

Name _____

Date _____



Islamic Empires

"The Empires of Islam"

Mecca, Medina, Arabia, uh huh,
We bow down and we raise it up.
Uh huh,
Imams guide Islam,
So get to your mosque,
And read your Quran.

Now, deep in the desert a man named Muhammad,
Heard an angel calling, that makes him a prophet.
He started the religion known as Islam,
Started in Mecca, then spread out beyond. He was
Converting Bedouin tribes with threats and force,
Plus some smart tactics and tolerance for sure.
In Arabia, he united the tribes,
Islam spread far and wide by the time he died — 632!
After Muhammad was gone, who carried Islam on?
Caliphs contested, things didn't stay calm.
Sunnis wanted their own take on tradition,
Shias disagreed, that meant opposition.
Muslim empire expanded East,
And through North Africa into Spain, you see?
Muslims ruled Spain for centuries,
Until Christians reconquered eventually.
But Muslims didn't make Jews and Christians convert,
They could pay a special tax and get on with their work.
Farther to the east, we see the rise of the Turks,

The Ottoman Empire couldn't be hurt.
Spreading Islam and taking over,
The sultan was commanding some slave soldiers.
Their reach extended far,
And later adopted the crescent moon and star.

Mecca, Medina, Arabia, uh huh,
We bow down and we raise it up.
Uh huh,
Imams guide Islam,
So get to your mosque,
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My navigator wasn't made by Lincoln,
My navigator was me, my own intuition.
Used the sun, moon, and stars, the astrolabe,
A director with good sense like an old-school GPS.
Bow in grace, five times I pray,
'Cause in Allah is where I place my faith.
Speaking Swahili brought to you by Africans,
Because they built mosques on their continent.
The numbers you use, we brought them to you,
Arabic numerals from Hindus in 1202.
Cleanliness, yeah, that's next to godliness,
And who but Allah is the purest?
Our doctors knew how blood moved,
Health is vital, so we built medical schools.
Attached them to temples to show our gratitude,
Caring about people, I live amongst you.
As a Muslim, if you get the chance,
Head on down to Mecca for the experience.
Like Muhammad Battuta and his journeys through

Egypt, China, Sumatra and Timbaktu.

Mecca, Medina, Arabia, uh huh.

We bow down and we raise it up,

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So get to your mosque,

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