**Islam: A Brief History**

**Directions: Read the information below, list some things that you like and that you think is interesting. This is to give you some background on the reasoning behind Islamic Design.**

The history of Islam concerns the political, economic, social, and cultural developments of the Islamic civilization. Despite concerns about the reliability of early sources, most historians[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam#cite_note-Watt2003-1) believe that Islam originated in Mecca and Medina at the start of the 7th century. Muslims however believe that it did not start with Muhammad, but that it was the original faith of others whom they regard as Prophets, such as Jesus, David, Moses, Abraham, Noah and Adam.[2][3][4]

In 610 CE, Muhammad began receiving what Muslims consider to be divine revelations.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam#cite_note-Muhammad_p._363-5) Muhammad's message won over a handful of followers and was met with increasing opposition from notables of Mecca.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam#cite_note-Mecca._p._364-6) In 618, after he lost protection with the death of his influential uncle Abu Talib, Muhammad migrated to the city of Yathrib (Medina). With Muhammad's death in 632, disagreement broke out over who would succeed him as leader of the Muslim community which was eventually resurrected leading to the First Fitna. The dispute would intensify greatly after the Battle of Karbala, in which Muhammad's grandson Hussein ibn Ali was killed by the ruling Umayyad Caliph Yazid I, and the outcry for revenge divided the early Islamic community.

By the 8th century, the… Islamic civilization gave rise to many centers of culture and science and produced notable astronomers, mathematicians, doctors and philosophers during the Golden Age of Islam.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Islam>

**Islamic decoration, which tends to avoid using figurative images, makes frequent use of geometric patterns which have developed over the centuries.**

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_geometric_patterns>

The Hajj (/hædʒ/;[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj#cite_note-1) Arabic: حَجّ‎ *Ḥaǧǧ* "pilgrimage") is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca,[2] the holiest city for Muslims, and a mandatory religious duty for Muslims that must be carried out at least once in their lifetime by all adult Muslims who are physically and financially capable of undertaking the journey, and can support their family during their absence. ...The Hajj is a demonstration of the solidarity of the Muslim people, and their submission to God (Allah).[7][8] The word Hajj means "to intend a journey", which connotes both the outward act of a journey and the inward act of intentions.

During Hajj, pilgrims join processions of hundreds of thousands of people, who simultaneously converge on Mecca for the week of the Hajj, and perform a series of rituals: each person walks counterclockwise seven times around the Kaaba (the cube-shaped building and the direction of prayer for the Muslims), runs back and forth between the hills of Safa and Marwah, drinks from the Zamzam Well, goes to the plains of Mount Arafat to stand in vigil, spends a night in the plain of Muzdalifa, and performs symbolic stoning of the devil by throwing stones at three pillars.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajj>