

Muslim Innovations and Adaptations

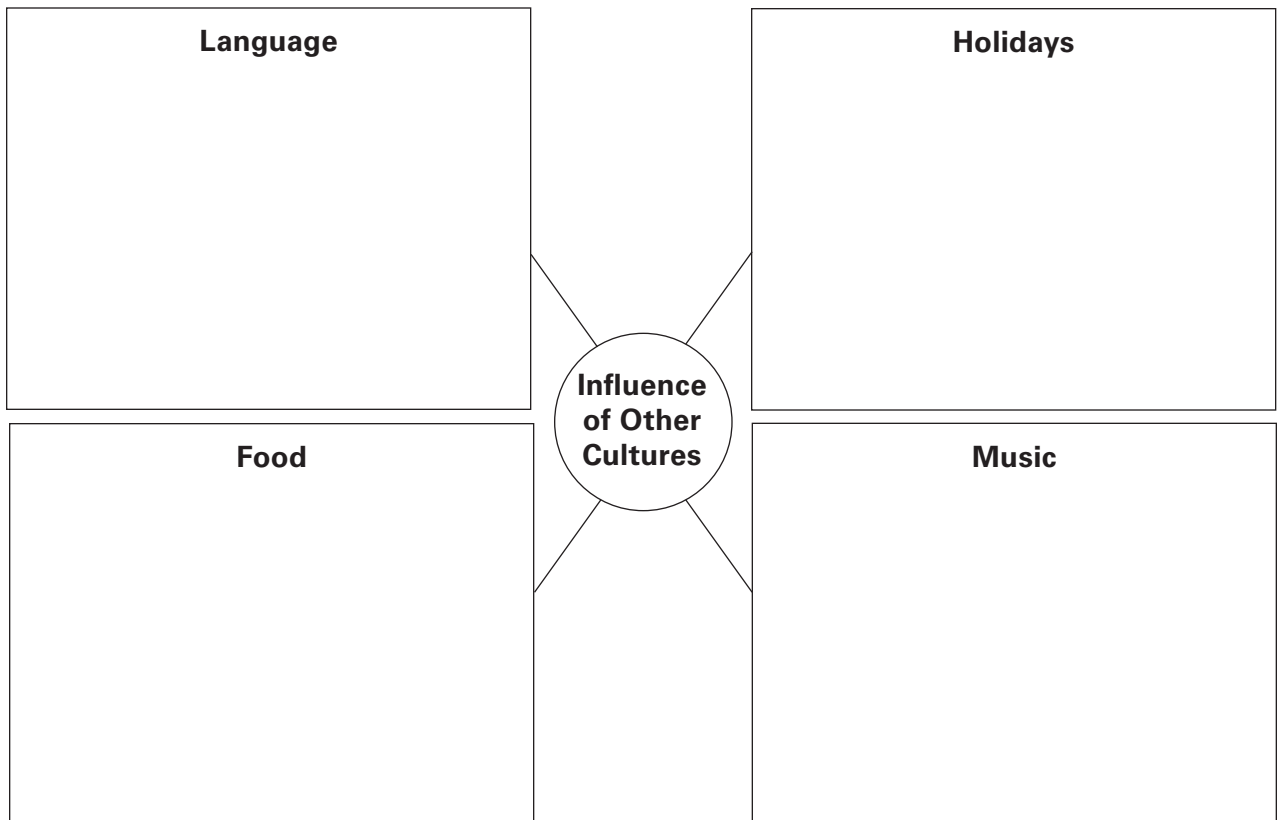
What important innovations and adaptations did medieval Muslims make?

P R E V I E W

Think of some ways in which your life is influenced by cultures in other parts of the world. Consider such things as food, language, holidays, and music. Fill in the spoke diagram below by doing the following in each box:

- Draw a simple symbol that represents a way in which your life is influenced by cultures from other parts of the world.
- Write a short explanation of the influence.
- If possible, include the country of origin.

Then, list any ways that particular food, language, holiday, or music has been adapted, or changed, since coming to your community.



