

*Journey Through History:
New Topic-based Series*

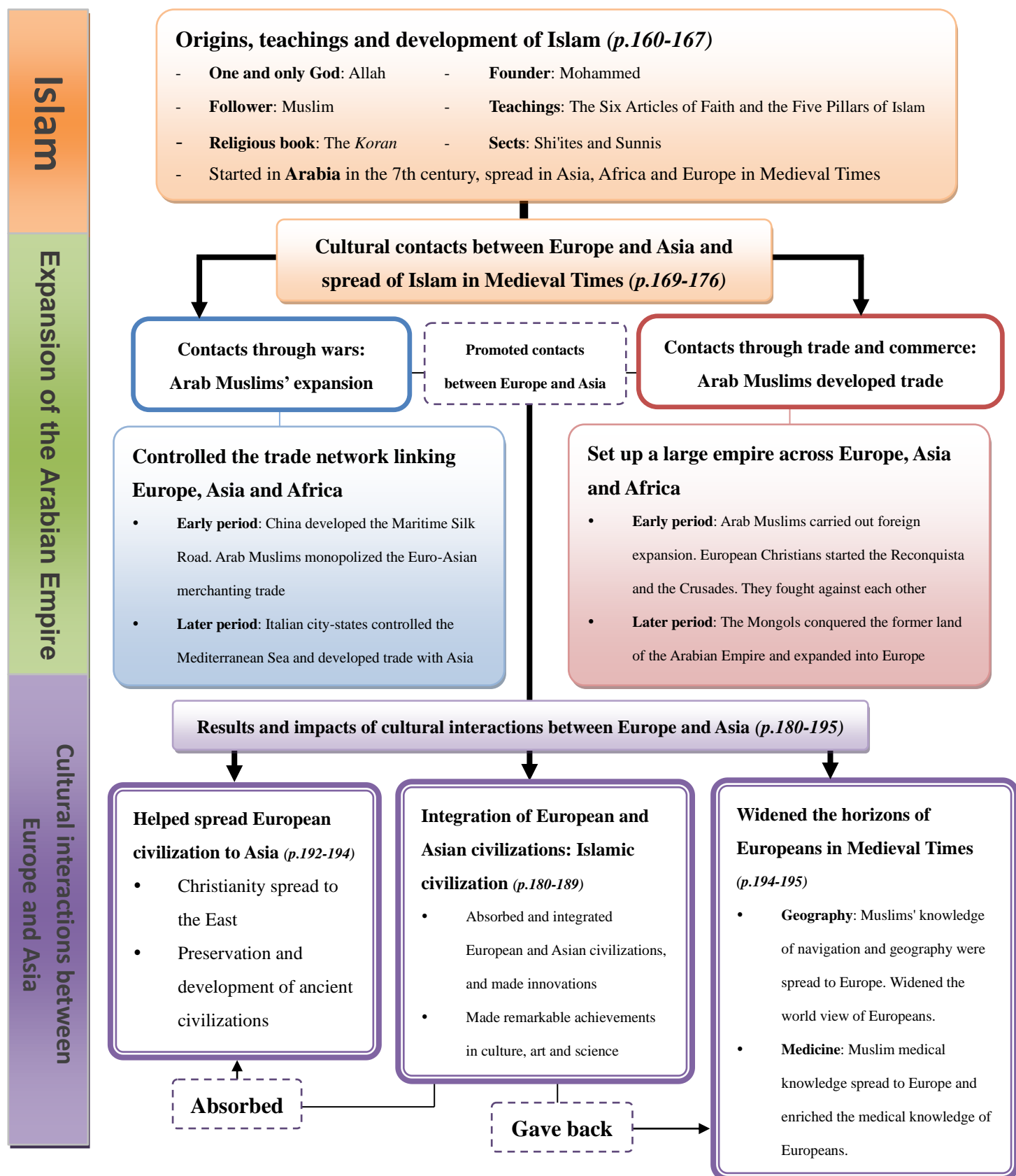
Study Notes

*Topic 3:
The rise of Islamic civilization and
cultural interactions between
Europe and Asia in Medieval Times*

Journey Through History: New Topic-based Series Study Notes
Topic 3 The rise of Islamic civilization and cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times



CONCEPT MAP



Topic 3 The rise of Islamic civilization and cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times

A. Origins, teachings and development of Islam

1. Birth of Islam

(a) Prophet Mohammed

- Islam started in Arabia in the 7th century.
- Mohammed was the founder of Islam.
 - According to Islamic teachings, in AD 610, the Angel Gabriel told Mohammed that Allah was the one and only God.
- Later, Mohammed started to preach Islam in Mecca (in present-day Saudi Arabia in West Asia) in the name of Allah's messenger and prophet.

(b) The Hegira

- Islam believed in one god. It was against the traditional belief of Mecca. It also hurt the revenues from pilgrims.
 - Priests, nobles and merchants joined together against Mohammed.
- In AD 622, Mohammed fled from Mecca to Medina.
 - This flight was known as the 'Hegira', meaning the 'Migration of Mohammed'.
 - This year became the first year of the Islamic calendar.

Guiding Questions

- How was Islam founded and its development in Medieval Times?
- What were the basic beliefs of Islam?



Arabian Peninsula in AD 610

(c) Mecca becoming the holy city

- In AD 630, Mohammed captured Mecca.
 - He removed all idols from the Kaaba in the Great Mosque of Mecca.
 - He declared Mecca as the holiest place and centre of Islamic pilgrimage.

2. Features and teachings of Islam

(a) Features

- Islam is an Arabic word, meaning 'submitting to Allah'.
- Its followers are called 'Muslims', meaning 'those submitting to Allah'.
- Muslims use the 'crescent moon' as the symbol of Islam.
- The Koran is the holy book of Islam, and mosque is the representative Islamic architecture.

