

1

Two Great Dynasties in China

TERMS & NAMES

- Tang Taizong
- Wu Zhao
- movable type
- gentry

MAIN IDEA

During the Tang and Song dynasties, China experienced an era of prosperity and technological innovation.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Chinese inventions from this period, such as printing, gunpowder, and the compass, changed history.

SETTING THE STAGE After the Han Dynasty collapsed in A.D. 220, nomadic peoples from the northern steppe and Tibet conquered much of northern China. For 350 years, no emperor was strong enough to hold China together. More than 30 local dynasties rose and fell. By 589, an emperor named Sui Wendi had united northern and southern China once again. He restored a strong central government. Under the next two dynasties, the Tang and the Song, China experienced a golden age. It became the richest, most powerful, and most advanced country in the world.

The Tang Dynasty Expands China

Sui Wendi declared himself the first emperor of the Sui (sway) Dynasty. The dynasty lasted through only two emperors from 589 to 618. The Sui emperors' greatest accomplishment was the completion of the Grand Canal. This waterway connected the Huang He (Yellow River) and the Yangtze River. The canal provided a vital route for trade between the northern cities and the southern rice-producing region of the Yangtze delta.

To dig the 1,000-mile waterway, tens of thousands of peasant men and women toiled five years. Perhaps as many as half of the workers died on the job. Thousands more toiled and died to rebuild the Great Wall. The endless labor on state projects turned the people against the Sui Dynasty. Overworked and overtaxed, they finally revolted. In 618, a member of the imperial court strangled the second Sui emperor.

Tang Rulers Create a Powerful Empire While short-lived, the Sui Dynasty built a strong foundation for the great achievements of the next dynasty, the Tang (tahng). The Tang Dynasty ruled for nearly 300 years (618–907). The Tang emperor who began these achievements was **Tang Taizong**, whose brilliant reign lasted from 627 to 649.

Under the Tang rulers, the empire expanded. Taizong's armies reconquered the northern and western lands that China had lost since the decline of the Han Dynasty. By 668, China had extended its influence over Korea as well. The ruler during the campaign in Korea was the empress **Wu Zhao** (woo jow). From about 660 on, she held the real power while weak emperors sat on the throne. Finally, in 690, Empress Wu assumed the title of emperor for herself—the only woman ever to do so in China.

Tang rulers further strengthened the central government of China. They expanded the network of roads and canals begun by the Sui. This helped to pull the empire together. However, Tang Taizong also remembered the Sui emperors' mistake of overtaxing peasants. Therefore, he lowered taxes and took some lands from the wealthy to give to peasants. He and his successors also promoted foreign trade and improvements in agriculture. Tang China prospered.

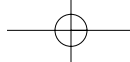
Horses symbolized the power of the Tang Dynasty. Tang artists were famous for their glazed pottery horses such as this one, which was created in the early 700s.



THINK THROUGH HISTORY

A. Synthesizing

What Sui accomplishments helped the Tang Dynasty become powerful?



HISTORYMAKERS



Tang Taizong
600–649

The man who restored the Middle Kingdom to its glory was a distinguished general named Li Shimin. He seized the imperial throne in 626 after killing off his brothers as rivals and forcing his father, the first Tang emperor, to step aside. As emperor, Li Shimin took the title Taizong, meaning “Great Ancestor.”

Taizong’s military campaigns extended China’s borders north to Manchuria, south to Vietnam, and west to the Aral Sea. China’s power and influence reached much farther. At home, aided by his gifted advisers, Taizong reformed the government organization and law code. These became models for all of East Asia.



Wu Zhao
625–705

At the age of 13, the beautiful Wu Zhao arrived at the court of Tang Taizong to become one of the emperor’s secondary wives. After Taizong’s death, she became a favored wife of his son and successor. Wu Zhao soon rose above rival wives and became the emperor’s chief wife, or empress.

For many years, Empress Wu virtually ruled China on behalf of the sickly emperor. After his death, two of their sons briefly held the throne. Frustrated by their lack of ability, she took the throne herself at the age of 65. She was 80 when she finally lost power.

A strong leader, Wu Zhao continued the work begun by Taizong to build and expand China.

Scholar-Officials To manage their large empire, the Tang rulers needed to restore China’s vast bureaucracy. The civil service examination system begun by the Han Dynasty had fallen into disorder. The Tang rulers revived and expanded the system to recruit good officials. They opened schools around the country to train young scholars in Confucianism, poetry, and other subjects covered in the exams. The few who passed the tough exams became part of an elite group of scholar-officials.

In theory, the exams were open to all men, even commoners. However, only the wealthy could afford the necessary years of education. Also, men with political connections could obtain high positions without taking the exams.

Despite these flaws, the system created a remarkably intelligent and capable governing class in China. Before the Tang Dynasty, a few noble families dominated the country. As the examination system grew in importance, talent and education became more important than noble birth in winning power. As a result, many moderately wealthy families shared in China’s government.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

B. Recognizing Effects

What resulted from the revival of the civil service system?

The Tang Lose Power By the mid-700s, the Tang Dynasty was weakening. To pay for military expansion, Tang rulers reimposed crushing taxes. These brought hardship to the people but still failed to meet the rising costs of government. In times of famine, peasants fled their villages and roved the countryside in bandit gangs.

Moreover, the Tang could not control the vast empire they had built. In 751, Arab armies soundly defeated the Chinese on China’s western frontier at the Battle of Talas. (See the map on pages 284–285.) Central Asia passed out of Chinese control and into foreign hands. After this time, border attacks and internal rebellions steadily chipped away at the power of the imperial government. Finally, in 907, Chinese rebels sacked and burned the Tang capital at Chang’an and murdered the last Tang emperor, a child.

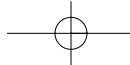
The Song Dynasty Restores China

After the end of the Tang Dynasty, rival warlords divided China into separate kingdoms. In 960, an able general reunited China and proclaimed himself Song Taizu, the first Song (sung) emperor. The Song Dynasty, like the Tang, lasted about three centuries (960–1279). Although the Song ruled a smaller empire than either the Han or the Tang, China remained stable, powerful, and prosperous.

Song armies never regained the western lands lost after 751. Nor did they regain northern lands that had been lost to nomadic tribes during the Tang decline. For a time, Song emperors tried to buy peace with their northern enemies. They paid hefty annual

Background

Recall the Mandate of Heaven (page 50), a concept the Chinese held to explain the decline and fall of dynasties.



tributes of silver, silk, and tea. This policy, however, ultimately failed to stop their threat. In the early 1100s, a Manchurian people called the Jurchen conquered northern China and established the Jin empire. The Jurchen forced the Song to retreat south across the Huang He. After 1126, the Song emperors ruled only southern China.

The Song ruling family fled south. They established a grand new capital at Hangzhou, a coastal city south of the Yangtze. Despite its military troubles, the dynasty of the Southern Song (1127–1279) saw rapid economic growth. The south had become the economic heartland of China. Merchants in southern cities grew rich from trade with Chinese in the north, nomads of Central Asia, and people of western Asia and Europe.

An Era of Prosperity and Innovation

The period of the Tang and Song dynasties was one of intense growth. China grew in population, trade, wealth, new ideas, and artistic achievements. In the span of three or four centuries, China's population nearly doubled, soaring to 100 million. By the Song era, China had at least ten cities with a population of 1 million each. China was the most populous country in the world. It was also the most advanced.

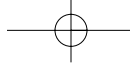
Science and Technology Artisans and scholars made important technological advances during the Tang and Song eras. Among the most important inventions were movable type and gunpowder. With **movable type**, a printer could arrange blocks of individual characters in a frame to make up a page for printing. Previously, printers had carved the words of a whole page into one large block. The development of gunpowder led to the creation of explosive weapons such as bombs, grenades, small rockets, and cannons. Other important inventions of this period include porcelain, the mechanical clock, paper money, and the use of the magnetic compass for sailing.

Inventions of Tang and Song China

	Date	Description	Impact
Porcelain	Late 700s	Bone-hard, white ceramic made of a special clay and a mineral found only in China	Became a valuable export—so associated with Chinese culture that it is now called “china”; technology remained a Chinese secret for centuries
Mechanical clock	700s	Clock in which machinery (driven by running water) regulated the movements	Early Chinese clocks short-lived; idea for mechanical clock carried by traders to medieval Europe
Printing	Block printing: 700s Movable type: 1040	Block printing: one block on which a whole page is cut; movable type: individual characters arranged in frames, used over and over	Printing technology spread to Korea and Japan; movable type also developed later in Europe
Gunpowder	800s	Explosive powder made from mixture of saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal	First used for fireworks, then weapons; technology spread west within 300 years
Paper money	1020s	Paper currency issued by Song government to replace cumbersome strings of metal cash used by merchants	Contributed to development of large-scale commercial economy in China
Magnetic compass (for navigation)	1100s	Floating magnetized needle that always points north-south; device had existed in China for centuries before it was adapted by sailors for use at sea	Helped China become a sea power; technology quickly spread west

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts

1. Which inventions eventually affected warfare and exploration?
2. Which of these inventions do you think had the greatest impact on history? Why?



The 1000s to the 1200s was a rich period for Chinese mathematics. The Chinese developed algebra and began to use the zero. Many mathematical ideas, such as using negative numbers, spread from China southward and westward.

Agriculture The rapid growth of China resulted from advances in farming. Farmers especially improved the cultivation of rice. In about the year 1000, China imported from Vietnam a new variety of fast-ripening rice. This allowed the farmers to harvest two rice crops each year rather than one. To make sure that farmers knew about the improved variety, Chinese officials distributed seedlings throughout the country. The agricultural improvements enabled China's farmers to produce more food. This was necessary to feed the rapidly expanding population in the cities.

Trade and Foreign Contacts Under the Tang and Song emperors, foreign trade flourished. Tang imperial armies guarded the great Silk Roads, which linked China to the West. Eventually, however, China lost control over these routes during the long Tang decline. After this time, Chinese merchants relied increasingly on ocean trade. Chinese advances in sailing technology, including use of the magnetic compass, made it possible for sea trade to expand. During the Song period, China developed into the greatest sea power in the world.

Up and down China's long coastline, the largest port cities in the world bustled with international trade. Merchant ships carried trade goods to Korea and Japan. They sailed across the Indian Ocean to India, the Persian Gulf, and even the coast of Africa. Chinese merchants established trading colonies around Southeast Asia. Many foreign traders, mostly Arabs, resided in Chinese cities. Through trade and travel, Chinese culture spread throughout East Asia. One major cultural export was Buddhism. This religion spread from China to Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.

The exchange of goods and ideas was two-way. During Tang times, tea first arrived in China from Southeast Asia. The Chinese became avid tea drinkers and tea producers. Foreign religions, including Islam and some Eastern sects of Christianity, also spread to China and won followers.

A Golden Age of Art The prosperity of the Tang and Song dynasties nourished an age of artistic brilliance. The spread of wealth, education, and urban culture stimulated a high level of artistic creativity. Scholar-officials, for example, were expected to write poetry and to own at least one fine painting.

The Tang period produced great poetry. Two of its most celebrated poets were Li Bo, who wrote about life's pleasures, and Du Fu, who praised orderliness and Confucian virtues. Du Fu also wrote critically about war and the hardships of soldiers. Once he himself was captured by rebels and taken to Chang'an, the capital city. He had sent his family to the village of Fuzhou for safety. Here he describes their separation.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

The same moon is above Fuzhou tonight;
From the open window she will
be watching it alone,
The poor children are too little
To be able to remember Chang'an.
Her perfumed hair will be dampened
by the dew,
The air may be too chilly
on her delicate arms.
When can we both lean
by the wind-blown curtains
And see the tears dry
on each other's face?

DU FU, "Moonlight Night"

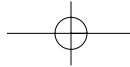
Chinese painting reached new heights of beauty during the Song Dynasty. Painting of this era shows Daoist influence. Artists emphasized the beauty of natural landscapes and objects such as a single branch or flower. The artists did not use bright colors. Black ink was their favorite paint. Said one Song artist, "Black is ten colors."

Song artist Ju Ran painted this masterpiece, *Buddhist Monastery in Stream and Mountain Landscape*, in the late tenth century.



THINK THROUGH HISTORY

C. Recognizing Effects How might the spread of mathematical ideas from China affect other countries?



Changes in Chinese Society

China's prosperity produced many social changes during the Tang and Song periods. Chinese society became increasingly mobile. People moved to the cities in increasing numbers. The Chinese also experienced greater social mobility than ever before. The growing cities offered many opportunities for managers, professionals, and skilled workers. However, the most important avenue for social advancement was the civil service system.

Levels of Society During Tang and Song times the power of the old aristocratic families faded. A new, much larger upper class emerged, made up of scholar-officials and their families. Such a class of powerful, well-to-do people is called the **gentry**. The gentry attained their status through education and civil service positions, rather than through land ownership. However, many scholar-officials also became wealthy enough to own land.

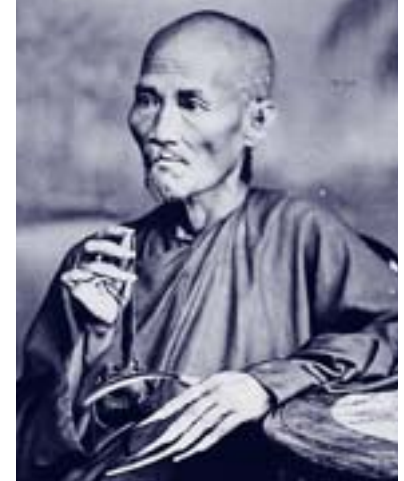
Below the gentry was an urban middle class. It included merchants, shopkeepers, skilled artisans, minor officials, and others. At the bottom of urban society were laborers, soldiers, and servants. In the countryside lived the largest class by far, the peasants. They toiled for wealthy landowners as they had for centuries.

The Status of Women Women had always been subservient to men in Chinese society. Their status further declined during the Tang and Song periods. This was especially true among the upper classes in cities. There a woman's work was deemed less important to the family's prosperity and status. Changing attitudes affected peasant families less, however. Peasant women worked in the fields and helped produce their family's food and income.

One sign of the changing status of women was the custom of binding the feet of upper-class girls. The practice of foot binding began during this period and continued into the 20th century. When a girl was very young, her feet were bound tightly with cloth, which eventually broke the arch and curled all but the big toe under. This produced what was admiringly called a "lily-foot." Women with bound feet were crippled for life. To others in society, such a woman reflected the wealth and prestige of her husband, who could afford such a beautiful but impractical wife.

The social, economic, and technological transformations of the Tang and Song period permanently shaped Chinese civilization. They endured even as the Middle Kingdom fell to a group of nomadic outsiders, the Mongols, whom you will learn about in Section 2.

Daily Life



A Scholar's Fingernails

Many scholar-officials eventually adopted the fashion of growing their fingernails long. A two-inch fingernail showed clearly that the owner did no manual labor. However, long nails did not prevent the scholar from following the pursuits of the gentry, such as writing poetry, painting, or practicing calligraphy. The photograph above is of a Chinese doctor in the late 19th century.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

D. Making

Inferences How did the practice of foot binding reflect the changing status of Chinese women?

Section 1 Assessment

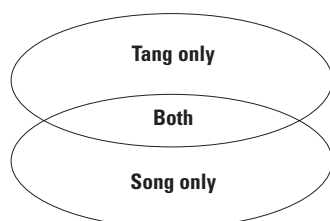
1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- Tang Taizong
- Wu Zhao
- movable type
- gentry

2. TAKING NOTES

Create a Venn diagram showing the similarities and differences between the Tang and Song dynasties.



3. RECOGNIZING EFFECTS

What impact did improvements in transportation have on Tang and Song China?

THINK ABOUT

- ways transportation was improved
- how these improvements were made
- relationships among regions in China
- trade with other countries

4. ANALYZING THEMES

Empire Building What actions taken by the Sui, Tang, and Song emperors strengthened China's empire? What actions weakened it?

THINK ABOUT

- military gains and losses
- changes to the government
- improvements in transportation and trade
- cultural changes

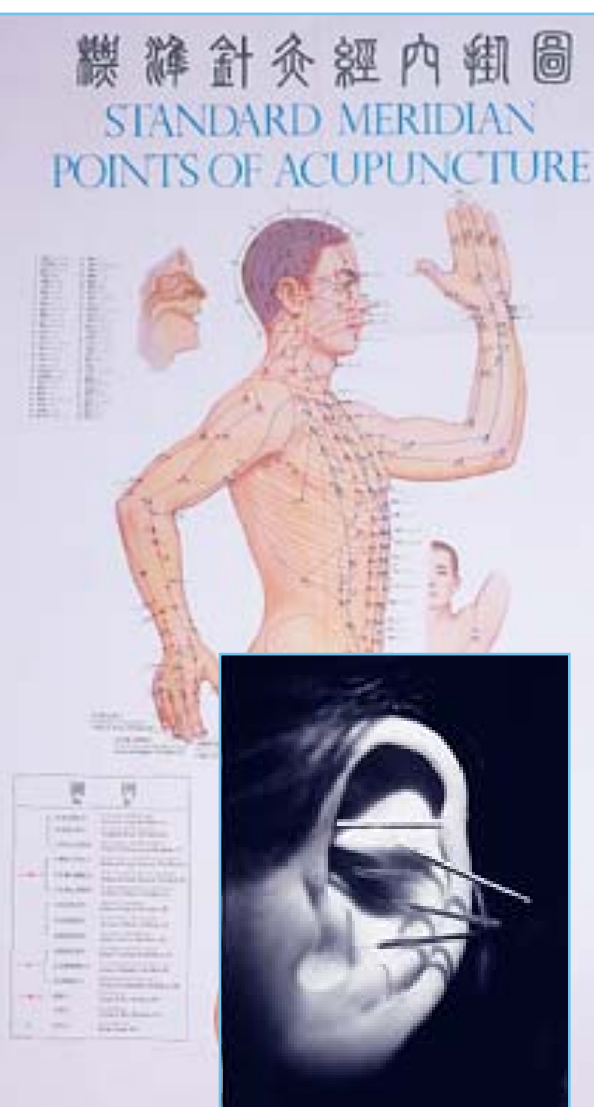


SOMETHING IN COMMON *across cultures*

Healing Arts

Since illness is a part of living, every society has developed ways to treat health problems. For thousands of years, Chinese doctors have used acupuncture to relieve pain and cure diseases. During the Song Dynasty, the Chinese carefully studied human anatomy and created charts and models of the body. These improved the practice of acupuncture.

Acupuncture developed from traditional Chinese beliefs about the forces of nature. Likewise, in other cultures, the healing arts have been shaped by the cultures' beliefs about nature. Think about this connection as you read about the practices described here.



Chinese Acupuncture

Acupuncture is based on the belief that an energy force known as *qi* (chee) flows through the body and keeps people alive. According to this idea, *qi* flows along channels called meridians. Pain or illness arises when the *qi* does not flow properly. The treatment is to insert slender needles in the body at specific points (such as the ear) along the meridians, depending on the problem. This adjusts the flow of *qi* and restores health.

a
closer
look CHINESE MEDICINE

Qigong (chee-GONG) is a traditional Chinese healing art. It combines movement with deep breathing and meditation. These exercises are designed to maintain health by keeping the *qi* in proper balance.





A Physician, Ancient Egypt

Health care in ancient Egypt was remarkably complex. The Egyptians believed that gods and demons influenced health.

Therefore, a doctor's treatment often called for certain spells, chants, or prayers. At the same time, doctors had a great deal of practical knowledge about symptoms and useful treatments and medicines. The Egyptians passed down their medical knowledge by recording it on scrolls and tablets. This stone tablet from about 2600 B.C. shows a portrait of Hesy-Re, one of the earliest known physicians.

