The Origin of Islam

- Life of Muhammad
  - Born in Mecca in 570 AD
    - Belonged to the Quraysh tribe
    - Born into a Polytheistic society
    - His father died before he was born and his mother died when he was 6 years old

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad
The Origin of Islam

- He became a merchant and led caravans for a wealthy widow - they married and had several children

- Traveled extensively - had contact with many religions

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Muhammad's wives</th>
<th>Married</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Khadija bint Khuwaylid</td>
<td>595-619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sawda bint Zam’a</td>
<td>619-632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aisha bint Abi Bakr</td>
<td>619-632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hafsa bint Umar</td>
<td>624-632</td>
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<td>Zaynab bint Khuzayma</td>
<td>625-627</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hind bint Abi Umayya</td>
<td>625-632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zaynab bint Jahsh</td>
<td>627-632</td>
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<td>Juwayriyya bint al-Harith</td>
<td>628-632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramla bint Abi Sufyan</td>
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<td>Rayhana bint Zayd</td>
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<td>Safiyya bint Huyayy</td>
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<td>Maymunah bint al-Harith</td>
<td>630-632</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria al-Qibtiyya</td>
<td>630-632</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Origin of Islam

- At age 40, he claimed to have had visions given by the Angel Gabriel
- Occurred in the month of Ramadan
  - Later written down as the Qur’an
  - Allah (Arabic for ‘the god’) is the God

The cave Hira in the mountain Jabal al-Nour where, according to Muslim belief, Muhammad received his first revelation.
The Origin of Islam

- **Life of Muhammad**
  - **Flight to Medina** (called the Hijra (Hegira) - 622 AD)
    - Opposed polytheism and spoke out against it
    - Ka’bah contained many idols (polytheistic)
    - Had to flee his home and move to Medina with his followers
    - Considered the beginning of Islam
The Origin of Islam

- Muhammad moved to an area where there were Jews.
- The accepted his monotheistic teachings at first but then rejected him as his teachings contradicted the Old Testament.
- Muhammad became oppressive to the Muslims and began raiding caravans.
  - These caravans affected merchants in Mecca and were punishment for rejecting his teachings.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad
The Origin of Islam

- Return to Mecca
  - Battle of Badr - Muhammad was attacked by a force sent by angry people in Mecca (because of the caravan attacks)
  - Muhammad was outnumbered by the attackers but won
  - He thought this was divine approval

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad
The Origin of Islam

- By 630, Muhammad had massed an army of 10,000 and taken control of Mecca.
- He removed the idols from the ka’bah and established monotheism.
- Muhammad continued through the Arabian Peninsula and forced the people to accept Islam.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad
The Origin of Islam

Early Successors and Divisions

- Muhammad died in 632 AD
- Abu Bakr (one of Muhammad’s first converts) became caliph (leader)
- Many people were fed up with Islamic control and decided to get away when Muhammad died
- Wars of Apostasy followed as people tried to gain their independence from Islamic control

The tomb of Muhammad is located in the quarters of his third wife, Aisha. (Al-Masjid an-Nabawi, Medina)
Age of the Caliphs

- Expansion under the Prophet Muhammad, 622-632
- Expansion during the Patriarchal Caliphate, 632-661
- Expansion during the Umayyad Caliphate, 661-750
The Origins of Islam

- Uthman - third caliph - killed by his own troops in 656 AD and Ali (Muhammad’s cousin) was chosen as the next caliph

The Origins of Islam

- When Ali was chosen, a major split occurred in Islam over who should be leader
  - Shiites
    - Ali is successor - must be descendant of Muhammad
    - leader called ‘imam’
  - Sunnis (nearly 90% of modern population)
    - Any worthy Muslim can be leader
    - Political leader is called ‘caliph’
    - Religious leader is called ‘imam’
Muslim Holy Books

- Supposedly, teachings of Islam were collected by Abu Bakr and other early Muslim leaders.
- Several versions of the Qur’an appeared among Arab tribes, some with significant differences.

Quranic verse calligraphy, inscribed on the shoulder blade of a camel with inks.
Muslim Holy Books

- The Holy Books (Qur’an and Hadith)
  - The Qur’an: Text of Muhammad’s revelations
  - Hadith - a description of Muhammad’s life including what he said, what he did, and what he approved
    - The goal of Muslims is to follow his example

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muhammad
Muslim Holy books

- Caliph Uthman had collected the different versions of the Qur’an and created an official version.
- Other versions were then burned.
- The Shiite believed he had removed some of their beliefs.

