, and perfumes were sold as well
- to handle business, they created something similar to a banking system
- people invested in long-distance trade, and goods were bought with credit
- upper classes grew rich were able to spend their money on lavish homes, fine clothing, and amusements
- horse racing, polo, and falconry were popular games as well as chess and backgammon
- rich also has elegant banquets with poets and dancers

Abbasid Culture (pg 88)

- great wealth allowed the Abbasids to support Arts and Literature
- years from 800 - 1000 were periods of high achievement

Art and Design

- Muslim style often uses Arabic script as inspiration, significant because it was used to write down God's words to Muhammad
- Calligraphy (Beautiful writing) flourished, when used in decoration they were unreadable
- calligraphy and geometry designs were often put in mosques because they believed human images would distract worshipers from praying to Allah
- artists often used floral designs like the arabesque, winding stem, leaves, and flowers

Bookmaking and Literature

- in 751 during a raid the Abbasids captured Chinese artisans skilled in paper making
- let them go in exchange for the Papermaking secrets
- more books became available, contributed to the interest in learning
- Caliph al Ma'mun (813 - 833) founded the School of Wisdom in Baghdad
- scholars translated Greek classics in philosophy into Arabic
- thousands of books from the East were brought and new ones were written
- poets and writers flocked to Baghdad where they were welcomed

Abbasid Achievements in Learning (pg 89)

- interest in reading expanded expanded to science, math, and medicine
- Muslim scholars had an excellent reputation which spread across the empire

Science and Mathematics

- scholars were interested in going deeper into the findings of Greeks, Asians, & Africans

- Ex. Muslim astrologers mapped the Solar System and believed the earth was round long before Columbus's time
- Algebra is based on Abbasid mathematician al Khwarizmi' explorations
- word algebra comes from al's book al jabr which means the addition of 1 thing to another

Medicine

- Muslim doctors living during the Abbasid reign became skilled at diagnosis and treatment of disease
- ar- Razi, a persian born physician of the 900s wrote the first accurate description of measles and smallpox
- other docs performed surgeries to patients in free, public, & clean hospitals
- Muslims were experimenting herbal medicines; like coriander to treat disease
- one leading Abbasid figure of medicine was Ibn Sina AKA Avicenna
- in addition Avicenna wrote a vast medical encyclopedia called Canon of Medicine
- summed up his medical knowledge and described the diseases and treatments of the time
- Muhammad himself stated that every illness had a cure

A Divided Empire (pg 92)

- 800-1000 was a golden cultural period for the Abbasid empire
- at the end of this period, the government had financial problems
- Abbasids had lost control of important trade routes, this hurt the economy
- caliphs had to increase taxes to support their style of living

Factions and Revolt

- factions (opposing groups) began to leave the empire and control distant parts of it
- Ex. Fatimids, descendants of Fatima were unhappy of the costly lifestyle and wanted to go back to the simple life of Muhammad
- migrated to North Africa and by 969 they had conquered it and named Cairo as Capital

Seljuk Turks

- groups continued to break the weakened Abbasid empire
- in 1055 Baghdad was conquered by nomadic turks from Central Asia who were descendants of Seljuk (warrior)
- turks allowed caliph and his followers to stay but only as religious leaders
- Seljuk turks gained control of government and ruled seriously
- this Empire lasted 200 years but ended when captured by Mongols from Central Asia

Lesson 3: Islamic Spain

- Quran tells the Muslims to pray 5 times in direction to Mecca
- Great Mosque of Cordoba began around 785 by Abd al Rahman
- completed ~200 years later as a religious, social, and educational center

The Return of the Umayyads (pg 95) (Theo)

Uniting Muslim Spain

- By 756, the Umayyad forces in Spain accepted Abd al Rahman as their leader.
- Abd al Rahman moved the now independent Islamic Spain's Capital to the roman city of Cordoba.
- Abd al Rahman's goal was to unify Spain under central government.
- He succeeded so well that until 1000 there was only a few invasions.

Strengthening Cordoba (Iva)

- The climax of the Umayyad power was in Spain about 200 years ago after Abd al Rahman during the 49 year reign of Abd al Rahman III (912-961)
- Rahman was the first ruler to be a “Caliph” instead of simply governor.
- During his time as caliph, Rahman increased the strength of the army. He bought Scandinavian, African, and German slaves to serve in the army.
- The army protected his kingdom from forces which attacked the first Abd al Rahman, Christians from North and Muslims from the East, especially *Fatimids* who started an empire in Africa.