Stone Age Surgery, England

Archaeologists have discovered many Stone Age skulls, such as this one found in England, with portions deliberately removed. This procedure, called trepanning (trih-PAN-ihng), may have been performed to allow demons to escape the head. In some cases, it probably helped relieve painful pressure on the skull resulting from injury or disease. Remarkably, scientists can see evidence in the trepanned skulls that many patients survived for a long time after their operation.



Modern Surgery, U.S.A.

The scientific approach of Western medicine reflects the modern belief that technology can improve people's lives. Brain surgery, as shown below, has been transformed by high-tech equipment, specialized training, pain-killing drugs, and other advances. Today's scientific medicine has made some diseases less threatening and increased the human life span.



Connect to History

Making Inferences Look again at the healing arts of the four cultures described on these pages. How are each culture's beliefs about nature reflected in the culture's health practices?

SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGE R16

Connect to Today

Interviewing Conduct a brief interview with someone who practices a non-Western or "alternative" type of medicine. Find out if this type of medicine has changed over time and, if so, how. Share what you learn with your classmates.

For an Internet activity on Chinese Healing Arts . . .



The tradition of Chinese herbal medicine dates back thousands of years. This modern pharmacy in Singapore dispenses Chinese medicines. Pharmacists may stock 1,500 herbs for use as remedies. Medicines can also include bark, twigs, and animal or insect parts.



2 The Mongol Conquests

TERMS & NAMES

- pastoralist
- clan
- Genghis Khan

MAIN IDEA

The Mongols, a nomadic people from the steppe, conquered settled societies across much of Asia.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The Mongols built the largest unified land empire in world history.

SETTING THE STAGE While the Chinese grew prosperous during the Song Dynasty, a great people far to the north were also gaining strength. The Mongols of the Asian steppe lived their lives on the move. They prided themselves on their skill on horseback, their discipline, their ruthlessness, and their courage in battle. They also wanted the wealth and glory that would come with conquering mighty empires. Conflict between these nomadic people and settled peoples across Eurasia was about to explode into violence. The Mongol conquests would forever transform Asia and Europe.

Nomads of the Asian Steppe

Across the landmass of Eurasia—from Manchuria to Hungary—stretches a vast belt of dry grassland called the steppe. The significance of the steppe to neighboring civilizations was twofold. First, it served as a land trade route connecting the East and the West. Second, it was home to nomadic peoples who frequently swept into the cities to plunder, loot, and conquer.

Geography of the Steppe There are two main expanses of the Eurasian steppe. The western steppe spans from Central Asia to eastern Europe. It was the original home of many of the ancient invaders you have read about, including the Hittites and the Aryans. The eastern steppe, covering the area of present-day Mongolia, was the first home of the Huns, the Turks, and the Mongols.

Very little rain falls on the steppe, but the dry, wind-swept plain supports short, hardy grasses. Temperature changes can be extreme. The temperature in Mongolia, for example, ranges from -57°F in winter to 96°F in the summer.

Rainfall is somewhat more plentiful and the climate milder in the western steppe than in the east. For this reason, movements of people have historically tended to be toward the west and the south.

The boundaries of the steppe were constantly shifting and were often less geographical than political. One way of defining where the steppe ended was to say where cultivated fields began. The Chinese, for example, were constantly trying to push back the line in order to extend the area under their cultivation.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

A. Identifying Problems What conditions on the steppe might have discouraged agriculture?

The Nomadic Way of Life

Nomadic peoples were **pastoralists**—that is, they herded

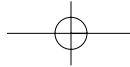
GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Region** About how far does the western steppe extend from west to east?
- 2. Location** About how far is Beijing from the edge of the eastern steppe?



The Steppe





Many people on the Mongolian steppe still follow the nomadic way of life. This photograph shows modern Mongolians outside their yurt.

as they followed their huge herds over the steppe. They depended on their animals for food, clothing, and housing. Their diet consisted of meat and mare's milk. They wore clothing made of skins and wool, and they lived in portable felt tents called yurts.

Steppe nomads traveled together in kinship groups called **clans**. The members of each clan claimed to be descended from a common ancestor. Clans required good leaders to make decisions about when to leave one pasture for another and to devise military strategies. Different clans sometimes came together when they needed a large force to attack a common enemy or raid their settled neighbors.

Steppe Nomads and Settled Societies The differing ways of life of nomadic and settled peoples resulted in constant interaction between them. Often, they engaged in peaceful trade. The nomads exchanged horses, for example, for basic items they lacked, such as grain, metal, cloth, and tea. Nomads were accustomed to scarcity and hardship. They prided themselves on their toughness. However, they were sometimes tempted by the rich land and relative wealth of townspeople and took what they wanted by force. As a result, settled peoples lived in constant danger of raids.

Time and again in history, nomadic peoples rode out of the steppe to invade border towns and villages. When a state or empire was strong and organized, it could protect its frontier. The Chinese, for example, built and rebuilt the Great Wall in an attempt to keep out nomadic invaders. If the state or empire became divided and weak, this provided an opportunity for nomads to increase their attacks and gain more plunder. They might even take over a region and settle there.

Occasionally, a powerful group, such as the Mongols under Genghis Khan, was able to conquer a whole empire and become its rulers. Over generations, these nomadic rulers often became part of the civilization they conquered.

The Rise of the Mongols

For centuries, the Mongol people had roamed the eastern steppe in loosely organized clans. It took a military and political genius to unite the Mongols into a force with a single purpose—conquest.

Genghis Khan Unites the Mongols Around 1200, a Mongol khan, or clan leader, named Temujin sought to unify the clans under his leadership. Across the Mongolian steppe, he defeated his rivals one by one, showing no mercy. In 1206, Temujin accepted the title **Genghis Khan**, or “universal ruler” of the Mongol clans.

Over the next 21 years, Genghis led the Mongols in conquering much of Asia. His first goal was China. After invading the northern Jin empire in 1215, however, his attention turned to the Islamic region west of Mongolia. Angered by the murder of Mongol traders and an

domesticated animals. They were constantly on the move, searching for good pasture to feed their herds. Nomads did not wander. Rather, they followed a familiar seasonal pattern and returned on a regular basis to the same campsites. Keeping claim to land that was not permanently occupied was difficult. Battles frequently arose among nomadic groups over grassland and water rights.

Asian nomads practically lived on horseback

HISTORY MAKERS



Genghis Khan 1162?–1227

Temujin, according to legend, was born with a blood clot in his fist. In his lifetime, his hands were often covered with the blood of others.

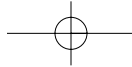
When he was about nine, his father was poisoned by the Tatars, a rival people. For a time, he and his family lived in extreme poverty, abandoned by their clan. When in manhood he fought and defeated the Tatars, he slaughtered every male taller than a cart axle. The survivors—the females and only the youngest male children—were brought up as his followers.

While driven by revenge, Genghis also loved conquest. He once remarked to his personal historian:

Man's greatest good fortune is to chase and defeat his enemy, seize his total possessions, leave his married women weeping and wailing, [and] ride his [horse]. . . .

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

B. Making Inferences How might a strong, organized empire defend its frontier?



ambassador at the hands of the Muslims, Genghis launched a campaign of terror across Central Asia. “In retribution for every hair on their heads it seemed that a hundred thousand heads rolled in the dust,” wrote a court historian of Genghis’s revenge. The Mongols destroyed one city after another—Utrar, Samarkand, Bukhara—and slaughtered many inhabitants. By 1221, Central Asia was under Mongol control.

Genghis the Conqueror Several characteristics lay behind Genghis Khan’s stunning success as a conqueror. First, he was a brilliant organizer. He assembled his Mongol warriors into a mighty fighting force (see below). Following the model of the Chinese military, Genghis grouped his warriors in armies of 10,000. These in turn were organized into 1,000-man brigades, 100-man companies, and 10-man platoons. He put his most battle-proven and loyal men in command of these units.

Second, Genghis was a gifted strategist. He used various tricks to confuse his enemy. Sometimes, a small Mongol cavalry unit would attack, then pretend to gallop away in flight. The enemy usually gave chase. Then the rest of the Mongol army would appear suddenly and slaughter the exhausted enemy forces. Another strategy was to make the enemy believe that the Mongol army was bigger than it actually was. This was done by dressing prisoners or lifelike dummies as Mongol warriors. Genghis also used spies brilliantly to find out enemy weaknesses.

Third, Genghis adopted new weapons and technologies used by his enemies. For example, he put captured Chinese engineers to work building catapults and creating gunpowder charges. He then used the weapons to conquer other Chinese cities.

Finally, Genghis Khan used cruelty as a weapon. He believed in terrifying his enemies into surrender. If a city refused to open its gates to him, he might kill the entire population when he finally captured the place. The terror the Mongols inspired spread ahead of their armies, which led many towns to surrender without a fight. As one Arab historian wrote, “In the countries that have not yet been overrun by them, everyone spends the night afraid that they may appear there too.”

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

C. Summarizing

What were some of the tactics Genghis Khan used in war?

A Mighty Fighting Force

Mongol soldiers were superb horsemen, having spent all their lives in the saddle. Annual game roundups gave young men the chance to practice skills they would use in battle and gave their leaders the opportunity to spot promising warriors.

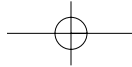
When on the move, each soldier was accompanied by three extra horses. By changing mounts, soldiers could stay in the saddle for up to ten days and nights at a time. When charging towards a target, they covered as much as 120 miles a day. If food was scarce, a Mongol soldier might make a small gash in the neck of one of his horses and sustain himself by drinking the blood.

A key to Mongol horsemanship was the stirrup, which was invented on the steppe in the second century B.C. Stirrups enabled a mounted warrior to stand, turn, and shoot arrows behind him.

Below his armor, each cavalry warrior wore silk underwear. When warriors were wounded by an arrow, often the arrowhead did not pierce the strong silk. The warriors could use the silk to help pull the arrow cleanly out of a wound.

The cavalry warrior’s weapons included leather armor, a lance, a dagger, a bow and arrows, and his stout, sturdy horse.





The Mongol Empire

Genghis Khan died in 1227—not from violence, but from illness. His successors, however, continued to expand his empire. In less than 50 years, the Mongols conquered territory from China to Poland. In so doing, they created the largest unified land empire in history. (See the map on page 298.)

The Khanates Following the death of Genghis Khan, his son Ogadai became the Great Khan. The Great Khan headed the whole Mongol Empire. Under his leadership, Mongol armies commanded by Genghis's other sons and grandsons drove armies south, east and west out of Inner Asia. They completed their conquest of northern China and invaded Korea. They leveled the Russian city of Kiev and reached the banks of the Adriatic Sea. The cities of Venice and Vienna were within their grasp. No one knows how far west into Europe the Mongols might have penetrated. But Ogadai died in 1241. The commanders were called back to their capital to elect his successor. The westward campaign ended.

By 1260, the Mongol Empire was divided into four large khanates, each of them ruled by a descendant of Genghis. These four were the Khanate of the Great Khan (Mongolia and China), the Khanate of Chagatai (Central Asia), the Ilkhanate (Persia), and the Khanate of the Golden Horde (Russia). Kublai Khan, a grandson of Genghis Khan, named himself the Great Khan in 1260.

The Mongols as Rulers Many of the areas invaded by the Mongols never recovered. The populations of some cities were wiped out. Even worse, the Mongols destroyed ancient irrigation systems in areas such as the Tigris and Euphrates valleys. Thus the land could no longer support resettlement. One Persian assessed the destruction:

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

There can be no doubt that even if for a thousand years to come no evil befalls the country, yet will it not be possible to completely repair the damage, and bring back the land to the state in which it was formerly.

HAMD-ALLAH MUSTAWFI, *The Geographical Part of the Nuzhat al-Qulub*

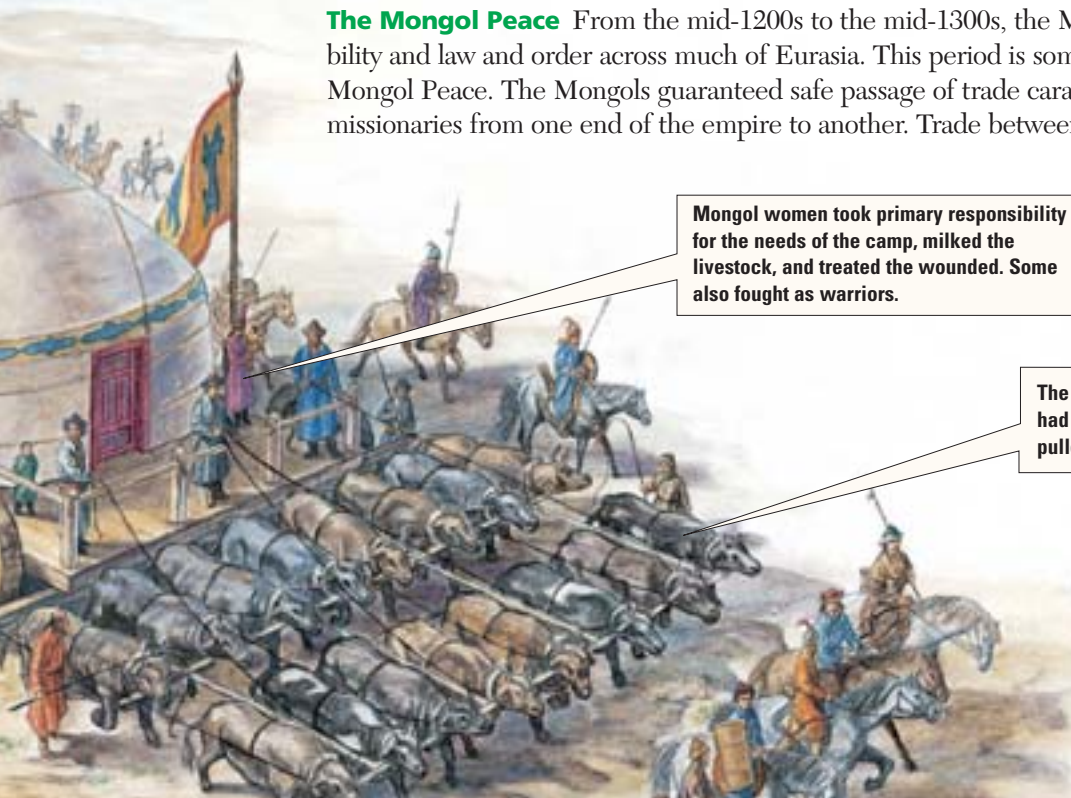
Over time, some Mongol rulers adopted aspects of the culture of the people they ruled. The Ilkhans and the Golden Horde became Muslims. The Great Khans made use of Chinese institutions. The growing cultural differences among the khanates contributed to the eventual splitting up of the empire.

The Mongol Peace From the mid-1200s to the mid-1300s, the Mongols imposed stability and law and order across much of Eurasia. This period is sometimes called the Mongol Peace. The Mongols guaranteed safe passage of trade caravans, travelers, and missionaries from one end of the empire to another. Trade between Europe and Asia had

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

D. Identifying

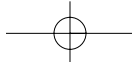
Problems What problems might the Mongols have faced in holding their vast empire together?



Mongol women took primary responsibility for the needs of the camp, milked the livestock, and treated the wounded. Some also fought as warriors.

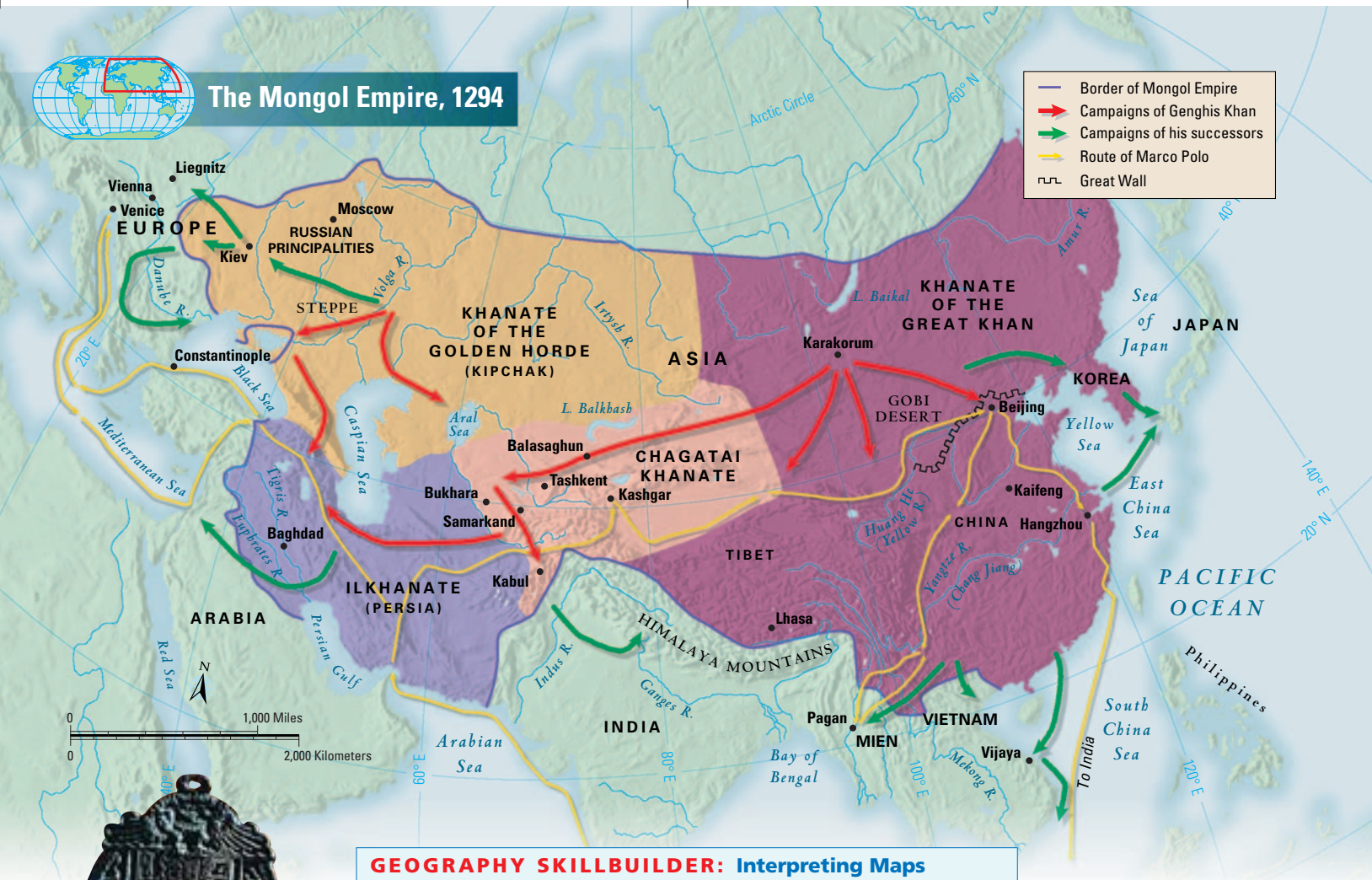
The khan and other leaders had great mobile yurts pulled by teams of oxen.

A Mongol army was like a moving city. The cavalry of 10,000 was accompanied by an even greater number of family members, and by tens of thousands of horses and livestock.



The Mongol Empire, 1294

- Border of Mongol Empire
- Campaigns of Genghis Khan
- Campaigns of his successors
- Route of Marco Polo
- Great Wall



Messengers carried medallions like the one above as passports, so they could travel safely across the Mongol Empire.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. Region What khanate controlled Russia? Persia? Korea?
2. Region What parts of Asia did the Mongols fail to control?

never been more active. Ideas and inventions traveled along with the trade goods. Many Chinese innovations, such as gunpowder, reached Europe during this period.