Learn about Islam

Symbol: the crescent moon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muslims believe that the crescent moon symbolizes the birth of a new era brought by Islam.• The first day of each month in the Islamic calendar is the day of the first sighting of the crescent moon.• The symbol of the crescent moon can always be seen on the national flags of Islamic countries and tops of buildings.
Religious book: the <i>Koran</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muslims believe that the Koran is the Words of Allah to Mohammed through the Angel Gabriel.• Muslims must use Arabic when reading the Koran aloud.• Muslims believe that the Koran is holy. They must wash their hands before they read it. The Koran should be properly kept. A damaged Koran should be respectfully burned or buried.
Place of worship: mosque	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mosque refers to the place of worship for Muslims.• When a place is designated as a mosque, it should be used as a mosque until the end of the world.
Followers: Muslims	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muslims must obey the teachings of Allah and Mohammed. They should follow the Six Articles of Faith and the Five Pillars of Islam.• Muslims must follow the rules listed in the Koran. They must not gamble, borrow money, drink alcohol or eat unclean meat (such as pork).• Muslims believe in the Last Judgement, resurrection and eternal life.

(b) Teachings: The Six Articles of Faith and the Five Pillars of Islam

- Muslims must follow the Six Articles of Faith and the Five Pillars of Islam.
 - the Six Articles of Faith: basic religious beliefs;
 - the Five Pillars of Islam: strengthens their faith.

The Six Articles of Faith: the main religious beliefs of Islam	
Belief in Allah	Belief in Allah as the one and only God
Belief in angels	Angels are Allah's agents and are invisible
Believe in the prophets	Prophets are people chosen by Allah for a religious mission. Mohammed is the most respected.
Belief in the Day of Judgement	On the Day of Judgement, good people will go to heaven and bad people will go to hell.
Belief in the holy book	The <i>Koran</i> is the last and the most perfect book given by Allah. Muslims must follow the doctrines in the book strictly.
Belief in predestination	All worldly affairs are controlled and arranged by Allah.

The Five Pillars of Islam: supports and strengthens the faith of Muslims	
Profession of Faith	Muslims must recite the belief that "There is no god but God, and Mohammed is the messenger of God".
Prayer	Muslims must face towards Mecca and pray five times a day. On Friday noon, they have to pray in a mosque.
Fasting	Muslims must NOT eat or drink during the month of Ramadan from sunrise to sunset every day. The aims are to purify the body and the mind, and to please Allah.
Alms	Muslims should see giving alms as a merit and should give a portion of their wealth to help the poor and the needy.
Pilgrimage	Every Muslim must make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in his / her lifetime. The aim is to get closer to Allah.

3. Development of Islam

(a) Spread

(i) Spread in West Asia

- After capturing Mecca, Mohammed fought against those Arabian tribes that had oppressed Muslims before.
 - The conquered Arabs gradually followed Islam.
- By the mid-7th century, Muslims had controlled the whole Arabian Peninsula and neighbouring West Asia.
 - The Arabian Empire was founded.
 - It was a state in which state and religion were united.

(ii) Spread in Asia, Africa and Europe

- By the mid-8th century, Islam spread widely in Central Asia, Northern India, the Iberian Peninsula and North Africa.
- After the 13th century, Islam further spread to Southeast Asia. It also spread to many European countries when the Ottoman Empire expanded westwards.
- Today, about 90% of Muslims live in Asia, Africa and Europe.

(b) Split and conflict

(i) Split of Islam

- Mohammed died in AD 632. His cousin and son-in-law, Ali, was considered as the caliph (successor to Allah's prophet).
- Ali did not gain majority support in the caliph's election. The succession dispute split Islam.
 - Muslims who supported Ali and his descendants were called the 'Shi'ites' (means 'party').
 - Those Muslims who recognized all caliphs were known as the 'Sunnis' (means 'tradition').

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- In AD 656, a civil war even broke out among Muslims.
 - Husayn (Ali's son) who was supported by the Shi'ites, was defeated and killed afterwards.
 - This incident marked the long-standing rivalries between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis.

(ii) Different religious ideas

- The Shi'ites and the Sunnis also had great differences over interpretation of religious doctrines.
 - The Sunnis stressed complete obedience to the *Koran* and the sayings of Mohammed.
 - The Shi'ites believed that imams could interpret and transmit the implicit messages from the *Koran*.



Distribution of Muslims in the early 21st century

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B. Cultural contacts between Europe and Asia and spread of Islam in Medieval Times

- In Medieval Times, Europeans and Asians encountered and their interactions constantly increased through wars and trade. This promoted the cultural exchange between them.

1. Contacts through wars

Guiding Questions

- What were the Asian- European interactions in Medieval Times? How did different forms of interactions foster the cultural interactions between Europe and Asia?
- How did Islam spread in Medieval Times?

(a) Expansion of the Arabian Empire

- The Arabian Empire was founded on the Arabian Peninsula.
 - Due to the hostile living environment of desert and the desire to preach, Arab Muslims continued to expand outwards.
 - They invaded the Persian Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire and other Christian kingdoms in Europe.
- By the mid-8th century, the Arabian Empire had extended over Asia, Africa and Europe, and ruled different peoples.

(b) The Reconquista

- Between the 8th and 15th centuries, Christian countries in West Europe started the 'Reconquista' (meaning 'reconquest' in Spanish).
 - They stopped the Muslim invasion in Europe and gradually recaptured their lost territories on the Iberian Peninsula.

(c) The Crusades

- In the late 11th century, the Christians started the Crusades to recapture Jerusalem, the Holy Land, from Muslims.
 - It lasted about two hundred years and failed in the end.

(d) Mongol invasions and conquests

- Since 1206, the Mongols expanded westwards.

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- The Mongol Empire covered Europe and Asia, including many former territories of the Arabian Empire in Central Asia.

