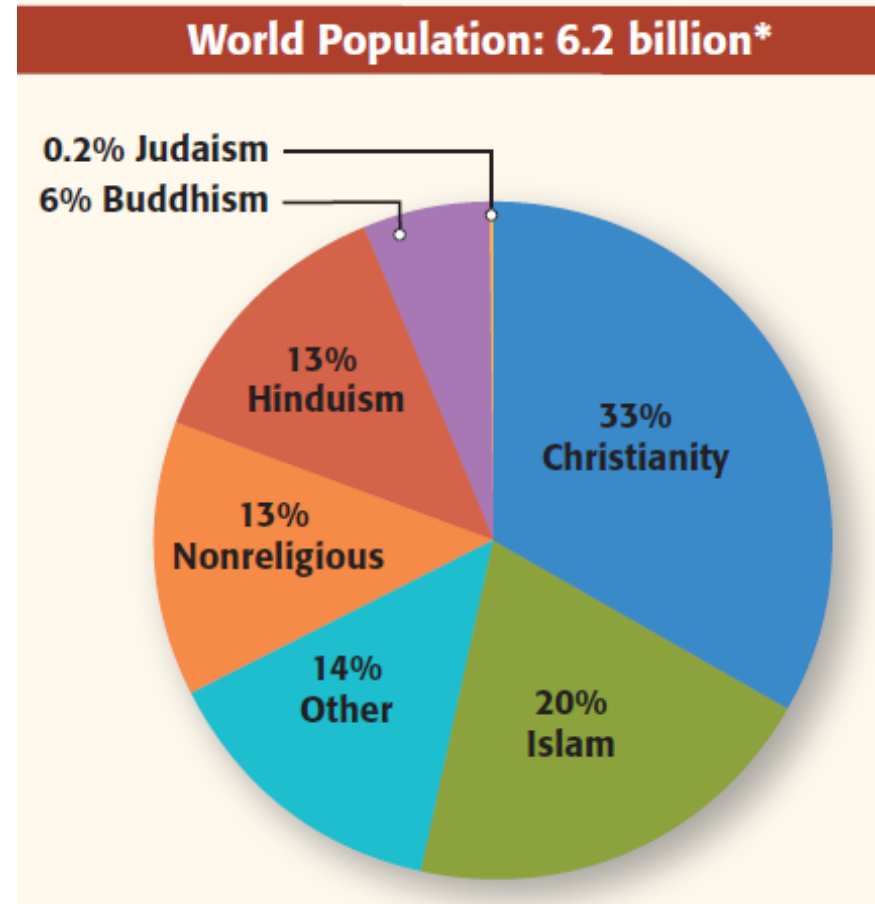


# Overview of Islam

Today, Islam is the world's fastest growing religion with more than 1 billion followers throughout the world



	Buddhism	Christianity	Hinduism	Islam	Judaism
<b>Followers Worldwide</b>	362 million	2 billion	820 million	1.2 billion	14.5 million

# The Muslim world

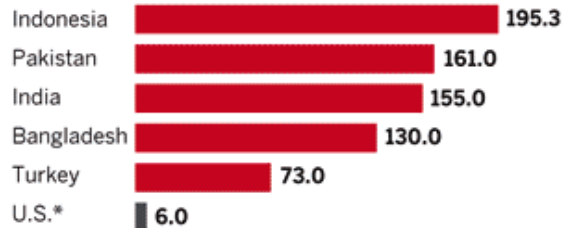
President Obama's call for a new relationship between the United States and Muslims addressed a community that, while heavily concentrated in the Middle East and North Africa, is present throughout the world.

