

Questio: _____

Nunc Agenda: Examine each of the following quotes from holy books. Based on the content of the quote, try to identify whether the quote comes from the **Torah** (or Hebrew Bible in general), the **Bible** (particularly the Christian New Testament of the Bible), or the **Quran** (Islamic holy book). Write the name of the holy book in the box below.

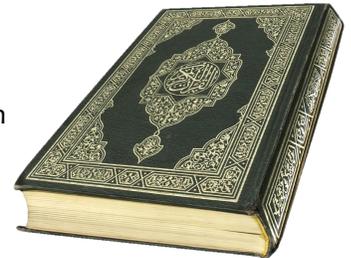
<p>“Moses said to his people, ‘Seek help in God, and be patient. The earth belongs to God. He gives it in inheritance to whomever He wills of His servants, and the future belongs to the righteous.’”</p>	<p>“The Angels said, ‘O Mary, God gives you good news of a Word from Him. His name is the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary...’ She said, ‘My Lord, how can I have a child, when no man has touched me?’ He said, ‘It will be so. God creates whatever He wills. To have anything done, He only says to it, “Be,” and it is.’”</p>	<p>Muhammad is not the father of any of your men; but he is the Messenger of God, and the seal of the prophets. God is aware of everything. O you who believe, remember God with frequent remembrance.</p>
<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>	<p>_____</p>

Sources of Islamic Tradition

Directions: Read and annotate the text below, and answer the questions that follow.

The Quran

For Muslims, the most important source of information on the religion comes from the **Quran**. Muslim believe that the Quran was revealed by God to the Prophet Muhammad in pieces over the course of 23 years, and is therefore viewed not as the words of Muhammad, but as the literal word of God. While the Quran was being written down during Muhammad’s life, the Arabic script was not fully developed, so its main form of preservation was through oral transmission and memorization. While Muslims soon developed a better writing system for recording the Quran, the tradition of memorization still continues today.



1. How was the Quran mainly preserved?

The Hadiths



Secondary to the Quran are the **Hadiths**, collected accounts of the words, actions, and qualities of Muhammad, as reported by those who knew him. It is from the Hadiths that Muslims learn, and attempt to follow, the **Sunnah**, or the example of the Prophet. While the Quran is believed to be unchangeable and perfect, Muslims consider the Hadiths, which were transmitted and recorded by people rather than God, to be subject to error. For this reason, Muslim scholars developed a tradition of rating Hadiths by level of trustworthiness based on the reliability of their sources. The best Hadiths were graded “authentic” or “good,” while others were labeled “weak” or “fabricated.”

2. Why are Hadiths considered secondary to the Quran?

Analyzing the Sources

Directions: Examine the quotes on the Sources of Islamic Tradition Texts sheet and answer the questions on the back of this sheet in order to identify ways in which the introduction of this new faith impacted culture and society.

BELIEFS & PRACTICES

3. Based on these verses, what are some things Muslims believe about God?
4. What set of practices are being described in the second quote? (You learned what they are called!)

REJECTION OF POLYTHEISM

5. Why do you think such a message would have concerned the leaders of Mecca? Why would they feel it posed an **economic** threat?

COMPARISON WITH CHRISTIANITY

6. In what ways are Islamic and Christian beliefs similar? In what ways are they different?

TRIBALISM & RACISM

7. What was the basic point in Muhammad's teaching? How might these ideas lead to unity in Arabia?

STATUS OF WOMEN

8. What were two ways in which the Quran is shown to have rejected the Pagan Arab view of women?
9. How did the Quran direct men and women to act modestly toward each other?

SOCIAL CLASS

10. What groups of people do you think would have been among the first who were attracted to the message of Islam? How is this similar to the appeal of early Christianity?
11. Based on these teachings, do you think it would correct to assume that minority groups, women, the poor, and slaves were always well treated and respected in the Muslim world throughout history? Why or why not.