



# **T**he Spread of Islam

## ➤ Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 44–45 in the Atlas. Read the introduction and the history question, “What’s Islam?” Then look at picture A and read its caption. Use the information to answer the following questions.
  - a. Where did Islam begin? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Who was the founder of Islam? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What are followers of Islam called? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. How did the early leaders of Islam spread the religion?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What is the name of the holy book of Islam? \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. What does the Quran include? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. How did Islam spread into regions that were not ruled by Islamic leaders?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - h. What is the name for God in Arabic? \_\_\_\_\_

## ➤ Time and Change

2. Look at map B, “Spread of Islamic Empires.” Use the information to sequence the following events in chronological order. Write 1 next to the event that occurred first and 9 next to the event that occurred last.

### Event

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Islam begins to spread.  | _____ |
| b. Muslims defeat the Chinese.  | _____ |
| c. Capital moves from Medina to Damascus.                                     | _____ |
| d. Muslims win a battle and expand into Spain.                                | _____ |
| e. Muhammad rules the western half of Arabia.                                 | _____ |
| f. Muslim armies win a battle at Alexandria.                                  | _____ |
| g. Islamic rule expands to include lands from the Maghreb to the Indus River. | _____ |
| h. Franks stop Muslim advance.  | _____ |
| i. Muslims expand farther northeast after the battle of Merv.                 | _____ |

**► Location**

3. Use map C, "Later Spread of Islam," to locate the cities below. Next to each city, write the region in which it was located. Circle the cities that were not in Muslim regions in 850.

City	Region
a. Changan	_____
b. Delhi	_____
c. Mecca	_____
d. Herat	_____
e. Hardwar	_____
f. Medina	_____
g. Cairo	_____
h. Malacca	_____
i. Lahore	_____
j. Baghdad	_____

**► People and Cultures**

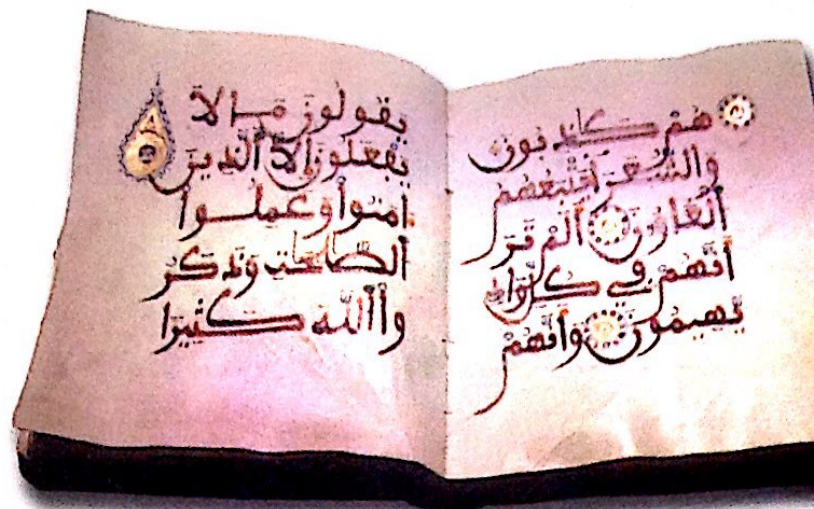
4. Look at picture D and read its caption. Use picture D and map C, "Later Spread of Islam," to answer the following questions.
- a. Why is Mecca important for Muslims?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. What is one of the religious duties for Muslims?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Describe what is happening in the picture. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Islam is one of the world's major religions today. How did Islam spread after 850?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. By 1500 which continents had Islam spread to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f. In addition to Mecca, what were four other major Muslim sites in 1500?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Spread of Islam

Islam emerged in Arabia in the 600s A.D. and grew into a major world religion.

