

**7.5 Trace the origins of Islam and the life and teachings of Muhammad, including Islam's historical connections to Judaism and Christianity**

# Muhammad (Mohammed, Muhammad)

- Muhammad was born into this harsh Arab/Bedouin culture around 570 CE
- He was born in Mecca and became a wealthy merchant
- He was famous for being wise and very spiritual
- One day Muhammad was visited by the angel Gabriel who told him that Muhammad is to be God's prophet
- Gabriel recited the Qur'an (Koran) to Muhammad to memorize since Muhammad was illiterate



# Islam

- Means “submission” (to God)
- People who practice Islam are called Muslims, which means “one who submits” (to God)
- Muslims believe that Muhammad is the last prophet, but not the only one.
- Previous prophets include all the Jewish and Christian prophets – like Moses and even Jesus (they do not believe he is God’s son)

Islam = religion

Muslim = a person who  
practices Islam

# Islam

- “People of the Book”
  - Christianity and Judaism are viewed as a precursor to Islam
  - They are allowed to practice their faith, but they are encouraged to convert to Islam
  - If they do not convert, they must pay a tax (jizyah or tribute)

# Historical Connections

Using your chart and knowledge from your readings, answer the following questions with COMPLETE SENTENCES:

1. What are two similarities between Christianity and Islam?
2. What are two differences between Judaism and Islam?
3. How are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam connected?