A Community Takes Shape

Trace the founding and development of Islam under Muhammad.

SS24.8.3a "Outline the founding and development of Islam under Muhammad."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one turning point in each paragraph, number the turning points 1, 2, and 3 in order, and circle the date linked to each one.

From Mecca to a Growing Community

1. Around 610 CE, Muhammad, a merchant in Mecca on the Arabian Peninsula, began receiving revelations that Muslims believe came from God. He taught that there is one God, Allah, and called people to worship God and care for those in need. His message challenged Mecca's long-standing religious practices, including worship at the Kaaba, a shrine containing idols at that time. Some people accepted his teaching, but powerful Meccan leaders opposed him. As pressure on his followers grew, the small community faced a difficult choice about where it could live safely.

2. In 622 CE, Muhammad and his followers left Mecca for Yathrib, later called Medina. This journey, known as the Hijra, marked a new stage: Muhammad could lead a community as well as teach a faith. In Medina, he helped different groups make agreements about shared duties and security. The Muslim community developed practices of worship and rules for living together. Tensions with Mecca did not disappear, however. The two communities fought battles, and Muhammad's followers had to defend their new home while building ties with other groups in Arabia.

3. A truce with Mecca in 628 CE gave the Muslims freedom to travel and build alliances, although fighting later resumed. When the truce broke down, Muhammad and his followers entered Mecca in 630 CE with little fighting. Muhammad removed idols from the Kaaba, making it a center of worship of one God. In the following years, more Arabian groups joined or made agreements with the Muslim community. When Muhammad died in 632 CE, Islam had grown from a small Meccan group into a major religious and political community across much of Arabia.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Muhammad's first teachings lead to both a new community and conflict in Mecca?

2. Why was the journey to Medina in 622 CE a turning point in Islam's development?

3. How did the truce and the return to Mecca change the Muslim community's position?

4. How had the Muslim community changed between Muhammad's first teachings and his death?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence museum label tracing Islam's development under Muhammad. Put three turning points in order, include the dates 622 CE and 630 CE, and explain how the community changed, not just where it moved.

ANSWER KEY

A Community Takes Shape

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.3a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one turning point in each paragraph, number the turning points 1, 2, and 3 in order, and circle the date linked to each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Muhammad's first teachings lead to both a new community and conflict in Mecca?	**Some people accepted his teaching about one God and formed a small community, while powerful leaders opposed his challenge to Mecca's religious practices.**
2	Why was the journey to Medina in 622 CE a turning point in Islam's development?	**In Medina, Muhammad could lead a community as well as teach a faith. The community developed shared agreements, worship practices, and rules.**
3	How did the truce and the return to Mecca change the Muslim community's position?	**The truce helped Muslims travel and build alliances. After they entered Mecca in 630 CE, Muhammad removed idols from the Kaaba, making it a center of worship of one God.**
4	How had the Muslim community changed between Muhammad's first teachings and his death?	**It grew from a small group facing opposition in Mecca into a religious and political community across much of Arabia.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Around 610 CE, Muhammad began teaching belief in one God in Mecca, and some people joined him despite opposition. When pressure grew, his followers needed a safer place to build their community. In 622 CE, they traveled to Medina, where Muhammad led a community with shared duties and practices. A truce helped Muslims build alliances, and in 630 CE they entered Mecca with little fighting. Muhammad removed idols from the Kaaba, which became a center of worship of one God. By his death in 632 CE, the community had spread across much of Arabia and gained political influence.

Accept different choices of turning points if students place them in chronological order and explain their role in the community's development. For Part 3, look for six sentences that connect three ordered events to changes in the community and include both required dates.