READING NOTES

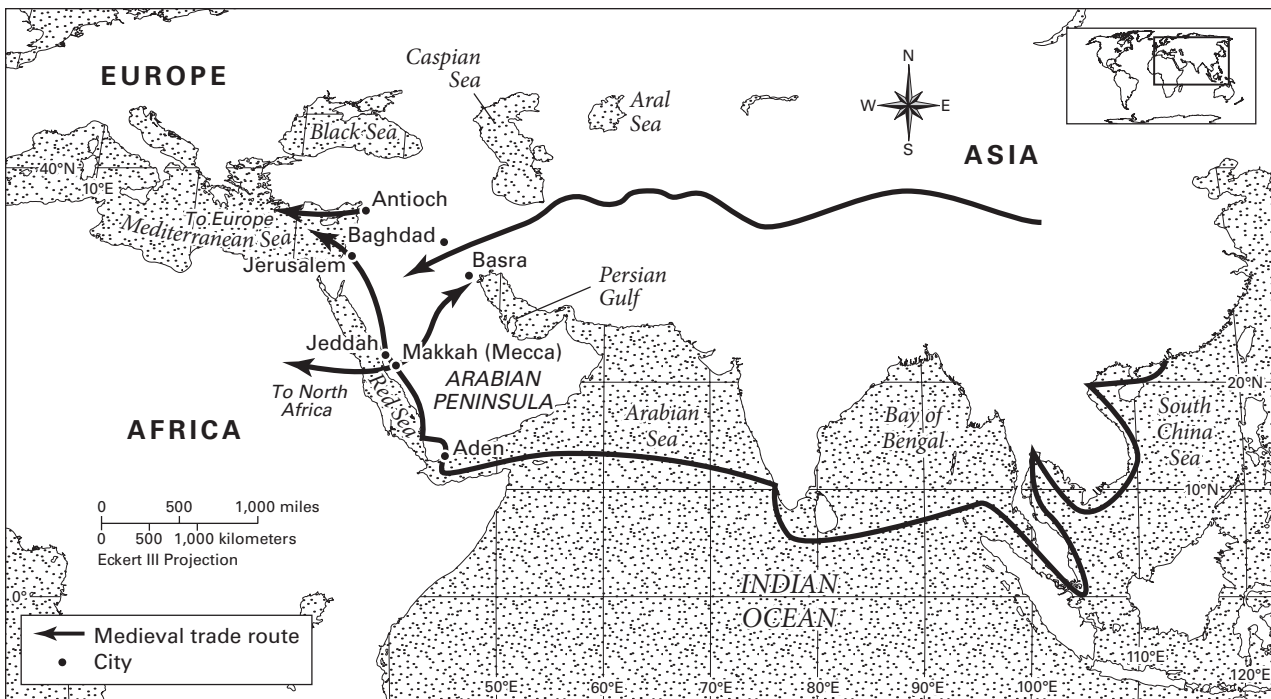
Social Studies Vocabulary

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|
| adaptation | cultural diffusion | immortal |
| innovation | philosopher | evolution |

Section 1

1. Why did Islamic culture flourish, despite the fact that the Muslim empire did not last?
2. What is *cultural diffusion*?
3. Look at the map of medieval trade routes, below. How did the location of Islamic lands make cultural diffusion possible?



4. How did trade help to spread and connect ideas from different cultures? List at least two ideas that may have traveled along the trade routes on the map.

If your class is doing the activity for this lesson, complete all the Reading Notes for each section. *(Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the first question of each section.)*

Section 2 to 10

As you visit each station, determine the section of the Student Text that corresponds with what is shown on the placard. Write the placard letter in Question 1 for that section and give details that show how it relates to the section category. Then complete the remaining Reading Notes.

Section 2: City Building and Architecture

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. List three important details about the city of Baghdad.

3. Describe how mosques are designed.

Section 3: Scholarship and Learning

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. What factors combined to promote learning in Muslim lands?

3. How did Muslim philosophers follow the example of Greek scholars?

Section 4: Science and Technology

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. Describe two contributions made by Muslim scholars in these two categories.

| Zoology | Astronomy |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • |

3. What technological advancements did Muslims make to take advantage of scarce water resources?

Section 5: Geography and Navigation

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. List two accomplishments of Muslims in this category.

3. Describe the purpose of the two navigational instruments adapted and perfected by Muslims.

Section 6: Mathematics

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. What are two reasons why al-Khwarizmi’s books were important to the field of mathematics?

3. Why is the Indian concept of zero, which Muslims helped spread, significant?

Section 7: Medicine

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. In the chart, list one example of Muslim contributions in each area of medicine:

| Hospitals | Medication | Surgery | Disease |
|-----------|------------|---------|---------|
| | | | |

3. What role did Ibn Sina’s book, *The Canon of Medicine*, play in the medieval world?

Section 8: Bookmaking and Literature

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. List two ways Muslims adapted and expanded bookmaking.

3. List one example of famous Muslim literature. Where did these stories originate, and where did they spread?

Section 9: Art and Music

1. Record two details from Placard _____ that show how it relates to this category.

2. What types of designs did Muslims use in their decorative art?

3. List two ways textiles were important to medieval Muslims.

4. What was unique about the music that developed in Cordoba, Spain?

Section 10: Recreation

1. Record one detail from Placard _____ that shows how it relates to this category.

2. For each of the favorite pastimes below, write one sentence explaining what the pastime involves and another sentence explaining why it became popular with medieval Muslims.

| Polo | Chess |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • |

READING FURTHER

Preparing to Write: Listing Descriptive Words

You have just read about some of the many foods enjoyed by early Muslims. You also read about the exchange of foods between the Middle East and other parts of the world through cultural diffusion. What do you think these foods are like? Have you eaten any of them before? Complete the chart below by listing descriptive words, or adjectives, that tell how six of these foods might smell, look, and taste. An example is provided for you.

| Food | How It Might Look | How It Might Smell | How It Might Taste |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| plantain | lumpy | sweet | delicious |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Writing a Descriptive Paragraph

Suppose that you are a guest at the court of Caliph Ma'mun in medieval Baghdad. Ibrahim ibn al-Mahdi has prepared a great feast during your visit. Using your list of descriptive words and others you might think of, write an account of the feast as if you were telling a friend about it. Be sure to identify the foods you ate, describe what they were like, and add any other details you might know about them.

Use this rubric to evaluate your account. Make changes to your account if you need to.

| Score | Description |
|-------|--|
| 3 | The account presents a clear account with many descriptive words and details. The account is well-constructed, with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion. There are no spelling or grammar errors. |
| 2 | The account presents a clear account and has some descriptive words and details. The account has a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion. There are some spelling or grammar errors. |
| 1 | The account does not present a clear account and has few descriptive words and details. It lacks a topic sentence, supporting details, and a conclusion. There are many spelling or grammar errors. |