

The Islamic World

Section 1



MAIN IDEAS

1. Arabia is a mostly a desert land where two ways of life, nomadic and sedentary, developed
2. A new religion called Islam, founded by the prophet Muhammad, spread throughout Arabia in the 600s.

Key Terms and People

oasis a wet, fertile area in the desert

caravan a group of traders that travels together

Muhammad an Arabian prophet whose teachings became the basis for a new religion

Islam religion based on messages Muhammad received from God

Muslim a person who follows Islam

Qur'an the holy book of Islam

pilgrimage journey to a sacred place

mosque a building for Muslim prayer

Academic Vocabulary

influence change, or have an effect on

Section Summary

LIFE IN A DESERT LAND

Arabia, in the southwest corner of Asia, is the crossroads for Africa, Europe, and Asia. Arabia is a mostly hot and dry desert of scorching temperatures and little water. Water is scarce and exists mainly in oases. An **oasis** is a wet, fertile area in the desert. Oases are key stops along Arabia's trade routes.

People developed two ways to live in the desert. Nomads moved from place to place. Nomads lived in tents and raised goats, sheep, and camels. They traveled with their herds to find food and water for their animals. They traveled in tribes, or groups of people. Tribe membership provided protection from danger and reduced competition for grazing lands.

Arabia was the trading crossroads for what three continents?

Why would a nomad prefer to travel in a tribe?
