

**Islam:**

**Myths and Reality**

**Terminology:**

**The religion is called  
ISLAM.**

**The people are  
MUSLIMS.**

**Myth #1:  
Most Muslims are Arabs  
who live in the Middle East.**

**Reality:**  
Of more than 1  
billion Muslims  
worldwide, only  
about 1/5 are  
Arabs.

Try to Guess:

Which country has more  
Muslims than any other  
country in the world?

**Answer:**

**Indonesia - with over 200 million Muslims.**

**Note: The U.S. has about 5 million Muslims.**





**Myth #2:**  
**Muslims have a strange  
religion and worship a  
god called Allah.**



# Reality:

Muslims are  
*monotheistic* and  
worship the same  
one God as  
Christians and  
Jews.

**Note:**

**‘Allah’ is the Arabic  
word for ‘God.’**

# Myth #3:

Muslims believe it is o.k. to kill civilians in a holy war (“jihad”).

# Reality:

Only Muslim  
extremists believe  
this. (Just like most  
Christians do NOT  
believe in bombing  
abortion clinics.)

**Myth #4:**

**Most Muslim  
women wear veils  
over their faces and  
are treated very  
badly.**



# Reality:

- Muslim women have many different styles of dress. (Very few cultures require women to cover their faces.)
- The treatment of women varies from country to country and family to family.
- Some Muslim countries, like Pakistan, have had female prime ministers. The U.S. has never had a female president.

# Pakistani dress (left); Saudi Arabian (right)



Shariah TV website

# Iranian woman



# Somali (left); West African (right)



Shariah TV website

# Malaysian (left); Indian/ Bangladeshi (right)



Shariah TV website



# Afghani women wearing burqas



# Muslim girls in Texas protesting discrimination for wearing head scarves



Something to think about:

Should women in a  
Western country be  
allowed to wear a  
headscarf if they choose?

# Main Beliefs of Islam

## 5 Pillars of Islam

**Faith:**

**Belief in one God and that  
Muhammad is His prophet.**



# Prayer:

5 times a day – facing  
Mecca



# Alms

Giving money to the poor is  
**REQUIRED**, not optional

# Fasting

During the month of Ramadan,  
Muslims cannot eat or drink  
anything during the daylight hours.

# Pilgrimage

Once in their lives – IF they can afford it, Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca



# In Mecca during the pilgrimage





# Vocabulary:

**MOSQUE:** a Muslim  
place of worship

# Mosque in Medina, Saudi Arabia



# Mohammed Ali mosque, Cairo, Egypt





# Inside the Mohammed Ali Mosque





# Dome of the Mohammed Ali mosque





# Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmet Mosque), Istanbul Turkey