**Percent of population:** ■ 81 - 100% ■ 51 - 80% ■ 11 - 50% ■ 0 - 10%  No data



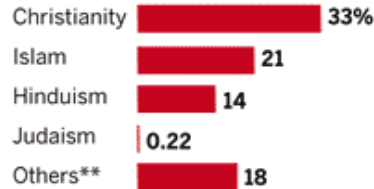
## Nations with highest Muslim populations

(In millions)



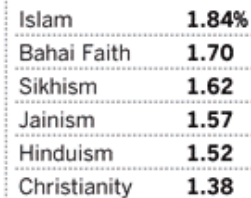
## Major world religions

(By adherents)

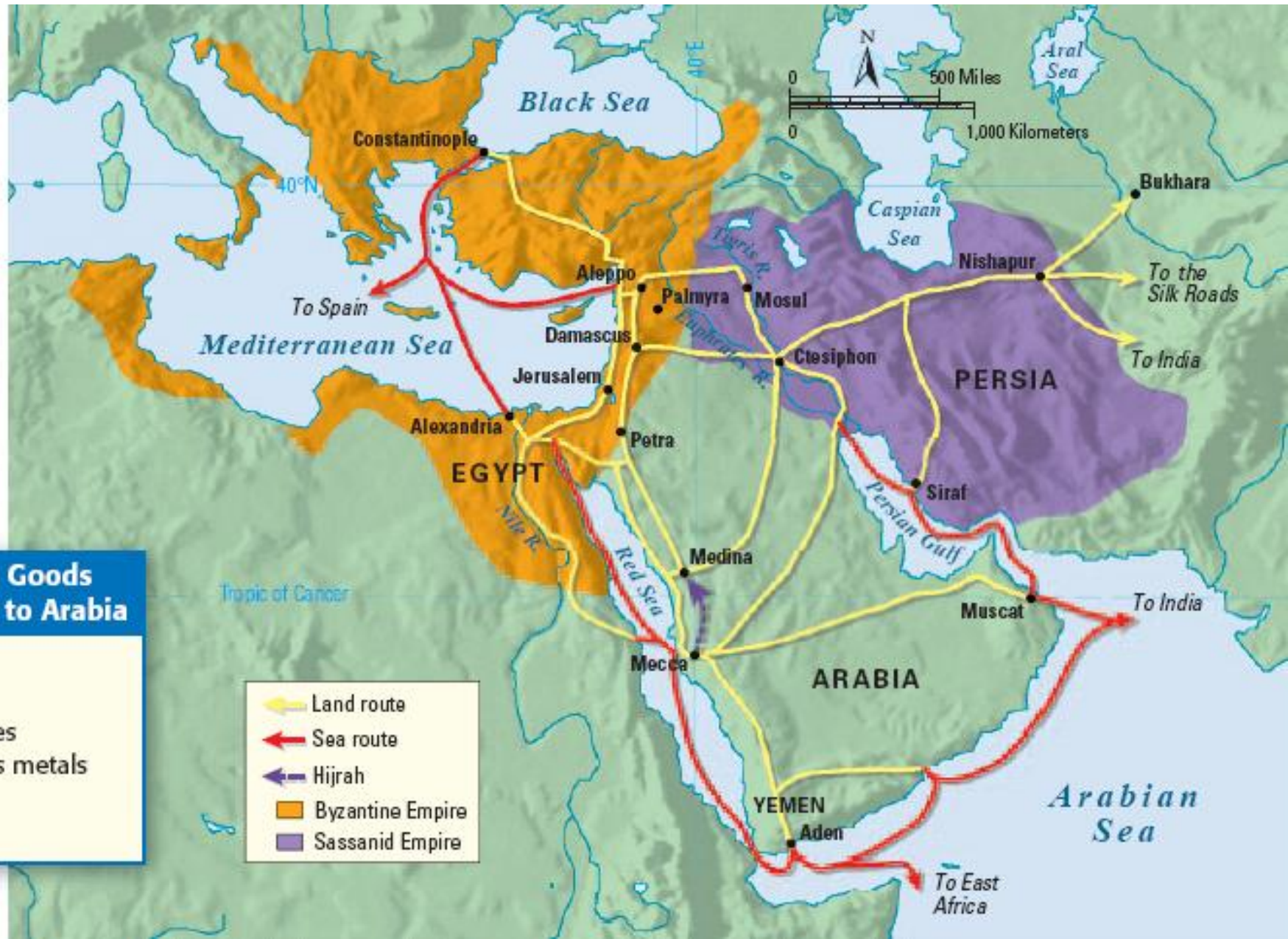


## Fastest-growing religions

(2000-05)



