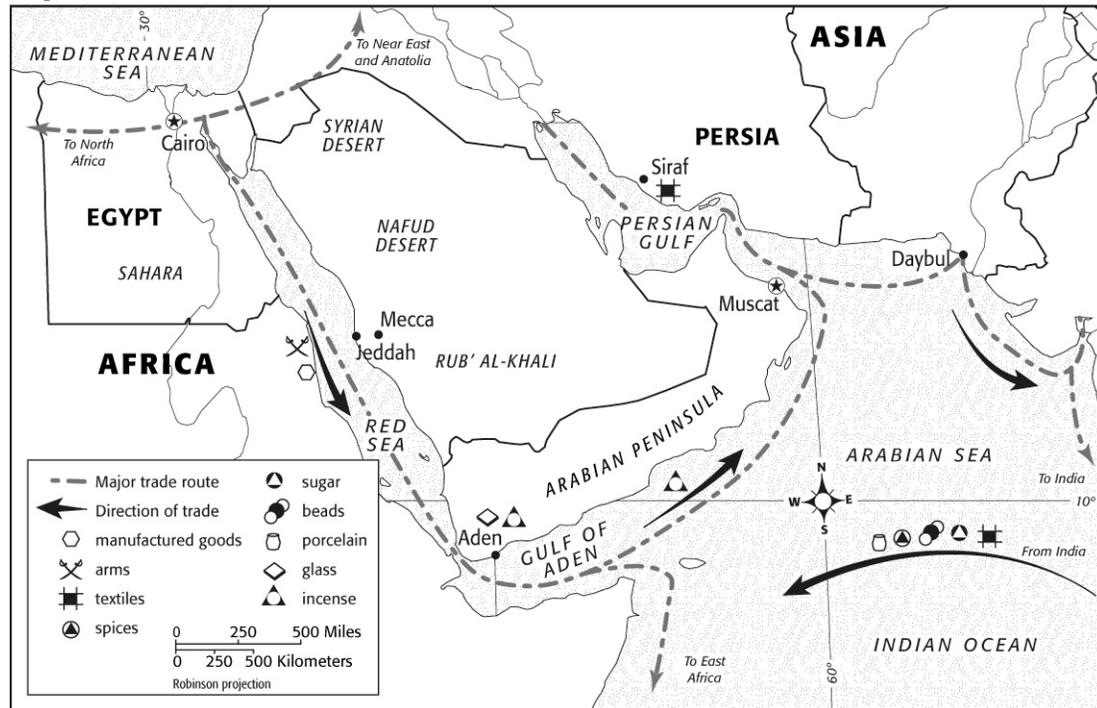


Trade Along the Arabian Peninsula

The Arabian Peninsula is surrounded by water on three sides, but desert dominates the interior. This makes Arabia a harsh land. About 1,500 years ago, commerce was lively in this region because trade routes converged at the Arabian Peninsula. Towns that depended on trade grew near the Arabian Peninsula's coasts. Mecca, near the Red Sea, was one of those trading towns. It was located on the Incense Road, a route that linked the Mediterranean world and the peninsula's southern tip.

Expansion of Arabian Trade



MAP ACTIVITY

1. On the map, label the area of Arabia.
2. Use a shade of yellow or orange to highlight the desert interior of Arabia.
3. Use a shade of blue to highlight the water areas that surround the Arabian Peninsula.
4. On the map, use a bright color to trace the course of the major sea trade route.
5. On the map, circle the location of Mecca.

Muslim Civilization

History and Geography

ANALYZING MAPS

6. **Human-Environment Interaction** Based on the map, what geographic features would have made land trade routes difficult in Arabia?

7. **Region** What bodies of water surround the Arabian Peninsula?

8. **Movement** In what direction did trade move through the Red Sea?

9. **Location** Based on the map, what goods were traded at Aden?

10. **Movement** What goods did traders bring back from India?

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Trade helped the Muslim Empire prosper. Baghdad itself was located in a perfect spot to engage in trade in the Mediterranean world, Africa, India, and China. On the map, label the location of Baghdad. Write a paragraph explaining why its location was perfect for engaging in trade. Identify geographic features that would have encouraged and/or interrupted the expansion of trade.