Glory of Cordoba (pg 96) (Prerna)

- with borders protected, Abd Al Rahman turned to making Cordoba a thriving Cultural center
- the city was well run and attracted many scholars and artist many from Abbasid
- Great Mosque was largest out of the 3000
- by 1000 Cordoba was western Europe’s largest city with 450,000 people

A Center of Learning (Oscar)

- Poets and musicians were highly regarded by the caliphs, so entertainment thrived.
- They sung and told of the glory of the empire and it’s rulers
- Cordoba was the cultural and intellectual center of western Islam
- Muslims brought many books to Spain
- New books were written as well, and Christian, Jewish, and Muslim scholars worked to translate the books into Latin
- People brought them back to Christian Europe where they raised the level of knowledge and learning at universities
- In the late 900’s, the largest libraries in Cordoba had over 500,000 books
- Clerks at the libraries hand-copied 70,000 books every year to satisfy the citizens
- Thousands of men and women attended the university and the law school in Cordoba.
- Scholars from Baghdad traveled to spain to share knowledge and gather ideas

The Intellectual Community (Audrey) page 99

- Cordoba was a center of learning in which non-Muslims and Muslims from other lands were welcome.

- One of the first visiting scholars was Abbas Ibn Firnas.
- He came to teach music but soon began to explore the mechanics of flight.
- He constructed a pair of wings out of feathers and a frame and made an attempt at flight.
- Later he went on to build a famous planetarium with revolving planets in Cordoba.
- Many non-muslims played an important part in the intellectual life of Cordoba.
- For example, Hasdai ben-Shaprut was a jew who served as a court physician, treasurer, and diplomat to Abd al Rahman 111.

A Golden Age for Jews (Addie) *page 99*

- Hasdai ben-Shaprut brought Jewish scholars, philosophers, poets, and scientists to Cordoba
- he made it the leading center for jewish culture
- Under Christian Visigoths and Romans Jews were persecuted
- Under the Muslims in Spain they flourished
- civil wars began but the “golden age”of Jewish culture continued for many years
- Jewish Spanish culture (Sephardic) developed with a language called Ladino
- For example, Hasdai ben-Shaprut was a jew who served as a court physician, treasurer, and diplomat to Abd al Rahman III
- Maimonides was born in Cordoba, family has to flee the city when anti Jews controlled the city
- in Cairo he gained reputation as a doctor, lecturer, writer, & scholar-philosopher
- Ferdinand and Isabella reconquered Spain in 1492 and expelled all Jews

A City of Merchants (Gabi)

- Cordoba supported many workshops for leatherwork, prayer carpets, ivory boxes and other handicrafts.
- Spanish leather and other goods were demanded throughout Europe.
- Agriculture also flourished.
- Irrigation enabled farmers to grow new and exotic crops.
- Those crops are figs, almonds, bananas, cherries, and cotton.
- Over 4,000 markets sold these agriculture and other products.

The Reconquest (Russell)

- By the 1000s Christian kingdoms had enough power to grow southward.
- The late 1000s mark the beginning of a period the Christians call the reconquest.
- Knights and adventurers from all over Europe journeyed to Spain to fight the Muslims.
- Adventures from Europe journeyed to spain to muslims.
- In 1085 spanish christian ruler Alfonso VI (6) took over muslim city of toledo whose king was friendly to christians.
- The loss of Toledo marked the point for no return battle for Spain.

An Empire Lost (Theo)

- After the attack on Toledo, the rest of Islamic Spain gradually fell to Christian soldiers and the government fell into quarreling factions.

- The Muslims retreated farther to the south as the Christian forces invaded from the north.
- Cordoba fell to the Christian forces in 1236, almost 500 years after Abd al Rahman.
- In 1236, the last Islamic kingdom in Spain was that of Berbers in Granada.
- The Catholic kingdoms of Aragon and Castile ruled Northern and central Spain, when King Ferdinand married Queen Isabella of Castile, their combined kingdoms had enough power to expel the Muslims out of Spain entirely.
- Many refugees settled in Morocco where the Berbers originally came from in 711.
- Today 98% of the Moroccans are Muslims.
- Many people speak Spanish, but the official language is Arabic.