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Africa and Islam Webquest

Overarching Question: How did Islam’s expansion into Africa impact the societies where it spread?

Directions- Follow the links below and complete the questions. **Do your best to get through Parts 1 and 2. If you finish early, go ahead and start working on the chart.**

**Part 1. Geography.**

1. Look at the modern day political map of Africa at <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/africa/africaa.htm>. Next, go to [https://brilliantmaps.com/simple-africa-relgions/.](https://brilliantmaps.com/simple-africa-relgions/.%20%20)  **What percentage of Africa is predominantly Muslim today? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christian?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2. Go to https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/country/mali.html. Read the articles about what has been going on in Mali in recent months. **Summarize an article about a current event in Mali\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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3. Go to <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/afweather.htm> or http://www.our-africa.org/climate **What are the two major climates in Africa.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Part 2. The Story of Africa: Islam.**

In this activity, you will be using the BBC’s feature on Africa and its relationship with Islam. By the activity’s end, you will understand Islam’s impact on Africans all over the continent. You will also be able to fill in any blank spots in your understanding of how Islam connects Africa and the Arabs of the Middle East.

1. Begin by going to <http://www.bu.edu/africa/files/2010/10/covimg11.gif>. Look at the map that appears. **Describe Africa’s size compared to other continents. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2. Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/africa/features/storyofafrica/index_section7.shtml>. Read the introduction. What were some reasons why Islam was able to take root in Africa fairly easily?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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3. Next, on the menu at the right, click on “Intellectual Traditions.” Explain briefly facts from each section.

Koran\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Scholorship\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Literature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Modernizing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. On the menu at the right, click on **“Practices.”**  This is also mostly review, but pay particular attention to Ibn Battuta’s words at the bottom**. Ibn Battuta** is THE most famous Muslim traveler (he was a **Berber** from North Africa)—his travels rival those of the Italian, Marco Polo, who is better known in the West. Read what he reports about the Muslims of Mali. What did he say about:

Honesty\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Piety\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cleanliness\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Click on “North Africa and Ethiopia.”

a. Where is the **Maghreb** and when did Islam arrive there?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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b. What did Muslim armies face in regard to Christianity in Africa?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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c. How did the Maghreb change and evolve from the time of Islam’s introduction and the arrival of the Ottomans? Be sure to mention the **Almoravids** and the **Almohads** in your response.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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6. Click on “The Berbers.” Who are the **Berbers** and why do they matter?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Click on “East Africa.”

a. When did Islam begin to spread into East Africa? Why did it spread there? What were the effects? (be sure to include **Swahili**in your response)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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8. Go to <http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/gold/hd_gold.htm> to read about the Trans-Saharan Gold Trade.

a. Why did the Berbers of North Africa desire gold? By what means did they travel to get it? Where/from whom did they obtain it? What role did salt play in this trading arrangement?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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b. In the space below, illustrate what you imagine that you would see if you were watching **Mansa Musa** arrive in Cairo. Include a caption below that explains his journey.

**FINAL QUESTION**: This feature was entitled “The Story of Africa.” To summarize this activity, you will need to write a detailed and well-organized paragraph that summarizes **The Story of Islam’s Spread Into Africa.** This must include the following:

1. Connections to different regions of Africa where Islam spread (north, east, and west).

2. 3 specific historical details from websites used during this activity. These should be new pieces of information that you did not previously know and do not constitute common knowledge. You must put this information into *your own* words.