The Islamic World
The Islamic world's borders have changed frequently from the seventh century to the present. This map locates the sites discussed in this chapter in the context of modern political geography.
Rise of Islam: Life of Muhammad
Pictures of Mecca and the Hajj
The Interior of the Ka'bah

- 14 m
- Rukn Yamaani
- Baabul Taubah
- The Door of Ka'ba
- Muttazam
- Hajr Aswad
- Shaadhanwaan
- Hateem
Kissing the black stone
Dome of the Rock
Figure 13-2  Aerial view of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, 687–692.
تنمو الماء من ثلجها وما من كأس في فضها.
وللما فتنه عينها ومنها وعشت منا.
Dome of the Rock Exterior Wall
Figure 13-3 Interior of the Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem, 687–692.
Another Famous Domed Islamic Building, Taj Mahal, Agra, India
Figure 13-5 Aerial view of the Great Mosque, Damascus, Syria, 706–715.
Figure 13-4  Detail of a mosaic in the courtyard arcade of the Great Mosque, Damascus, Syria, 706–715.
Figure 13-6 Plan of the Umayyad palace, Mshatta, Jordan, ca. 740–750 (after Alberto Berengo Gardin).
Frieze of the Umayyad palace, Mshatta, Jordan, ca. 740–750
Figure 13-8  Aerial view (left) and plan (right) of the Great Mosque, Kairouan, Tunisia, ca. 836–875.
Figure 13-8 Plan of the Great Mosque, Kairouan, Tunisia, ca. 836–875.
1 - QIBLA WALL
2 - MIHRAB
3 - MIHRAB DOME
4 - HYPOSTYLE PRAYER HALL
5 - NAIVE
6 - ENTRANCE DOME
7 - FORECOURT
8 - MINARET
Figure 13-9 Malwiya minaret of the Great Mosque, Samarra, Iraq, 848–852.
Figure 13-10 Mausoleum of the Samanids, Bukhara, Uzbekistan, early 10th century.
Great Mosque of Cordoba
Figure 13-11  Prayer hall of the Great Mosque, Córdoba, Spain, 8th to 10th centuries.
Hypostyle Hall
What is this and where and when is it from?
Figure 13-12 Maqsura of the Great Mosque, Córdoba, Spain, 961–965.
Figure 13-13 Dome in front of the mihrab of the Great Mosque, Córdoba, Spain, 961–965.
Luxury Goods
Figure 13-14 Confronting lions and palm tree, fragment of a textile said to be from Zandana, near Bukhara, Uzbekistan, eighth century. Silk compound twill, 2' 11" x 2' 9 1/2". Musée Historique de Lorraine, Nancy.
Figure 13-15  SULAYMAN, Ewer in the form of a bird, 796. Brass with silver and copper inlay, 1’ 3” high. Hermitage, Saint Petersburg.
Figure 13-16 Koran page with beginning of surah 18, “Al-Kahf” (The Cave), 9th or early 10th century. Ink and gold on vellum, 7 1/4” x 10 1/4”. Chester Beatty Library and Oriental Art Gallery, Dublin.
Meanwhile, in Spain
Alhambra, Granada, Spain, 1354–1391.
Alhambra at night, Granada, Spain, 1354–1391.
Figure 13-17  Muqarnas dome, Hall of the Two Sisters, Palace of the Lions, Alhambra, Granada, Spain, 1354–1391.
Court of Lions, Palace of the Lions, Alhambra, Granada, Spain, 1354–1391.
Wall Decorations, Alhambra, Granada, Spain, 1354–1391.
At about the same time in Egypt
Figure 13-18 Madrasa-mosque-mausoleum complex of Sultan Hasan (looking northwest with the mausoleum in the foreground), Cairo, Egypt, begun 1356.
Figure 13-10 Mausoleum of the Samanids, Bukhara, Uzbekistan, early 10th century.

Figure 13-18 Madrasa-mosque-mausoleum complex of Sultan Hasan (looking northwest with the mausoleum in the foreground), Cairo, Egypt, begun 1356.
Figure 13-20  SINAN, Mosque of Selim II, Edirne, Turkey, 1568–1575.
Figure 13-20  SINAN, Mosque of Selim II, Edirne, Turkey, 1568–1575.
ANTHEMIUS OF TRALLES and ISIDORUS OF MILETUS, aerial view of Hagia Sophia (looking north), Constantinople (Istanbul), Turkey, 532–537.
Figure 13-21 SINAN, interior of the Mosque of Selim II, Edirne, Turkey, 1568–1575.
Figure 13-22 Aerial view (looking southwest) of the Great Mosque, Isfahan, Iran, 11th to 17th centuries.
Figure 13-24 Winter prayer hall of the Shahi (Imam) Mosque, Isfahan, Iran, 1611–1638.
Figure 13-25 Mihrab from the Madrasa Imami, Isfahan, Iran, ca. 1354. Glazed mosaic tilework, 11’ 3” X 7’ 6”. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.
Figure 13-28 MAQSUD OF KASHAN, carpet from the funerary mosque of Shaykh Safi al-Din, Ardabil, Iran, 1540. Knotted pile of wool and silk, 34’ 6” X 17’ 7”. Victoria & Albert Museum, London.
Figure 13-30  MUHAMMAD IBN AL-ZAYN, basin (*Baptistère de Saint Louis*), from Egypt, ca. 1300. Brass, inlaid with gold and silver, 8 3/4” high. Louvre, Paris.
Figure 13-31 Canteen with episodes from the life of Christ, from Syria, ca. 1240–1250. Brass, inlaid with silver, 1’ 2 1/2” high. Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.
Discussion Questions

- What is the role of art and architecture in the Islamic world?
- What do you think are the most impressive visual qualities of Islamic art?
- What are some of the unique feature of Islamic mosques, mausoleums and madrasas?