Beginnings and Beliefs

How Islam's founding connects to its central features

AWH.C.9.3 "Examine the founding and central features of Islam."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three events from Islam's beginnings and circle three beliefs or practices they help explain. Write matching numbers beside each event and its related feature to show the connections.

From Mecca to a Worldwide Faith

1 In the early seventh century, Mecca was a trading city on the Arabian Peninsula. Its Kaaba, a sacred building, housed images of many deities. Around 610 CE, Muhammad, a merchant from Mecca, began receiving revelations that Muslims believe came from God through the angel Gabriel. The message challenged the worship of many gods and taught that there is only one God, called Allah in Arabic. Muhammad shared these revelations, and his followers remembered and later recorded them in the Qur'an. The shahada, Islam's declaration of faith, expresses belief in one God and in Muhammad as God's messenger.

2 Not everyone in Mecca welcomed Muhammad's message. In 622 CE, he and his followers migrated to Yathrib, later known as Medina. This journey, called the Hijra, marks the start of the Islamic calendar. In Medina, Muhammad led a community whose members shared religious duties and responsibilities toward one another. Prayer five times daily brought worship into ordinary life, while required almsgiving, known as zakat, helped people in need. Muslims also fast during Ramadan, the month associated with the first revelation of the Qur'an. These practices helped shape a community joined by faith rather than by family ties alone.

3 After years of conflict, Muhammad and his followers entered Mecca in 630 CE. According to Islamic tradition, he removed idols from the Kaaba and dedicated it to worship of the one God. Muslims today face toward the Kaaba when they pray, wherever they live. Those who are able are expected to make the hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca, once in their lifetime. This practice connects a worldwide religious community to a place linked with Islam's beginnings. The Qur'an remains the central sacred text of Islam, and Muslims also look to accounts of Muhammad's words and actions for guidance in living their faith.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the shahada express the message Muhammad shared in Mecca?

2. How did the Hijra help make Islam more than the faith of a few followers in Mecca? Use one practice from the passage in your answer.

3. What connection does the passage make between Ramadan and the Qur'an?

4. How does the hajj connect a practice today to an event in Mecca in 630 CE?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A museum visitor says Islam began only as a set of rules for individuals. Write a 70 to 95 word label that challenges this claim. Connect two founding events to shared belief or community life, and explain how one feature of Islam links Muslims across different places.

Beginnings and Beliefs

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three events from Islam's beginnings and circle three beliefs or practices they help explain. Write matching numbers beside each event and its related feature to show the connections. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the shahada express the message Muhammad shared in Mecca?	**Muhammad's revelations taught that there is one God. The shahada declares belief in one God and in Muhammad as God's messenger.**
2	How did the Hijra help make Islam more than the faith of a few followers in Mecca? Use one practice from the passage in your answer.	**After the Hijra, Muhammad led a community in Medina with shared duties. Zakat, for example, made helping people in need a religious responsibility.**
3	What connection does the passage make between Ramadan and the Qur'an?	**Muslims fast during Ramadan, the month associated with the first revelation of the Qur'an.**
4	How does the hajj connect a practice today to an event in Mecca in 630 CE?	**Muhammad removed idols from the Kaaba and dedicated it to worship of one God. Muslims who are able make a pilgrimage to Mecca, where the Kaaba stands.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Islam did not begin simply as a list of personal rules. In Mecca, Muhammad's revelations called people to worship one God, a belief expressed in the shahada. After the migration to Medina, his followers built a community with duties toward others, including zakat for people in need. Their shared life was not limited to one city. Muslims around the world face toward the Kaaba in prayer, connecting their worship to Mecca and to one another. These links show how Islam joined belief, community responsibilities, and common practices.

For the marking job, accept accurate links such as the early revelations and the shahada, the Hijra and shared duties, or the events at the Kaaba and the hajj. For the museum label, accept other passage-supported connections that meet the stated requirements.