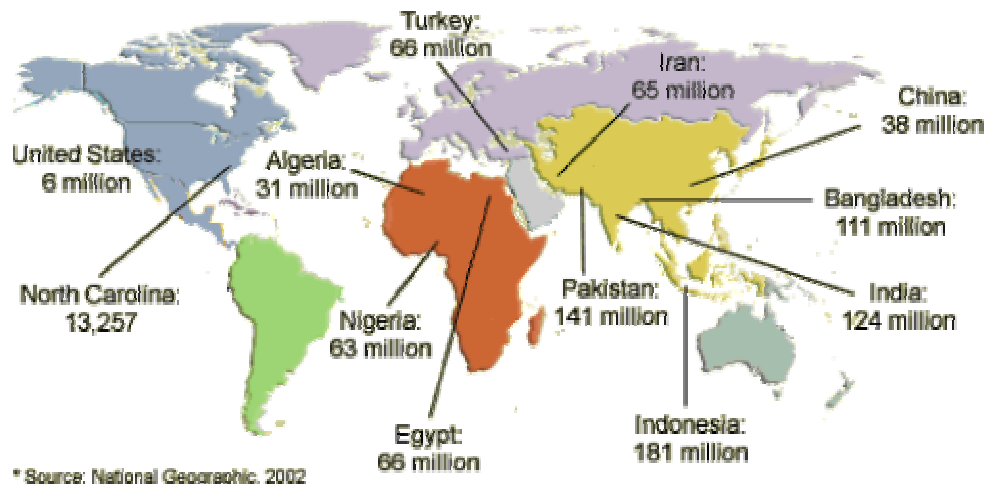


The Life of Muhammad

- The history of the Islamic Faith is an incredible story. From small, but dedicated, origins, the faith spread rapidly until the empire around Islam was bigger than the Roman Empire.
- People in the West should not allow themselves to be ignorant about Islam (which literally means Peace, surrender of one's will to God). One in five people in the world is a Muslim. It is the world's fastest growing religion - by the year 2000, for example, Islam had become the second largest religion in America.

World Muslim population: 1.3 billion (20%)



The Prophet Muhammad

The Vision in the Cave

- Muhammad was born in Mecca in Saudi Arabia in 570.
- Orphaned as a child, Muhammad spent several years among the Bedouins of the desert.
- He was a deeply spiritual man, and often spent time in meditation in a cave on Mount Hira.
- It was here, in 610 A.D. that he was visited by the angel Gabriel who ordered him to "recite".
- Once Gabriel mentioned the name of Allah, Muhammad began to recite words which he came to understand were the words of God.

The Qur'an

- During the rest of his life Muhammad continued to receive these revelations. The words were remembered and recorded, and form the text of the Holy Qu'ran, the Muslim scripture. The Koran is composed of 114 chapters or *Suras*.

Preaching

- Realising that God had chosen him as his messenger Muhammad began to preach what God had revealed to him.
- He started to preach in Mecca, the town in which he had grown up. Many rich people in Mecca disliked what Muhammad had to say. He opposed the worshipping of idols and said that it was wrong to be greedy.
- Poorer people in Mecca soon started to believe in Muhammad and soon there was a small group of Muslims following Muhammad.

The Hijrah

- The rich people in Mecca saw Muhammad as a threat. They could lose their money, power and religion if Muhammad wasn't stopped.
- Muhammad, concerned for the safety of his followers and himself, escaped to Medina in 622. In Medina people were much more welcoming to Muhammad and the first Muslim community was established.
- This journey is called the **Hijrah** (migration) and the event was seen as so important for Islam that 622 is the year in which the Islamic calendar begins.

The Return to Mecca

- Within ten years Muhammad had gained so many followers that he was able to return to Mecca and conquer it.
- From this time on he was generally accepted as the true final Prophet of God.
- Muhammad continued to lead his community both spiritually and in earthly matters until his death in 632.

Task 1: Film Poster

- Imagine that you are producing a film about the life of Mohammad. Produce an advertising poster for your film. You should aim to include (a) the title of the film; (b) 6 "stills" from the film with details about what events in his life are depicted by them. This will be used for display.

Task 2: Parallel Timeline

- Most timelines show dates from a single person, event, or culture. There are also timelines that show links between cultural or geographic groups. These "linked timelines" are parallel timelines, because they show parallels between time periods.
- You will be creating a timeline comparing Muhammad's life from 570 (Muhammad's birth) to 632 (Muhammad's death) with other events that were occurring at the same time outside of the Arabian Peninsula. These other events should be related to another person, another culture, or another geographic region.
- Plot the events near the appropriate dates on the timeline.
- Summarize the events in your own words.
- Have a minimum of eight events on each portion of the timeline. (Eight for Muhammad, and eight for the other person, culture or geographic region.)
- Create three visuals for events relating to Muhammad, and three for the other portion of the timeline. The visuals need to show a clear connection to the events they represent. Use colour and place visuals close to the events on the timeline.
- Below is an example layout.

