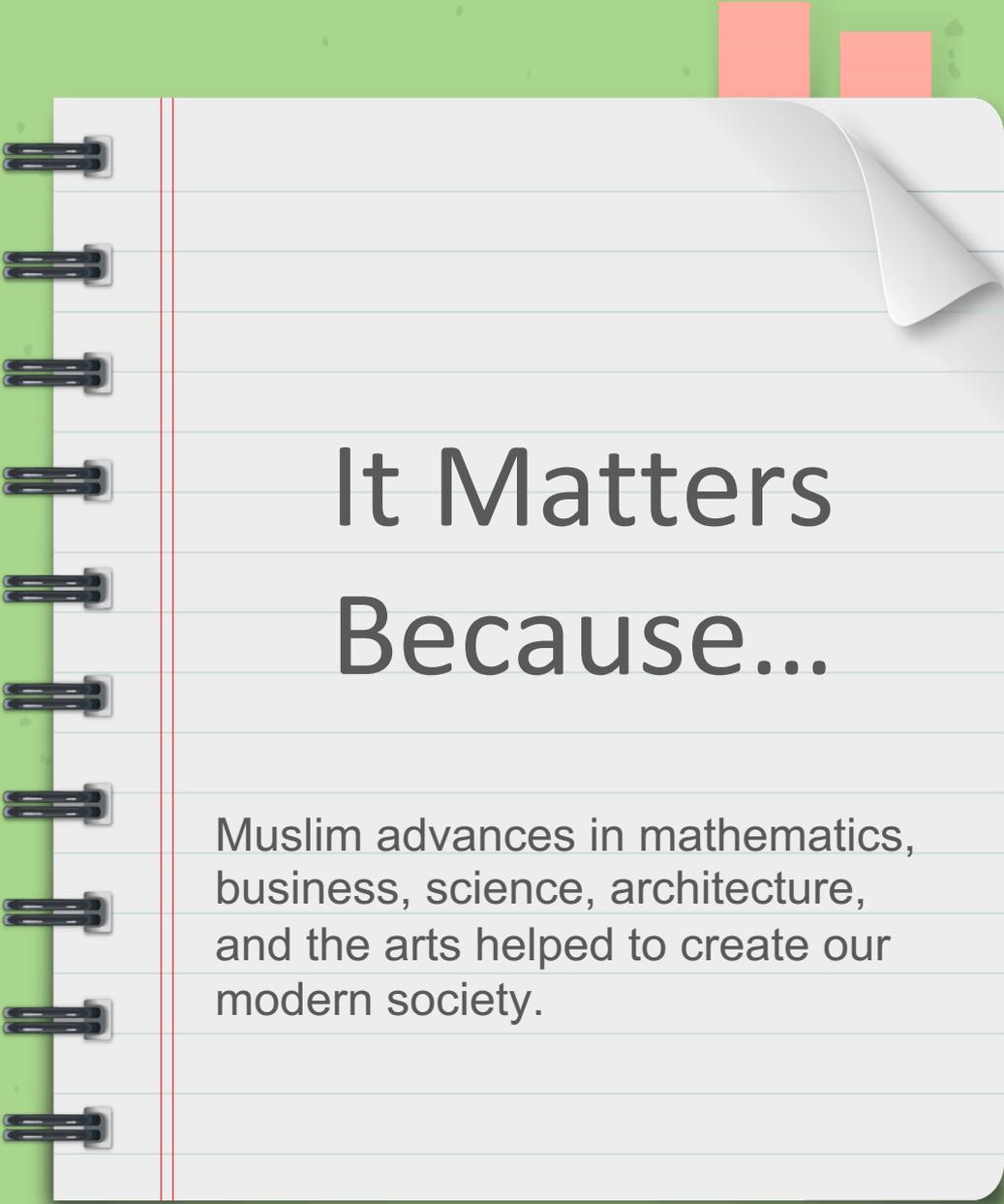


# Lesson 14.3

## Life in the Islamic World

Discover Our  
Past

World History



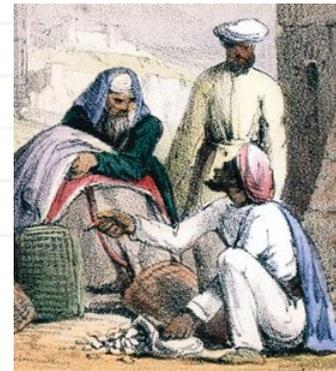
# It Matters Because...

