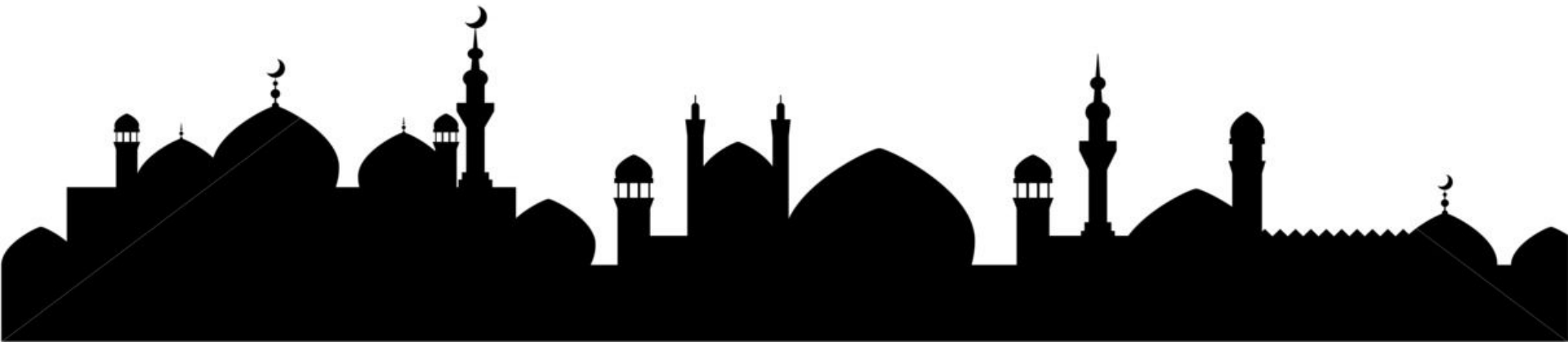


# BELL WORK

1. Based on yesterday's lesson, write a description of a trade route.
2. What is a merchant?
3. What is a caravan? **HINT:** Think about Muhammad





# STANDARD & OBJECTIVE

- I can examine Muslim trade routes and explain how they effected trade and culture.

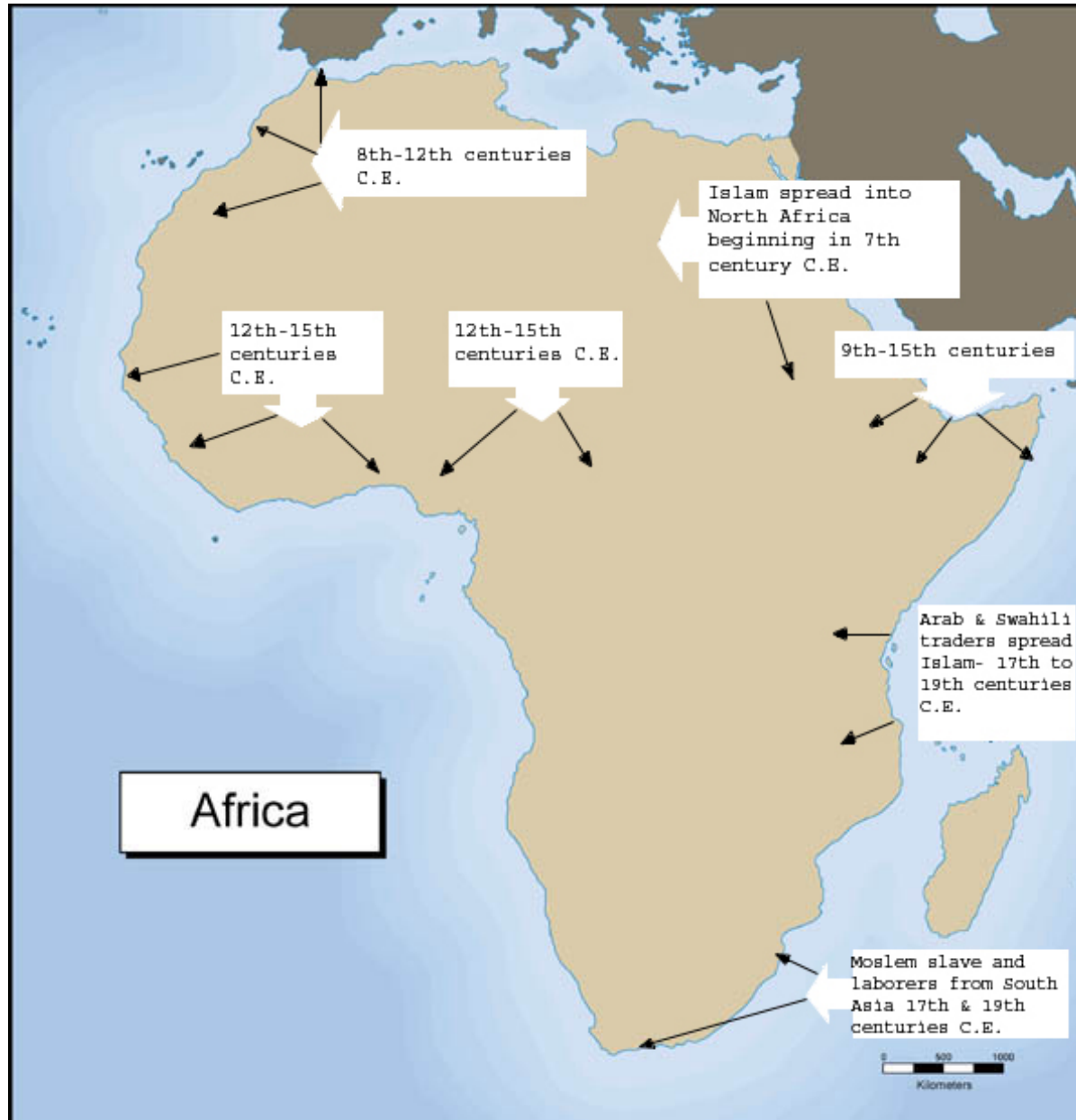
7.9 Describe the establishment of trade routes among Asia, Africa, and Europe and the roles of merchants in Arab society.