# Interior of the Blue Mosque



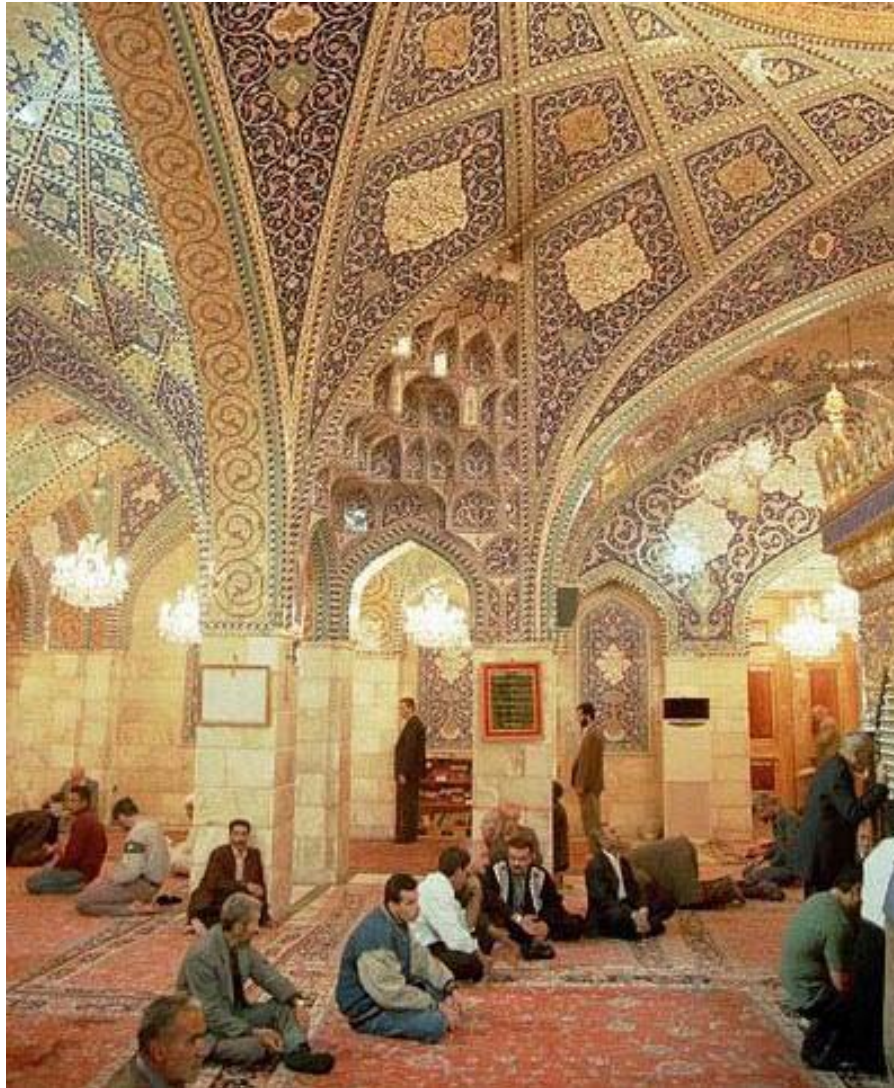
# Dome of a mosque, Esfahan, Iran



<http://www.perceptivetravel.com/issues/1106/maclean.html>



# Interior of a mosque in Iran