Muslim advances in mathematics, business, science, architecture, and the arts helped to create our modern society.

## Daily Life and Trade

- Muslim merchants controlled trade in much of Asia and Africa from the A.D. 700s until the 1400s.
- Their caravans traveled from Egypt and Mesopotamia to China.
- Their ships sailed the Indian Ocean to East Africa, India, and Southeast Asia.
- Muslim traders set out on their journeys with spices, cloth, glass, and carpets from their homelands.

- They traded these items for rubies from India, silk from China, and spices from Southeast Asia.
- They also traded for gold, ivory, and enslaved people from Africa.
- In addition, Muslim merchants sold crops such as sugar, rice, oranges, cherries, and cotton.



## Why Were Muslim Traders Successful?

- Muslim trade flourished for several reasons.
- Muslims spread the religion of Islam along with the Arabic language.
- As a result, Arabic became the language of business and trade in much of Asia and Africa.
- Muslim rulers also helped traders by providing them with coins to use for buying and selling goods.
- This was an easier trading method than bartering for goods.

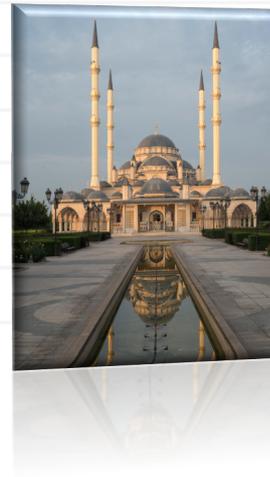


- Muslim merchants kept detailed records of their business dealings and their earnings.
- In time, these practices created a new industry – banking.
- Muslims respected merchants for their business skills and the wealth they created.

## Muslim Cities and Farms

- Increased trade led to the growth of cities throughout the Islamic world.
- Makkah, Baghdad, Cairo, and Damascus were located on major trade routes.
- Muslim cities, however, were more than places of trade.
- They also became centers of government, education, and culture.

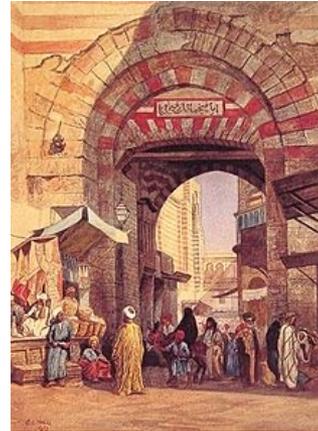
- Muslim cities generally had narrow streets separating closely packed buildings.
- The main buildings were mosques and palaces.
- **Mosques** are Muslim houses of worship.
- They also served as schools, courts, and centers of learning.



**mosque:** a Muslim house of worship

# Muslim Cities and Farms

- Another important feature of every Muslim city was the **bazaar**, or marketplace.
- Like shopping malls today, bazaars were full of shops and stalls where goods were sold.
- They often covered to protect merchants and customers from the scorching sun.
- Nearby inns provided travelers a place to eat and rest.



**bazaar:** a marketplace

## Muslim Cities and Farms

- Despite the importance of cities, most Muslims, however, lived in villages and farmed the land.
- The dry climate and the lack of rainfall, however, made farming difficult.
- Muslim farmers relied on irrigation to water their crops.
- They raised wheat, rice, beans, cucumbers, and melons in their fields.
- They planted orchards that provided almonds, apricots, figs, and olives.