Other things spread along with the goods and the ideas. Some historians speculate that the epidemic of bubonic plague that devastated Europe during the 1300s was first spread by the Mongols. (See Chapter 14.) The disease might have spread along trade routes or have been passed to others by infected Mongol troops.

For a brief period of history, the nomadic Mongols were the lords of city-based civilizations across Asia, including China. As you will read in Section 3, China continued to thrive under Mongol rule.

Section 2 Assessment

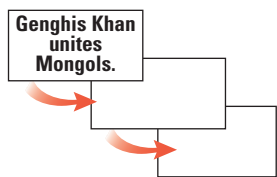
1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- pastoralist
- clan
- Genghis Khan

2. TAKING NOTES

Using a chart like the one below, list the series of events leading to the creation of the Mongol Empire.



Write a news report describing the most important event you listed.

3. MAKING INFERENCES

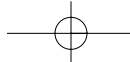
What characteristics of Mongol culture do you think contributed to their military success? Explain your response.

THINK ABOUT

- how the nomadic way of life shaped Mongol culture
- the personality and leadership qualities of Genghis Khan
- Mongol weapons and tactics

4. THEME ACTIVITY

Cultural Interaction Draw a diagram showing the interaction between various cultures and the Mongols who conquered them. Consider influence on economic development, military tactics, and religious beliefs.



3 The Rise of Christianity

TERMS & NAMES

- Jesus
- apostle
- Peter
- Paul
- Diaspora
- bishop
- pope
- Constantine
- heresy

MAIN IDEA

Christianity arose in Roman-occupied Judea and spread throughout the Roman Empire.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

As the world's most widespread religion, Christianity guides the lives of millions today.

SETTING THE STAGE The worship of Roman gods was impersonal, practiced without a great deal of emotion. Priests used sacred rites to intercede on behalf of worshippers. A new religion called Christianity, born as a movement within Judaism, emphasized the personal relationship between God and people. It attracted many Romans.

Jews Come Under Roman Rule

Roman power spread to Judea, the home of the Jews, around 63 B.C. At first the Jewish kingdom remained independent, at least in name. Jewish kings ruled as representatives of Rome. Some Jews allied with the Romans and accepted their plans to “Romanize” Jerusalem. The ruler Herod, for example, was a Romanized Jew. His loyalties were divided between Rome and the Jewish people, but he ruled with an iron hand and angered many Jews. When he died, the Jews began a revolt against Roman influence that lasted for ten years. Rome finally took control of the Jewish kingdom and made it the province of Judea in A.D. 6.

In an attempt to restore order in Judea, the Romans gave control of religious matters and local affairs to the Jewish court called the Sanhedrin. Jews were divided into two major factions. One group, called the Zealots, wanted to rid their homeland of the Romans. Another group believed that the Messiah, or savior, was soon to appear. According to biblical tradition, God had promised that the Messiah would restore the kingdom of the Jews.

Vocabulary

Zealot: has come to mean a fanatically committed person.

The Life and Teachings of Jesus

Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The date is uncertain but is thought to have been around 6 to 4 B.C. Jesus was both a Jew and a Roman subject. He was raised in the village of Nazareth in northern Palestine. Jesus was baptized by the prophet known as John the Baptist. As a young man, he took up the trade of carpentry.

Jesus' Message At the age of 30 Jesus began his public ministry. For the next three years, he preached, taught, did good works, and reportedly performed miracles. His teachings contained many ideas from Jewish tradition, such as monotheism, or belief in only one god, and the principles of the Ten Commandments. Jesus emphasized God's personal relationship to each human being. He stressed the importance of people's love for God, their neighbors, their enemies, and even themselves. He also taught that God would end wickedness in the world and would establish an eternal kingdom after death for people who sincerely repented their sins.

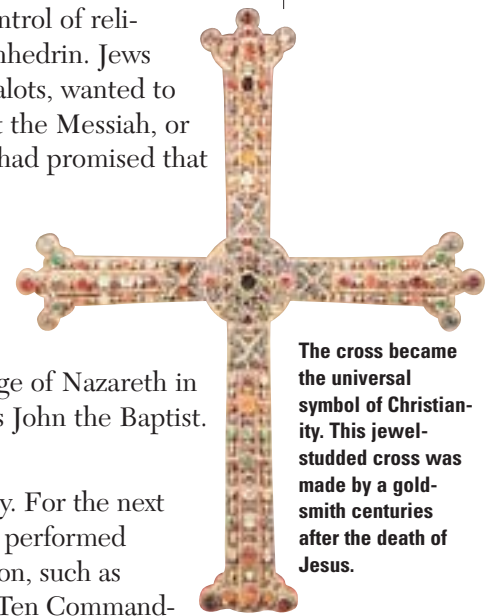
Jesus gathered about himself twelve special disciples, or pupils. Historical records of the time mention very little about Jesus. The main source of information about Jesus' life and teachings are the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament of the Bible. Some of the Gospels are thought to have been written by one or more of Jesus' disciples, who later came to be called **apostles**.

Background

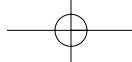
The original dating of the birth of Jesus made in the sixth century A.D. is now generally recognized as being four to six years in error.

Vocabulary

Gospel: means good news.



The cross became the universal symbol of Christianity. This jewel-studded cross was made by a goldsmith centuries after the death of Jesus.



Jesus is portrayed in this glass mosaic from the fifth century as “the good shepherd,” tending his flock, watching over the faithful.

As Jesus preached from town to town, his fame grew. He attracted large crowds, and many people were touched by his message. Many believed him to be the long-awaited Messiah, the son of God. Because Jesus ignored wealth and status, his message had special appeal to the poor. “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth,” he said. His words, as related in the Gospels, are simple and direct:

THE BIBLE

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone hits you on the cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just what you want them to do for you.

The Gospel of Luke, 6:27–31

Jesus’ Death Jesus’ growing popularity concerned both Roman and Jewish leaders. When Jesus visited Jerusalem about A.D. 29, enthusiastic crowds greeted him as the Messiah, or king. The chief priests of the Jews denied that Jesus was the Messiah. They said his teachings were blasphemy, or contempt for God. The Roman governor Pontius Pilate thought that Jesus, whom the Romans mockingly called “King of the Jews,” challenged the authority of Rome. Pilate arrested Jesus and sentenced him to be crucified, or nailed to a large wooden cross to die.

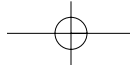
After Jesus’ death, his body was placed in a tomb. According to the Gospels, three days later his body was gone, and a living Jesus began appearing to his followers. Then one day it was said that he ascended into heaven. The apostles were more than ever convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. It was from this belief that Jesus came to be referred to as Jesus Christ. *Christos* is a Greek word meaning “messiah” or “savior.” The name Christianity was derived from “Christ.”

The followers of Jesus were strengthened by their conviction that he had triumphed over death. Led by **Peter**, the first apostle, they spread the teachings of Jesus throughout Palestine and Syria. The cross on which he had been crucified became a symbol for their beliefs.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

A. Hypothesizing

Why did the followers of Jesus think he was the Messiah?



Christianity Spreads Through the Empire

Jesus' teachings did not contradict Jewish law, and his first followers were Jews. Soon, however, these followers began to create a new religion based on his messages. Despite political and religious opposition, the new religion of Christianity spread slowly but steadily throughout the Roman Empire.

Paul's Mission One man, the apostle **Paul**, had enormous influence on Christianity's development. Paul was a Jew whose Hebrew name was Saul. He had never met Jesus and at first was an enemy of Christianity. While traveling to Damascus in Syria, he reportedly had a vision of Christ. He then began using his Roman name, Paul, and spent the rest of his life spreading and interpreting Christ's teachings.

The *Pax Romana*, which made travel and the exchange of ideas fairly safe, provided the ideal conditions for Christianity to spread. The excellent Roman road system made passage by land easy, and common languages—Latin and Greek—allowed the message to be easily understood. Paul was able to travel freely from city to city around the eastern Mediterranean to preach. He wrote influential letters, called Epistles, to groups of believers. In his teaching, Paul stressed that Jesus was the son of God who died for people's sins. He also declared that Christianity should welcome all converts, Jew or Gentile (non-Jew). He said: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." It was this universality that enabled Christianity to become more than just a local religion.

Jewish Rebellion During the early years of Christianity, much Roman attention was focused on the land of Jesus' birth and on the Jews. In A.D. 66, a band of Zealots rebelled against Rome. In A.D. 70, the Romans stormed Jerusalem and destroyed the Temple complex. All that remained was a western portion of the wall, which today is the holiest Jewish shrine. The Jewish fortress near Masada held out until A.D. 73.

About a half million Jews were killed in the course of this rebellion.



The Jews made another attempt to break free of the Romans in A.D. 132. Another half-million Jews died in three years of fighting. Although the Jewish religion survived, the Jewish political state ceased to exist for more

than 1,800 years. Most Jews were driven from their homeland into exile. This dispersal of the Jews is called the **Diaspora**.

Persecution of the Christians Christians also posed a problem for Roman rulers because Christians refused to worship Roman gods. This refusal was seen as opposition to Roman rule. Some Roman rulers also used Christians as scapegoats for political and economic troubles. In A.D. 64, for example, when the emperor Nero was blamed for a disastrous fire in Rome, he said Christians were responsible and ordered them to be persecuted. Both the apostles Peter and Paul were put to death in Rome some time after A.D. 60.

The emperors who followed Nero in the first century did not continue the persecutions. Later, however, as the *Pax Romana* began to crumble, the Romans exiled, imprisoned, or executed Christians for refusing to worship Roman gods. Thousands were crucified, burned, or killed by wild animals in the circus arenas. Other Christians and even some non-Christians regarded persecuted Christians as martyrs.

Martyrs were people willing to sacrifice their lives for the sake of a belief or a cause.