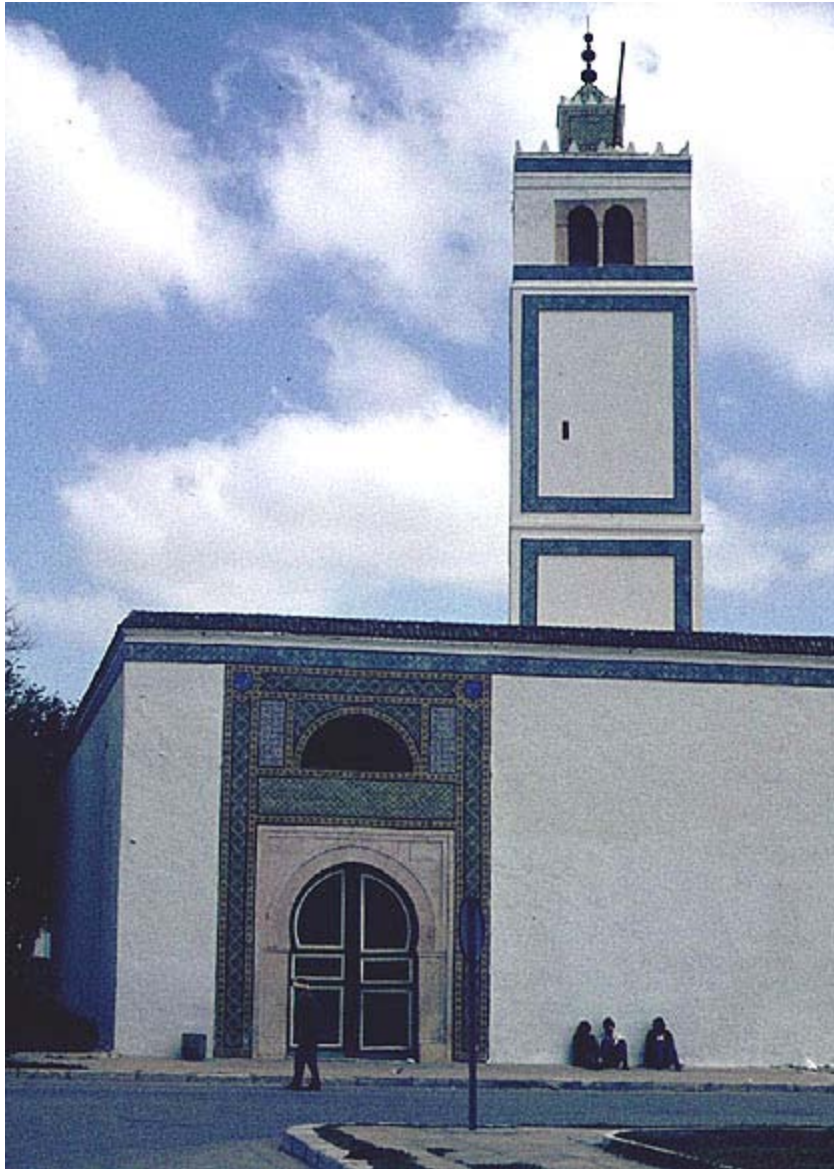


# Mosque in Djenne, Mali (West Africa)





# North African mosque



# Indonesian mosque

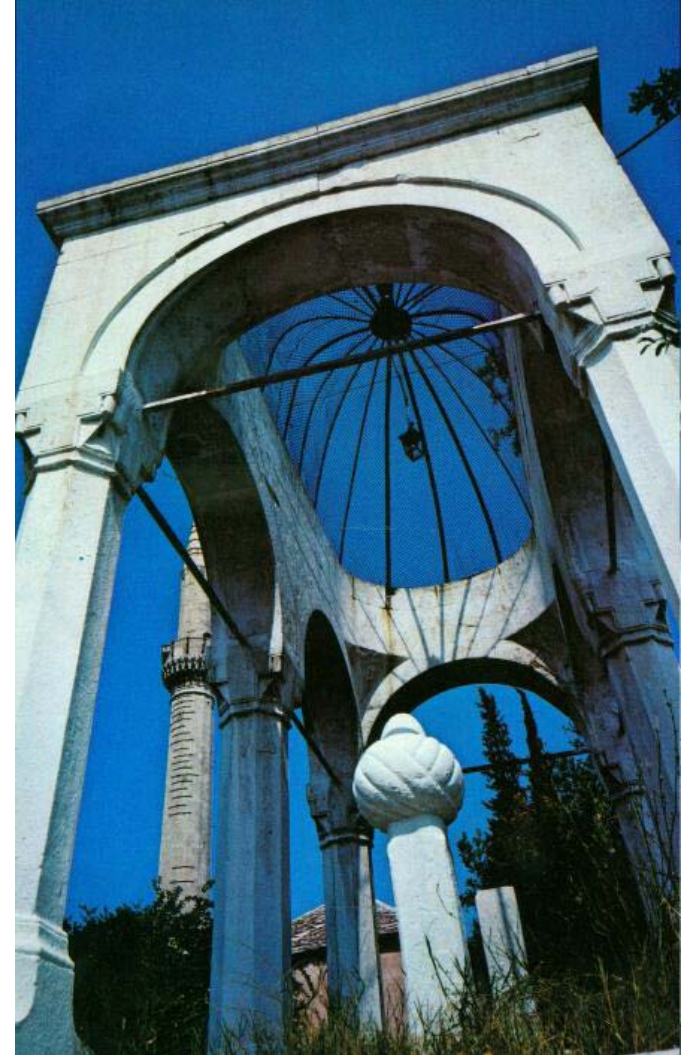
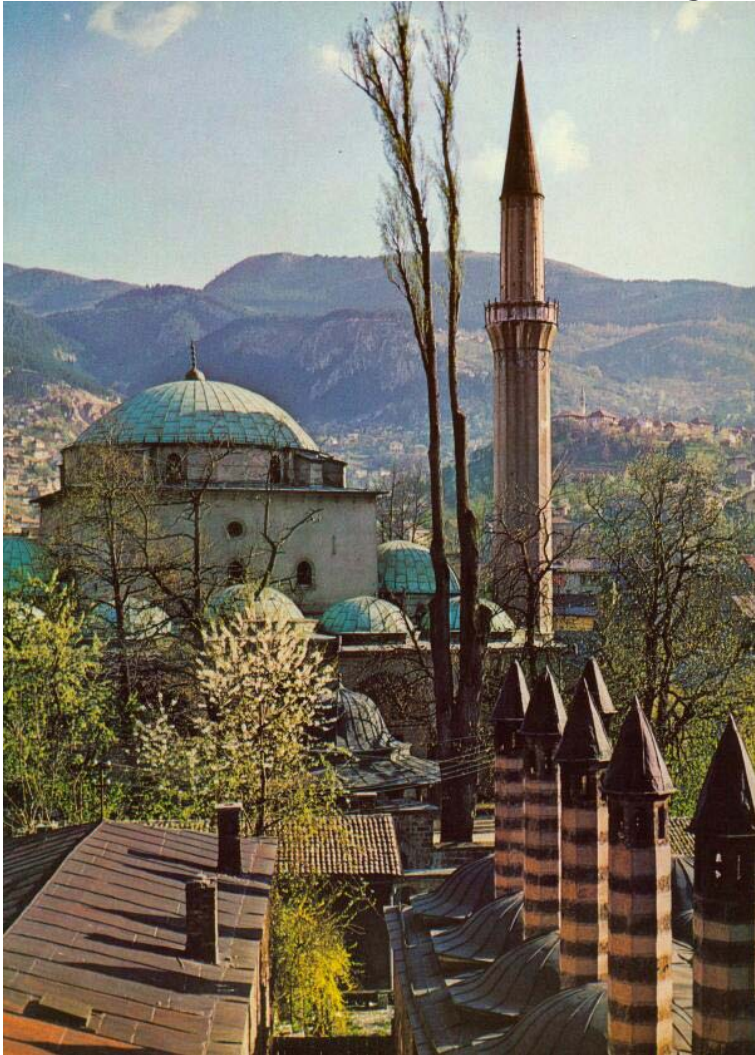