# What was Arabia like before Muhammad?



## Trade Goods Brought to Arabia

- spices
- incense
- perfumes
- precious metals
- ivory
- silk

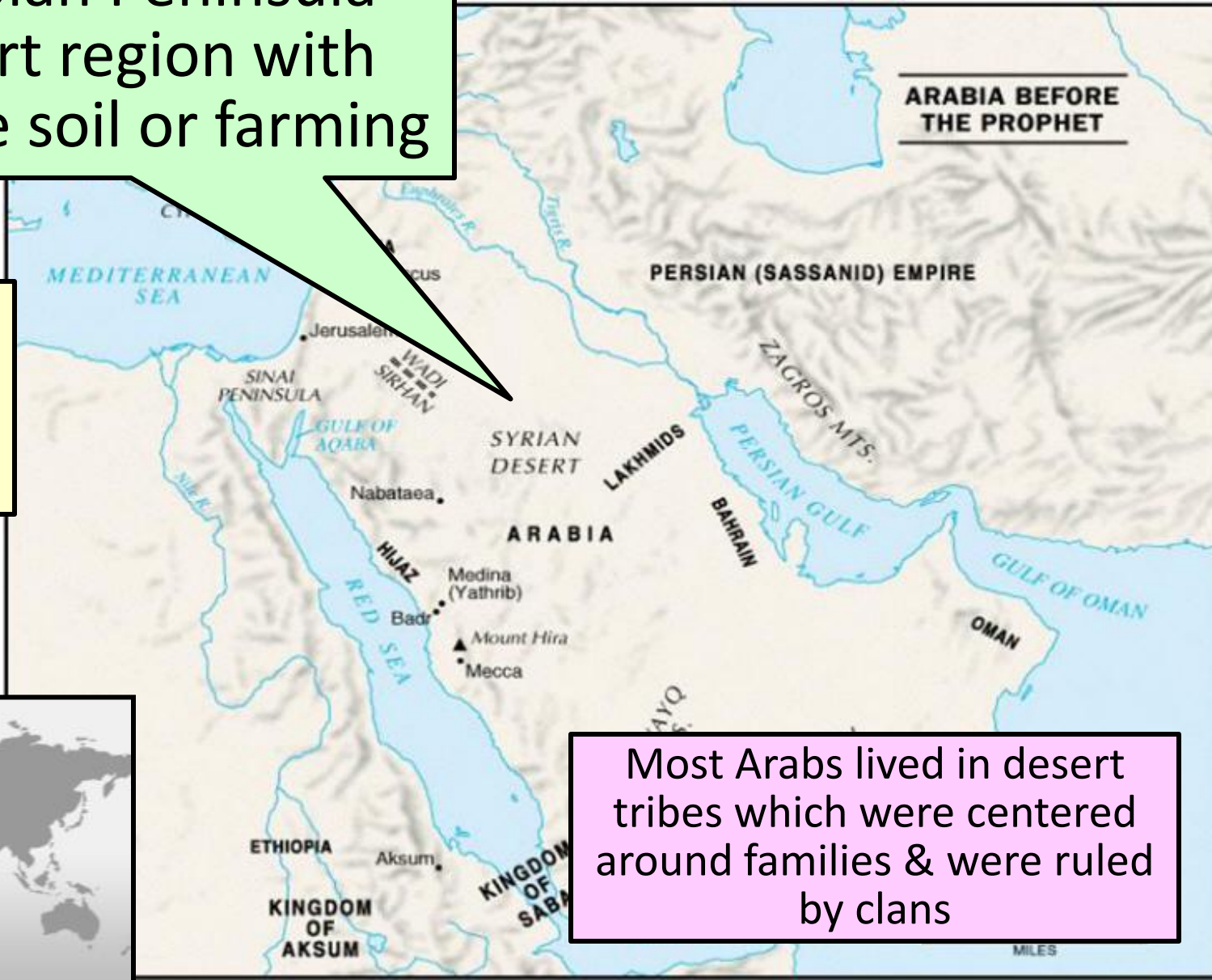
	Land route
	Sea route
	Hijrah
	Byzantine Empire
	Sassanid Empire

