**Islamic Expansion Notes**

Early Arabia

* Bedouins early nomadic herders of Arabian Peninsula
* Searched for pastureland
* Good warriors

Mecca

* Thriving market town in the 6th Century
* Kaaba is a shrine that was decorated with statues of gods and goddesses
* Kaaba is now the central shrine of Islam

Muhammad

* Born in Mecca around 570 CE
* Very successful merchant
* When he was 40 he is said to have heard the voice of the angel Gabriel tell him to proclaim the message of God
* Muhammad devoted the rest of his life to spreading Islam
* It is strictly forbidden to draw or capture the image of Muhammad

Early Islam

* Muhammad was forced to leave Mecca and went to Yathrib
* This journey is known as hijrah
* After eight years Muhammad returned to Mecca with an army, took the city, and destroyed the idols in the Kaaba

Message of Islam

* Islam means “submission”
* Muslim means “one who submits to God”
* Believe in one God known as Allah
* Quran is the holy book of Islam
* Believe people they are responsible for their actions and that there will be a judgment day

5 Pillars of Islam

* Five basic duties accepted by all Muslims
  + Declaration of faith – only one God named Allah
  + Prayer – 5 times a day
  + Giving Alms – give to needy and poor
  + Fasting – Ramadan is when you do not eat for an entire month during daylight hours
  + Hajj – pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lives

The Quran

* Muslims believe the Quran contains the word of God revealed to Muhammad

The Sharia

* This is the name of Islamic law code
* It regulates moral conduct, government, family life, business practices, and other aspects of Muslim life

People of the Book

* Muslims, Jews, and Christians all:
  + Believe in the same God
  + Recognize prophets such as Abraham, Moses, and Jesus
  + Believe in heaven, hell and judgment day

The Woman of Islam

* Men and women have religious equality
* In society, men and women have very separate roles and status
* Muslims practice veiling of women and keeping them in one part of the home – this varies depending on the woman’s social status and region of the world