

# Islam: Origins and Foundational Beliefs

**South Carolina Standard 6-3.4:** Explain the origin and fundamental beliefs of Islam and the geographic and economic aspects of its expansion.

# Origins of Islam

## I. Origin

A. Nomad – a member of a people that have no fixed home but wanders from place to place.

B. Islam began with nomadic traders who lived on the Arabian Peninsula.

1. Many of the nomadic traders practiced polytheism as a religion.



# Founder of Islam – Mohammed

## II. Founder

A. Prophet – one who declares publicly a message that one believes has come from God or a god.

B. Muslim – a follower of the religion of Islam.

C. Muslims believe that the prophet Mohammed (Muhammad) received messages from an angel from God. The messages form the basis of the Islam religion.

D. Allah – name for God in Islam. He is considered a just god and rewards people according to their deeds.

E. Abraham, Moses, and Jesus are also prophets in Islam.



# Fundamental Beliefs – Holy Book

## III. Fundamental Beliefs

A. Qur'an (Koran) – holy book of Islam.

Contains the messages Mohammed received from God (Allah).



# Fundamental Beliefs – Five Pillars of Faith

B. Five Pillars of Islam. Pillar – important member or part.

1. Faith – There is only one God, Allah and Mohammed is his prophet.

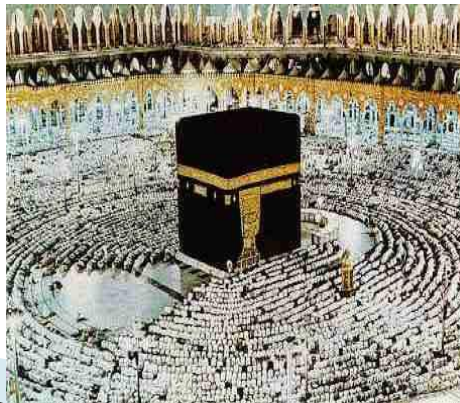
a. An Islamic house of worship is called a mosque.

2. Prayer – Pray five times a day.

3. Pilgrimage journey to a holy place. Make one pilgrimage called a Hajj to Mecca (Islam's most sacred place) during lifetime.

4. Alms – donation to charity. Make yearly alms called a Zakat to the needy.

5. Fasting – going without food or drink. Muslims fast during the holy month of Ramadan between dawn and sunset.



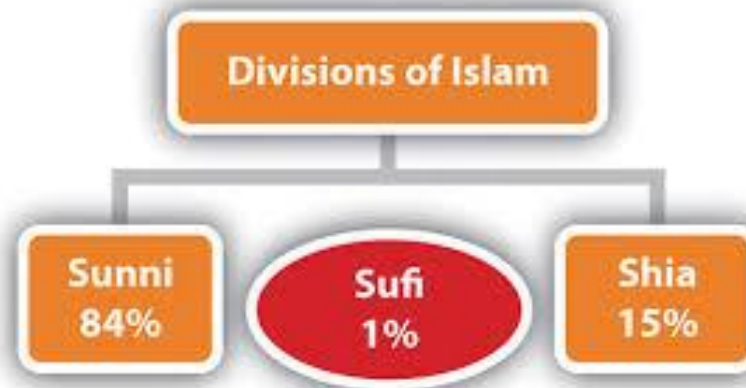
# Fundamental Beliefs – Branches

C. There are two major branches to Islam – Sunni and Shia (Shiite).

1. Shiite (Shia)– Believe leaders of Islam must be related to Mohammed.

2. Sunni – Believe leaders of Islam do not have to be related to Mohammed. Most Muslims are Sunni

D. Muslims believe there is no separation of church and state.



# Diffusion (Spread) of Islam

## IV. Diffusion (Spread of)

A. Mohammed was born in Mecca and dies in 632 AD.

B. By 732 AD (100 years), Islam had spread to Middle East, Persia, the Arabian Peninsula, and Northern Africa. Islam became the religion of these areas.

C. It was spread by trade and military conquest.

D. It continued to spread to West Africa, Spain in Europe, along the Indian Ocean, and parts of Asia.

