A 1In the sixth century in Arabia, one of the world’s three largest monotheistic religions was founded. 2Islam owes its existence to Muhammad. 3Muhammad was born in Makkah (formerly Mecca in English), where he was a merchant. 4According to Islamic beliefs, the angel Gabriel revealed the new religion of Islam to Muhammad while he was meditating.

B 5Islam means submission to God. 6Its followers are called Muslims, meaning those who submit to God. 7To be a good Muslim, you are to follow the five pillars. Muslims must:
1. 8Profess there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.
2. 9Pray five times a day.
3. 10Give to the community.
4. 11Fast during the holy month of Ramadan.
5. 12Make a pilgrimage to Makkah.
13The Koran is the Muslim holy book just as the Bible is the holy book for Christians.

C 14Over the next century and a half, Muhammad and his successors conquered and converted all of Arabia, North Africa, and parts of Asia and Europe. 15Muslim warriors believed that spreading Islam was part of a jihad (holy war). 16Warriors who died were promised paradise. 17Once conquered, most Arabs had to convert or be executed. 18Muslims allowed Jews and Christians to practice their faith privately if they paid a jizya (special tax).

D 19When the prophet Muhammad died he left no instructions as to who should succeed him. 20While trying to decide who his successor—called the caliph—should be, Muslims split into two major groups which remain separate today. 21The Shiite Muslims believed all successors to Muhammad must be Muhammad’s blood relatives. 22The Sunni Muslims did not believe Muhammad’s successors had to be blood relatives. 23The caliphs worked to establish the Rashidun Caliphate (community) to spread the Islamic faith.

E 24The Muslim world produced three dynasties during the Middle Ages: the Umayyad Dynasty, Fatimid Dynasty, and the Abbasid Dynasty. 25The Umayyad Dynasty invaded Western Europe and conquered most of Spain in the early 700s. 26Throughout the Middle Ages of Western Europe Muslims continued to try to conquer Europe but were turned back.

F 27The Fatimid Dynasty ruled North Africa and Sicily for more than two hundred and fifty years.

G 28The first two hundred years of the Abbasid Dynasty are considered the Islamic Golden Age. 29During this time the Islamic civilization was more advanced than European civilization. 30Islamic society became a blend of Arabian, Egyptian, Persian, and European cultures in some locations. 31Muslim scholars read Greek, Hindu, and Persian literature. 32Muslims used the Hindu number system and zero. 33Europeans learned these mathematical concepts from the Muslims.
The primary reason the Islamic civilization enjoyed such an accelerated age of learning was the vast amount of trading with foreigners throughout the world. This brought goods and ideas to Makkah. A common language, as well as a shared religion (Islam), made communication easier and created a cultural unity, allowing these new ideas and goods to spread throughout the empire quickly.

A popular Islamic artistic design was the arabesque, which resembles flowers or vines as a pattern of curved shapes and lines. It appeared on metals and rugs throughout the Muslim world. Another common Islamic art form was calligraphy (artistic handwriting). The first use of Islamic calligraphy was to produce copies of the Koran. Muslim artists used calligraphy to represent God because they were forbidden to depict living creatures or religious figures in their art.

Beginning in the mid-900s, the Abbasid Dynasty broke into separate competing emirates (small kingdoms). In the 11th century, Seljuk Turks conquered most of Muslim Arabia. The Mongol invasion in the 1200s, and to a lesser extent the Crusades and the Christians, destroyed the last of the Abbasid Dynasty. The Turks converted to Islam and had the largest Muslim empire until World War I.

Questions

1. Number the following in chronological order.
   a. ___ Turks conquer Arabia
   b. ___ Muhammad is born
   c. ___ Golden Age of Islam
   d. ___ Beginning of Islam

2. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
   a. ___ The religion of Islam is polytheistic, worshiping many gods.
      Which sentences best support the answer? ___, ___
   b. ___ The sacred text of Islam is called the Koran.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? ___
   c. ___ Muslims believe that Muhammad learned of the Islamic religion from the angel Gabriel.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? ___
   d. ___ One of the five pillars of Islam requires Muslims to visit the city of Makkah.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? ___

3. Which of the following would a medieval Muslim artist not create? Circle all that are correct.
   a. arabesque  
   b. calligraphy  
   c. a sculpture of a woman  
   d. a painting of God
      Which sentence best supports the answer? ___

4. When Muhammad died, his successor was:
   a. the caliph.  
   b. a souk.  
   c. a jihad.  
   d. the Koran.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? ___

5. A person living in a medieval Muslim community paying a jizya was most likely:
   a. the Caliph.  
   b. the Souk.  
   c. a Jew.  
   d. Muhammad.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? ___
6. A Muslim warrior fighting in the 700s, was most likely motivated by:
   a. a promise of paradise.
   b. a desire to defeat the Turks.
   c. The Crusades.
   d. the Jizya.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? 

7. A Muslim who believed the successor of Muhammad did not have to be a blood relative was a:
   a. Sunni.
   b. Shiite.
   c. Fatimid.
   d. Turk.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? 

8. The Islamic Golden Age was brought about mainly by:
   a. victory in war.
   b. trade.
   c. scientific innovation.
   d. Muslim artists.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? 

9. Mark each sentence T for true or F for false.
   a. ____ Muslims successfully conquered most of Europe during the Middle Ages.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? 

   b. ____ Europeans were taught the Hindu number system and zero by the Muslims.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? 

   c. ____ During the Islamic Golden Age, Muslim scholars were permitted to read the Koran only.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? 

   d. ____ European civilization remained the most advanced civilization throughout the Middle Ages.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? 

Written Response Question

10. How did Islam influence art in the Islamic civilizations?

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________
Medieval Islamic Civilizations Review: Lessons 52-65 Answers

1. a. 4  
   b. 1  
   c. 3  
   d. 2
2. a. F, sentences 1, 2  
   b. T, sentence 13  
   c. T, sentence 4  
   d. T, sentence 12
3. c, d, sentence 41
4. a, sentence 20
5. c, sentence 18
6. a, sentence 16
7. a, sentence 22
8. b, sentence 34
9. a. F, sentence 26  
   b. T, sentence 33  
   c. F, sentence 31  
   d. F, sentence 29
10. Key points:

    Muslims are forbidden to depict God or living creatures in their art. Calligraphy was first used to produce copies of the Koran and was a way for Muslim artists to represent God.

    Arabesque, a pattern of flowers or vines, is a common design found on metals and rugs.