Topic: The Spread of Islam

Grade Level: 7-8
Duration: 1-2 hours

Objectives

• Students will be able to characterize the spread of Islam from a variety of perspectives.
• SWBAT identify and work with different sources, including primary and secondary documents of various types.
• SWBAT synthesize existing knowledge with analysis of documents to answer a question.
• SWBAT to contextualize the spread of the Islamic empire in historical terms.

Lesson Context

This lesson should be at the end of a unit on early Islamic history as a means of review.

Resources

Map; printed DBQ materials

Main Activity

Introduction (10-15 minutes):

• Ask students to locate Saudi Arabia on a map. Then ask them to name all the majority-Muslim countries they know, and find these on the map as well. Highlight the difference between Islam’s starting point in western Arabia to the vast range of today.
• Review relevant material covered in unit up to point of lesson

Preparation for DBQ (30 min):

• Introduce topic for DBQ; ask students to fill answer the questions for the various documents. The teacher may decide make the completion of these questions a separate assignment or an in-class group activity; but students should be made aware they are expected to use these documents in their final DBQ.
Optional DBQ: 1 Hour

If going to be written in class, provide students with exam books or paper to complete the DBQ. If students are receiving copies of the documents that other classes will also need to use, provide extra paper for student note-taking while reading the documents.

Alternatively, the teacher may give the final DBQ as a homework assignment, to be completed overnight.

If students have never worked with document-based questions, or if the instructor wishes, provide the Document Analysis Guide (found in Appendix).

Appendix

Document Analysis Guide

When examining documents you are using to answer a document-based question (DBQ), you may want to ask some of the following questions about each document:

- Who or what is the document about?
- What kind of document is it?
- Who was the original audience?
- How is the document’s message tailored to its intended audience?
- Who made or sponsored the message and for what purpose?
- What messages are communicated (and/or implied) about certain people, places, events, behaviors, lifestyles, etc.?
- How current, accurate, and credible is the information in the message?
- What is left out of this document that might be important to know?
- When and where was the document produced?