Despite persecution, Christianity became a powerful religious force. By the late third century A.D., there were millions of Christians in the Roman Empire. Missionaries spread the faith throughout the empire and beyond.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

B. Recognizing

Effects How did conditions in the Roman Empire contribute to the spread of Christianity?

Vocabulary

scapegoats: groups or individuals that innocently bear the blame for others

Global Impact

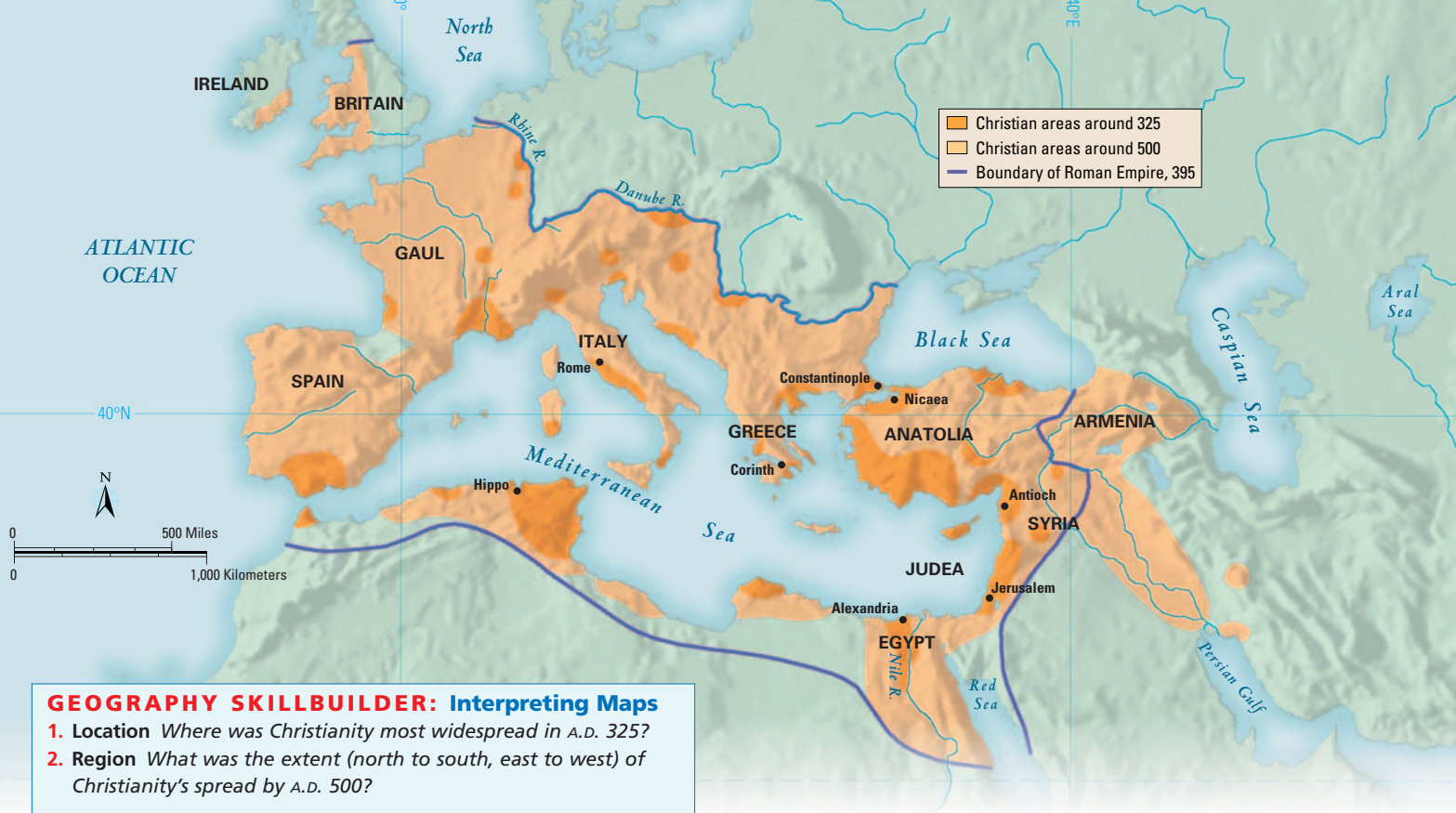
The Jewish Diaspora

Centuries of Jewish exile followed the destruction of their Temple and the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. This period is called the Diaspora, from the Greek word for "dispersal." Jews fled to many parts of the world. Some moved to Babylonia and the Arabian Desert. Others went to Syria, Egypt, and Spain.

Eventually, Jews spread into France, England, and the Rhineland, where they lived in small groups. In the 1100s, many European Jews were expelled from their homes. Some moved to Turkey, Palestine, and Syria. Others went to Poland and nearby neighboring areas.

The statelessness of the Jews did not end until the creation of Israel in 1948.

Spread of Christianity in the Roman World to A.D. 500



A World Religion

The widespread appeal of Christianity was the result of a variety of reasons. Christianity grew because it:

- embraced all people—men and women; slaves, the poor, and nobles.
- gave hope to the powerless.
- appealed to those who were repelled by the extravagances of imperial Rome.
- offered a personal relationship with a loving God.
- promised eternal life after death.

Early Christian Church Christians soon began to give their religion a structure, much as the Roman Empire had a hierarchy. At the local level, a priest led each small group of Christians. A **bishop**, who was also a priest, supervised several local churches. The apostle Peter had traveled to Rome from Jerusalem and became the first bishop there. According to tradition, Jesus referred to Peter as the “rock” on which the Christian Church would be built. As a result, all priests and bishops traced their authority to him.

Eventually, every major city had its own bishop. However, later bishops of Rome claimed to be the heirs of Peter. These bishops said that Peter was the first **pope**, the father or head of the Christian Church. They said that whoever was bishop of Rome was also the leader of the whole Church. Also, as Rome was the capital of the empire, it seemed the logical choice to be the center of the Church.

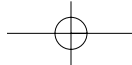
Constantine Accepts Christianity A critical moment in Christianity occurred in A.D. 312, when the Roman emperor **Constantine** was fighting three rivals for his title. He had marched to the Tiber River at Rome to battle his chief rival. On the day before the battle at Milvian Bridge, Constantine prayed for divine help. He reported that he then

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

C. Making Inferences Why were the citizens of the Roman Empire so receptive to a new religion at this time?

Vocabulary

hierarchy: a group of persons organized in order of ranks, with each level subject to the authority of the one above.



saw a cross of light in the heavens bearing the inscription, “In this sign, conquer.” Constantine ordered artisans to put the Christian symbol on his soldier’s shields. Constantine and his troops were victorious in battle. He gave credit for his success to the help of the Christian God.

In the next year, A.D. 313, Constantine announced an end to the persecution of Christians. In the Edict of Milan, he declared Christianity to be one of the religions approved by the emperor. The edict granted “both to the Christians and to all men freedom to follow the religion that they choose.” Christianity continued to gain strength. In 380, the emperor Theodosius made it the empire’s official religion.

Discord and Harmony As Christianity grew, disagreements about beliefs developed among its followers. Church leaders called any belief that appeared to contradict the basic teachings a **heresy**. Dispute over beliefs became intense. In an attempt to end conflicts, Church leaders sought to set a single, official standard of belief. These beliefs were compiled in the New Testament, which contained the four Gospels, the Epistles of Paul, and other documents. In A.D. 325, Constantine decided to end the disputes and the disorder they caused. He called Church leaders to Nicaea in Anatolia. There they wrote the Nicene Creed, which defined the basic beliefs of the Church.

The Fathers of the Church Also influential in defining Church teachings were several early writers and scholars who have been called the Fathers of the Church. One of the most important was Augustine, who became bishop of the city of Hippo in North Africa in 396. Augustine taught that while humans needed the grace of God to be saved, God was merciful and gave his grace freely.

One of Augustine’s most famous books is *The City of God*. It was written after Rome was plundered in the fifth century. Augustine wrote that the fate of cities such as Rome was not important because the heavenly city, the city of God, could never be destroyed:

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

The one consists of those who live by human standards, the other of those who live according to God’s will. . . . By two cities I mean two societies of human beings, one of which is predestined to reign with God for all eternity, the other is doomed to undergo eternal punishment with the Devil.

ST. AUGUSTINE, *The City of God*

Christianity increased in both power and wealth despite the empire’s growing internal and external problems.

Vocabulary
edict: decree or proclamation.

Background
The New Testament was added to the Hebrew Bible, which Christians called the Old Testament.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY
D. Analyzing Motives What do you think was St. Augustine’s motive for writing *The City of God* right after Rome had been attacked?

HISTORY MAKERS



Constantine
A.D. 285?–337

Constantine was a deeply religious man. He initially believed in the traditional Roman gods. He identified with the god Apollo, whom he claimed to have seen in a vision.

Sometime after his conversion to Christianity in A.D. 312, Constantine reportedly remarked that “God is the cause of the exploits I have performed.” He maintained that he received revelations and instructions from God.

Although he legalized Christianity throughout the empire and took a leading role in the affairs of the Christian Church, Constantine was not formally baptized until he was on his deathbed in 337.

Section 3 Assessment

1. TERMS & NAMES

- Identify*
- Jesus
 - apostle
 - Peter
 - Paul
 - Diaspora
 - bishop
 - pope
 - Constantine
 - heresy

2. TAKING NOTES

Using a sequence graphic like the one below, show the five or six events that led to the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.



Which event do you think had the biggest impact? Explain.

3. HYPOTHESIZING

Do you think Christianity would have developed in the same way if it had arisen in an area outside the Roman Empire? Explain.

THINK ABOUT

- Jesus’ growing popularity
- the effect of actions Rome took against Jesus and his followers
- the depth of belief of Jesus’ followers
- the advantages of being part of a vast empire

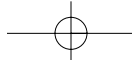
4. ANALYZING THEMES

Religious and Ethical Systems

Who do you think did more to spread Christianity—Paul or Constantine?