- Farmers also grew flowers for use in perfume.
- Some Muslim villagers owned small farms.
- Most of the productive land, however, was owned by wealthy landowners.
- They had large estates and hired farmers from nearby villages or used enslaved people to farm the lands.

## How was Muslim Society Organized?

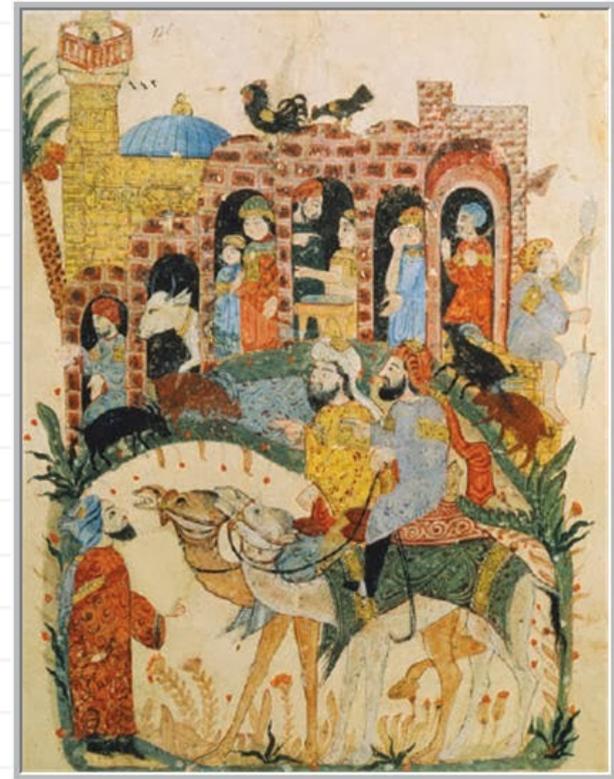
- People in the Muslim world were divided into social groups based on their power and wealth.
- Government leaders, landowners, and wealthy merchants held the greatest power.
- Below them were artisans, farmers, and workers.
- Enslaved people held no power.



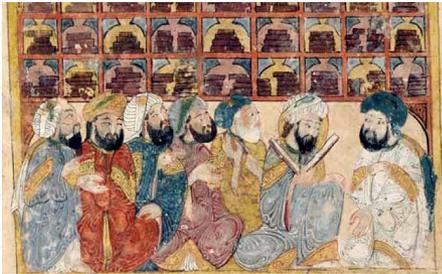
- As in other civilizations, slavery was common in Muslim lands.
- Many enslaved people were prisoners of war.
- Although they faced hardships, enslaved people had some rights under Islamic law.
- For example, mothers and young children could not be separated, and enslaved people could buy their freedom.

## How was Muslim Society Organized?

- Men and women had separate roles in the Muslim world.
- Men oversaw investments, society, and business.
- Women managed their families and households.
- Women were also allowed to own property, invest in trade, and inherit wealth.
- Some upper-class women received an education and contributed to the arts.



# Muslim Contributions



- Arabic was the most widely spoken language in the Muslim world.
- The use of Arabic helped with the exchange of goods and ideas among the different Islamic peoples.
- For example, in A.D. 830 the Abbasid caliph Mamun founded the House of Wisdom in Baghdad.

- At this research center, Muslim, Jewish, and Christian thinkers translated Greek, Persian, and Indian works into Arabic.
- From the 700s to the 1400s, scholars in Muslim lands preserved learning of the ancient world.
- Europeans had lost many ancient Greek writings.
- In Spain, however, Jewish and Muslim scholars translated some Greek writings into Arabic.
- When these Arabic translations were translated into Latin, western Europeans learned about ancient Greek thinkers.

## Muslim Contributions Science and Mathematics



- At the Baghdad observatory founded by Mamun, Muslim astronomers studied the skies.
- These studies helped them create mathematical models of the universe.
- They correctly described the sun's eclipses and proved that the moon affects ocean tides.
- They gave many stars names that are still used today.

