

Chapter 11 Section 3

- I. Trade and Everyday Life
 - A. Until the 1400s, Muslim traders were the most successful merchants in the Middle East and North Africa for several reasons: the expansion of the Arabic language, the provision of coins by Muslim rulers, and banking practices.
 - B. Mosques are Muslim houses of worship.
 - C. Bazaars, or marketplaces, were important to cities.
 - D. Most Muslims lived in small villages and farmed. Wealthy landowners began taking over

farms, and the farmers worked for the landowners.

- E. Muslim social classes were based on power and wealth. Government leaders, landowners, and traders were in the higher class. Below them were artisans, farmers, and workers. Slaves made up the lower class.
- F. Men ran government, society, and business. Women helped run families. They could inherit wealth and own property, and in many places they had to cover their faces and wear long robes in public. This clothing custom is called *hijab*.

II. Muslim Achievements

- A. Arabic language helped different people trade goods and share knowledge.
- B. Mamun was an Abbasid caliph who founded the House of Wisdom in Baghdad.
- C. Muslim scholars preserved much of the learning of the ancient world, such as the works of Aristotle and other Greek thinkers. Muslims invented algebra and perfected the astrolabe. They also experimented with metals.
- D. Al-Razi, a Muslim chemist, developed a system for categorizing substances as animal, mineral, or vegetable.

- E. Ibn Sina, a Persian doctor, showed how diseases spread from person to person.
- F. Muslims created great works of literature. Omar Khayyam was a Persian poet who wrote the Rubaiyat, a poem considered to be one of the finest ever written, and The Arabian Nights is one of the most well-known works of Muslim literature.
- G. Ibn Khaldun, a great Muslim historian, was one of the first people to study the effect of geography and climate on people.

H. Muslim architecture includes great mosques, many with domes and minarets.