Islam - Background & Basic Belief System

World History - WWG
Basics

• Islam - the name of the religion
  - “to submit,” “purity,” “peace”

• Muslim - people who practice Islam
  - “one who submits”
Basics

- Founded in 613 CE
- Mecca (Saudi Arabia)
- Prophet Muhammad
  - [Google Map of Mecca, Saudi Arabia](http://maps.google.com/maps?hl=en&safe=active&q=map+mecca+saudi+arabia&um=1&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=Mecca,+Saudi+Arabia&gl=us&ei=B7LhSpyrB5WKNsm76LIB&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&ct=title&resnum=1&ved=0CA4Q8gEwAA)
Muhammad

- Born in Mecca in 570 CE
- Marries a 40-year-old trader when he is 25
- Works as a merchant
- In 610 CE, at age 40, he receives a message from God via angel Gabriel while sitting in a cave outside of Mecca
Birth of Islam

- Starts sharing the messages circa 613 CE
- Some people start to follow him
- His followers write down his teachings
  - Koran - Qur’an - Q’uran
    - “The reading”
Both a Religious & Military Leader

- Muslims persecuted in Mecca
- Other locals are polytheistic
- He travels north about 200 miles to Medina
- Leads army to march on Mecca 630 CE
- Destruction of the “false idols”
6 Primary Beliefs…

://www.islam-guide.com/ch3-2.htm
Five Pillars of Islam

-basic requirements
Allah - there is only 1 god
- Allah = "the one true god"
Prayer Toward the Ka’ba

- 5 times per day
- Believed to have been built by Abraham & his son Ishmael
- Believed to be at the location of the first place on Earth created by Allah
Muhammad at the Ka’ba

- Notice what you can’t see in this picture of Muhammad
- Why?
The Ka’ba
Money for the Needy

-Charitable giving is required
-to the needy, not to the mosque
Hajj

-pilgrimage to Mecca
-once in your lifetime if you can both financially & physically
Fasting

-going without food & drink
  -during certain holidays
  -Ramadan (8/21/09-9-19-09)
  -Also, no other pleasures
Other Facts...

• Modesty of the body
• Relationship between men & women
• Alcohol - off limits
• Koran - never translated
• Food - no pork
• Missionary work - does not exist
• Arranged marriage (more cultural than religious)
• Dogs - some don’t have them
  ▪ The Hadiths
Bonus question

When is a woman not allowed to touch the Qur’an?
So this all sounds nice, but

What about Jihad?
Aren’t Muslims terrorists?