# THE ISLAMIC INFLUENCE



**Islam came to Africa through trade routes that had already been established in East Africa by 400CE and in West Africa by 800CE.**

# ISLAMIZATION OF AFRICA



- Islam came to Africa from the Arabian peninsula.
- Eventually, Islam spread across the entire African continent.

# HOW DID ISLAM COME TO AFRICA?

# LET'S READ!!!

According to Arab oral tradition, Islam first came to Africa with Muslim refugees fleeing persecution in the Arab peninsula. This was followed by a military invasion, some seven years after the death of the prophet Mohammed in 639, under the command of the Muslim Arab General, Amr ibn al-Asi. It quickly spread West from Alexandria in North Africa, reducing the Christians to pockets in Egypt, Nubia and Ethiopia.

Islam came to root along the East African coast some time in the 8th century, as part of a continuing dialogue between the people on the East coast and traders from the Persian Gulf and Oman. Like early Christianity, Islam was monotheistic, that is, Muslims worship only one God.

Islam was a modernizing influence, imposing a consistent order among different societies, strengthening powers of government and breaking down ethnic loyalties.

Unlike Christianity, Islam tolerated traditional values, allowing a man to have more than one wife. For many, this made conversion to Islam easier and less upsetting than conversion to Christianity.

In the early centuries of its existence, Islam in Africa had a dynamic and turbulent history, with reforming movements and dynasties clashing and succeeding each other. Gaining power depended on securing trade routes into gold-producing areas in Sub-Saharan Africa. Islamic rulers expanded north as well as south. In the last quarter of the 11th century, Islam dominated the Mediterranean world.

In the 14th century the Black Death came from Europe and seriously undermined the social and economic life of North Africa, or the Maghreb, as it is known. However Islam remained the dominant religion.

From the 16th to the 19th century, much of the Maghreb was under Ottoman rule. By the 1880's, Islam had taken root in one third of the continent.

