XIII Islam’s contributions to civilization

- Find out objects or names that come from the Muslims. Here are a few examples:
  
  SILK   PAPER...

Arabic civilization brought several innovations and improvements to Europe via Spain.

For example, Arab scientists used “Arabic” numbers, which came from India, in the 7th century AD. Arab scientists developed algebra in the 9th century AD. In approximately 1000 AD, West Asian blacksmiths also learned how to make steel from India, and then they developed the idea further to produce the very high quality Damascus steel that was used in fighting the Crusades.

Another example from the East is the use of paper, which the Arabs learned from the Chinese in about 750 AD. The astrolabe, highly developed in the Islamic world, also came to Europe from Islamic Spain, about 1100 AD. Arabic scholars translated books of the Ancient World into Arabic, such as Plato, Aristotle and Plini the Elder. They produced new studies of their own; they described many new species of plants and animals and they made advances in medicine. All through the Middle Ages, the best doctors, such as Avicenna and Maimonides, lived in the Islamic kingdoms.

1. Make a list with the main innovations brought by the Islamic kingdoms.

2. Write the Arabic numbers.

3. Fill in the grid with the Islamic contributions1 to the world:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Islam’s contributions</th>
<th>The civilization they learned it</th>
<th>The century</th>
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1 To know more visit this site: [http://www2.ignatius.edu/faculty/turner/arabic/anumbers.htm](http://www2.ignatius.edu/faculty/turner/arabic/anumbers.htm)

**Astrolabe**: a medieval instrument used to determine the altitude of the sun or the stars. Astrolabes came into wide use in Europe and the Islamic world in the early Middle Ages and were adopted by mariners by the mid-15th century.
4. Read (Skim) these words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic words in English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>acequia admiral adobe Aladdin albatross alcalde alcazar alchemy alcove alembic alfalfa alforja algebra algorithm Alhambra Ali Baba amber anil apricot arroba arsenal artichoke azure barbary bedouin bonito calibre camel candy carafe carat cipher coffee cotton damascene elixir fakir gazelle Gibraltar giraffe guitar harem hazard henna jar jasmine jennet kebab kohl lemon lilac lime macramé magazine marzipan mastaba mattress mihrab minaret mohair monsoon mosque mozarab mummy muezzin muslin noria ogive orange ramadan razzia rook safari saffron Sahara satin scarlet sesame sheikh sherbet soda sofa souk spinach sugar syrup Taj Mahal talisman tariff tarragon Trafalgar vizier zenith zero</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1. Copy the words in bold (12) and translate them into your language. Use a dictionary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabic words in English</th>
<th>Mother tongue</th>
<th>Arabic words in English</th>
<th>Mother tongue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adobe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4.2. Choose 6 words and define them. You can use a dictionary or the Internet.²

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

² You can visit this site [http://www.1001inventions.com/words/](http://www.1001inventions.com/words/)
4.3. To know about “Islamic Spain for breakfast” search in the Internet.³

5. Write 4 words related on the topics listed in the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>translation</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>food/spices</td>
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<td>animals</td>
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<td>colours</td>
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<td>places</td>
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<td>objects</td>
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<td>science</td>
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<td>people</td>
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<td>buildings</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>other</td>
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</table>

³ This site may be useful [http://www.islamicspain.tv/sitemap.htm](http://www.islamicspain.tv/sitemap.htm). It contains maps and lots of information.
1.1. Islam’s contributions Word Search

L N U T A E B G F T L C T B X
S A V L T V B Y N G T U A C R
E T L Q G N I A J J B S Z M N
Q O U G C U Y C L S U N B A D
R H Z D E M I L E O Q O F U H
J G K R I B E O B N R I Z S E
F T E U A E R D U X N T A T X
A T N R T S A I X K A S V V
K S A S E S N A G C H L O A V
X V Z V K P A K V U I S B P E
C R A R M U A D C C S N Q Z X
B U J U S G U P X F J A E S Y
A H I W A L U I O C A R A H T
U T H K E A Q E T U O T Z H A
M S C W F X Q L L X A E M B R
RELIGION

Read the texts and solve the matching exercises.

MUHAMMAD (570 – 632)

Islam is a monotheist religion which was developed in Arabia in the sixth century AD. The founder of this religion was Muhammad, who was born in Mecca (Arabia) in 570. He revealed himself to be the last and most important prophet of Islam. The name of the God he worshipped is Allah. In 622, Muhammad escaped from Mecca and went to Medina. In this city he gained popularity and followers. In 630 he returned to Mecca and he died in 632. The Islam faith spread quickly in Arabia and the nearby areas.

Islam didn't set out a hierarchical organization but the Koran, the sacred book of Muslims, became the guide of all daily activities.

The Muslim calendar dates from Muhammad’s flight to Medina (hegira) when he escaped from his birthplace, Mecca in 622 A.D.

THE FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

The Five Pillars of Islam are the main duties for all Muslims.

1st. The profession of faith: every Muslim must recite the creed: "There is no god but Allah; Muhammad is the prophet of Allah."

2nd. The daily prayer after ritual washing and facing the direction of Mecca. Muslims must pray five times a day and in the mosque on Fridays.

3rd. Complete abstinence of food and drink (fasting) during daylight in Ramadan month.

4th. Muslims have the duty of almsgiving, a compulsory tax.