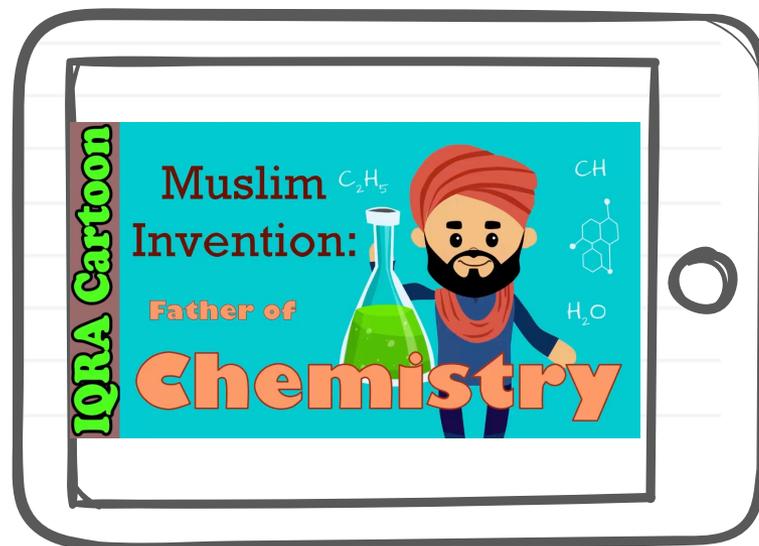
- Muslim astronomers improved the Greek **astrolabe**.
- Sailors used this tool to determine their location at sea.
- Muslim scientists used the astrolabe to measure the distance around the Earth.
- Based on their measurements, they confirmed that the Earth is round.



**astrolabe:** a tool that helps sailors navigate by the positions of the stars

## Muslim Contributions Science and Mathematics

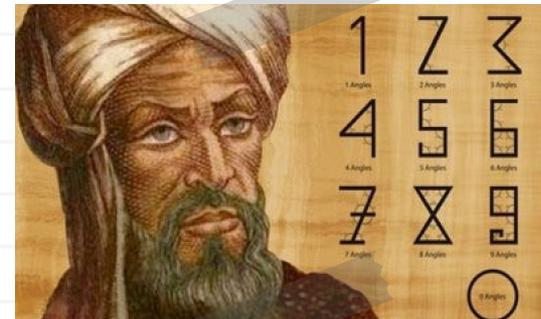
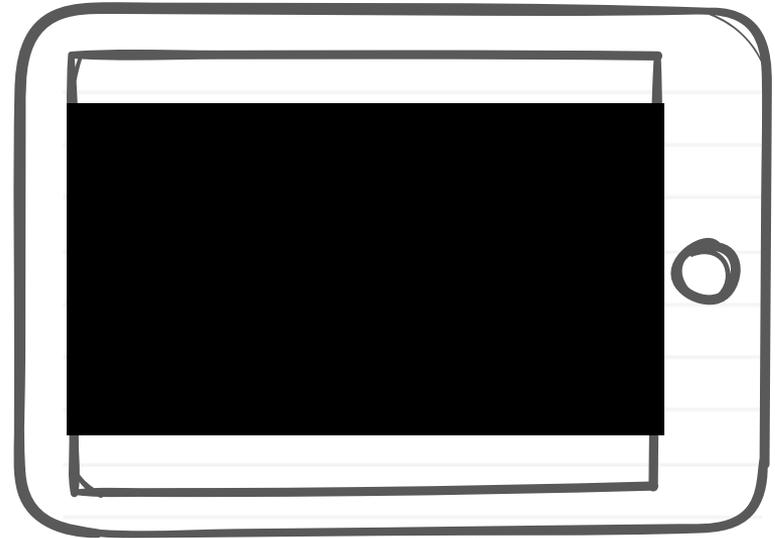
- Other Muslim scientists experimented with metals.
- As a result, Muslims are considered the founders of chemistry.
- One of the most famous Muslim chemists was al-Razi (ahI-RAH-zee).
- Al-Razi was the first scientist to label substances an animal, vegetable, or mineral.
- This type of labeling is still used today.



