

## The Islamic World

### Section 2



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. The Qur'an guides Muslims' lives.
2. The Sunnah tells Muslims of important duties expected of them.
3. Islamic law is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

### Key Terms and People

**jihad** literally means "to make an effort" or "to struggle"

**Sunnah** a collection of actions or sayings by Muhammad

**Five Pillars of Islam** the five acts of worship required of all Muslims

### Section Summary

#### THE QUR'AN

After Muhammad died, his followers wrote down all of the messages he received from Allah. This collection of teachings became known as the Qur'an. Muslims believe that the Qur'an is the exact word of God as it was told to Muhammad. Like the Jewish and Christian bibles, the Qur'an says there is one God (Allah). Islam teaches that there is a definite beginning and end to the world. On that final day, Muslims believe, God will judge all people. Those who have obeyed God's orders will be granted life in paradise. Those who have not obeyed God will be punished.

Muslims believe that God wishes them to follow many rules in order to be judged a good person. These rules affect the everyday life of Muslims. In the early days of Islam, these rules led to great changes in Arabian society. For example, owning slaves was forbidden.

**Jihad** (ji-HAHD) is an important Islamic concept. Literally, jihad means "to make an effort" or "to struggle." It refers to the internal struggle of a Muslim trying to follow Islamic beliefs. It can also mean the struggle to defend the Muslim community

Circle the name of Islam's most important holy book.

How do you think "jihad" came to mean "holy war?"

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