(e) How was promoted cultural interactions between Europe and Asia

- During Medieval Times, there were frequent wars between Europe and Asia.
 - Contacts were made between Europeans and Asians during the wars.
- Arab Muslims absorbed the more advanced civilizations of Europe and Asia through conquests. Islam also became widespread.
- Afterwards, the Islamic civilization and more advanced Asian technologies spread to Europe through the military conflicts between Muslims and Christians.
 - It finally resulted in the Renaissance in Europe.

2. Contacts through trade and commerce

(a) Main trade routes in medieval Europe: The Silk Roads

- The Silk Roads derived its name from the Chinese silk trade.
- During Medieval Times, they were the two important Euro-Asian land and maritime trade routes.
 - They started from China in Asia, and connected the countries in Europe and Africa lies along.

(b) Arabic merchants' commercial activities and their role as business middlemen

- In the 7th century, the Arabs started to act as business middlemen.
 - They travelled overseas and traded goods from different places to make profits.
- In the 8th century, Arab Muslims controlled parts of the Silk Roads.
 - Euro-Asian trade became more frequent under their control over merchanting trade.

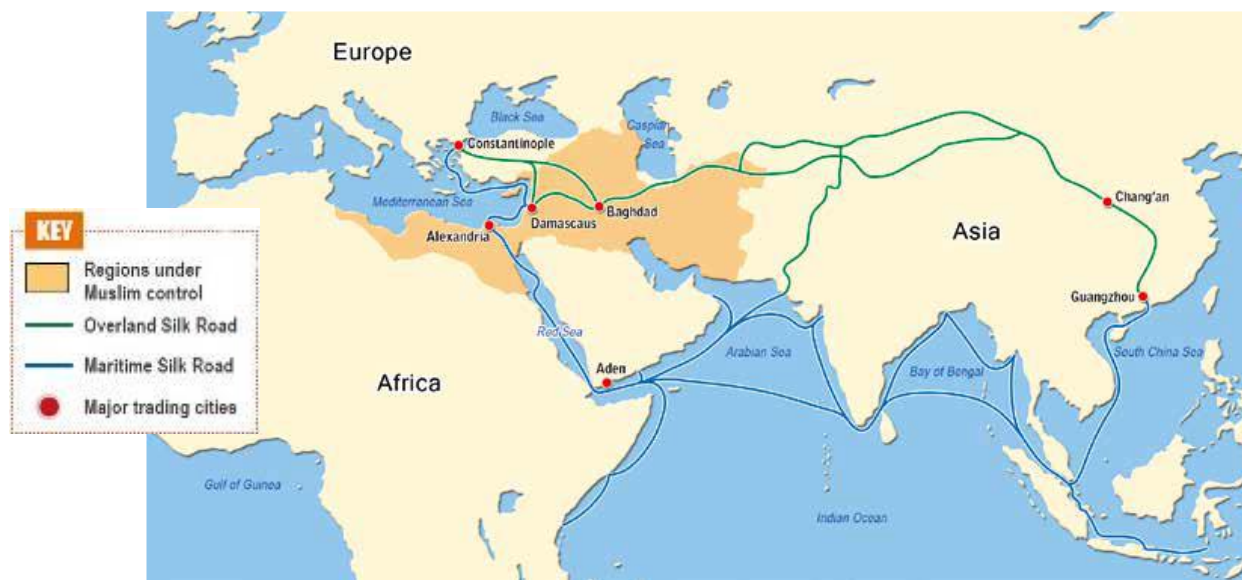
(c) China developed the Maritime Silk Road

- From the 8th century onwards, China greatly developed the Maritime Silk Road.

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- Many European and Asian traders travelled between China and Europe along this sea route. They traded luxury goods such as silk and spices.



The Silk Roads in about the 8th century

(d) Rise of merchants in Italian city-states

- Since the 11th century, ports and city-states developed along the supply lines to the Crusaders.
- The Italian city-states such as Venice and Genoa controlled the Mediterranean Sea. They developed trade with Asia.

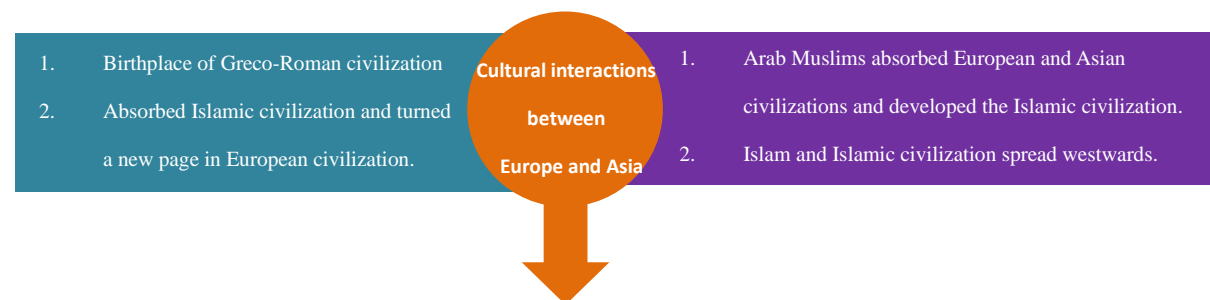
(e) How trade and commerce promoted cultural interactions between Europe and Asia

- During Medieval Times, European and Asian traders traded along the Silk Roads.
- Trading activities promoted the spread and exchange of products, technology and religions between Europe and Asia.
 - Arabic was promoted by the expansion of Arabian merchanting trade. It became an important language for European and Asian traders.
 - Islam became popular in Europe and Asia.
 - European traders brought crafts to Asia and brought back different cultures and knowledge from there.