# Islamic architecture in Spain





# Muslim mosque and tombstone in Sarajevo, Bosnia



# Mosque in Tempe, Arizona

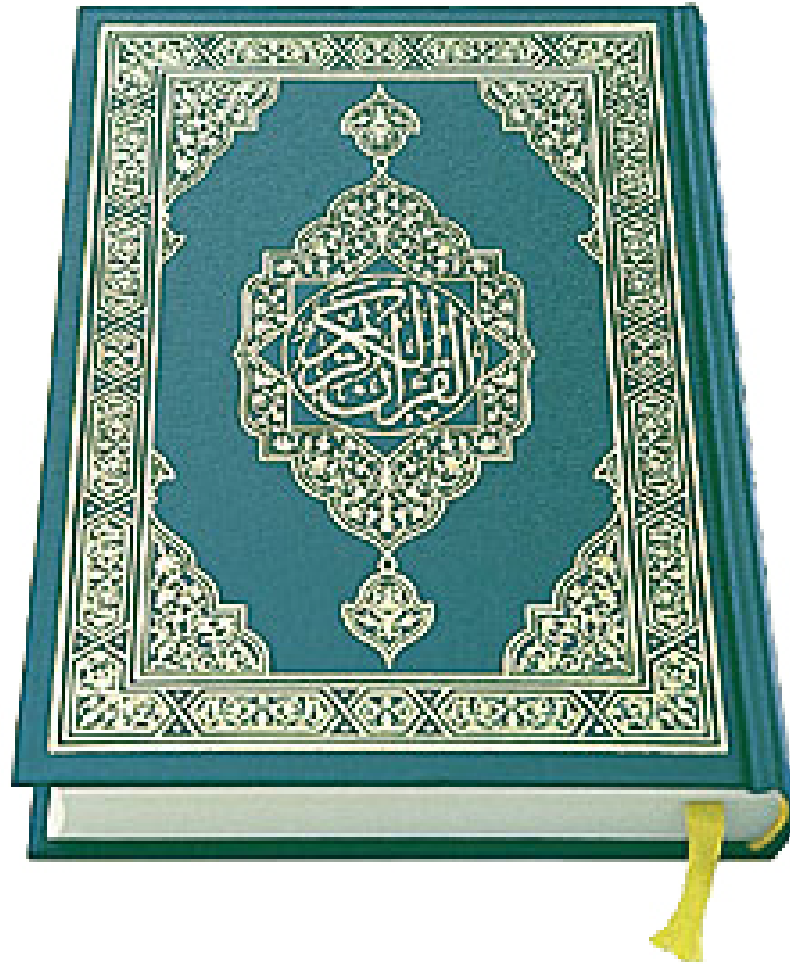




# Vocabulary:

**QURAN (or KORAN):**  
Muslim holy book

# The Quran



# Muslim influences on secular art

# Muslim profession of faith in the Topkapi Palace, Istanbul, Turkey





# Arabic calligraphy in secular art



<http://www.plumsite.com/palace/arabic.html>

# Stained glass windows in the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, Turkey



# Conclusions:

- Islam is an important religion, which shares many beliefs and practices with Christianity and Judaism.
- Muslims live in many different countries. Islam is especially widespread in Africa, Asia, and southeastern Europe (the Balkans).
- Islam has had a great impact on world art and culture.