Rise of Islam

• Due to warfare between the Byzantine and Persian empires trade land routes were changed.
• Sea routes were now used, connecting India with Arabian Peninsula and the Red sea
• Land caravans traveled along the coast of the Red Sea
• Cities developed along these trade routes
• Mecca was one of those cities
  – Islam was created in 600 A.D.
  – Arabic for submission
  – Within 100 years it grew to control a large area of the Roman Empire
Mohammed: Prophet of Islam

• Islam was founded by Mohammed
  – Born 570, was a merchant and a shepherd
• While meditating in the hills, the Angel Gabriel visited him and revealed to him that he was the next and final prophet.
• Allah is the proper name for Almighty God
• He began to preach but attracted few followers; many enemies feared he would upset the political and social order.

• So in 622, Muhammad and his followers fled to Medina (the Hegira), it is also the start of the Muslim Calendar.

• In 630 he gathered an army to retake Mecca in a Jihad “holy war”

• 632 Mohammed became ill and died.

• At the time of his death most Arabian tribes were now Muslims.
The Quran (Koran)

• The Quran is the sacred text of Islam.
  – God spoke to Mohammed the records
  – Mohammed memorized them and told them
  – Scribes wrote them in the Quran

• It has 114 chapters
  – Discusses: forms of worship, proper conduct, and the treatment of women, etc...

• The fundamental doctrine is “there is no God but Allah; Mohammed is his prophet.”
Fiver Pillars of Islam

• As part of the Islam religion, all true Muslims must perform 5 duties, called the Five Pillars of Faith.
Shahada
(affirmation)

• The duty to recite the creed:
  "There is nothing worthy of worship save Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of God"
• **Salat**
  
  • *(prayer)*
  The duty to worship the One God in prayer five times each day

• **Zakat**

• *(alm sgiving)*
  The duty to give away alms and to help the needy
• **Siyam**
  (fasting)
  The duty to keep the Fast of Ramadan

• **Hajj**
  (pilgrimage)
  The duty to make the pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a lifetime
Islam Spreads

• Islam united various Arab tribes with the same language
• Strengthened their newfound unity
  – Set out for a “holy war” against non-believers
  – Fought to gain entry to heaven
• Byzantine and Persian Empires were weak because of centuries of fighting each other
  – Allowed Muslim to spread to the Indus valley and to Spain
    • Was stopped at the Battle of Tours
The Caliphates

• When Mohammed died, Muslim leaders chose a new leader- “Caliph” “Successor to Mohammed”

• Two early caliphs were murdered
  – A new caliph founded the Umayyad Caliphate
  – Created a division in the Muslim religion

• SUNNIS
  – Most Muslims followed the new caliph

• SHIITE
  – Only Mohammed’s descendents could be caliphs
• The Umayyad caliphs moved the capital to Damascus

• After 750, a new family Abbasids took over the caliphate
  – Focused on trade and not war
  – Built a new capital in Baghdad
  – Was an absolute ruler
  – Surrounded himself with riches
• Caliphs converted or enslaved other peoples they found worshipping other gods
• Non-Arab converts had less rights
  – Later all Muslims are equal
• Muslim rulers treated Christians and Jews with respect
  – Because they worship the same god
  – Allowed self-governing communities
  – Had to pay a special tax
  – Could not hold some public offices
Golden Age of Muslim Culture

- A period of great advances in culture and technology
- Absorbed the achievements of the Greeks, Romans, Jews, Byzantines and Persians
- Arabic became the language of the Quran and the empire
- In the 12\textsuperscript{th} century, Muslims engaged in a war with Christians over control of the Holy Land
  - Christians captured Jerusalem in 1099 but was taken by Saladin.
    - A Muslim leader and warrior, remains a hero in the Islamic World
• Math
  – Borrowed zero from India
  – Developed Arabic numerals
  – Great advances in Geometry and Algebra

• Medicine
  – Discovered blood moved to and from the heart
  – Learned to diagnose many diseases, including measles and smallpox
• Arts & Crafts
  – Forbids images of God or people
  – Islamic art is mostly geometric designs, flowers, and stars
  – Textiles, leather works, and rugs are highly prized

• Architecture
  – Muslim rulers built beautiful palaces and mosques, richly decorated with mosaics, calligraphy, geometrical designs
Kingdoms of Africa

• Anthropologists believe humanity first arose in East Africa

• The Kush civilization was an early iron-producing center;
  – Became rich selling iron, ivory, ebony, wood, and slaves

• Kingdom of Ethiopia
  – Developed its own form of Christianity
Gold-Salt Trade

• The Sahara desert was a barrier for trade between the Mediterranean world and South Africa.
  – Travelers found oasis and developed paths to cross the Sahara Desert

• Merchants were motivated to cross the Sahara because of the gold and other riches in West Africa.

• West Africa lacked salt
  – Salt is needed for human survival
• Merchants traveled on camels caravans across the desert with blocks of salt to exchange for gold.
• A thriving trade developed based on salt-gold.
• Ideas were also exchanged such as the Islamic beliefs
Kingdom of Ghana
750-1200

• Developed in the region between the Senegal and Niger River
• Made iron swords, spears, and lances to take control of trade routes
• The kings of Ghana taxed the routes used for the salt-gold trade
• With this money they created an army with a large cavalry
• Ghana built a capital city and governed a large area with officials and nobles
  – Kings appointed nobles
  – Nobles had to make sure their land paid taxes
• 1076 Muslims from north Africa invaded Ghana
• Ghana never fully recovered
  – Ghana became several smaller states
Kingdom of Mali
1240-1400

• 1240 the people of Mali conquered the old capital of Ghana and created a new empire
• The Kings took control of the salt and gold mines
• Mali’s rulers converted to Islam
  – Most of the people did not, stayed with their traditional beliefs
• Mansa Musa, Mali’s most famous ruler, expanded the kingdom greatly
  – Brought Muslim Scholars and architects back to Mali
• Ordered a palace and mosque to be built in Timbuktu
  – It was a thriving trading center on the Niger river
  – Became an important center for several universities
    • Many individuals came from Europe, Asia and Africa to learn
• Because of the importance of the Koran, many people learned how to read and write
• Ibn Battuta, an Arab traveler, did extensive traveling in Africa
  – Because of Ibn scholars know much about the life in Africa and the Middle East.
  – Rulers after Mansa Munsa were not as good, therefore the kingdom collapsed in the 1400’s
Kingdom of Songhai
1464-1600

• In 1464, Sultan Sunni Ali, ruler of the Songhai people, captured Timbuktu.
• The Kingdom of Songhai became the largest of West Africa’s Kingdoms
  – Grew rich from trade across the Sahara
  – Expanded trade to Europe and Asia
• Created an elaborate system of taxation and communication
• The Kingdom of Sanghai only lasted 130 years
• Morocco invaded West Africa for its riches
  – Was able to defeat Sanghai because they used gunpowder and the Kingdom used spears and arrows
• Morocco was unable to govern from long distance
  – The kingdom split up into independent areas
  – Was the last great West African kingdoms
Other African States

• Ife and Benin
  – Famous for their copper and bronze statues
  – 16th century, became involved in the slave trade
  – Traded captured people for guns and iron goods with Europeans

• Zimbabwe
  – One of the best trading kingdoms
  – Large gold deposits
  – Traded gold, copper and ivory

• Coastal Cities of East Africa
  – Merchants from Arabia and India would buy gold from these cities
Family Roles in Africa

• Many African societies, boys and girls would be separated at puberty and have special ceremonies

• Marriages arranged by families
  – Groom paid a dowry
  – Under Islam, women could only do household chores