# Muslim Contributions

## Science and Mathematics

- Muslims also made contributions in mathematics.
- The Persian scholar al-Khawarizmi (ahl-khwa-RIHZ-meh) invented algebra.
- He and the Arab scholar al-Kindi borrowed the symbols 0 – 9 from Hindu scholars.
- These numbers were passed on to Europeans.
- Today, they are known as “Arabic numerals”.



## Muslim Contributions Medicine



- Muslims made important medical discoveries too.
- Arab doctors discovered that blood circulates, or moves, to and from the heart.
- They also diagnosed certain diseases.
- Al-Razi wrote a book identifying the differences between smallpox and measles.
- Muslim doctors shared their knowledge by publishing their findings.

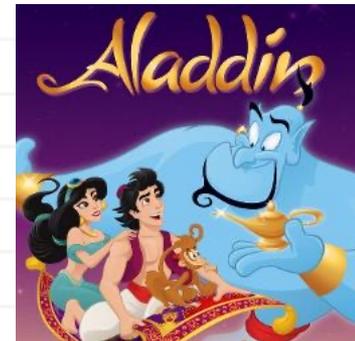
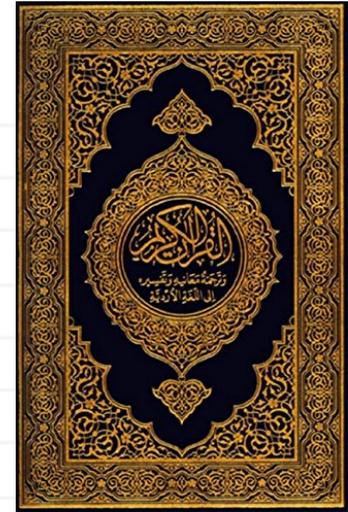
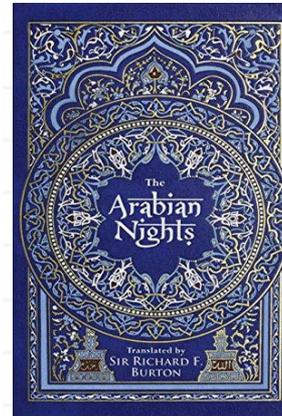


- The Persian doctor Ibn Sina (ih-buhn SEE-nuh) produced the Canon of Medicine, which described how diseases spread and analyzed hundreds of different medicines.
- Unlike doctors in most other places, Arab doctors had to pass a test before they could practice medicine.
- The Arabs created the first medical schools and pharmacies.
- They also built medical clinics that gave care and medicine to the sick.



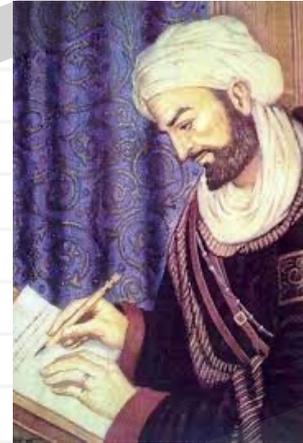
## Muslim Contributions Literature

- The Quran was the first and most important work written in Arabic.
- Muslims wrote non-religious literature as well.
- One of the best-known works is *The Thousand and One Nights*, also called *The Arabian Nights*.
- It includes tales from India, Persia, and Arabia.
- Aladdin is one of the work's well-known characters.



## Muslim Contributions Literature

- Another Muslim, the Persian poet Omar Khayyam (OH MAHR ky-YAHM), wrote the *Rubaiyat* (ROO-bee-aht).
- Many consider it one of the finest poems ever written.
- In a section of the poem, Khayyam describes the human being as a mystery.



