

13—Crash Course World History Video Notes

Islam

1. Islam, which like _____ and _____ grew up on the east coast of the Mediterranean.
2. In less than _____ years Islam went from not existing to being the religious and political organizing principal of one of the largest empires in the world.
3. The story begins in the _____ century CE when the angel Gabriel appeared to Muhammad, a 40-ish guy who made his living as a caravan trader and told him to begin reciting the word of God.
4. A few things to know about the world Islam entered: First, Muhammad's society was intensely _____. He was a member of the Quraysh tribe, living in Mecca and tribal ties were extremely important.
5. Also, at the time, the _____ Peninsula was like this crazy religious melting pot. Like most tribal Arabs worshipped gods very similar to the Mesopotamian gods and by the time of Muhammad, cult statues of many of those gods had been collected in his hometown of Mecca in this temple-like structure called the _____.
6. Arabia was also a home for _____ like Christianity and Judaism, even a bit of Zoroastrianism. So the message that there was only god wouldn't have been like as surprising to Muhammad as it was, for instance, to Abraham.
7. At its core, Islam is what we call a radical _____ religion—just like Jesus and Moses sought to restore Abrahamic monotheism after what they perceived as straying, so too did Muhammad.
8. Muslims believe that God sent Muhammad as the _____ to bring people back to the one true religion, which involves the worship of, and submission to, a single and all-powerful God.
9. The _____ also acknowledges Abraham and Moses and Jesus among others as prophets, but it's very different from the Hebrew and Christian bibles: For one thing it's much less narrative, but also its the written record of the _____ Muhammad received—which means it's not written from the point of view of people, it is seen as the actual word of God.
10. The Quran is a really broad-ranging text, but it returns again and again to a couple themes. One is _____ and the other is the importance of taking care of those _____ than you.
11. These revelations also radically increased the rights of _____ and orphans, which was one of the reasons why Mohammad's tribal leaders weren't that psyched about them.
12. The _____ of Islam are the basic acts considered obligatory, at least by Sunni Muslims.
 - a) First is the shahada or the profession of the _____: There is no god but god and Muhammad is God's prophet
 - b) Second, salat, or ritual prayer _____ times a day—at dawn, noon, afternoon, sunset, and late evening
 - c) Third, sawm, the month-long _____ during the month of Ramadan, in which Muslims do not eat or drink or smoke cigarettes during daylight hours.
 - d) Fourth is zakat, or _____, in which non-poor Muslims are required to give a percentage of their income to the poor,

- e) and lastly _____, the pilgrimage to Mecca that Muslims must try to fulfill at least once in their lives, provided they are healthy and have enough money.
13. One more thing about Islam: Like Christianity and Judaism, it has a body of law -- it's called _____.
14. People who embraced this worldview were called Muslims, because they submitted to the will of God, and they became part of the _____, or community of believers.
15. So as Muhammad's following in Mecca grew, the umma aroused the suspicion of the most powerful tribe, the Quraysh, because they managed the _____ trade in Mecca, and if all those gods were false, it would be a disaster economically.
16. The Quraysh forced Muhammad and his followers out of Mecca in 622 CE, and they headed to Yathrab, also known as _____. This journey, also known as the Hijrah, is so important that it marks year _____ in the Islamic calendar.
17. In Medina, Muhammad severed the religion's ties to Judaism, turning the focus of prayer away from _____ to Mecca. Also in Medina, the Islamic community started to look a lot more like a small _____ than like a church. Like, Jesus never had a country to run.
18. In addition to being an important prophet, he was a good general and in _____, the Islamic community took back Mecca. They destroyed the _____ in the Kaaba, and soon Islam was as powerful a political force in the region as it was a religious one.
19. When Muhammad died in 632 CE, there wasn't a religious vacuum left behind: Muhammad was the final prophet; the revelation of the Quran would continue to guide the umma throughout their lives. But the community did need a political leader, a _____. Soon disputes over the new leader began the divide between the two of the major sects of Islam: Sunni and Shi'a.
20. To Sunnis, the first four caliphs—Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, and Ali— are known as the _____ Caliphs, and many of the conservative movements in the Islamic world today are all about trying to restore the Islamic world to those glory days when Islam became stabilized and spread across the Middle East and North Africa.
21. It's common to hear that in these early years Islam quote spread by the _____ and that's partly true; many people, including the _____, embraced Islam without any military campaigns. In fact, the Quran says that religion must not be an act of compulsion.
22. While the Islamic Empire didn't require its subjects to convert to Islam, you paid lower _____ if you converted.
23. Not only were the Muslims great conquerors, they spawned an explosion of _____ that lasted hundreds of years. They saved many of the classical texts, while Europe was ignoring them, and they paved the way for the _____.