Islam & Muslims

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Abrahamic Religions
(According to Religious Texts)

1800 BCE: Abraham/Ibrahim rejects worship of idols, believes in one God (Monotheism)
• Father of Ishmael and Isaac
Isaac: Abraham’s son from his first wife

• Founder of the Israelites

• Grandfather of Judah/Israel whose descendants became the Jewish people
Ishmael: Abraham’s son from his second wife

• Exiled, founded other tribe, will reappear later
1500 BCE: Moses receives 10 commandments from God

• Becomes a major prophet of the Jews,
• Judaism spreads
4 BCE- 30CE: Jesus Christ born, founder of Christianity

- Born 4 BCE
- Says he’s the son of God
- Accused of being a heretic
- Founds cult religion- Christianity
- 30 CE: Executed for heresy by Romans
570 CE- 632 CE: Muhammad, founder of Islam

- Claimed God spoke to him through the and revealed the text of the Quran over the course of 40 years
- Was regarded as a heretic
- Gained a few followers, fled the city of his birth, Mecca
- Went to Medina, where he gathered more followers and eventually won over Mecca
- Commanded his people to repeat his return to Mecca during their lifetimes- Hajj
Hajj

Kaaba - located in the city of Mecca

- Originally built by Adam, supposed the first building ever built by humans
- Rebuilt by Abraham and Ishmael
- “Cleansed” by Muhammad (removed idols)

- Hajj is the journey Muslims should make at least once in their lifetime if they are able
What do Muslims believe?

1. “I testify that there is none worthy of worship except God and I testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of God.”
2. 5 daily prayer times
3. Fasting during the month of Ramadan
4. Zakat: giving to the poor and needy
5. Hajj- pilgrimage to Mecca once in one’s lifetime
Who are Muslims?
By Population

World Population: About 6.6 Billion (6,600,000,000)

Muslims: About 2.57 Billion (2,570,000,000)

2.57B/6.6B = About 24%
In comparison

- Christians, 2,200,000,000
- Muslims, 1,600,000,000
- Hindus, 1,000,000,000
- Jews, 18,000,000
- Buddhists, 500,000,000
- Sikhs, 30,000,000
- Other, 1,000,000,000
- Non-religious, 1,000,000,000

- Total population: 8,200,000,000
Popular Images of Muslims
What do you see on TV?
What DON’T you see on TV?
Who speaks for Islam?