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Summary: Cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times

Region Time	Europe	Westward ←	Asia (Middle East)	Eastward →	Asia
7 th century	The Iberian Peninsula was conquered in succession.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islam started in Arabia. Muslims started to preach actively and develop merchanting trade. 		The Persian Empire was overthrown. West Asia fell under Muslim rule.
8 th -10 th century	Christians started the Reconquista.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Muslims continued to invade Europe and Asia. The Arabs monopolized the merchanting trade between Europe and Asia. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese army fought against Muslims. China greatly developed the Maritime Silk Road.
11 th -14 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Crusades started. Italian merchants rose and developed trade with Asia. The Mongols conquered Eastern Europe. 		The Mongols conquered many former territories of the Arabian Empire in Central Asia.		Through expansion westwards, the Mongols set up a large empire covering Europe and Asia.



Science and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinese paper-making technology and Indian mathematics spread to Arabia. Muslims improved them and spread them to Europe. Muslims translated and studied Greco-Roman classics on astronomy and medicine and spread them across Asia. They also spread new technology to Europe.
Spread of religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islam spread beyond Arabia. There were followers in all parts of Asia and Europe. Christianity spread to China.
Exchange of products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian products such as silk, spices and cane sugar were brought to Europe. European crafts such as precious stones and glass products were brought to Asia.

C. Results and impacts of cultural interactions between Europe and Asia

1. Integration of European and Asian civilizations: Islamic civilization

Guiding Questions

- What were the achievements of the Islamic civilization?
- In addition to the birth of Islamic civilization, what were the results and impact of the cultural interactions between Europe and Asia?

- The period of the 8th to 13th centuries is the 'Golden Age' of Islamic civilization.
- After absorbing European (ancient Greco-Roman) and Asian (Persian, Indian and Chinese) civilizations, Muslims eventually developed their unique civilization and made remarkable achievements in culture, art and science.

(a) Achievements in culture and art

(i) Language and writing system

- In Medieval Times, Arabic was popular in most European, Asian and African areas.
- A lot of European and Asian vocabulary were derived from Arabic.
- Today, it is still the common language used in the Islamic World.
- Arabic alphabet is widely used, second only to the Latin alphabet.

(ii) Literature

- Medieval Islamic literature included the elements of European and Asian history, religions, customs and myths.
 - The *Book of Kings* and the *One Thousand and One Nights* were classics.
- Many Islamic literary works were translated into different languages.
 - They inspired later generations of writers.

(iii) Philosophy

- Islamic philosophy was derived from its teachings.
- Later Muslims translated many ancient Greek philosophical classics and studied them.
 - This helped preserve and spread ancient Greek philosophy, and further develop Islamic philosophy as well.

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- Islamic philosophy had great influence on the development of modern philosophy, including the ideas of rationalism (opinions and actions base on reason and knowledge), secularism (free from religious rule) and empiricism (conclusions based on observation and research).
- Islamic philosopher Ibn Rushd was regarded as the 'father of secular thought in Western Europe'.

(iv) Painting and architecture

- As Islam forbids idol worship, Muslims avoided painting human figures and animals.
 - Flowers and geometric lines have been the main composition of Islamic paintings instead.
 - 'Arabesque', which consists of infinitely repeated and extensible geometric patterns, is the symbolic Islamic decorative style.
- Islamic architecture integrated with ancient Greco-Roman style.
 - Mosque is the representative of Islamic buildings, which was characterized by the Greco-Roman domes and arches, and surrounding minarets.
 - Mosques were decorated with coloured bricks and arabesque as well.
- Islamic architectural style spread to different places.
 - The Great Mosque of Cordoba in Spain, the Umayyad Mosque in Syria and the Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Turkey are models of Islamic architecture.

(b) Achievements in science and technology

(i) Mathematics

- Muslims learned the numeral system of 1-9 and the concept of '0' of ancient India and developed the 'Arabic numerals'.
- They also studied ancient Greek geometry and proposed more theories of trigonometry.
- Muslim scholar Al-Kwarizmi's works further promoted algebra and the decimal numeral system.
 - They greatly contributed to the development of science and trade in the world.

(ii) Alchemy and Chemistry

- Islamic scholars used scientific methods in alchemy, including experiment and analysis.
- Their reports and related alchemical books spread to Europe later.
 - These fostered the development of alchemy in Europe and laid the foundation of early Chemistry in Europe (between about 17th and 20th centuries).

(iii) Medicine

- Islamic scholars combined Greco-Roman medicine with Persian and Indian theories.
 - Al-Zahrawi suggested methods of tying blood vessels which greatly improved the success rate of surgery.
 - Al-Razi's the *Method of Medicine* and Ibn Sina's the *Canon Of Medicine*, the medical classics, were the references for Asians and Europeans in Medieval and early Modern Times.

(iv) Astronomy

- Islamic scholars invented astrolabe and quadrant.
 - The most advanced observatories in Medieval Times were set in Baghdad.
- The time for worship and the Islamic calendar were determined by astronomy.
 - They were based on ancient Greek and Persian astronomy, and the Muslims' observations on star movements.
- Many present-day star names and astronomical terms came from Arabic.

(v) Geography

- Muslims wrote a series of geography books and maps.
 - Al-Biruni wrote the first book that used mathematics to tell geographical locations.
 - Al-Idrisi's the *Book of Roger* divided the world into different parts, and recorded the history, geography, products and customs of countries. It was a geography classic in Medieval Times.

