

SECTION 2 – THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD



KEY VOCAB

Negotiator – A person who makes deals and settles arguments with different people or groups.

Preaching – Publicly spreading a religious message or teaching.

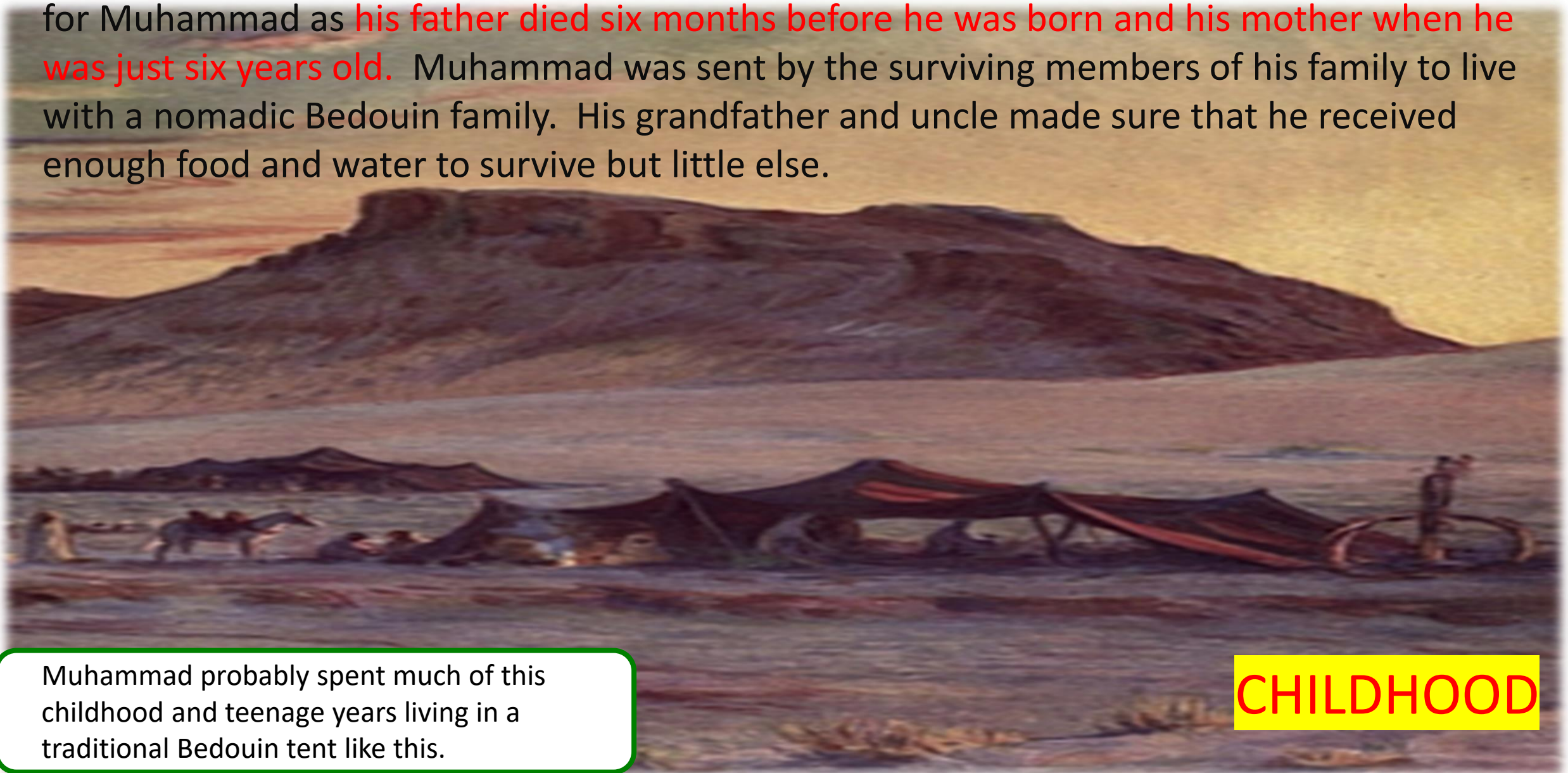
Massacre – Widespread killing of large numbers of people.

