

Name \_\_\_\_\_

9/ /06

**Area Studies 11  
EAST**

**MIDDLE**

RELIGION

The main religion of the Middle East is \_\_\_\_\_, however there are important pockets of Christians and Jews living in the Middle East including Armenia, \_\_\_\_\_ (Maronite) and the Sudan (Coptic).

Moreover, not all Arabs are Muslims, nor are all \_\_\_\_\_ Arabs. In fact, some of the most populous Muslim countries, such as Indonesia, Iran, and \_\_\_\_\_ are not ethnically Arab, nor do they speak Arabic.

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

The five basic beliefs or practices of Muslims are known as “\_\_\_\_\_” They are:

- 1) Shahada (Faith) - All Muslims confess to their belief in one God (Allah) and that Muhammad is the true prophet of Allah.
- 2) Salah (\_\_\_\_\_) - Muslims are required to pray 5 times each day facing the holy city of Mecca.
- 3) Zakat (Charity) - Muslims are required to provide for the poor as their means provide
- 4) Sawm (Fasting) - Muslims abstain from eating in daylight hours during the holy month of Ramadan.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ (Pilgrimage) - If their means permit, Muslims should visit the city of Mecca at least once in their lifetimes.

## MECCA

Islam's holiest city is Mecca: the birthplace of Muhammad and the location of the \_\_\_\_\_ . Jerusalem is also considered a holy city by Muslims as well as Jews and Christians.

## KORAN

Islam's holy book is the \_\_\_\_\_ (Qu'ran)

Muslims believe that the Koran is the word of God given to Muhammad by the angel Gabriel.

Generally, Muslims believe in a \_\_\_\_\_ reading of the Koran, therefore . . .

Therefore Islam has no organized clergy. Religious leaders are " \_\_\_\_\_ " or

"Saints," not authorities.

Ultimate religious authority is the Koran.

## MUSLIM BELIEFS

Muslims are strict \_\_\_\_\_, they "believe in only one god." There is a strong prohibition on idolatry or the "worship of idols"

Like Jews, Muslims do not eat pork, among other dietary restrictions

In many Muslim societies, there is no clear division between \_\_\_\_\_

and religious authority

Many Muslim nations use a strict religious law known as \_\_\_\_\_.

## SUNNIS AND SHIITES

There are two major branches of Islam: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

I. Sunnis are the mainstream and conservative branch.

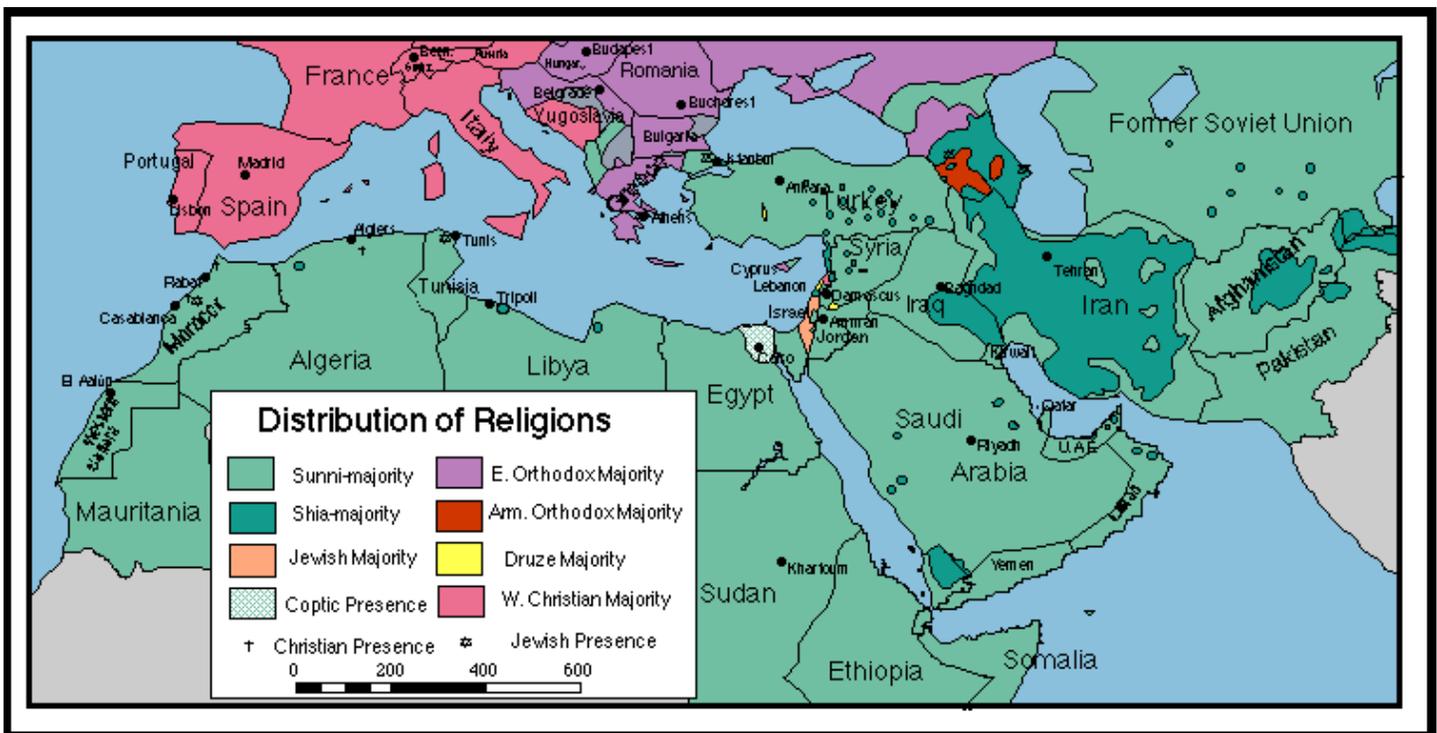
Sunnis make up about 80 % of all Muslims, they dominate the intellectual (Egypt) and spiritual (Saudi Arabia) centers of Islam

One branch of Sunni Islam are the \_\_\_\_\_, who are closely tied to the House of Saud that rules Saudi Arabia.

II. Shiites are the minority or radical branch of Islam.

While they are relative small in numbers, they are located in many of important areas of the Middle East.

Countries with significant Shiite populations include Iraq, \_\_\_\_\_ , Afghanistan, Yemen, Pakistan, Lebanon, and the Caucasus



While there are no clear lines, \_\_\_\_\_ tends to be a Sunni terrorist group, while \_\_\_\_\_ draws upon Shiite support.

## ETHNICITY

Major ethnic groups in the middle east include:

ARABS: Found in the Arabian Peninsula/Egypt:	Speak ARABIC.
TURKISH: Found in the Anatolian Peninsula and Central Asia	Speak TURKISH
PERSIANS: Found in Iran and Central Asia	Speak FARSI.
KURDS: Found in Northern Iraq, Eastern Turkey	Do not have a country, yet

## OTTOMAN

From 1300 to 1918, most of the Middle East was controlled by the Ottoman Empire, therefore, most Muslims do not have histories as independent nations. Nationalism is weak. Most Muslims prefer to think themselves as part of the larger “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” or “community of believers.”