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Major achievements of the Islamic civilization

	Characteristics	Representative scholars / Legacies	Impacts / Achievements
Culture	Arabic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popular in most European, Asian and African areas during Medieval Times 	/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded the vocabularies of European and Asians language The common language used in today's Islamic World
	Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included the elements of European and Asian history, religions, customs and myths 	The <i>Book of Kings</i> and the <i>One Thousand and One Nights</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Islamic literary works were translated into different languages Inspired later generations of writers
	Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated with Islamic teachings and the ideas of ancient Greek philosophy 	Ibn Rushd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pioneered in modern philosophical ideas e.g. rationalism, secularism, empiricism
Art	Painting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly flowers and geometric lines 	Arabesque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The style spread to Europe and Asia
	Architecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated with ancient Greco-Roman architectural style Mosque is the representative of Islamic buildings 	The Great Mosque of Cordoba in Spain, the Umayyad Mosque in Syria and the Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Turkey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The style spread to Europe and Asia

	Characteristics	Representative scholars / Legacies	Impacts / Achievements
Science and technology	Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated with ancient Indian numeral system and ancient Greek geometrical theories 	Al-Kwarizmi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'Arabic numerals' are still widely used today The development of algebra and the decimal numeral system greatly contributed to the development of science and trade in the world
	Alchemy and Chemistry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used scientific methods (experiment, analysis and record) in alchemy 	Al-Razi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostered the development of alchemy in Europe and laid the foundation of early Chemistry in Europe
	Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated with the medical knowledge of ancient Greco- Roman, Persian and India 	Al-Zahrawi, Al-Razi and Ibn Sina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enriched European and Asian medical knowledge, including treatments for diseases and classification of drugs
	Astronomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated with ancient Greek and Persian astronomical knowledge 	Islamic calendar, astrolabe, quadrant and observatories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many present-day star names and astronomical terms came from Arabic
	Geography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiled a series of geography books and maps 	Al-Biruni used mathematics to tell geographical locations, Al-Idrisi's the <i>Book of Roger</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided important reference for the study of geography in Europe and Asia

2. Helped spread European civilization to Asia

(a) Christianity spread to the East

(i) Nestorians in West and Central Asia

- Christianity started in 1st century and was widespread in Europe from the 4th century onwards. It was one of the legacies of European civilization.
- Since the 5th century, followers and supporters of the priest Nestorius had spread Christianity through West and Central Asia.
 - They were known as 'Nestorians'.
- In Medieval Times, these two regions were occupied by Muslims for a long period of time, but this did not hinder the development of the Nestorian Church there.
- Most of the Nestorians were well-educated and paid attention to preserving Greek civilization. Moreover, they had helped the Muslims fight against their enemies.
 - The Muslims thus allowed them to preach Christianity as long as they paid taxes.

(ii) Spread to China

- In AD 635, Nestorian priest Alopen reached Chang'an in China.
 - The emperor of Tang Dynasty allowed him and other Nestorian priests to preach across the country.
 - This was the earliest record about the spread of Christianity in China.
- Nestorianism was known as 'Jingjiao' in Chinese.
 - It was popular in the Tang Dynasty (AD 618-907) and the Yuan Dynasty (AD 1271-1368).

(b) Preservation and development of ancient civilizations

- During Medieval Times, Islamic scholars started the 'Translation Movement'.
- They translated and studied the ancient Greco-Roman classics, and thus helped preserve and spread the learning to Asia.

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- The ancient Greco-Roman classics encouraged Islamic scholars to explore more.
 - They helped make up for the limitations of the idea of geocentrism (i.e. the Earth was the centre of the solar system) proposed by the ancient Greek astronomer Ptolemy.

3. Widening the horizons of Europeans

(a) Geography

- During Medieval Times, Muslims stated that the continents were surrounded by different oceans. Their maps also showed the coastlines of Africa and India.
- Muslims invented lateen sail and perfected the compass and astrolabe for voyages to distant lands.
- Muslim geographic knowledge was widely adopted by Europeans.
 - This stimulated their spirit of discovery in late Medieval Times.
 - Many Europeans started to think if the Earth was round. They also wanted to find unknown lands.
 - Later, Europeans gradually improved their navigating technologies based on Muslim knowledge and inventions. This started the 'Voyages of Discovery' in the 15th century.

(b) Medicine

- After the start of the Crusades, Muslim medical knowledge spread to Europe. This enriched the medical knowledge of Europeans.
 - In the 12th century, European scholars translated Ibn Sina's the *Canon of Medicine* into Latin. It was used as a medical textbook in universities.
 - In the 15th century, the *Book of the Pharmacists* was published. It was based on Ibn al-Baitar's the *Book of Medicinal and Nutritional Terms* to classify the drugs.

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REVISION TIMELINE

Time	Important event	Extended point
AD 476	Medieval Times started	
AD 610	Mohammad started preaching Islam	♦ Birth of Islam in Arabia
AD 622	Hegira: Mohammed fled to Medina	♦ This year became the first year of the Islamic calendar
AD 630	Mohammed captured Mecca	♦ Mecca became the holiest place and centre of Islamic pilgrimage
AD 632	Mohammed died	♦ Ali did not gain majority support in the caliph's election. The succession dispute split Islam
	The Arabian Empire was founded	
AD 635	Nestorian priest Alopen reached Chang'an, China	♦ This was the earliest record about the spread of Christianity in China
AD 656	A dispute over caliph's succession led to a civil war among the Muslim	♦ Husayn who was supported by the Shi'ites, was defeated and killed afterwards ♦ This incident marked the long-standing rivalries between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis
AD 661	The Umayyad Dynasty was founded	♦ Caliph succession became hereditary
AD 8th century	Christian countries in Western Europe started the 'Reconquista'	♦ They stopped the Muslim invasion in Europe ♦ They gradually recaptured their lost territories on the Iberian Peninsula
AD 750	The Abbasid Dynasty was founded	♦ Its capital Baghdad became the cultural centre of the world
AD 813	Al-Ma'mun became caliph and built the 'House of Wisdom' during his reign	♦ Islamic scholars started the 'Translation Movement' in the 'House of Wisdom'
AD Late 11th century	Christians started the 'Crusades' to recapture Jerusalem from Muslims	♦ It failed in the end ♦ The more advanced Asian technologies spread to Europe through the military conflicts. It finally resulted in the Renaissance in Europe
AD 1206	The Mongol Empire was founded	♦ It covered Europe and Asia, including many former territories of the Arabian Empire in Central Asia.
AD Late 14th century	The Renaissance started in Europe	

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Origins, teachings and development of Islam

1. The Hegira

- In AD 622, Mohammed fled from Mecca to Medina. This flight was known as the 'Hegira', meaning the 'Migration of Mohammed'. This year became the first year of the Islamic calendar.