# Arabia, the Birthplace of Islam

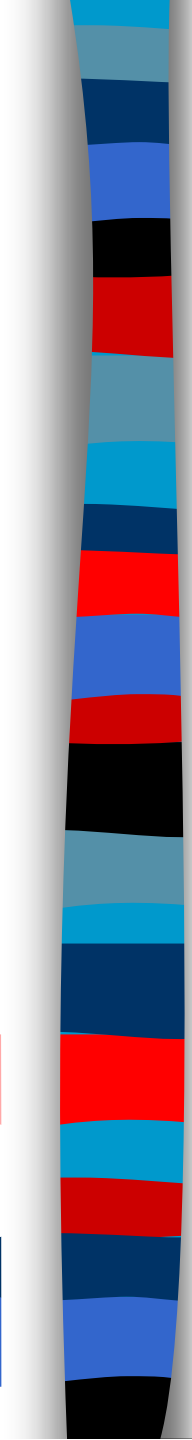
The Arabian Peninsula is a desert region with little fertile soil or farming

Most Arabs were polytheistic

Most Arabs lived in desert tribes which were centered around families & were ruled by clans

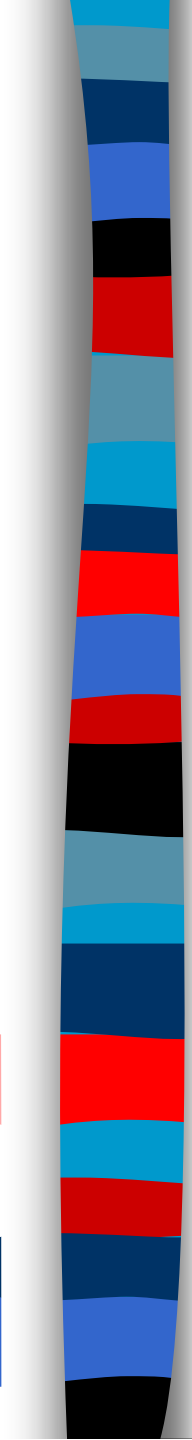


# Roots of Islam

- 
- Abraham is forefather
  - Ishmael and Hagar
    - sent away by Abraham, desperate for water in desert
    - heard angel's voice
    - water spouted from where Ishmael's heels touched the sand
    - became famous well, Zamzam, where the city of Mecca was born



**Jerusalem and Mecca the centers of Judaism and Islam**

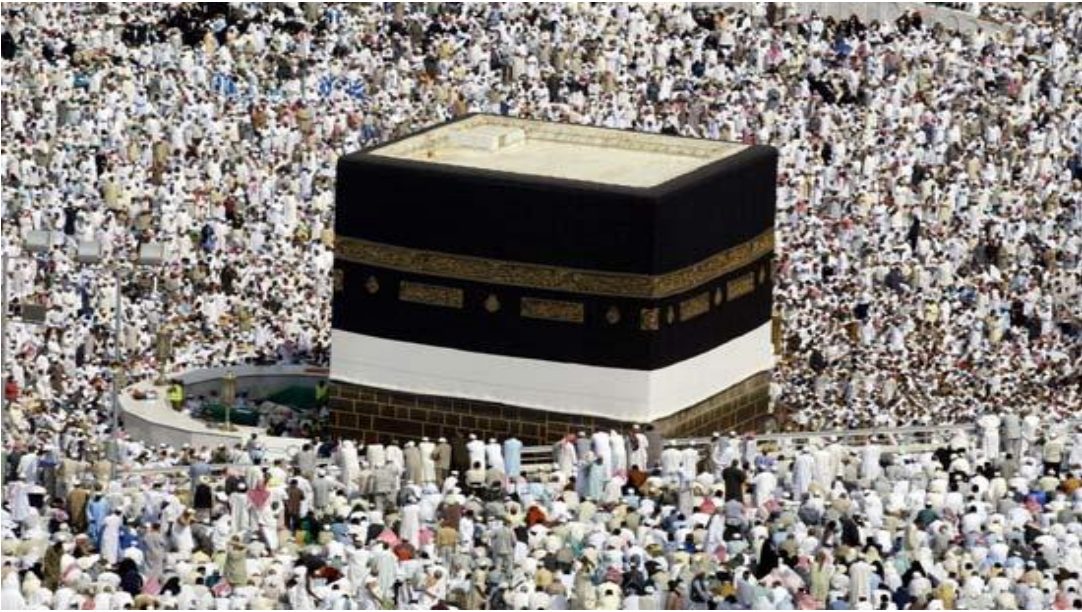
- 
- Abraham traveled into Arabia to visit Ishmael
  - God told Abraham to build a holy sanctuary at Zamzam in Mecca
  - This site was called the Ka'aba, meaning "cube" or "House of God"
  - God instructed Abraham to tell worshippers of Allah to make pilgrimages to the Ka'aba
  - Inside:
    - Silver and gold lamps
    - Black stone given to Abraham from angel