Quran – in Mashhad, Iran – said to be written by Ali.
Birmingham Quran manuscript, dated among the oldest in the world
Beliefs of Islam

- **Islamic Sharia Law** - “system of divine law, belief, or practice that shapes all of life”
  - there is no separation between religion and the Islamic state
  - often results in harsh punishment

Beliefs of Islam

The Five Pillars

- Recitation of the creed; There is no god but God (Allah) and Muhammad is his prophet
- Daily practice of prayer
- Giving of alms
- Fasting during month of Ramadan
- Hajj: Pilgrimage to Mecca during lifetime
The Five Pillars of Islam

Saying “There is no god but God, and Muhammad is his prophet”
Praying five times a day
Giving to the poor and needy
Fasting during the holy month of Ramadan
Traveling to Mecca at least once on a hajj
Beliefs of Islam

- On the Hajj, Muslims go to Mecca
- Several rituals (predating Islam) are performed at Mecca:
  1. They circle the Ka’bah 7 times
  2. They run 7 times between the two hills of Mecca
  3. They travel about 13 miles to the place where Muhammad is believed to have preached his last sermon
  4. They travel to a village to throw 7 stones at pillars said to represent Satan
  5. Repeat steps 2 and 1

Beliefs of Islam

- Jihad (from the Arabic meaning ‘to strive hard’)
  - Over 100 verses in the Qu’ran commanding practicing of Jihad
  - Often referred to as “Holy War” - kill or subdue all nonbelievers

https://fpif.org/jihad-often-excuse-cause/
Beliefs in Islam

- Evaluation of Islamic Teachings
  - The Trinity - Muslims believe that the Christian trinity is Father, Jesus, and Mary (Sura 5:116). Muslims reject the trinity.
  - Jesus Christ - was a prophet who taught with authority but denied his deity and crucifixion - The Qu’ran declares that it is offensive to say that Jesus is God (Sura 4:171)
  - The line of Muslims follows Ishmael, instead of Isaac - including the story of the sacrifice

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Islamic_view_of_the_Trinity
Beliefs in Islam

Evaluation of Islamic Teachings

- Salvation - earned by doing good works - there is a day of judgment where deeds are weighed on a great scale
- Allah predestines people to paradise or hell as he pleases
- The Bible (contains many prophets) - including Moses and Jesus - but the Bible teachings of the prophets have been lost or corrupted over time

https://www.islam21c.com/theology/when-your-deeds-are-weighed/
The Spread of Islam

- Conquest of the Arabian Peninsula
  - Little resistance was met as Islam spread
  - Conquest of Sassanid empire, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and portions of the Byzantine Lands

The Spread of Islam

- Islamic Conversions
  - Early years of conquest: Non-Muslims could worship freely...if they pay a tax
  - Later (around the crusades): Pressure grew to convert
    - This was a one-way process
    - Those who rejected Islam faced abandonment (even of family) and death
    - According to Islam, those who convert to another religion from Islam are condemned to hell. Restoration is not possible (Sura 3:32)
Islamic Achievement

- Algebra was developed by a Persian mathematician
- Syriac Christians introduced Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3) to the Muslim world

The numerals used in the Bakhshali manuscript, dated to sometime between the 3rd and 7th century AD

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_numerals#/media/File:Bakhshali_numerals_2.jpg
Islamic Achievement

- Alhazen (Hasan Ibn al-Haytham) developed an early scientific method based on experiments to prove or disprove scientific theory.

- He is also known as the father of optics and recorded his findings on light in the *Book of Optics*.
Islamic Achievement

- Over 800 doctors worked in Baghdad and discovered important information about anatomy and diseases.
- Christian crusaders preferred to go to Muslim doctors because they healed rather than amputated.
- A Persian scientist, Avicenna, is regarded as the Father of modern medicine for works such as "The Canon of Medicine" and "The Book of Healing".

Islamic Achievement

- Islamic scientists made corrections to the geocentric model of the solar system that Copernicus would later use.
- Made improvements to the astrolabe and worked on the water turbine, crank shaft, and vertical windmill.

http://muslimheritage.com/article/using-astrolabe
Islamic Achievement

- Works such as The Book of One Thousand and One Nights or Arabian Nights were written.

- Well known Islamic world characters include Aladdin, Sinbad, and Ali Baba.

- Many ancient works were preserved by the Muslims.
Islamic Achievement

- Muslims learned how to make paper from the Chinese and invented paper mills.
- It would be several centuries before Europe would learn of the paper process.
- Muslims also learned of gunpowder from the Chinese and improved the mixture to form a more powerful mix.

http://1001inventions.com/paper
Islamic Achievement

- The Muslims used irrigation effectively and developed the windmill for pumping water from the ground.
- They learned how to use water, wind, steam, and oil to produce power and harnessed that power for the mills.
- They developed crank shafts, water turbines, and gears for mechanization in the plants.

http://www.history-science-technology.com/articles/articles%2071.html