2. Muslim

- The Islam followers which mean 'those submitting to Allah'.

3. The Six Articles of Faith and the Five Pillars of Islam

- The Six Articles of Faith are the main religious beliefs of Islam. The Five Pillars of Islam supports and strengthens the faith of Muslims.

4. The caliph

- The successor to Allah's prophet. The first four caliphs were elected from the tribe of Mohammed and called the Rashidun Caliphate. Later, the caliph succession became hereditary and as the title of the rulers of the Arabian Empire.

5. Shi'ites and Sunnis

- The two major Islam sects. Muslims who supported Ali and his descendants were called the 'Shi'ites' (means 'party'). Those Muslims who recognized all caliphs were known as the 'Sunnis' (means 'tradition').

Cultural contacts between Europe and Asia and spread of Islam in Medieval Times

1. The Reconquista

- Between the 8th and 15th centuries, Christian countries in West Europe started the 'Reconquista' (meaning 'reconquest' in Spanish). They stopped the Muslim invasion in Europe and gradually recaptured their lost territories on the Iberian Peninsula.

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2. The Crusades

- In the late 11th century, the Christians started the Crusades to recapture Jerusalem, the Holy Land, from Muslims. It lasted about two hundred years and failed in the end.

3. The Silk Roads

- Main trade routes in medieval Europe. During Medieval Times, they were the two important Euro-Asian land and maritime trade routes. They started from China in Asia, and connected the countries in Europe and Africa lies along.

4. Arabian merchanting trade

- In the 7th century, the Arabs started to act as business middlemen. They travelled overseas and traded goods from different places to make profits.

Results and impacts of cultural interactions between Europe and Asia

1. Islamic civilization

- During 8th-13th centuries, Muslims absorbed European (ancient Greco-Roman) and Asian (Persian, Indian and Chinese) civilizations, and developed their unique civilization. They made remarkable achievements in culture, art and science.

2. Islamic philosophy

- Islamic philosophy had great influence on the development of modern philosophy, including the ideas of rationalism, secularism and empiricism.

3. Arabesque

- It is the symbolic Islamic decorative style. It consists of infinitely repeated and extensible geometric patterns.

4. Arabic numerals

- Muslims learned the numeral system of 1-9 and the concept of '0' of ancient India and developed the 'Arabic numerals'.

5. Nestorians

- The followers and supporters of the priest Nestorius. In the 7th century, they spread Christianity in China. Nestorianism was known as 'Jingjiao' in Chinese.

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HUNTING FOR HISTORICAL FIGURES

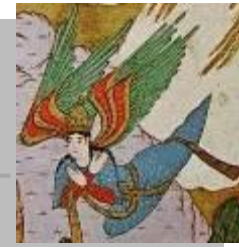


1. Mohammed (AD 570-632)

Founder of Islam. He preached Islam in the name of Allah's messenger and prophet.

2. Angel Gabriel

According to Islamic teachings, in AD 610, the Angel Gabriel told Mohammed that Allah was the one and only God.



3. Ibn Rushd (AD 1126-1198)

Islamic philosopher. He integrated Islamic ideas with ancient Greek thought and was regarded as the 'father of secular thought in Western Europe'.

4. Al-Kwarizmi (AD 780-850)

One of the greatest mathematicians in history. His work on algebra was of great influence. He was considered to be the founder of Algebra.



5. Al-Razi (AD 854-925)

One of the greatest doctors of the Islamic world. His book the *Method of Medicine* surveyed Greek, Syrian, and early Arabic and Indian medicine.

6. Al-Zahrawi (AD 936-1013)

He was regarded as the Father of Modern Surgery. His famous book the *Method* (《醫學方法》) was an encyclopedia of medicine and surgery.





7. Ibn Sina (AD 980-1037)

Influential Persian scientist and philosopher. He wrote the *Book of Healing* (《治療論》) and the *Canon of Medicine*. These works were translated into different languages and greatly influenced the development of medicine.

8. Al-Biruni (AD 973-1048)

He undertook extensive travels. He wrote a book which discussed longitudes and latitudes on Earth and how to calculate the distance between latitude lines.



9. Al-Idrisi (AD 1100-1165)

Arab geographer. His major work the *Book of Roger* included the most accurate map of the world at that time.

10. Nestorius (AD 386-451)

He was once the patriarch of Constantinople, but was exiled to Egypt in AD 435. His followers founded the Nestorian Church, also known as the Church of the East.



11. Ibn al-Baitar (AD 1197-1248)

Muslim pharmacist and scientist. His work the *Book of Medicinal and Nutritional Terms* (《藥草大全》) was an encyclopedia of Islamic medicine and diseases.



★ **Origins, teachings and development of Islam**

Features and teachings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ One and only God: Allah■ Founder: Mohammed■ Follower: Muslim■ Teachings: The Six Articles of Faith and the Five Pillars of Islam■ Symbol: Crescent moon■ Representative architecture: Mosque■ Religious book: The <i>Koran</i>■ Sects: Shi'ites and Sunnis	
	Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Prophet Mohammed<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ AD 610: Mohammed started to preach Islam in Mecca in the name of Allah's messenger and prophet
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Hegira<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ AD 622: Mohammed fled from Mecca to Medina✧ Known as the 'Hegira', meaning the 'Migration of Mohammed'		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Mecca becoming the holy city<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ AD 630: Mohammed captured Mecca and removed all idols from the Kaaba in the Great Mosque of Mecca✧ Mecca became the holiest place and centre of Islamic pilgrimage		
Development		<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Spread<ul style="list-style-type: none">✧ Spread in West Asia✧ Mid-7th century: Muslims had controlled the whole Arabian Peninsula and neighbouring West Asia✧ The Arabian Empire was founded■ Spread in Asia, Africa and Europe✧ 8th-13th century: Islam spread widely in Asia, Africa and Europe✧ Today: about 90% of Muslims live in Asia, Africa and Europe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Split and conflict<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ AD 632: Mohammed died✧ His cousin and son-in-law, Ali, was considered as the caliph✧ Ali did not gain majority support in the caliph's election✧ The succession dispute split Islam➤ The 'Shi'ites': supported Ali and his descendants➤ The 'Sunnis': recognized all caliphs■ AD 656: civil war even broke out among Muslims➤ Husayn who was supported by the Shi'ites, was defeated and killed afterwards➤ This incident marked the long-standing rivalries between the Shi'ites and the Sunnis

