

- United by the religion of Islam
 - Evidenced in performance of pilgrimage to Mecca.
- Islam means submission to the will of God.
- The children of Abraham
 - Jews, Christians, and Muslims
 - Origins of Islam traced through son, Ishmael
 - Animal sacrifice- relates to willingness to sacrifice his son.
- God of Jews, Christians, Muslims are same:
 - He is Jahweh in Judaism.
 - Theos(Greek)
 - Deos(Latin)
 - Allah(Arabic)
 - El(Elohim) in Hebrew

- Similarities: 1. monotheistic, prophets, scripture
- Muhammed
 - Started preaching of one God, equality among slaves/masters and poor/rich denounced usury.
 - As a result, the Meccans became enemies of Muhammed, and told him to give up his message.
 - When the Meccans started giving troubles to early believers and Muhammed, he left Mecca and went to Medina where Jews and Christians used to reside.
 - He immigrated in year 622 AD. This is year Muslims start their calendar year one: Hijra.
 - Muhammed conquered Mecca in 630 AD
 - Died in 632 at the age of 62.
 - Muhammed never had formal schooling
- Qur'an
 - =Arabic word meaning recitation or that which is going to be recited.
 - Written in poetic language; thus, Quranic language is still the modal, exemplary style for great writers/poets in Arabic language.
 - Assembled after the death of the prophet Muhammed, during time of third caliph(leader of the Muslim nation) whose name is Uthman.
 - There are 114 Suras(chapters)
 - Suras arranged according to length.
 - Two kinds of Suras
 - Meccan Suras
 - Deal with the basics of Islam:
 - God is one(there is but one God, Allah, and Muhammed is his prophet)
 - The day of judgement
 - Five pillars of Islam
 - Profession of faith (shahada)

- Prayers(salat)
 - Face mecca, recite, bow
 - Fasting in the month of Ramdan (saum)
 - Almsgiving or charity (zakat)
 - Pilgrimage(hajj)
 - Kabah-large black stone in Mecca
- Medinan Suras
 - o These deal with ethical, social and political aspects of Islam:
 - Laws regarding marriage and divorce
 - Laws regarding inheritance
 - Constrains on slavery.
 - Restrictions on drinking
 - Politically, Muslim society ruled according to guidance provided in Qur'an.
- Sharia
 - o Means Islamic law or Islamic jurisprudence
 - o Muslims should follow the Islamic law in conduct of life
 - o Sources of Islamic Law:
 - Qur'an- Primary source
 - Hadith(tradition)
 - It is defined as what the prophet Muhammad said, did (Sunna) and approved or disapproved of
 - Ijma
 - General consensus of people 3 generations after death of prophet Muhammed
 - Qiyas
 - Deduction or logical inference by analogical reasoning
- Sunni and Shi'ite sects
 - o 85% Sunnis
 - o 15% Shi'ites
 - o Both believe in same basics of Islam
 - o Main differences are political/historical concerning Imam(leader of the Muslim Nation)
 - o 4 Imams or Caliphs who succeeded Muhammed after death were accepted by majority of Muslims, who were sunnites
 - Abu Bakr
 - 'Omar
 - Uthman
 - 'Ali
 - o Some believed 'Ali should have succeeded Muhammed first; these are Shi'ites.
 - Ali was a blood relative of Muhammed

- o Shi'ite (Shias): Imam must be blood relative of Muhammed
- o Sunnites(Sunnis): Any muslims who is pious, man of knowledge and capable of governing can become leader of nation