THINK ABOUT

- Paul’s travels
- the opening of Christianity to the Gentiles
- Constantine’s power as an emperor



1 The Rise of Islam

TERMS & NAMES

- Allah
- Muhammad
- Islam
- Muslim
- Hijrah
- Qur'an
- mosque
- hajj
- Sunna
- shari'a

MAIN IDEA

Muhammad unified the Arab people both politically and through the religion of Islam.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

As the world's fastest growing major religion, Islam has a strong impact on the lives of millions today.

SETTING THE STAGE The cultures of the Arabian Peninsula were in constant contact with each other for centuries. Southwest Asia (often referred to as the Middle East) was a bridge between Africa, Asia, and Europe, where goods were traded and new ideas were shared. One set of shared ideas would become a powerful force for change in the world—the religion of Islam.

Deserts, Towns, and Travelers

The Arabian Peninsula is a crossroads of three continents—Africa, Europe, and Asia. At its longest and widest points, the peninsula is about 1,200 miles from north to south and 1,300 miles from east to west. Only a tiny strip of fertile land in south Arabia and Oman and a few oases can support agriculture. The remainder of the land is desert, which in the past was inhabited by nomadic Arab herders.

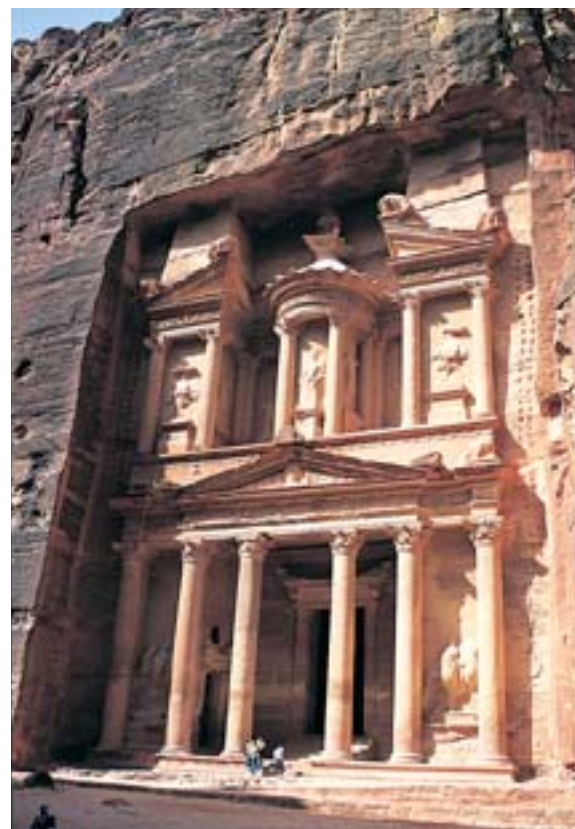
Vocabulary

oases: places in the desert made fertile by the presence of water.

Desert and Town Life On this desert, the nomads, called Bedouins (BEHD-oo-ihnz), were organized into tribes and groups called clans. These clans provided security and support for a life made difficult by the extreme conditions of the desert. The tribesmen took pride in their ability to adapt to the desert conditions and to defend themselves against raids by other clans seeking water, grazing territory, livestock, or food supplies. Because of the desert nomads' fighting ability, they eventually became the core of armies who would build a huge empire in the 600s and 700s. The Bedouin ideals of courage and loyalty to family, along with their warrior skills, would become part of the Islamic way of life.

The areas with more fertile soil and the larger oases had enough water to support farming communities. By the early 600s, many Arabs had chosen to settle in an oasis or in a market town. A few generations earlier, the town dwellers had themselves been nomads. They, however, left the Bedouin life behind for life in settled areas. Larger towns near the western coast of Arabia became market towns for local, regional, and long-distance trade goods.

Crossroads of Trade and Ideas By the early 600s, trade routes connected Arabia to the major ocean and land trade routes. Trade routes through Arabia ran from the extreme south of the peninsula to the Byzantine and Sassanid empires to the north. Merchants from these two empires moved along the caravan routes, trading for goods from the Silk Roads of the east. They transported spices and incense from Yemen and other products to the west. They also carried information and ideas from the world outside Arabia. By the early 600s, cities such as Petra and Palmyra had



Petra, one of the early Arab trading cities, was literally a rock city. Buildings were carved out of the red sandstone cliffs. The name Petra means "rock" in Greek.



long been prosperous trading centers on the caravan routes.

The city of Mecca, in western Arabia, became an important stop on the trade route. During certain holy months, caravans stopped in Mecca. They brought religious pilgrims who came to worship at an ancient shrine in the city. Mecca housed a simple house of worship called the Ka'aba (KAH-buh). The Arabs associated this house of worship with Abraham, a believer in one God. Over the years, they had introduced the worship of many gods and spirits to the place. The Ka'aba contained over 360 idols brought here by many tribes. Many people traveled to this site as a pilgrimage.

The concept of belief in one God, called **Allah** (AL-luh) in Arabic, was no stranger to the Arabian Peninsula. A tradition of belief in one God had long been followed by a few people, known as *hanifs*. Many Christians and Jews lived in Arab lands and practiced monotheism. Into this mixed religious environment of Mecca, around A.D. 570, Muhammad was born.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

A. Summarizing

What religious traditions were in practice in the Arabian Peninsula?

The Prophet Muhammad

Muhammad (mu-HAM-id) was born into the clan of a powerful Meccan family. Orphaned at the age of six, the boy was raised by his grandfather and uncle. He received little schooling and began working in the caravan trade as a very young man. Muhammad became a trader and business manager for Khadijah (kah-DEE-juh), a wealthy businesswoman. When Muhammad was 25, he and Khadijah married. Theirs was both a good marriage and a good business partnership.

Revelations Muhammad took great interest in religion and often spent time alone in prayer and meditation. At about the age of 40, Muhammad's life was changed overnight when a voice called to him while he meditated in a cave outside Mecca. According to Muslim belief, the voice was that of the angel Gabriel, who told Muhammad that he was a messenger of God. "What shall I proclaim?" asked Muhammad. The voice answered:

THE QUR'AN

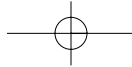
Proclaim! In the name of thy Lord and Cherisher, who created man out of a (mere) clot of congealed blood. Proclaim! And thy Lord is most bountiful. He who taught (the use of) the pen taught man that which he knew not.

Qur'an Surah 96:1-5

After much soul-searching, Muhammad came to believe that the Lord who spoke to him through Gabriel was Allah. Muhammad became convinced that he was indeed the last of the prophets. He taught that Allah was the one and only God and that all other gods must be abandoned. People who agreed to this basic principle of Islam were called Muslims. In Arabic, **Islam** (ihs-LAHM) means "submission to the will of Allah."

Background

Muhammad is often referred to as The Prophet.



Muslim (MOOZ-lim) means “one who has submitted.” Muhammad’s wife, Khadijah, and several close friends and relatives were his first followers.

By 613, Muhammad had begun to preach publicly in Mecca. At first, he had little success. Many Meccans believed his revolutionary ideas would lead to neglect of the traditional Arab gods. They feared that Mecca would lose its position as a pilgrimage center if people accepted Muhammad’s monotheistic beliefs. Some of his followers were even beaten up or stoned in the streets.

The Hijrah Facing such hostility, Muhammad decided to leave Mecca. In 622, following a small band of supporters he sent ahead, Muhammad resettled in the town of Yathrib, over 200 miles to the north of Mecca. This migration became known as the **Hijrah** (hih·JEE-ruh). The Hijrah to Yathrib marked a turning point for Muhammad. He attracted many devoted followers. Later, Yathrib was renamed Medina, meaning “city of the Prophet.”

In Medina, Muhammad displayed impressive leadership skills. He fashioned an agreement that joined his own people with the Arabs and Jews of Medina as a single community. These groups accepted Muhammad as a political leader. As a religious leader, he drew many more converts who found the message and the Messenger appealing. Finally, Muhammad also became a military leader in the hostilities between Mecca and Medina.

Returning to Mecca Many of the region’s Bedouin tribes converted to Islam and joined Muhammad and his followers. During the years that the Muslims and the Meccans battled against each other, Mecca’s power as a city declined. In 630, the Prophet and 10,000 of his followers marched to the outskirts of Mecca. Facing sure defeat, Mecca’s leaders surrendered. The Prophet entered the city in triumph.

When he entered the city, Muhammad went to the Ka’aba and declared, “Truth has come and falsehood has vanished.” Then he destroyed the idols in the Ka’aba and had the call to prayer made from the roof of the Ka’aba.

Most Meccans pledged their loyalty to Muhammad, and many converted to Islam. By doing so, they joined the *umma*, or Muslim religious community. Muhammad died two years later, at about the age of 62. However, he had taken great strides toward unifying the entire Arabian Peninsula under Islam.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY
B. Summarizing
 Identify four major events in the life of Muhammad.