# Pilgrims Visiting Zamzam Well

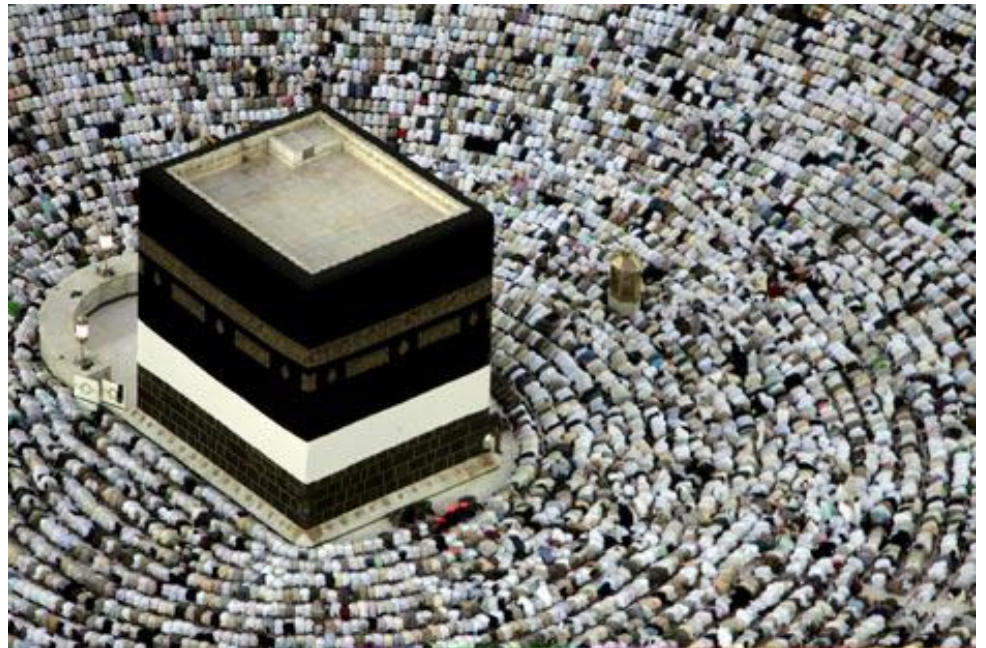








Ka'aba

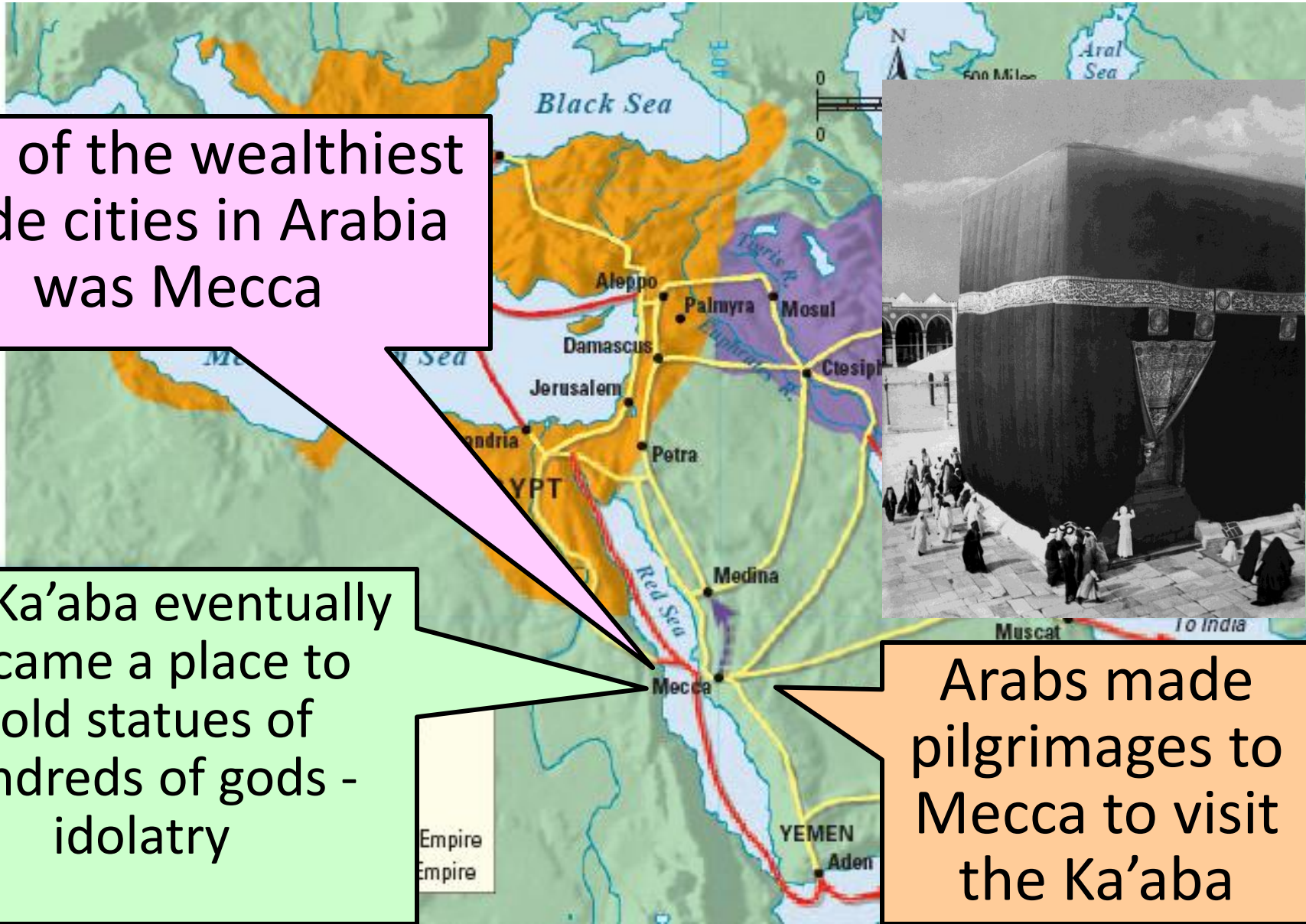


# Arabia, the Birthplace of Islam

One of the wealthiest trade cities in Arabia was Mecca

The Ka'aba eventually became a place to hold statues of hundreds of gods - idolatry

Arabs made pilgrimages to Mecca to visit the Ka'aba



# Facts

- Islam is an Arabic word that means “submitting to God”
- A person who follows the teachings of Islam is called a Muslim, “one who submits to God and finds peace in Him”
- God = Allah
- Islamic belief is captured in their creed, called the **Shahadah**, which states:  
*“There is no god but God and Muhammad is the Messenger of God.”*

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

# Muhammad

- Around 600 AD, a new monotheistic religion began called Islam:
  - The faith was founded by the prophet Muhammad, future descendant of Ishmael
  - His followers, called Muslims, spread Islam throughout the Middle East, Africa, Asia, & Europe