Truce – A temporary peace between two or more fighting groups.

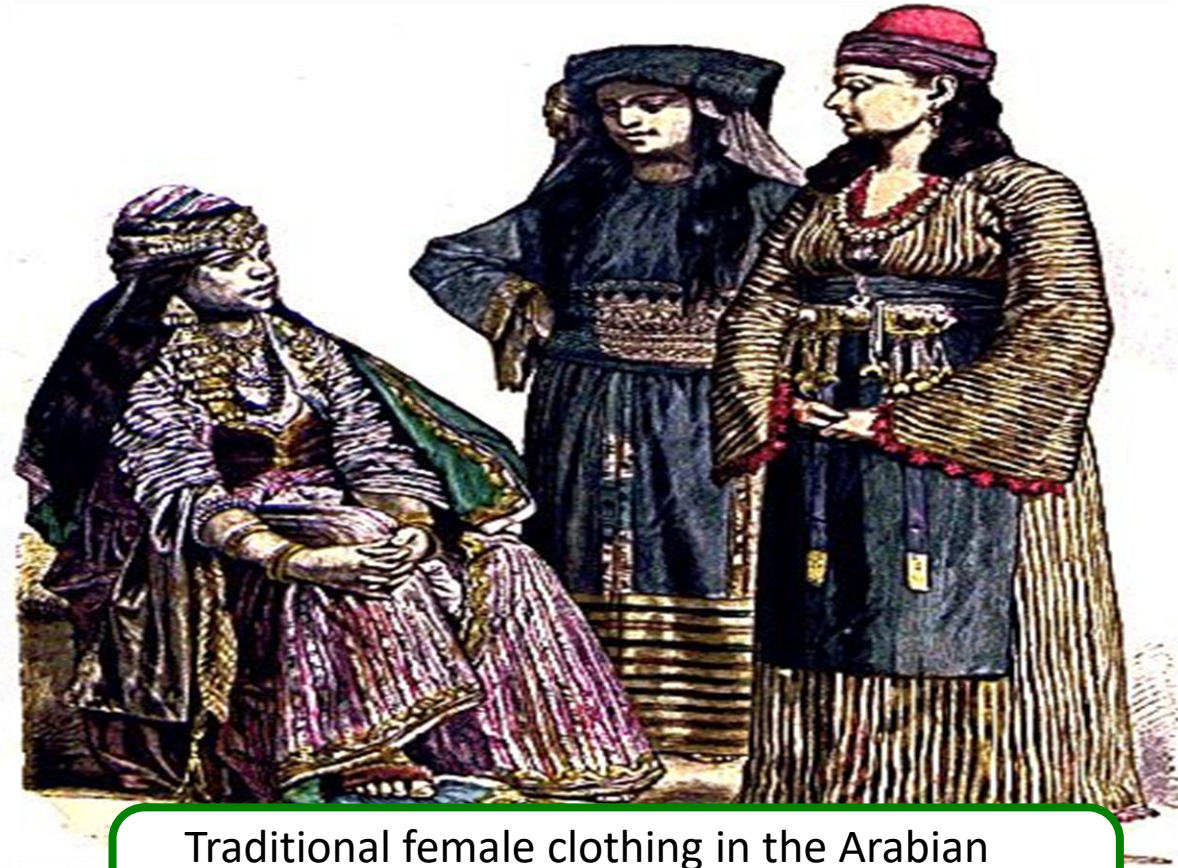
Muhammad was born in the town of Mecca in around 570. Muhammad's tribe, the Banu Hashim, had been losing power and influence for years. Life was made even more difficult for Muhammad as **his father died six months before he was born and his mother when he was just six years old.** Muhammad was sent by the surviving members of his family to live with a nomadic Bedouin family. His grandfather and uncle made sure that he received enough food and water to survive but little else.

