

Brief Overview

“Islam” – to submit [to the will of God]

Abrahamic religion in the tradition of Christianity and Judaism

Strictly monotheistic, belief in Judeo-Christian God

“Allah” is just a word for “God”

Belief in Judeo-Christian prophets

Adam, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, Moses, Aaron,
David, Solomon, Jonah, John, Jesus

Belief in Bible and Torah

Special place for “People of the Book”

Five Pillars

Brief History

Prophet Muhammad & the Qur’an

Born in Mecca

The Revelation and the cave of Hira

Hijra to Medina (Islamic calendar)

Return to Mecca

Rightly-Guided Caliphs (632-661)

Spread to Persia, Syria, and Egypt under Umar

Compilation of the Qur’an under Uthman

Uthman-Ali controversy and the roots of the Sunni-Shi’ite split

Umayyads (661-750)

Capital in Damascus

Sunni-Shi’ite split

Conquest of North Africa and Spain

Umayyad Spain (until 1492)

Abbasids (750-1258)

Capital in Baghdad

Conquest of Anatolia

Golden age of Islamic culture

The Crusades

Mongol Invasion and collapse of the Caliphate

Map: <http://n->

www.wadsworth.com/history_d/special_features/ext/duiker_maps/swfs/duik7_3.html

Mamluks (1258-1517)

Abbasid caliphs in Cairo

Fall of the Byzantine Empire (1453)

Ottoman Conquest

Ottoman Empire (1517-1917)

World Map

Diversity

Second largest religion in the world

Population 1.2 billion in 1999, 20% of world total

43 countries with Muslim-majority populations

80-85% Sunni, 15-20% Shi'a

Southeast Asia

Indonesia has largest Muslim population

South Asia

Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh have second, third, and fourth largest

The largest group of Muslims is South Asian

Middle East

Only 20% of Muslims are Arab

Roughly 90% of Arabs are Muslim

North Africa

Eastern Europe

Bosnia & Herzegovina, Albania

Largest Populations

1. Indonesia (183 million)
2. Pakistan (134 million)
3. India (121 million)
4. Bangladesh (114 million)
5. Turkey (66 million)
6. Iran (62 million)
7. Egypt (59 million)
8. Nigeria (53 million)
9. Algeria (31 million)
10. Morocco (29 million)

Muslims in America

Population 7 million (est.)

Second largest religion in US

Fastest growing religion in US and world

Ethnic Origin

1. African-American
2. South Asian
3. Arab*
4. Southeast Asian & European

**The majority of Arabs in the US are non-Muslim.*

22.4% US-born

77.5% foreign-born

62.4% registered voters (almost twice the national average)
37.6% not registered

Largest Populations

1. California (20%)
2. New York (16%)
3. Illinois (8%)
4. New Jersey (4%)
5. Indiana (4%)
6. Michigan (3%)
7. Virginia (3%)
8. Texas (3%)
9. Ohio (3%)
10. Maryland

Islamic Science

Astrolabes

Astrolabes are used to show how the sky looks at a specific place at a given time. Typical uses of the astrolabe include finding the time during the day or night, finding the time of a celestial event such as sunrise or sunset and as a handy reference of celestial positions. The typical astrolabe was not a navigational instrument although an instrument called the [*mariner's astrolabe*](#) and was widely used for measuring celestial altitudes.

The [history of the astrolabe](#) begins more than two thousand years ago. The principles of the astrolabe projection were known before 150 B.C., and true astrolabes were made before A.D. 400. The astrolabe was highly developed in the Islamic world by 800 and was introduced to Europe from Islamic Spain (Andalusia) in the early 12th century. It was the most popular astronomical instrument until about 1650, when it was replaced by more specialized and accurate instruments. Astrolabes are still appreciated for their unique capabilities and their value for astronomy education.

Astrolabes were important in Islam because the five daily Muslim prayers rely are scheduled around the positions of the sun.

<http://www.ibb.net/~mipam/astrolabe/astrolabe.html#History>
<http://www.astrolabes.org/personal.htm>

Algebra

The word *algebra* comes from the Arabic *al-jabr*, meaning restoration. During the 9th century Islamic mathematicians systemized algebra, which they called the science of restoration and balancing. Algebraic techniques, however, have been employed to solve simple equations for thousands of years.

<http://www.islamonline.net/english/Science/2001/08/article15.shtml>

Numbers

At about the same time, the so-called "Arabic" numerals (actually imported from India) began to replace cumbersome Roman numerals, and introduced the concept of zero for the first time. Public education, also mandated by the Prophet, spread rapidly.

“As every schoolboy knows, the mathematical concept of zero was discovered by Arabs, when northern Europeans were still wearing horns on their helmets. In fact, as a Guardian reader pointed out this week, every schoolboy is probably wrong: the zero idea almost certainly came from India, but, crucially, it was first written down by an Arab.”

-The Guardian