GUIDED READING  The Rise of Islam

Section 1

A. Analyzing Causes and Recognizing Effects  As you read about Muhammad's life and the rise of Islam, fill out the charts below to help you understand causes and effects. There can be one or several answers to each question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Prophet Muhammad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAUSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. What were Muhammad's revelations?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Why were Muhammad's ideas unpopular in Mecca?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. In what way(s) was the Hijrah a turning point?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Why was Muhammad's return to Mecca important?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beliefs and Practices of Islam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAUSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. What does Islam teach its followers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. How does carrying out the Five Pillars and other laws of Islam affect the daily lives of Muslims?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. How did observing Islamic teachings create unity among Muslims?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. How did Islamic law affect Muslim attitudes toward Christians and Jews?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Clarifying  On the back of this paper, explain the relationship of each term to the religion of Islam.

Allah  Qur'an  mosque  hajj  Sunna  shari'a
SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE  Making Predictions

When you make a prediction, you evaluate actions that leaders or groups have taken in the past, and then suggest what course of action they might take in the future. As you read the passages below, think about what they suggest about how Muslims view nonbelievers. Then answer the questions that follow. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)

Passage 1: Letter from Muhammad to the princes of Yemen

He who . . . bears witness to his Islam and helps the believers against the polytheists, he is a believer with a believer's rights and obligations. . . . If a Jew or Christian becomes a Muslim, he is a believer with his rights and obligations. He who holds fast to his religion, Jew or Christian, is not to be turned from it. He must pay the poll tax—for every adult, male or female, free or slave. . . . He who pays that to God's apostle has the guarantee of God and His apostle, and he who withholds it is the enemy of God and His apostle.

from Ibn Ishaq, Life of Muhammad, translated by A. Guillaume (Oxford University Press, 1955), 643.

Passage 2: From the Qur'an, Sura V

Of old did God accept the covenant of the children of Israel . . . But for their breaking their covenant we have cursed them and hardened their hearts. They shift the words of the Scripture from their places, and have forgotten part of what they were taught. . . . And of those who say, “We are Christians,” have we accepted the covenant. But they too have forgotten a part of what they were taught. . . .

O people of the Scriptures! now is our Apostle come to you to clear up to you much that ye concealed of the Scriptures, and to pass over many things. Now hath a light and a clear Book come to you from God. . . .

Passage 3: From the Qur’an, Sura II

And fight for the cause of God against those who fight against you . . . And kill them wherever ye shall find them, and eject them from whatever place they have ejected you; for civil discord is worse than carnage [massacre]: yet attack them not at the sacred Mosque, unless they attack you therein; but if they attack you, slay them. Such is the reward of infidels. . . .

1. According to Muhammad and the Qur’an, who are the infidels?

2. What do the first two passages suggest about how Muslims viewed converts to their faith?

3. What does the letter to the Yemen princes suggest about how Muhammad viewed religious tolerance?

4. From these passages, what circumstances do you predict might compel Muslims to declare war?
The Qur'an is the holy book of the Muslims. Written in classical Arabic, it is divided into 114 suras, or chapters. According to Muslim tradition, the Qur'an contains revelations from Allah that were transmitted through the angel Gabriel to Muhammad. What does the following passage from sura 4 of the Qur'an tell you about Islamic views on the rights of men and women?

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Give the orphans their property, and do not exchange the corrupt for the good; and devour not their property with your property; surely that is a great crime. . . .

But do not give to fools their property that God has assigned to you to manage; provide for them and clothe them out of it, and speak to them honorable words. Test well orphans, until they reach the age of marrying; then, if you perceive in them right judgment, deliver to them their property; consume it not wastefully and hastily ere they are grown. If any man is rich, let him be abstinent; if poor, let him consume in reason.

And when you deliver to them their property, take witnesses over them; God suffices for a reckoner.

To the men a share of what parents and kinsmen leave, and to the women a share of what parents and kinsmen leave, whether it be little or much, a share apportioned; and when the division is attended by kinsmen and orphans and the poor, make provision for them out of it, and speak to them honorable words. . . .

Do not covet that whereby God in bounty has preferred one of you above another. To the men a share from what they have earned, and to the women a share from what they have earned. And ask God of His bounty; God knows everything. . . .

Men are the managers of the affairs of women for that God has preferred in bounty one of them over another, and for that they have expended of their property. Righteous women are therefore obedient, guarding the secret for God's guarding . . .