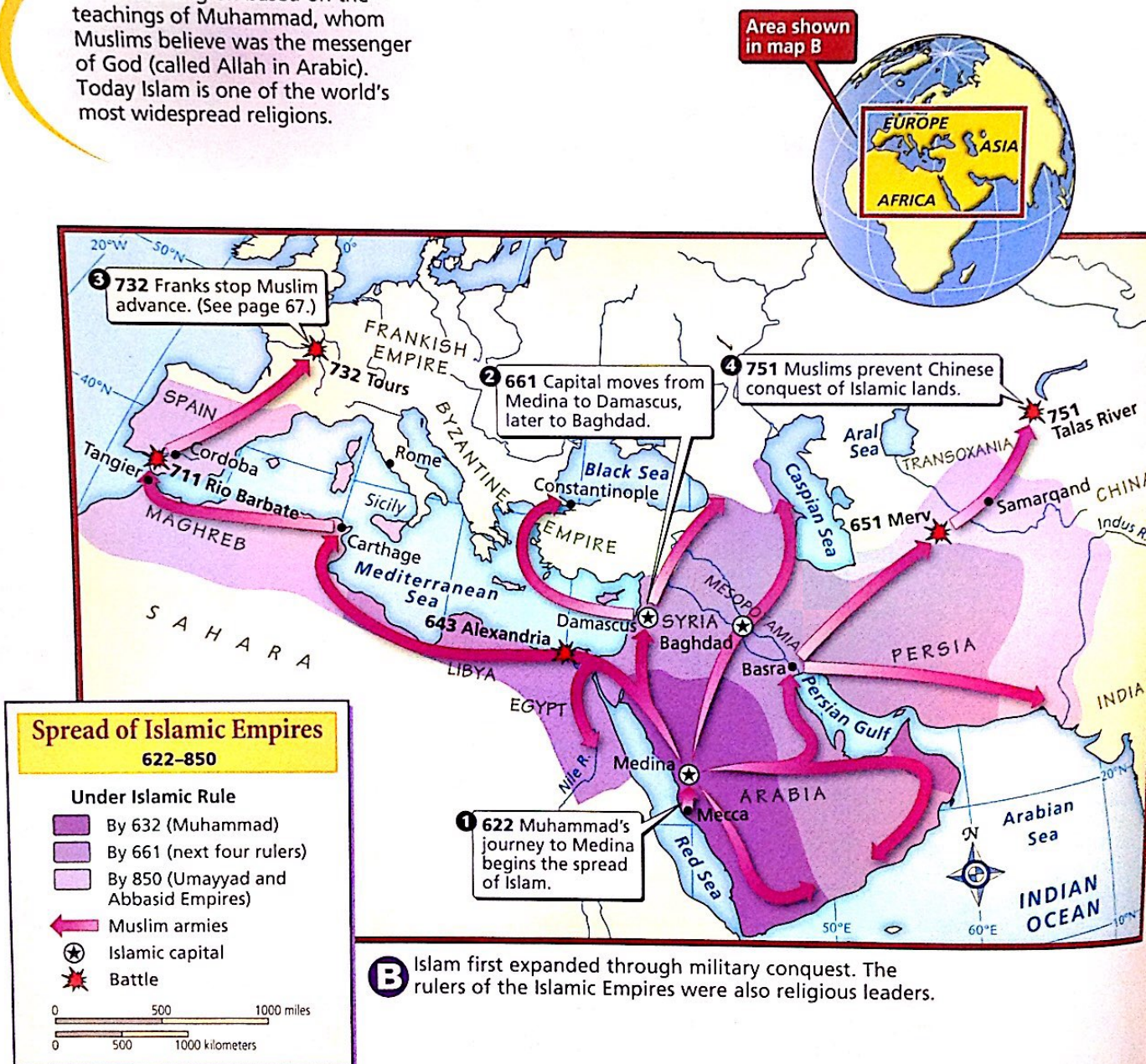
- Muhammad was the founder of Islam. He was both a political and a religious leader.
- The early leaders of Islam built large empires. Many of the people they conquered became followers of Islam, or **Muslims**.
- Later, through trade, Islam spread into regions that were not ruled by Muslims.



