Name: _____ Date: _____

SG# 29 The Development of Islamic Civilization

Developments in Islam. After Muhammad died, Muslims felt they needed to establish an official record of their religious ideas. The most important Muslim beliefs were listed in the Qur'an. These beliefs were called the **Five Pillars of Islam**. The Five Pillars demanded that Muslims (1) repeat a confession of faith; (2) pray five times a day; (3) support the poor in their community; (4) fast during a holy month; and (5) make a trip, or **hajj**, to Mecca at least once in their life, if at all possible. Other Muslim beliefs limited men to four wives, banned pork and alcohol, and commanded followers to free slaves or treat them well. In addition, Muslims had to engage in **jihad**, or the struggle for the faith. Jihad could mean military combat or an inner struggle to follow God's law.

During the Umayyad dynasty, many Muslims came to distrust the caliphs. When they needed more information on religious rules, they turned to religious scholars known as the ***ulama***. Over time, the *ulama* devised the ***shari'ah***, or the Islamic legal system. Muslims tried to live according to the *shari'ah,* hoping to spend eternity in paradise.

Some Muslims looked to Indian philosophy and developed **Sufism**, a new form of Islam. Sufis disliked the materialism they saw in traditional Muslim society and tried to lead a simple life devoted to God. At first, many Muslims disliked Sufis. As the religion grew more diverse, however, Sufism became more accepted.

Science and Learning. Muslims made many advances in science and technology. Muslim mathematicians combined the Indian number system with the Greek science of mathematics. Al-Khwarizmi, for example, wrote an important book on algebra.
Muslim scientists rediscovered the Greek **astrolabe**, which calculated the position of stars. Explorers used the astrolabe to determine their position on the earth.

Literature and the Arts. As in science and technology, Muslims achieved greatness in literature and the arts. Leaders supported poets and writers. Artists created items such as swords and carpets inscribed with religious verses. Architects supervised the construction of beautiful mosques to provide a place to pray.

Andalusia: Umayyad Spain. During Abbasid rule, the Umayyads created a new government in Spain. Umayyad Spain was based in Córdoba, a beautiful city with piped water and public lighting. The Umayyads valued education and encouraged religious tolerance.

Expansion Through Trade. The Muslims built a great trading empire that eventually reached China and Africa. As they traveled, Muslim traders spread their religion. First local leaders adopted Islam, then their people embraced it. To facilitate trade, Muslims set up the world's first banks.

Answer the questions below in your own words and in complete sentence. Highlight your evidence.

1. How did Islamic life and law change after Muhammad's death?

2. What were the Five Pillars of Islam?

3. Why did Sufism develop?

4. What was life like in Umayyad Spain?

5. How did Muslims use trade to spread their religion?