Routes of a Civilization

Trace the beliefs, leadership, and connections that shaped the caliphates.

9-12.WC.27 "Describe the emergence, tenets, and expansion of Islamic Civilization under the Caliphates."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the event that helped form the first Muslim community, circle two Muslim practices, and number three different ways the caliphates extended or connected their territories in the order they appear.

From Medina to Baghdad

1. In the early 600s, caravans crossed the Arabian Peninsula, carrying goods and news between towns. In Mecca, Muhammad began preaching after, according to Islamic belief, receiving revelations from God around 610. His message of one God challenged some local traditions and met resistance. In 622, Muhammad and his followers migrated to Medina, where he led a growing community. This migration, called the Hijra, marks the start of the Islamic calendar. The Qur'an preserves revelations Muslims believe Muhammad received. Muslims affirm faith in one God, pray, give to people in need, fast during Ramadan, and, if able, make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

2. After Muhammad's death in 632, leaders called caliphs guided the Muslim community. The first four caliphs were chosen through different forms of consultation, but disputes over leadership grew. Muslim armies defeated Byzantine and Sasanian forces and gained territory across Syria, Egypt, Persia, and beyond. These victories had several causes, including organized armies and weakened neighboring empires after years of war. Conquest did not mean everyone immediately converted to Islam. Many Christians, Jews, and others continued to live in the conquered lands. Caliphs appointed governors and collected taxes, linking distant regions under caliphal rule.

3. In 661, the Umayyad dynasty took power and ruled from Damascus. Its armies extended caliphal control across North Africa, into the Iberian Peninsula, and toward Central Asia. Officials used Arabic more widely in government, making it easier to manage far-flung territories. In 750, the Abbasids replaced the Umayyads in most of the empire and later built Baghdad as their capital. Its markets brought together merchants from different regions, while scholars translated and studied works in fields such as mathematics and medicine. Trade, administration, and learning spread Islamic culture even where military conquest was not the main force.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Hijra help Islamic civilization emerge?

2. Describe two practices that members of the growing Muslim community shared.

3. How did the early caliphs gain territory, and how did they govern distant regions?

4. Compare how the Umayyads and Abbasids helped Islamic civilization expand or connect distant regions.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum audio script for a visitor arriving in Baghdad around 800. Explain how Muhammad's community began, name one shared Muslim practice, and connect at least two ways the caliphates expanded or linked distant regions.

ANSWER KEY

Routes of a Civilization

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.WC.27

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the event that helped form the first Muslim community, circle two Muslim practices, and number three different ways the caliphates extended or connected their territories in the order they appear. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Hijra help Islamic civilization emerge?	**Muhammad and his followers moved to Medina in 622, where he led a growing Muslim community.**
2	Describe two practices that members of the growing Muslim community shared.	**Accept any two listed practices: affirming faith in one God, praying, giving to people in need, fasting during Ramadan, or making a pilgrimage to Mecca if able.**
3	How did the early caliphs gain territory, and how did they govern distant regions?	**Their armies defeated Byzantine and Sasanian forces and gained territory. Caliphs appointed governors and collected taxes to govern distant regions.**
4	Compare how the Umayyads and Abbasids helped Islamic civilization expand or connect distant regions.	**Umayyad armies extended caliphal control across North Africa, into Iberia, and toward Central Asia. Under the Abbasids, Baghdad's trade and scholarship connected people and spread ideas.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Welcome to Baghdad around 800. A visitor might meet traders from distant regions and hear Arabic used in government. This city is part of a civilization that grew from Muhammad's community in Medina after the Hijra in 622. Muslims across its lands pray, a practice they share despite living far apart. Earlier caliphs gained territory after victories over Byzantine and Sasanian forces. Umayyad armies later extended control westward. Under the Abbasids, Baghdad became a center for trade and scholarship. Conquest expanded caliphal rule, while government, exchange, and learning also connected people.

For the marking job, accept the migration to Medina, any two practices named in paragraph one, and three distinct methods such as conquest, government administration, and trade. In the script, look for accurate connections among the community's beginnings, a shared practice, and at least two means of expansion or connection.