**A** The Quran, (also spelled Koran) is the holy book of Islam. It includes basic religious duties of all Muslims.

## What's Islam?

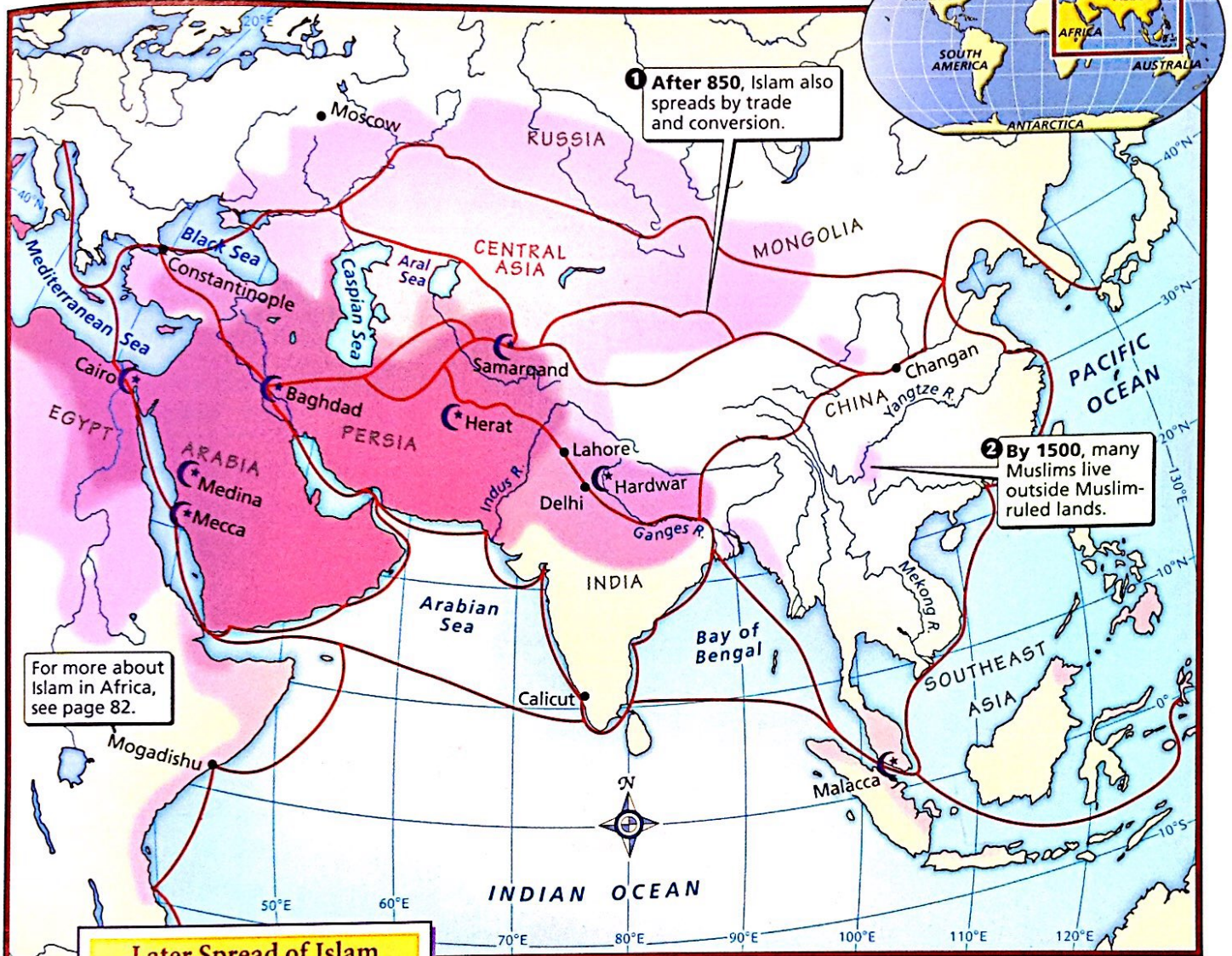
Islam is a religion based on the teachings of Muhammad, whom Muslims believe was the messenger of God (called Allah in Arabic). Today Islam is one of the world's most widespread religions.



**B** Islam first expanded through military conquest. The rulers of the Islamic Empires were also religious leaders.



**C** After 850 the Islamic Empire had begun to lose power, but Islam continued to spread. Muslim traders introduced Islamic culture into China, Southeast Asia, and Africa.



### Later Spread of Islam 850–1500

#### Predominantly Muslim

- by 850
- by 1200
- by 1500
- Major trade route, 1200–1500
- Major Muslim site

0 500 1000 miles  
0 500 1000 kilometers

**D** Mecca, the birthplace of Muhammad, is one of the holy cities of Islam. Traveling to Mecca to pray is a religious duty for Muslims.