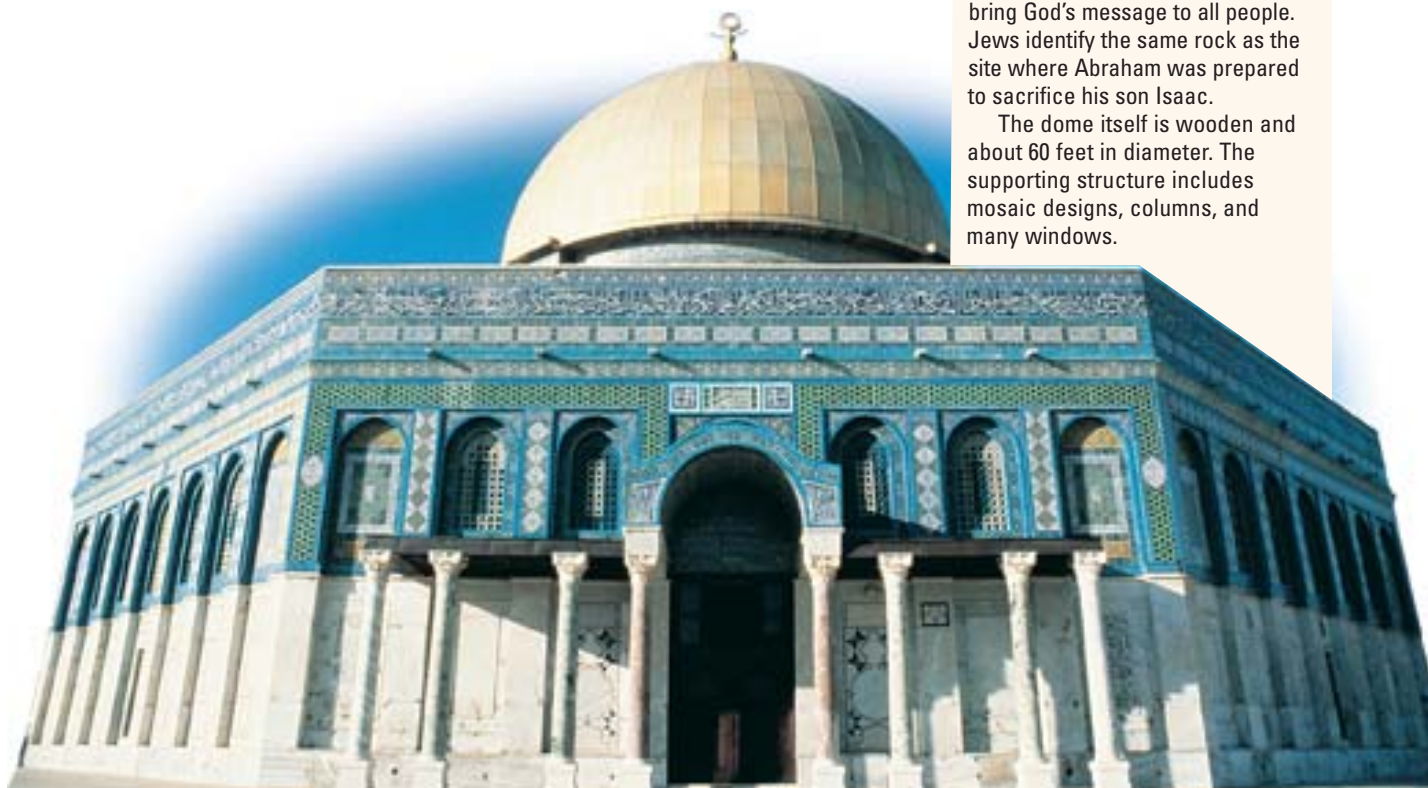
SPOTLIGHT ON

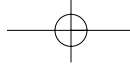
The Dome of the Rock

The Dome of the Rock, located in Jerusalem, is the earliest surviving Islamic monument. It was completed in 691. It is situated on Mount Moriah, the site of a Jewish temple destroyed by Romans in A.D. 70.

The rock on the site is the spot from which Muslims say Muhammad ascended to heaven to learn of Allah’s will. With Allah’s blessing, Muhammad returned to earth to bring God’s message to all people. Jews identify the same rock as the site where Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.

The dome itself is wooden and about 60 feet in diameter. The supporting structure includes mosaic designs, columns, and many windows.





Beliefs and Practices of Islam

The main teaching of Islam is that there is only one God, Allah. All other beliefs and practices follow from this teaching. Islam teaches that there is good and evil, and



that each individual is responsible for the actions of his or her life. The holy book of the Muslims, the **Qur'an** (kuh-RAN), states, "And if any one earns sin, he earns it against his own soul" (Surah 4:111). Muslims believe that each person will stand before Allah on a final judgment day and enter either heaven or hell.

Artists decorating the Qur'an do it as a holy act. The design is geometric and often repeats to show the infinite quality of Allah. Muslims use abstract designs because they are not permitted to picture Muhammad or the angels.

The Five Pillars To be a Muslim, all believers have to carry out five duties. These duties demonstrate a Muslim's submission to the will of God. These duties are known as the Five Pillars of Islam.

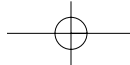
- **Faith** To become a Muslim, a person has to testify to the following statement of faith: "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah." This simple statement is heard again and again in Islamic rituals and in Muslim daily life.
- **Prayer** Five times a day, Muslims face toward Mecca to pray. They may assemble at a **mosque** (mahsk), an Islamic house of worship. Or they may pray wherever they find themselves. The duty of praying serves to bring Muslims closer to God.
- **Alms** Muhammad taught that all Muslims have a responsibility to support the less fortunate. Muslims meet that social responsibility by giving alms, or money for the poor, through a special religious tax.
- **Fasting** During the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Muslims fast. They eat and drink nothing between dawn and sunset. A simple meal is eaten at the end of the day. The duty of fasting reminds Muslims that they have "greater needs than bread."
- **Pilgrimage** All Muslims perform the **hajj** (haj), or pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once in a lifetime. In the past, this involved a grueling journey across deserts, mountains, and seas. Today, many pilgrims arrive by airplane. During the pilgrimage events in Mecca, pilgrims wear identical garments so that all stand as equals before God.

A Way of Life Muslims do not separate their personal life from their religious life. Carrying out the Five Pillars of Islam ensures that Muslims live their religion while serving in their community. Along with the Five Pillars, there are other customs, morals, and laws for Islamic society that affect Muslims' daily lives. Believers are forbidden to eat pork or to drink wine or other intoxicating beverages. Friday afternoons are set aside for communal worship and prayer. Muslims who are able to do so gather at a mosque to worship. Unlike many other religions, Islam has no priests or central religious authority. Every Muslim is expected to worship God directly. Islam does, however, have a scholar class called the *ulama*, who are concerned with learning and law. The *ulama* includes religious teachers who study the words and deeds of Muhammad and apply them to everyday life.

Sources of Authority The original source of authority for Muslims is Allah. According to Islamic belief, Allah expressed his will through the Angel Gabriel, who

This tenth-century Turkish prayer rug has a traditional design. The design has an arch at one end. The arch must point to Mecca while the prayers are taking place.





revealed it to Muhammad as the Qur'an. While Muhammad lived, his followers listened to his prayers and teachings and memorized and recited the Revelations. Soon after the Prophet's death, it was suggested that the revelations of Muhammad be collected in a book. This book is the Qur'an.

The Qur'an is written in Arabic, and Muslims consider only the Arabic version to be the true word of God. Only Arabic can be used in worship. Wherever Muslims carried the Qur'an, Arabic became the language of worshipers and scholars. Thus, the Arabic language spread widely as Muslim control expanded into different lands.

Muslims believe that Muhammad's mission as a prophet was to receive the Qur'an and to demonstrate how to apply it in life. To them, the **Sunna** (SOON-uh), or Muhammad's example, is the best model for proper living. The guidance of the Qur'an and Sunna was assembled in a practical form to aid Muslims in applying the will of Allah to their daily lives. This body of law is known as **shari'a** (shah-REE-ah). This system of law regulates the family life, moral conduct, and business and community life of Muslims. It does not separate religious matters from criminal or civil matters, but brings all aspects of life together. Because shari'a applies to all who follow the teachings of the Prophet, it brings a sense of unity to all Muslims.

Links to Judaism and Christianity To Muslims, Allah is the same God that is worshiped in Christianity and Judaism. However, Muslims view Jesus as a prophet, not the Son of God. The Qur'an is regarded as the word of God as revealed to Muhammad, in the same way that Jews and Christians believe the Torah and the Gospels were revealed to Moses and the New Testament writers. Muslims believe that the Qur'an perfects the earlier revelations from God. To them, it is the final book, and Muhammad was the final prophet. All three religions believe in heaven and hell and a day of judgment. The Muslims trace their ancestry to Abraham, as do the Jews and Christians.

The bonds among the three monotheistic religions were reflected in the way the Muslims treated Christians and Jews. Both Christians and Jews were known as "people of the book," because each religion had a holy book with teachings similar to those of the Qur'an. Shari'a law required Muslim leaders to extend religious tolerance to Christians and Jews. A huge Muslim empire, as you will learn in Section 2, grew to include people of many different cultures and religions.



Daily Life

Muslim Prayer

Five times a day—dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and evening—Muslims face toward Mecca to pray. Worshipers are called to prayer by a *muezzin*. The call to prayer sometimes is given from a *minaret* tower like those pictured above. In large cities, muezzins call worshipers to prayer using public address systems and even the radio.

Because they believe that standing before Allah places them on holy ground, Muslims perform a ritual cleansing before praying so that they will not contaminate the holy ground. They also remove their shoes.

Muslims may pray at a mosque, called a *masjid* in Arabic, meaning "place of kneeling to God." This term refers to the movements of prayer, which involve both the body and the mind in worship.

THINK THROUGH HISTORY

C. Summarizing

What are the sources of authority for Muslims?

Background

Arab Muslims consider themselves descended from Abraham's son Ismail.

Section 1 Assessment

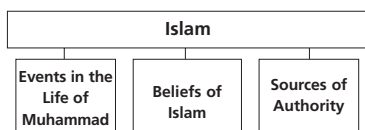
1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- Allah
- Muhammad
- Islam
- Muslim
- Hijrah
- Qur'an
- mosque
- hajj
- Sunna
- shari'a

2. TAKING NOTES

Create a diagram like the one shown below. Fill in at least three details for each category.



Based on your notes, write three paragraphs on Islam.

3. RECOGNIZING EFFECTS

Explain how the beliefs and practices of Islam created unity and strength among Muslims in the 600s.

THINK ABOUT

- why individuals felt they were part of a community
- what Muslims did to carry out the Five Pillars of Islam
- how Muslims viewed the relationship between religion and politics

4. THEME ACTIVITY

Religious and Ethical Systems

With a small group, write a conversation that involves a supporter of Muhammad, a person who opposes Muhammad, and a pilgrim visiting Mecca who knows nothing about Muhammad. Place the conversation in a marketplace setting in Mecca. Read or perform your conversation for the class.