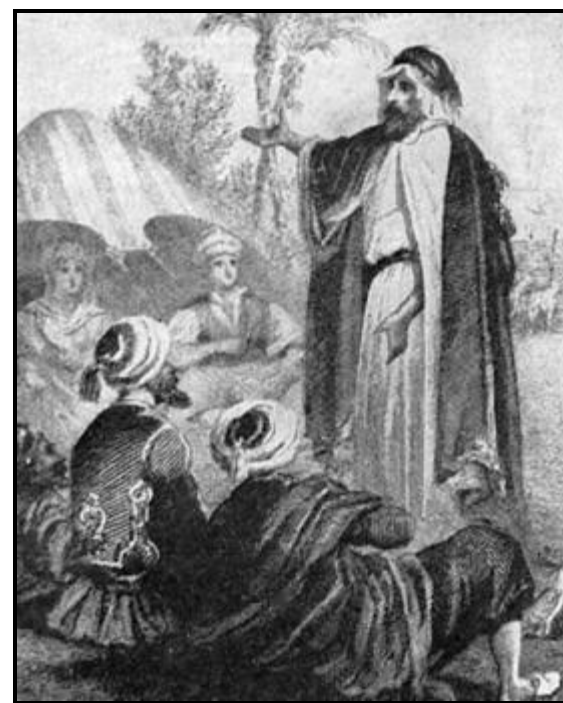
# The Early Life of Muhammad

- He was born in Mecca in 570 into a poor clan, was orphaned at a young age, & was raised by his grandparents
- As an adult, Muhammad became an honest & successful merchant
- He married a wealthy widow & started a family



# Muhammad's Revelation

- In 610, Muhammad was told by the angel Gabriel that he was a prophet sent to Earth by God
- He began preaching a new monotheistic faith called Islam (“surrender to God”)
- For the next 20+ years, he continued to receive a series of revelations
- The teachings of Muhammad were written down in the Qur'an (Koran), the holy book of Islam





# Muhammad's Preaching

- The revelations inspired him to start preaching to anyone who would listen in and around Mecca
- He called the Meccans to reject their idols
- Early on, few would listen as he would speak out passionately against idolatry
- Ruling class was in opposition



# Flight to Medina

- Opposition to Muhammad increased, threatened violence
- Many people feared Muhammad's growing popularity & that Mecca would lose its status as a holy city
- Muhammad moved north to Medina
- This event is called Hijrah (migration)



# Islam Grows in Medina

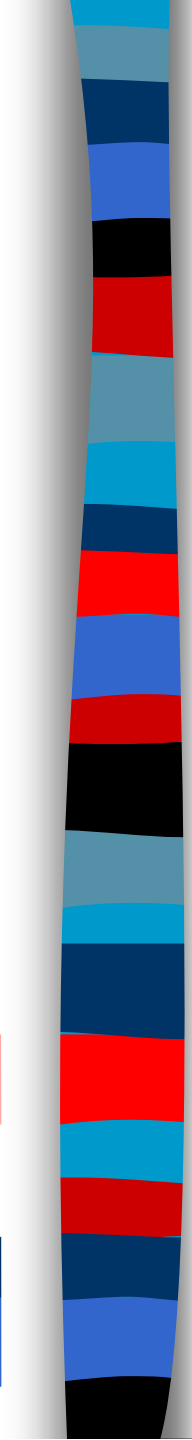
- In Medina, Muhammad gained new converts who put Islam above their families & clans
- Medina became known as the “City of the Prophet”



# Muhammad's Return to Mecca

- In 630, Muhammad returned to Mecca several times with 10,000 troops & conquered the idol-worshippers
- He destroyed the god statues in the Ka'aba, leaving only the statue for Allah



- 
- Muhammad offered forgiveness to those who had done wrong in the past
  - After several pilgrimages back and forth between Mecca and Medina, he returned to Medina where he helped build and lead prayers in the Muslim place of worship, the **Mosque**
  - June of 632, he died of a serious illness at the age 63

# Caliphs and the Islamic Empire

- Muhammad had not fathered a son and left no instructions about a successor
- Successor = *Caliph*
- First Caliph – Muhammad's loyal friend and supporter
- Only 4 Caliphs knew Muhammad personally
- Each caliph led *jihads* (holy wars) on opposing forces in neighbouring empires to spread Islam