Muhammad probably spent much of this childhood and teenage years living in a traditional Bedouin tent like this.

CHILDHOOD

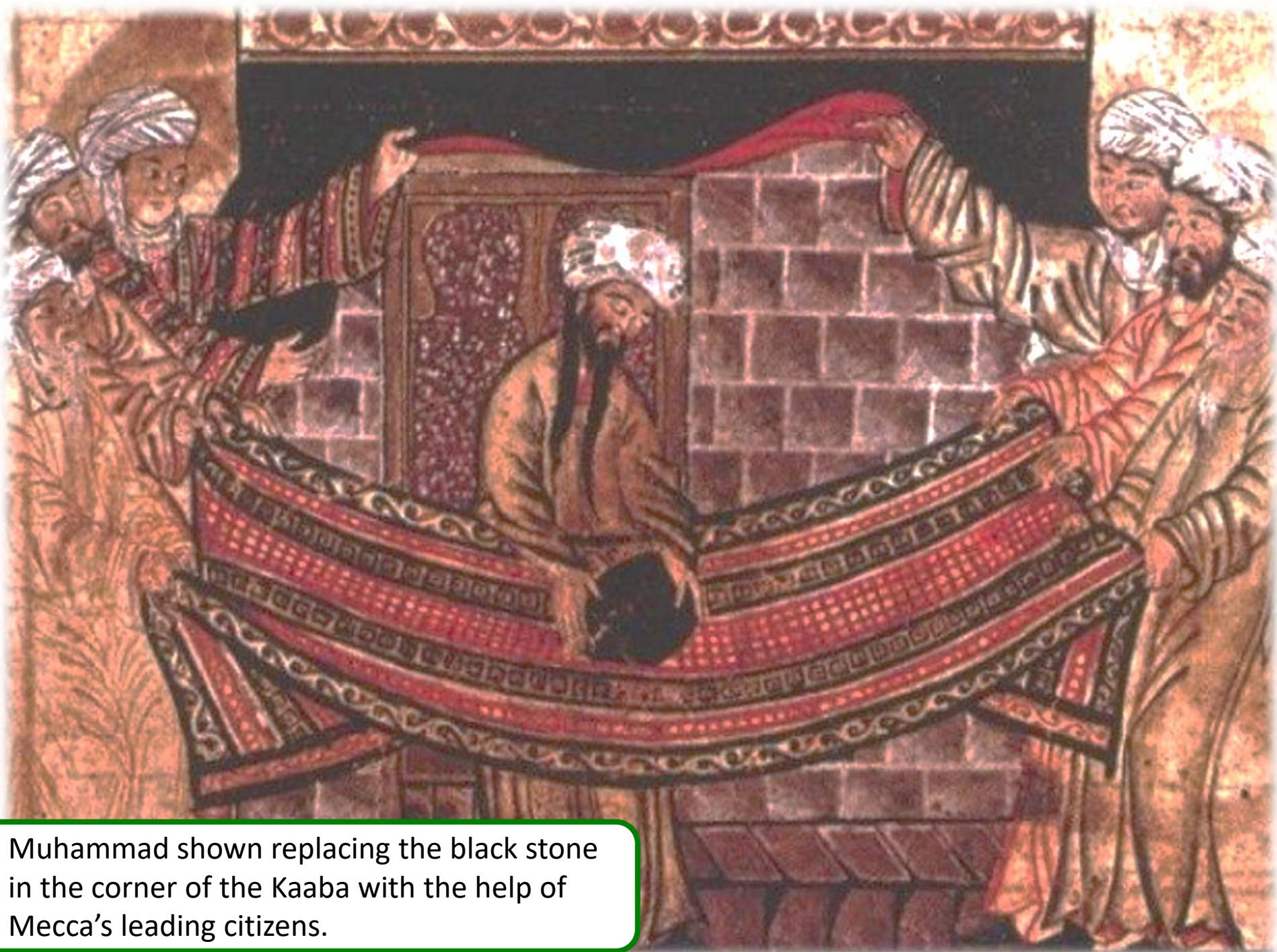


From 580 to 594, Muhammad accompanied his uncle on many different **trading journeys between Arabia and Syria**. According to Islamic sources, Muhammad proved to have **some skill as a trader and negotiator** – earning **nicknames meaning “trustworthy” and “truthful”**. In **595 he married a wealthy widow called Khadijah** whom he had worked for in the past. In 605 AD he returned to Mecca where he acted as a peacemaker between the leaders of the city in a dispute over who would have the honor of placing an important stone in the wall of the Kaaba shrine.



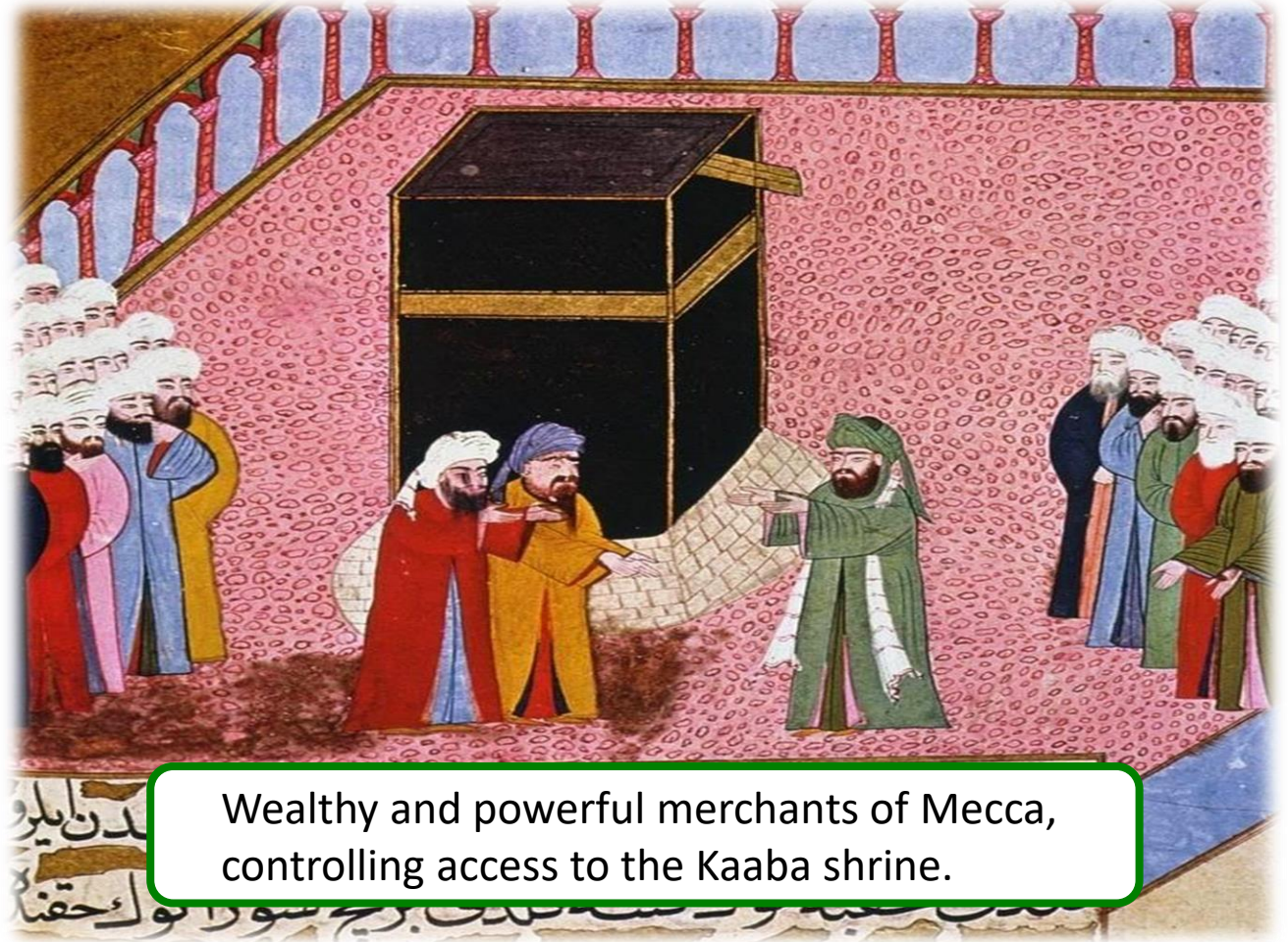
Traditional female clothing in the Arabian Peninsula. Many featured head and face coverings.