Journey Through History: New Topic-based Series Study Notes

Topic 3 The rise of Islamic civilization and cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times

★ **Cultural contacts between Europe and Asia and spread of Islam in Medieval Times**

Forms of interactions	Wars
Expansion of the Arabian Empire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mid-8th century: the Arabian Empire had extended over Asia, Africa and Europe, and ruled different peoples
The Reconquista	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 8th-15th century: Christian countries in West Europe started the 'Reconquista' ✧ They stopped the Muslim invasion in Europe and gradually recaptured their lost territories on the Iberian Peninsula
The Crusades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 11th-13th century: the Christians started the Crusades to recapture Jerusalem ✧ It lasted about two hundred years and failed in the end
Mongol invasions and conquests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Since 1206: the Mongols expanded westwards ✧ The Mongol Empire covered many former territories of the Arabian Empire in Central Asia
How wars promoted cultural interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arab Muslims absorbed the more advanced civilizations of Europe and Asia ■ Islam became widespread ■ The Islamic civilization and more advanced Asian technologies spread to Europe ✧ It resulted in the Renaissance in Europe
Forms of interactions	Trade and commerce
The Silk Roads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Silk Roads: important Euro-Asian land and maritime trade routes during Medieval Times ✧ They started from China in Asia, and connected the countries in Europe and Africa lies along
Arabic merchants' commercial activities and their role as business middlemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7th century: the Arabs started to act as business middlemen ■ 8th century: Arab Muslims controlled parts of the Silk Roads ✧ Euro-Asian trade became more frequent under their control over merchanting trade
China developed the Maritime Silk Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ From the 8th century onwards: China greatly developed the Maritime Silk Road ✧ Many European and Asian traders travelled between China and Europe along this sea route
Rise of merchants in Italian city-states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Since the 11th century: ports and city-states developed along the supply lines to the Crusaders ✧ The Italian city-states such as Venice and Genoa controlled the Mediterranean Sea. They developed trade with Asia
How trade and commerce promoted cultural interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Arabic was promoted by the expansion of Arabian merchanting trade ✧ It became an important language for European and Asian traders ■ Islam became popular in Europe and Asia ■ European traders brought crafts to Asia and brought back different cultures and knowledge from there

Topic 3 The rise of Islamic civilization and cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times

★ **Results and impacts of cultural interactions between Europe and Asia -
Integration of European and Asian civilizations: Islamic civilization
(Achievements in culture and art)**

Achievements in culture and art	Language and writing system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In Medieval Times: Arabic was popular in most European, Asian and African areas ■ A lot of European and Asian vocabulary were derived from Arabic ■ Today, it is still the common language used in the Islamic World ■ Arabic alphabet is widely used, second only to the Latin alphabet
	Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Medieval Islamic literature included the elements of European and Asian history, religions, customs and myths ■ The <i>Book of Kings</i> and the <i>One Thousand and One Nights</i> were classics ■ Many Islamic literary works were translated into different languages ■ They inspired later generations of writers
	Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Muslims translated many ancient Greek philosophical classics and studied them ✧ This helped preserve and spread ancient Greek philosophy, and further develop Islamic philosophy as well ■ Islamic philosophy had great influence on the development of modern philosophy ✧ including the ideas of rationalism, secularism and empiricism ✧ Islamic philosopher Ibn Rushd was regarded as the 'father of secular thought in Western Europe'
	Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Main composition of Islamic painting: flowers and geometric lines ■ Arabesque: consists of infinitely repeated and extensible geometric patterns
	Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Islamic architecture integrated with ancient Greco-Roman style ■ Mosque: the representative of Islamic buildings ✧ characterized by the Greco-Roman domes and arches, and surrounding minarets ✧ decorated with coloured bricks and arabesque ■ Islamic architectural style spread to different places ■ Models of Islamic architecture ✧ The Great Mosque of Cordoba in Spain ✧ The Umayyad Mosque in Syria ✧ The Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Turkey

Topic 3 The rise of Islamic civilization and cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times

★ **Results and impacts of cultural interactions between Europe and Asia -
Integration of European and Asian civilizations: Islamic civilization
(Achievements in science and technology)**

Achievements in science and technology	Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Muslims learned the numeral system of 1-9 and the concept of '0' of ancient India and developed the 'Arabic numerals' ■ Muslims studied ancient Greek geometry and proposed more theories of trigonometry ■ Muslim scholar Al-Kwarizmi's works further promoted algebra and the decimal numeral system ✧ They greatly contributed to the development of science and trade in the world
	Alchemy and Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Islamic scholars used scientific methods (including experiment and analysis) in alchemy ■ Their reports and related alchemical books spread to Europe later ■ These fostered the development of alchemy in Europe and laid the foundation of early Chemistry in Europe (between about 17th and 20th centuries).
	Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Islamic scholars combined Greco-Roman medicine with Persian and Indian theories ■ Al-Zahrawi: suggested methods of tying blood vessels which greatly improved the success rate of surgery ■ Al-Razi's the <i>Method of Medicine</i> and Ibn Sina's the <i>Canon Of Medicine</i>: the references for Asians and Europeans in Medieval and early Modern Times
	Astronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Islamic scholars invented astrolabe and quadrant ✧ The most advanced observatories in Medieval Times were set in Baghdad ■ The time for worship and the Islamic calendar were determined by astronomy ✧ They were based on ancient Greek and Persian astronomy, and the Muslims' observations on star movements ■ Many present-day star names and astronomical terms came from Arabic
	Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Muslims wrote a series of geography books and maps ✧ Al-Biruni: wrote the first book that used mathematics to tell geographical locations ✧ Al-Idrisi's the <i>Book of Roger</i>: divided the world into different parts, and recorded the history, geography, products and customs of countries

