



Unit 4: Islamic Civilizations Social Studies 6

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*Archdiocesan Essential Curriculum > Grade 6 > Social Studies > Weeks 20 to 25

Stage 1: Desired Results	
General Information In this unit, students learn how the unique geographical characteristics impacted the development and spread of Islamic civilizations. Students will also learn the social, economic, and political causes and effects of conflicts within the Islamic civilizations, and the cultural legacy upon the world.	Essential Question(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the geographical features of various regions influence the development and spread of Islamic civilizations? What were the key characteristics of these regions?• What were the primary social, economic, and political factors that contributed to conflicts within Islamic civilizations?• How has the cultural legacy of Islamic civilizations shaped global societies in terms of art, architecture, science, philosophy, and literature? What are some specific examples of this influence?
Enduring Understanding/Knowledge Students will understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Islamic civilization began in Arabia and extended widely in the Middle East, North Africa, and to other parts of Africa and Asia during the Middle Ages.• How geographical features such as deserts, rivers, and trade routes influenced their development and expansion, shaping their economic, social, and political structures.• The conflicts within Islamic civilizations involve exploring the complex interplay of societal, economic, and political factors, shedding light on the causes and consequences of internal struggles that have shaped the course of history.• The enduring impact of Islamic civilizations on global art, architecture, science, philosophy, and literature reveals their cultural legacy and contribution to human civilization's rich tapestry.• People in Islamic countries engaged in subsistence agriculture to satisfy basic economic wants.• Trade throughout the Islamic civilizations brought in diverse goods allowing them to create commercial centers.• Gold, silver, and copper coins were used throughout the Islamic empires as mediums of exchange.• Islam was founded by Muhammad in the 7th century in Arabia.• The Qur'an is believed to be an eternal book, written in Arabic, and is considered untranslatable.• Islamic beliefs impacted the way their	Vocabulary <i>People/Groups to Know:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muhammad• Muslims• Caliphs• Sunnis• Shias• Sultans• Ibn Khaldun <i>Places to Know:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arabian Peninsula• Red Sea• Persian Sea• Gulf of Aden• Medina <i>Other Vocabulary Words:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• prophet• nomad• hijrah• sharta• Qur'an• mosque• sunnah• hoji• dynasty• sufism• urban• economics• scarcity• opportunity cost• commerce• diffusion• mediums of exchange

<p>civilization was structured and how it interacted with other faiths and civilizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divine authority in religious and secular matters in Islam rests in the caliph, the successor of Muhammad. A caliph is both a religious and secular ruler. • There are many sects in Islam due to differences in many beliefs. • Islamic empires in the Middle East went into decline after the Ottoman Empire stopped expanding in the 17th century. 	
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Connections to Catholic Identity / Other Subjects Differentiation

Religion/Catholic Identity:

- Muslim empires conquered large sections of the Christian Byzantine Empire in Europe, Asia, and North Africa as well as most of Spain.
- A significant minority of Christians remain in many countries in which the majority of the population is Muslim, including such countries as Egypt, Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, and Turkey.
- Christian countries engaged significantly in trade with Islamic merchants to the advantage of both, leading to improvements in agriculture, banking, transfer of knowledge, and quality of life.
- Due to their trade connections, Christian and Islamic countries made contributions to the development of banking, accounting, and the use of paper checks as a safer way to conduct business than carrying money. Both made significant contributions.
- Similarities and differences between Christianity and Islam.
- Catholics believe in the divine authority of the Bible and Church tradition, and in the pope as head of the Church. The pope differs from a caliph in that the pope's authority is entirely religious while the authority of a caliph is both religious and secular.
- [Muslim and Christian Contact in the Middle Ages: A Reader](#) by Jarbel Rodriquez (2015). This book contains 80 primary sources that chronicle Muslim and Christian contacts from a variety of points of view throughout the Middle Ages. It is available on Amazon.

Math:

- Development of accounting and banking systems

- *Choice Board Activity Menu* – Choice boards allow students to select activities that promote student interest as well as a level of difficulty and challenge for students.
- *Question and Answer Boards* – Create a Question and Answer Board using Post-It Notes where students can post questions about material they don't understand. Classmates can respond to these questions, providing peer support and different perspectives. This strategy helps address various learning needs and promotes collaborative learning.

Standards & Benchmarks

Analyze the unique regional characteristics that lead to Islamic civilizations.

- **Examine** how physical and human characteristics shape the identity of places and regions and influence the development of civilizations in world history.
- **Explain** how the physical geography of southwest Asia and northern Africa contributed to the spread of Islam.
- **Describe** ways Islamic countries modified their environment to satisfy basic economic wants.
- **Identify** opportunity cost of economic decisions made by individuals and groups such as the decision to engage in trade.

Examine the causes and effects of social, economic, and political conflict in Islamic civilizations.

- **Analyze** the emergence and expansion of the Islamic civilization.
- **Analyze** the major traditions, customs, and beliefs of Islam.
- **Describe** the causes and effects of the Crusades.
- **Describe** the causes and consequences of the expansion of Islam into other regions.
- **Explain** how the development of transportation and communication networks influenced the movement of people, goods, and ideas from place to place.

Explain how cultural diffusion influenced the development of cultures.

- **Analyze** the major traditions, customs, and beliefs of Islam.
- **Understand** the culture of Islamic countries and how these contributions have influenced present-day life.
- **Describe** the major cultural achievements of the Islamic civilization
- **Identify** Islamic civilization's major contributions, including art, architecture, mathematics, science, and literature.

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Teaching Ideas/Resources

Websites/Resources:

- [Content Area Expert Resources](#)
- [Origins of Islam Notes - Google Slides](#) – Google Slides The Origin of Islam
- [Rise & Spread of Islam Map](#) – Printable and editable Outline Map of the Rise of Islam
- [The Spread of Islam](#) – Website that contains a variety of resources
- [Web-based Textbooks and Resources](#)
- [Islamic Empires Assignment](#)
- [Islam Study Guide](#) – The Rise and Spread of Islam Study Guide
- [The Rise and Spread of Islam Flashcards](#) – Rise and Spread of Islam Quizlet
- [The Spread of Islam \(video\) | Khan Academy](#)
- [Islam: Empire of Faith](#) – PBS Lesson Plan: An Introduction to Islam and Muhammad
- [Islam: Empire of Faith](#) – PBS Lesson Plan: The Fascinating World of Islam
- [Empire of Faith](#) – PBS Lesson Plan: Great Thinkers and Accomplishments of Islam
- [Islam: Empire of Faith](#) – PBS Lesson Plan: Renaissance Man Comparison Poster
- [Islam: Empire of Faith](#) – PBS Lesson Plan: Creating a Textile Museum Piece from the Islamic Empire
- Explore [PBS Learning Media Resources](#) (organized by topic). Be sure to use the filter to find age-appropriate resources.