YOUNG ADULTHOOD



Muhammad shown replacing the black stone in the corner of the Kaaba with the help of Mecca's leading citizens.

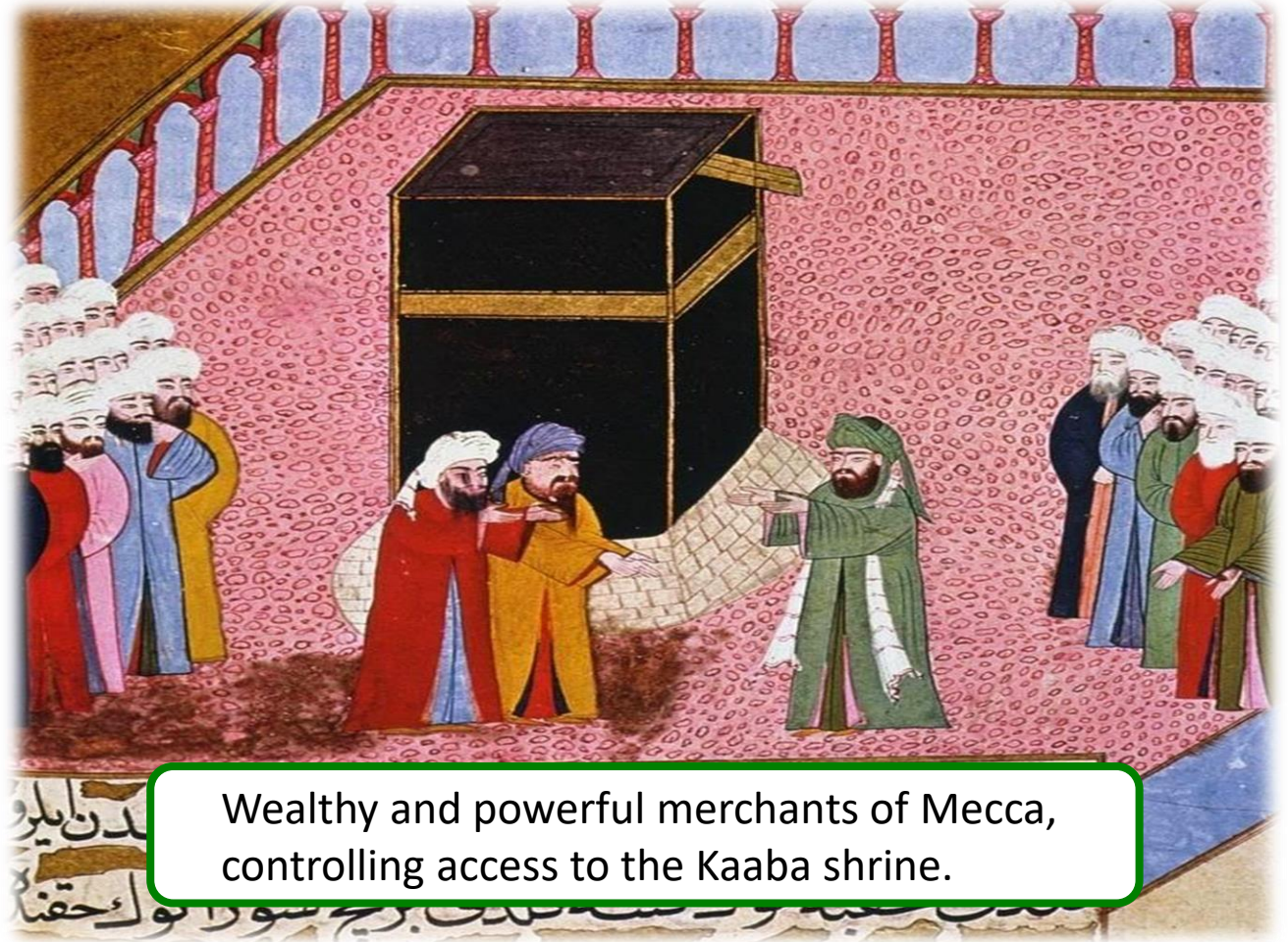
Although Muhammad had achieved a position of power and respect in Mecca, he began to worry about the way the town was developing. **Many of the town's most powerful and wealthiest citizens were beginning to ignore the poor of the city** – instead spending their money on large houses and expensive trade goods. Many tribal leaders were also **abusing their power to cheat and steal from their fellow tribe members**. At the same time they were starting conflicts with other tribes as a way to distract attention away from their own misdeeds.