- Muslim scholars studied history.
- During the late 1300s, the Muslim historian Ibn Khaldun (IH-buhn KAL-DOON) looked for cause-and-effect relationships to explain historical events.
- He was one of the first historians to study how geography and climate shape human activities.

# Muslim Contributions

## Art and Architecture

- Muslims developed forms of art based on Islam and the different cultures of the Muslim world.
- Opposed to idol worship, Muslims leaders discouraged artists from creating images of living creatures.
- Instead, Muslim art included designs entwined with flowers, leaves, stars, and beautiful writings.



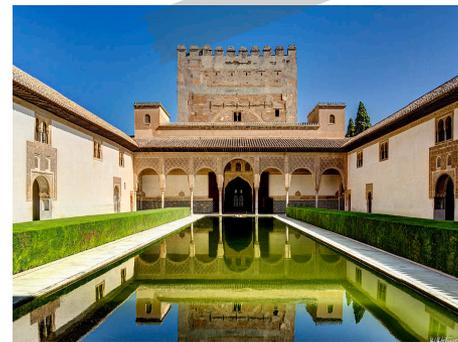
- Muslim cities were known for their beautiful buildings.
- Mosques dominated the skylines of Bagdad, Damascus, Cairo, and Istanbul.
- The most prominent features of a mosque are its **minarets** (mih-nuh-REHTS).
- These are towers from which an announcer calls Muslims to prayer five times each day.

**Minarets:** the tower of a mosque from which Muslims are called to prayer

# Muslim Contributions

## Art and Architecture

- Islamic rulers lived in the large palaces with central courtyards.
- To cool the courtyards, architects added porches, fountains, and pools.
- To provide protection, they surrounded the palaces with walls.
- One famous example of a Muslim palace is the Alhambra (al-HAM-bruh) in Granada, Spain.

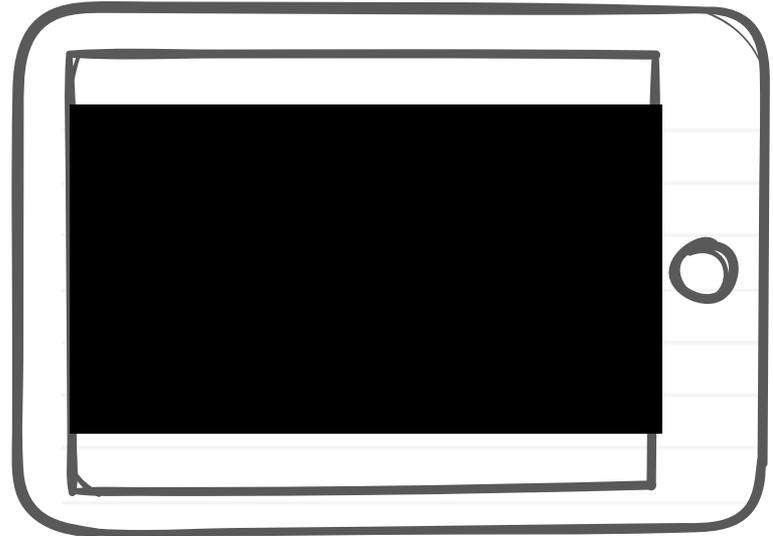


# Muslim Contributions

## Art and Architecture

- Another famous Muslim building is the Taj Mahal in Agra, India.
- The Mogul ruler Shah Jahan built it as a tomb for his wife.
- The Taj Mahal is made of marble and precious stones and is considered one of the world's most beautiful buildings.

It took Shah Jahan's workers and craftsmen more than 20 years to build the Taj Mahal!



# Review This Lesson

## Vocabulary

- mosque
- bazaar
- astrolabe
- minaret

## Key Ideas

- explain why Muslim traders were successful
- example how music society was organized
- Describe Muslim contributions to
  - science
  - math
  - medicine
  - literature
  - art
  - architecture