Source: BBC Link: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index\\_section7.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index_section7.shtml)

# WHY ISLAM?



- **Merchants and traders were generally the first to convert.**  
**Based on the 5 Pillars of Islam and what we have learned about Islam, why were merchants the first to convert?**
- **Ruling class or upper class often converted to Islam after the merchants.**
- **The commoners, if they converted at all, became Muslims much later.**

# WHAT DOES THE ISLAM SAY ABOUT TRADE?

## **The Qur'an and Haddith call for:**

- A fair market for trade
- Honesty in all trades/transactions
- A fair and open auction
- An-Najsh (do not bid up an item if you don't intend to buy it)
- No selling of items that are not present
- It is okay to trade with Muslims and non-Muslims



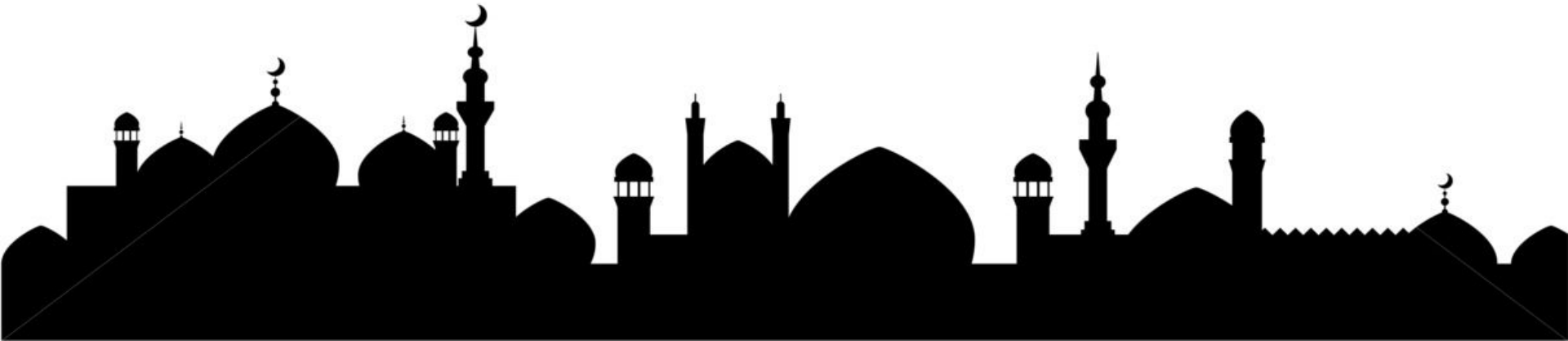
# POD TALK

**Do you think that the rules of the Qur'an and the Haddith made trading safer for merchants and caravans traveling on the trade routes?**



# FINAL ASSESSMENT

- **Work individually on your Islamic Trade Routes Reading Sheet.**
- **Answer the questions at the end when you finish reading.**
- **We will discuss the answers at the end of class.**



# Islamic Trade Routes in Africa

The civilizations that flourished in ancient West Africa were all based on trade, so successful West African leaders tended to be peacemakers rather than warriors.

Caravans from North Africa crossed the Sahara beginning in the seventh century of the Common Era. Gold from West Africa was exchanged for something the West Africans prized even more: salt. Salt was used as a flavoring, a food preservative, and for retaining body moisture.

The first people to make the trek across the Sahara were the Berbers of North Africa who brought their strict Islamic faith across the desert. The Berbers converted many of the merchants of West Africa to Islam, but most of the common people retained their traditional beliefs. The ancient West Africans, like Native Americans and the Sumerians, believed that many gods existed in nature. They did not accept the Muslim belief in one God.

## **Merchants and traders in West Africa saw many advantages in converting to Islam**

Literacy spread because belief in Islam encourages Muslims to learn the Quran.

Many Muslims speak Arabic, the language of the Quran. In time, Arabic became the common language of the merchants and traders of West Africa.

Strict Muslims follow Islamic law. It is easier to solve disputes when both parties agree on the laws.

Conversion to Islam opened up new trading possibilities across North Africa and in Arabia. Many Muslims journey to Mecca at least once. This encouraged them to meet new people and discover new cultures.

## Answer in complete sentences

\*1. Why did West Africans tend to be conciliators rather than warriors?

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2. Explain why many people in ancient West Africa valued salt more than gold.

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3. Write a paragraph that explains why paragraph that explains why merchants and traders in West Africa saw many advantages in converting to Islam. Your paragraph must include a topic sentence, at least two support sentences, and a conclusion that restates but does not repeat the topic sentence.

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