Wealthy and powerful merchants of Mecca, controlling access to the Kaaba shrine.

RETURN TO MECCA

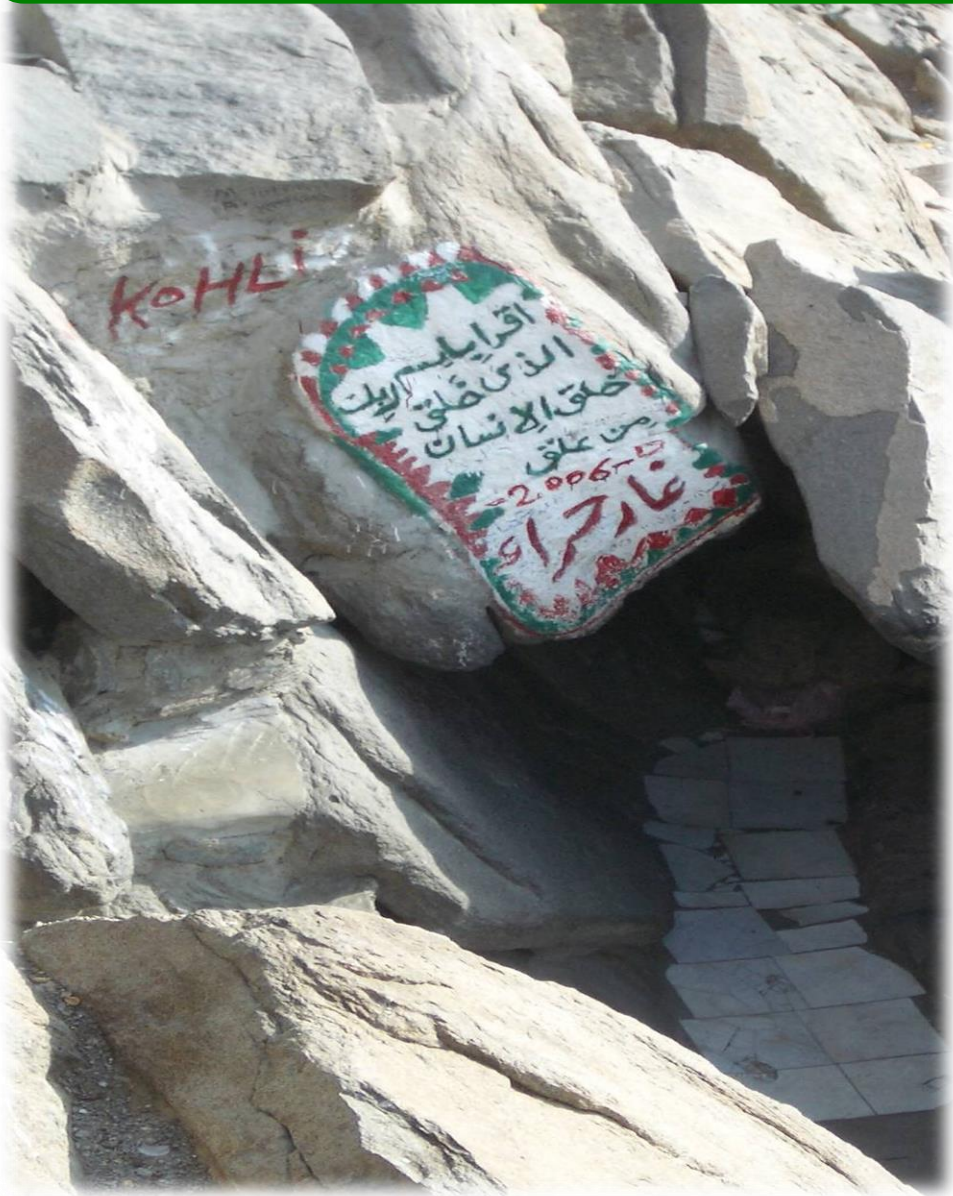
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RETURN TO MECCA

