

Recap

- ❖ Arab land- dry deserts, oases, mountainous regions
- ❖ Two groups of people- Bedouin (nomads), and settlers (settled near oases)
- ❖ Before Islam- most Arabs were pagans (many gods)

Recap

- ❖ 610- Muhammad is said to receive revelations from angel Gabriel → Qur'an, hadith, and sharia law established → also Five Pillars of faith
- ❖ Muhammad dies- division over who will become caliph → Ali supporters (Shi'i) and Umayyad supporters (Sunni)
- ❖ Umayyad wins- Islam spreads and empire grows
- ❖ Umayyad power declines
- ❖ Approx 760- Abbasids take power

The Abbasids

750-1258

Textbook pages 122-128

Abbasids Gain Control

- ❖ Caliph= head of state/ruler
- ❖ Power of Umayyads declined & Abbasids took control
- ❖ 762- moved the capital from Damascus, Syria, to Bagdad, Iraq
- ❖ Abbasid caliphs → famous courts designed to impress
 - ❖ Finest clothes
 - ❖ Jewels
 - ❖ Armoured soldiers
 - ❖ Learned advisors
 - ❖ Palaces









المواضع الأصابتها والخطام عندك في الملايسر والمأكلا والمشارب والمناجح و
الحركات  بده آله النجوم والصلوات ومات وله ثمان وثمنون حسنة



Abbasids and War

- ❖ Always either at war or getting ready for war → used spread of Islam as an excuse to wage war
- ❖ Used spread of Islam as an excuse to wage war
- ❖ Divided the world in two
 - ❖ Land of Islam
 - ❖ Land of War

Life and Society

- ❖ 8th century- Islamic world became multicultural society
 - ❖ Allowed, but could not conflict with Islam
- ❖ Islam had a powerful influence → Music, art, architecture
 - ❖ For example, artists were not allowed to depict realistic figures
 - ❖ Beautiful patterns, designs, and written script









The City (continued)

- ❖ Many cities were surrounded by walls for protection
 - ❖ Poor- lived near walls
 - ❖ Rich- lived in palaces with gardens
- ❖ Arab cities bustled with activity: marketplaces, workshops, universities
- ❖ Scholars- studied medicine and science, translated ancient books
 - ❖ Ibn Sina- famous Arab scholar → physician, philosopher, astronomer, poet
 - ❖ Wrote- *Canon of Medicine*, described anesthesia



*The Canon
of Medicine*
(*al-Qānūn fī'l-tibb*)

Avicenna
(Abū 'Alī al-Ḥusayn ibn
'Abd Allāh ibn Sīnā)

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Quiz!! (ish)

Question #1

- ❖ What is the head of state called?

Question #2

- ❖ To what city did the Abbasids move the capital?

Question #3

- ❖ Describe the Abbasid courts.

Question #4

- ❖ What was the purpose of the Abbasid courts being so lavish?

Question #5

- ❖ What important advance was made during Abbasid rule?

Arab Society

- ❖ Arab ruler and rich merchants supported the arts → cities were cosmopolitan
- ❖ Arab civilization- refined and wealthy
- ❖ Silks, fine glassware, paper, jewellery, carpets, perfumed soaps, brass, silver, gold

The Countryside

- ❖ Contrasted cosmopolitan life of Arab cities
 - ❖ People lived with extended family
 - ❖ pastured flocks, grew crops, used wells owned by clans
 - ❖ Lived in houses of plastered mud brick
 - ❖ Ate simple foods
 - ❖ Men owned almost all of the property
- ❖ Village life= slow moving and regular
 - ❖ Separated from outside world



Status of Women

- ❖ Women in Muhammad's time- had rights
 - ❖ Muhammad's wife= business woman
 - ❖ Women → prayed, taught, worked, fought
- ❖ Abbasid women- few rights
 - ❖ Few rights
 - ❖ Could not take part in government

Status of Women

- ❖ Women- still economically important
 - ❖ Working class- contributed through labour
 - ❖ Wealthy class- lived in a harem
- ❖ Outdoors- physically covered and accompanied by a male guardian
- ❖ Divorce
 - ❖ Easy to achieve for men, difficult for women
- ❖ Polygamy
 - ❖ Men- up to 4 wives
 - ❖ Women- 1 husband

Government

- ❖ Caliphs- in theory, had supreme control, but ruling was difficult
 - ❖ Some Muslims did not accept Umayyad and Abbasid caliphs → Shi'i (Ali supporters)
 - ❖ Rival families
 - ❖ Assassinations and rebellions were common
- ❖ Ulama- learned, pious men → advised caliph

Government

- ❖ Government-
 - ❖ Prime minister/wazir- in charge of all government officials
 - ❖ Districts- governors
 - ❖ Cities- council

Islamic Arab Empire

Changes

- ❖ 9th century- Islamic Arab Empire grew too large to be ruled by the caliph
 - ❖ Local rulers across the empire became powerful enough to defy the caliph
- ❖ Separate kingdoms established- Spain, Morocco, and eastern provinces → sometimes attacked by Caliph's forces
 - ❖ Aided by Turkish, African, and European slave soldiers

Egyptian Conflict

- ❖ http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/organizations/m/muslim_brotherhood_egypt/index.html
- ❖ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20829911>
- ❖ http://www.nypost.com/p/news/international/new_egypt_uprising_mU2G6kUUu3MURt5hpvEDPI