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Topic 3 The rise of Islamic civilization and cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times

★ **Results and impacts of cultural interactions between Europe and Asia -
Helped spread European civilization to Asia**

Christianity spread to the East	Nestorians in West and Central Asia
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1st century: Christianity started in ■ From 4th century onwards: Christianity was widespread in Europe ■ Since the 5th century: followers and supporters of the priest Nestorius had spread Christianity through West and Central Asia ✧ They were known as 'Nestorians'
	Spread to China
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ AD 635: Nestorian priest Alopen reached Chang'an in China ✧ This was the earliest record about the spread of Christianity in China ✧ Nestorianism was known as 'Jingjiao' in Chinese
Preservation and development of ancient civilizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Islamic scholars started the 'Translation Movement' ✧ They translated and studied the ancient Greco-Roman classics, and thus helped preserve and spread the learning to Asia ■ The ancient Greco-Roman classics encouraged Islamic scholars to explore more ✧ They helped make up for the limitations of the idea of geocentrism (i.e. the Earth was the centre of the solar system) proposed by the ancient Greek astronomer Ptolemy

★ **Results and impacts of cultural interactions between Europe and Asia -
Widening the horizons of Europeans**

Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Muslims stated that the continents were surrounded by different oceans ■ Muslims invented lateen sail and perfected the compass and astrolabe for voyages to distant lands.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Muslim geographic knowledge was widely adopted by Europeans ✧ This stimulated their spirit of discovery in late Medieval Times ✧ Many Europeans started to think if the Earth was round. They also wanted to find unknown lands ✧ Europeans improved their navigating technologies based on Muslim knowledge and inventions. This started the 'Voyages of Discovery' in the 15th century
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ After the start of the Crusades: Muslim medical knowledge spread to Europe ■ 12th century: European scholars translated Ibn Sina's the <i>Canon of Medicine</i> into Latin. It was used as a medical textbook in universities ■ 15th century: the <i>Book of the Pharmacists</i> was published. It was based on Ibn al-Baitar's the <i>Book of Medicinal and Nutritional Terms</i> to classify the drugs

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10X10 Q&A

1. Which of the following descriptions about the *Koran* is correct?
 - A. Muslims must use Latin when reading the *Koran* aloud
 - B. A damaged *Koran* would be reused
 - C. Muslims believe that the *Koran* is the Words of Mohammed
 - D. Muslims must wash their hands before they read the *Koran*☐

2. When did the Christians started the Crusades?
 - A. Late 7th century
 - B. Late 11th century
 - C. Late 13th century
 - D. Late 15th century☐

3. Which of the following descriptions about the Hegira is NOT correct?
 - A. Mohammed fled from Medina to Mecca
 - B. Hegira means the 'Migration of Mohammed'
 - C. Hegira happened in AD 622
 - D. Hegira happened due to priests joined together against Mohammed☐

4. Who was regarded as the 'father of secular thought in Western Europe'?
 - A. Al-Razi
 - B. Al-Zahrawi
 - C. Al-Biruni
 - D. Ibn Rushd☐

5. Which of the followings is NOT the Five Pillars of Islam?
 - A. Muslims must follow the doctrines in the *Koran* strictly
 - B. Muslims must face towards Mecca and pray five times a day
 - C. Muslims must NOT eat or drink during the month of Ramadan
 - D. Every Muslim must make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca in lifetime☐

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6. Which of the followings is the contribution of Al-Kwarizmi?
- A. He wrote the *Method of Medicine*
 - B. He wrote the *One Thousand and One Nights*
 - C. He promoted the decimal numeral system
 - D. He invented Arabic
- ☐
7. Which of the following descriptions about priest Alopen is NOT correct?
- A. His preaching in China was the earliest record about the spread of Christianity in China
 - B. He reached Chang'an in China in AD 635
 - C. The emperor of Ming Dynasty allowed him to preach across the country
 - D. He was a Nestorian priest
- ☐
8. Who was the successor of Mohammed?
- A. Husayn
 - B. Ali
 - C. Al-Abbas
 - D. Muawiyah
- ☐
9. Which of the followings is a correct match?
- A. Venice: Italian city-state
 - B. Al-Idrisi: *Canon of Medicine*
 - C. Ibn Sina: *Book of Roger*
 - D. Ibn al-Baitar: geocentrism
- ☐
10. Which of the followings was NOT an invention of the Muslims?
- A. Observatory
 - B. Astrolabe
 - C. Telescope
 - D. Quadrant
- ☐



Study the Source and answer the questions that follow. (7 marks)



The carrack was the first ocean-going sailing ship in European history. In the 15th century, Europeans used it to travel to distant place for exploration, which allowed them to know more about other countries. They also opened new trade routes.

The design of the carrack was influenced by the dhows invented by Muslims. The carrack consisted of square sail and lateen sail. Lateen sail was easier to control and could sail fast upwind.

1. What were the geographic achievements of Muslims? Explain your answer according to the Source, and using your own knowledge. (2 marks)
2. How did Muslims' development in knowledge fostered the advancement of Europe? Explain your answer with reference to the Source, and using your own knowledge. (5 marks)

Topic 3 The rise of Islamic civilization and cultural interactions between Europe and Asia in Medieval Times

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- **Clues from the Source:**

- **Own knowledge:**

2. How did Muslims' development in knowledge fostered the advancement of Europe? Explain your answer with reference to the Source, and using your own knowledge. (5 marks)

- **Clues from the Source:**

- **Own knowledge:**