The cave outside of Mecca where Muslims believe that Muhammad received his messages from God.



In 610 Muhammad began to travel to a cave in the mountains north of Mecca in order to find a quiet place to meditate on the problems Mecca was facing. Muslims believe that in this cave Muhammad was visited by the angel *Jibrīl* (Gabriel) who told him to begin speaking in the name of the one true god. At first, Muhammad only kept the messages he received to himself and his family. Over the next few years he created a small community of followers, including large numbers of ex-slaves and other outsiders to Meccan society. However in around 613 he made the decision to start publicly sharing his message that there was only one god (Allah) with the people of Mecca.

MESSAGES



Picture showing Muhammad and the Angel Jibril.

ISLAM - LESSON MENU

SECTION 2 - THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD

- LT 2 - THE EARLY LIFE OF MUHAMMAD
- LT 3 - THE SPREAD OF ISLAM IN ARABIA

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LT 2 & 3 – THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD & SPREAD OF ISLAM IN ARABIA

1. By the age of six, Muhammad had...

lost both his father and mother.



2. As a teenager, Muhammad travelled between...

Arabia and Syria.

3. Muhammad gained skills as a...

trader and negotiator.

4. Muhammad believed that Mecca's wealthy people were...

Ignoring the needs of the poor.

5. In 610, Muslims believe that Muhammad was...

visited by an angel who began giving him messages from God.

6. Many of Muhammad's early followers were...

people with no tribes, ex-slaves, and foreigners.

7. Muhammad's main message was that...

there was only one god (Allah)



