

Aim: What factors contributed to the rise and spread of Islam?

I. Arabian Peninsula

- a) Harsh desert
- b) Bedouins: nomads that herded camels and goats
- c) Clans were the basis of society
- d) Led by Sheikh: the patriarch of a tribe or family
- e) Followed by warriors, farmers and slaves
- f) Strife and rivalry between clans
- g) Cities: Mecca leading commercial center

II. Muhammad

- a) Born 570 CE in Mecca
- b) Founder of Islam
- c) At 25 married Khadija a wealthy widow
- d) Was a merchant by trade
- e) 610 has his first revelation, met an angel Gabriel
- f) From then on he was considered a prophet of God

III. Mecca to Medina

- a) In Mecca he was seen as a threat, his followers were attacked
- b) 622 left Mecca and fled to Medina
- c) This flight was known as the Hijra
- d) Organizes the umma, which were Islamic communities that accept him as a messenger
- e) 629 mawali: non-Arab converts to Islam
- f) 630 makes trip back to Mecca
- g) Build mosques
- h) 632 dies, all of Arabia is under Muslim control

IV. Beliefs of Islam

- a) Monotheistic
- b) Allah the one true god
- c) Koran or Quran the Islamic holy book
- d) Shariah: The code of law based on the Koran.
- e) Five Pillars of Islam
 - a. Faith in Allah
 - b. Prayer 5 times a day facing Mecca
 - c. Fasting: daylight hours of Ramadan
 - d. Give Alms: charity
 - e. Hajj: one pilgrimage to Mecca during lifetime