**Islam**

**Mecca**- Islam holy city, birth place of Muhammad

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**5 Pillars –** are the basic framework in a Muslim's religious life as per commanded by their Lord. They are the testimony of faith, prayer, giving zakat (support of the needy), fasting during the month of Ramadan, and the pilgrimage of Makkah once in a lifetime for those who are able.

**Caliph -** a person considered a political and religious successor to the prophet Muhammad and a leader of the entire Muslim community.

**Bedouin-** a nomadic Arab of the desert



**Shia -** one of the two main branches of Islam, followed especially in Iran, that rejects the first three Sunni caliphs and regards Ali, the fourth caliph, as Muhammad's first true successor.

**Sunni-** one of the two main branches of Islam, commonly described as orthodox, and differing from Shia in its understanding of the Sunna and in its acceptance of the first three caliphs.

**shari’ah**  a system of religious law in Islam. It was developed and written down by scholars in the early centuries of the Muslim era (8th-9th centuries). the law constitutes a divinely ordained path of conduct that guides Muslims toward a practical expression of religious [conviction](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conviction) in this world and the goal of divine favour in the world to come.

**Sultan -** a Muslim sovereign, a noble title

**Arabesque -** ornamental design consisting of intertwined flowing lines, originally found in Arabic or Moorish decoration.

**Calligraphy – t**he art of producing decorative handwriting or lettering with a pen or brush.

**Medieval Africa**

**Plateau** – high flat areas of land

**Savannah –** broad grassland dotted with small trees and shrubs

**Lineage groups**- an extended family unit that has combined into a larger community

**Matrilineal** – tracing lineage through the mother rather than the father

**Griots –** a special class of African storytellers who help keep alive a people’s history

**Subsistence farming-** the practice of growing just enough crops for personal use, not for sale

**Stateless societies –** a group of independent villages organized into clans led by a local ruler or clan head without any central government