If a woman fear rebelliousness or aversion in her husband, there is no fault in them if the couple set things right between them; right settlement is better; and souls are very prone to avarice. If you do good and are godfearing, surely God is aware of the things you do. You will not be able to be equitable between your wives, be you ever so eager; yet do not be altogether partial so that you leave her as it were suspended. If you set things right, and are godfearing, God is All-forgiving, All-compassionate. But if they separate, God will enrich each of them of His plenty; God is All-embracing, All-wise.

**HISTORYMAKERS**

**Muhammad**

*The Messenger of Allah*

"Believers, if you help Allah, Allah will help you and make you strong. But the unbelievers shall be [sent to eternal damnation]. He will bring their deeds to nothing. Because they have opposed His revelations, He will frustrate their works."—Qur'an, Sura 47

---

**Section 1**

Muhammad loved spending afternoons meditating in the caves around his hometown of Mecca, which is located in modern Saudi Arabia. In A.D. 610, his normal routine was interrupted when he saw a vision of the archangel Gabriel. Gabriel told Muhammad to preach the word of Allah, the one God, to the world. As a result, Muhammad formed the beginnings of a unified state for his people and founded one of the great religions of the world.

Muhammad had had a difficult childhood. His father passed away around the time he was born, and six years later his mother died. He was then raised by a grandfather and later by an uncle. Muhammad suffered financially from these personal tragedies and was left to make his own way in the world.

However, Muhammad possessed both an intelligent mind and leadership ability. When he was in his twenties, a wealthy widow named Khadijah hired him to conduct some business for her in Syria. Pleased with his work, she married Muhammad. From then on, he was comfortable materially.

Muhammad had a deeply spiritual nature. It was about this time, at the age of 40, when he saw the vision of Gabriel, the messenger for Allah. This experience led to a profound turning point for Muhammad and the world. These visions recurred intermittently for the rest of his life.

For two or three years, Muhammad told only his wife and closest friends of these visitations and the message. They became the first followers of the new religion of Islam. In 612 or 613, Muhammad began to spread his message in public. He quickly won converts from among the young men of Mecca—and opponents from among the wealthy merchants of the town. These merchants thought Muhammad was crazy and disliked his call to end differences in status between rich and poor. The merchants and others harassed Muhammad and his followers, now called Muslims. The merchants threw stones and thorns at Muhammad as he walked through the town and boycotted Islamic businesses.

Two factors protected the Muslims in these difficult times. One was the support of Abu Bakr, a local merchant who was a believer. The other was the protection given Muhammad by Abu-Talib, his uncle and the head of their clan. In 619, though, his uncle died, and the new head of the clan was unwilling to continue this protection.

The situation grew worse for the small Islamic community. Muhammad carried on secret talks with the people of a nearby town where some of his followers had settled. That place was Yathrib, which was later renamed Medina. In 622, Muhammad moved to the town, whose people agreed to accept him as their political leader. Many of them also converted to Islam.

Muslims soon began to raid trading caravans from Mecca—a common practice at the time. In 624, Muhammad led an attack on Meccan soldiers. The Meccans tried to punish Muhammad with an assault the next year, but the Muslims retained control of Yathrib. Two years later, the Meccans sent 10,000 soldiers to attack. Muhammad arranged a strong defense and the Meccans eventually withdrew. Within three years, the tide had turned completely. This time Muhammad led a force of 10,000 into Mecca and took control of the city.

Muhammad lived only two more years. During that time, he consolidated his power. He forged alliances with leaders of local nomadic peoples and sometimes arranged political marriages. When he died, he had created a strong political structure that was ready to expand in power. He had also founded one of the world’s major religions.

**Questions**

1. **Determining Main Ideas**
   Why was Muhammad’s early life difficult?

2. **Making Inferences**
   What evidence is there that Muhammad was a good businessman and a shrewd leader?

3. **Drawing Conclusions**
   Why did the Meccan merchants object to Muhammad’s message?
The Rise of Islam

Reading Comprehension Find the name or term in the second column that best matches the description in the first column. Then write the letter of your answer in the blank.

1. the Arabic name for God
   - mosque

2. spiritual leader of the Islamic faith
   - Qur'an

3. a monotheistic religion whose founder was Muhammad
   - Sunna

4. a follower of the religion of Islam
   - Muhammad

5. the migration of Muhammad from Mecca to Yathrib in 622
   - Muslim

6. an Islamic house of worship
   - Hijrah

7. pilgrimage to Mecca by followers of the Islamic faith
   - Allah

8. the holy book of the Islamic faith
   - Islam

9. the practice of the Islamic faith by following closely to Muhammad's teachings
   - Shari'a

10. the Islamic system of law that regulates the family life, moral conduct, and business and community life of Muslims
    - hajj