5th. Every Muslim must go on a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca (Saudi Arabia) at least once in his or her lifetime.

Match the words on the left with the clues on the right

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORDS</th>
<th>CLUES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Mecca</td>
<td>b) follower of Islamic religion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Hegira</td>
<td>d) the city that Muhammad escaped to in 622 AD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Allah</td>
<td>e) Arab prophet and founder of Islam.</td>
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<td>6. Medina</td>
<td>f) the holy city and centre of pilgrimage of Islam.</td>
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<td>7. Muslim</td>
<td>g) abstain from food or drink as a religion observance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Fasting</td>
<td>h) the only God of Muslims.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Match the words on the left with the synonyms on the right

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Synonym 1</th>
<th>Synonym 2</th>
<th>Synonym 3</th>
<th>Synonym 4</th>
<th>Synonym 5</th>
<th>Synonym 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flight</td>
<td>a) deity</td>
<td>b) escape</td>
<td>c) belief</td>
<td>d) obligations</td>
<td>e) person who explains the future</td>
<td>f) sacred</td>
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<td>Duty</td>
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<td>God</td>
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<td>Holy</td>
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<td>Alms</td>
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<td>Prophet</td>
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THE MOSQUE

The **mosque** is the Islamic public place of prayer. There are different kinds of mosques. Medieval mosques had an open courtyard, a prayer room and a minaret – a tall tower - which was sometimes attached. Statues and pictures are not permitted as decoration.

There are several kinds of mosques.

a) The **main mosque**, a large mosque that is the centre of community worship and the site of Friday prayer services.

b) The smaller and **local mosque** can be rich but it can’t be compared to the main mosque.

c) **Private mosques** in houses and palaces.

These are the main parts of a mosque.

a) **Minbar**, a seat at the top of steps placed at the right of the mirhab. It is used by the preacher as a pulpit.

b) **Mihrab**, an alcove in the mosque indicating direction of prayer.

c) **Maqsura**, a wooden screen originally used to shield a worshiping ruler or caliph from assassins.

d) **Minaret**, the tower is used by the muezzin call the Muslims to worship five times each day.

1. Internet search. Answer the questions.
   a) Write the parts of a mosque.
      1) ____________________________________________
      2) ____________________________________________
      3) ____________________________________________
      4) ____________________________________________
b) Name the 3 kinds of mosques.
1) _______________________________________________________________
2) _______________________________________________________________
3) _______________________________________________________________

2. Define the following words.
Mosque ____________________________________________________________
Minbar _____________________________________________________________
Minaret _____________________________________________________________
Mirhab _____________________________________________________________
Maqsurah __________________________________________________________

Other uses of the mosque
The mosque has traditionally been the centre of social, political, and educational life in Islamic societies. Social functions that have often been connected to mosques include schools, law courts, hospitals and lodging for travelers.

3. Fill in the blanks.

Muhammad’s life
Muhammad (c.570-632) is an ____________________ (1) ______________ (2) and founder of Islam. He was born in ________________ (3), where in 610 he received the first of a series of revelations which became doctrinal and legislative basis of Islam, his sayings and the accounts of his daily practice constitute the other major ______________ (4) of guidance for most ______________ (5).

In the face of opposition to his preaching, he and his small group supporters were forced to flee to ________________ (6) in 622 (Hegira). After consolidating of the community there, ________________ (7) led his followers into a series of ______________ (8) which resulted in the ________________ (9) of Mecca in 630. He died two years later, having united tribal factions into a force which would expand the ________________ (10) of ________________ (11). He was ________________ (12) in Medina.

Work bank
Muhammad Mecca frontiers Medina capitulation Islam
prophet buried sources Muslims Arab battles
4. Answer the following questions about Islam religion.
   a. Who was Muhammad?
   b. Who was his God?
   c. Where was Muhammad born?
   d. When did he escape from Mecca?
   e. What is the Hegira?
   f. When did Muhammad die?
   g. Where was he buried?

5. Write 5 lines describing Muhammad.

6. Answer the questions about religion:
   a) What are the five pillars of Islam?
   b) Summarize the five pillars of Islam.
An Islamic poem from The Tarjuman al-Ashwaq.

Wonder,
A garden among the flames!
My heart can take on any form:
A pasture for gazelles,
A cloister for monks,
For the idols, sacred ground,
Ka'ba for the circling pilgrim,
The tables of the Torah,
The scrolls of the Koran.
My creed is Love;
Wherever its caravan turns along the way,
That is my belief,
My faith.

Muhyyeddin Ibn Arabi (1165-1240)

1. Answer the questions about the poem.
   a) What is the poem about? Underline the correct answer.
      Daily life
      Historical events
      Religious ideas
      About people
      Love poem
   b) What man-made objects are mentioned in the poem?
   c) What is this poem trying to do? Underline the correct answer.
      Describe a scene.
      Tell a story.
      Bring out feelings in the audience.
      Give advice.
   d) What religions are mentioned in the poem?

2. Write a 10-line poem on a topic of your choice. When you have finished, share your poem with the class.
3. Read and listen a story from the 1001 Arabian Nights.  

4. Summarize the story in 10 lines. Do it on the computer.


5 Visit these websites.
http://www.islamicspain.tv/sitemap.htm
To Make FREE Word Search Sheets Visit:
http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/word_search/
Interesting link: http://www.muslimheritage.com/topics/default.cfm?articleID=835