

Routes of Islam

Trace how Islamic rule and culture moved across the Mediterranean region.

6.6c "Islam spread within the Mediterranean region from southwest Asia to northern Africa and the Iberian Peninsula."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle one mention each of southwest Asia, northern Africa, and the Iberian Peninsula. Number them 1, 2, and 3 in the westward order that Islam spread, so you can trace the route across the Mediterranean region.

A Westward Movement

- ① In the 600s C.E., Islam began in Arabia, a peninsula in southwest Asia. Muslim communities soon became part of a growing caliphate, a state led by a caliph. After the death of the Prophet Muhammad, Muslim armies and leaders gained control of lands beyond Arabia. The expansion moved west across parts of southwest Asia and along the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. Cities, ports, and roads connected these lands, helping people, goods, languages, and religious ideas travel.
- ② Under the Umayyad caliphate, which ruled from Damascus in southwest Asia, Muslim rule spread across northern Africa during the 600s and 700s. In 711 C.E., Muslim forces crossed the narrow Strait of Gibraltar from northern Africa into the Iberian Peninsula. They defeated the Visigothic rulers in much of the peninsula. Islam did not replace every older tradition. Arabic became important in government and learning, while local people also continued to use other languages, customs, and skills.
- ③ The Abbasids took power in 750 C.E. They founded Baghdad as their capital in southwest Asia in 762 C.E. Although the Abbasids did not conquer the Iberian Peninsula, Islamic societies there remained connected to wider trade and learning networks. In northern Africa and Iberia, Muslims, Christians, and Jews lived under changing conditions. Builders, farmers, scholars, and merchants shared knowledge. New Islamic cultures blended Islamic beliefs and Arabic learning with local foods, crafts, architecture, and traditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What was the westward order of the three regions named in the marking job?

2 What happened in 711 C.E. that brought Muslim rule from northern Africa into the Iberian Peninsula?

3 Give one example of an older local tradition that continued and one example of a new Islamic influence.

4 How did Islamic societies in the Iberian Peninsula stay connected to southwest Asia during the Abbasid caliphate?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about Islam's westward spread. Name southwest Asia, northern Africa, and the Iberian Peninsula in order, include one event or connection from the passage, and describe one way cultures blended.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle one mention each of southwest Asia, northern Africa, and the Iberian Peninsula. Number them 1, 2, and 3 in the westward order that Islam spread, so you can trace the route across the Mediterranean region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What was the westward order of the three regions named in the marking job?	Southwest Asia, northern Africa, then the Iberian Peninsula.
2	What happened in 711 C.E. that brought Muslim rule from northern Africa into the Iberian Peninsula?	Muslim forces crossed the Strait of Gibraltar from northern Africa into the Iberian Peninsula and defeated Visigothic rulers in much of it.
3	Give one example of an older local tradition that continued and one example of a new Islamic influence.	Local people continued other languages, customs, or skills. Arabic became important in government and learning.
4	How did Islamic societies in the Iberian Peninsula stay connected to southwest Asia during the Abbasid caliphate?	They remained connected to wider trade and learning networks, even though the Abbasids did not conquer the Iberian Peninsula.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A traveler could begin in southwest Asia, where Umayyad rulers governed from Damascus, and then move west to northern Africa. In 711 C.E., Muslim forces crossed from northern Africa into the Iberian Peninsula. Along this route, Islamic beliefs and Arabic learning blended with local crafts and traditions.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the westward sequence and the 711 C.E. crossing. For the open response, check that all three regions are in order, one accurate connection or event is included, and cultural blending is described.