8. Muslims were attacked after Muhammad...

9. In 622, Muhammad and his followers...

10. In Medina, Muhammad told his followers to begin...

11. To survive, the Muslim community began...

12. Muhammad attacked tribes and leaders who...

13. Muhammad sent letter to leaders asking them to...

14. When the Muslims captured Mecca they...

LT 3 – THE SPREAD OF ISLAM IN ARABIA



ISLAM – LESSON MENU

SECTION 2 – THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD

LT 2 – THE EARLY LIFE OF MUHAMMAD

LT 3 – THE SPREAD OF ISLAM IN ARABIA

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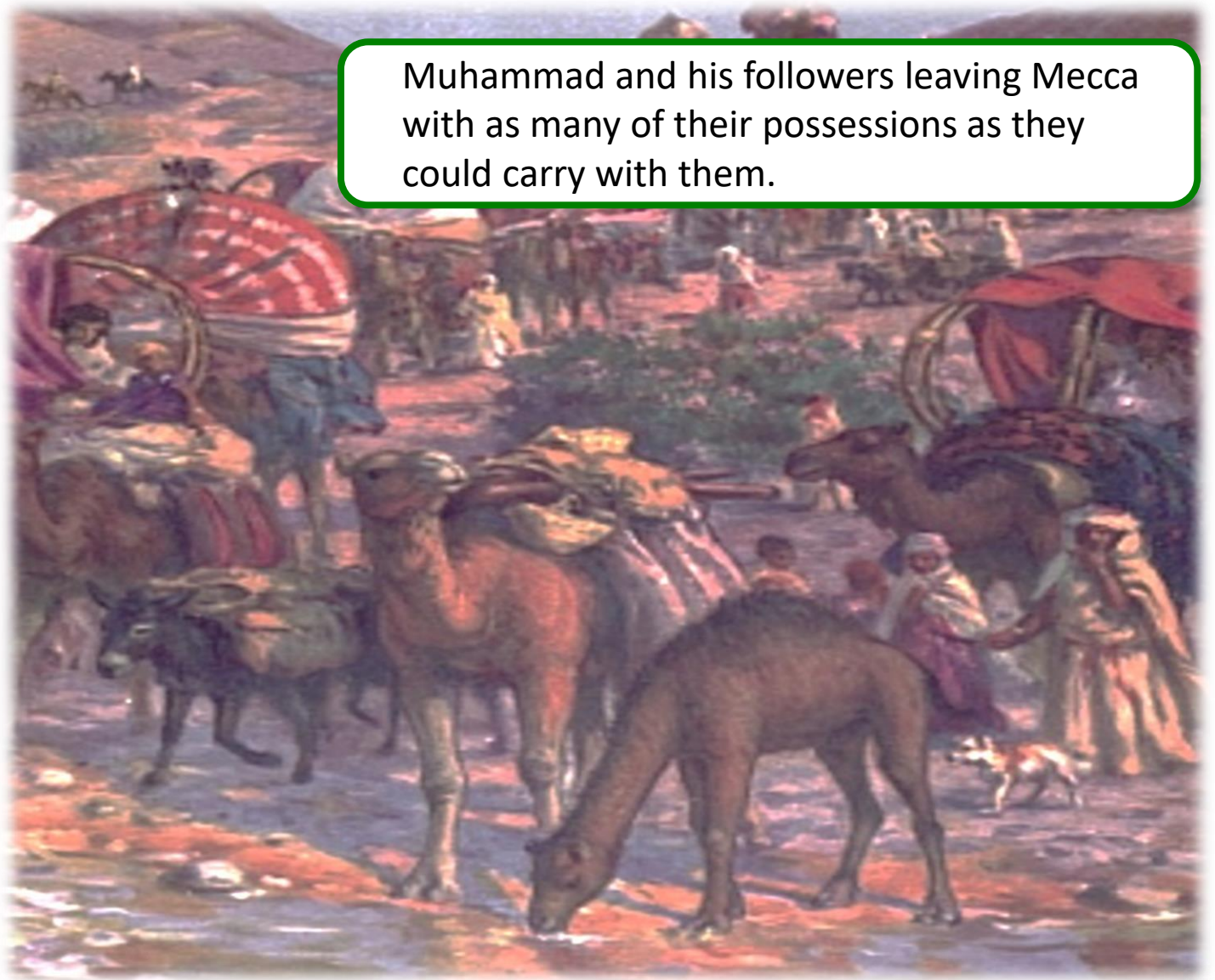
The new Islamic community in Mecca grew slowly. Most of those who joined were outsiders in Arabian society such as people with no tribes, ex-slaves, and foreigners. At first most people simply made fun of the new Muslim community, but **trouble began when Muhammad began speaking out against the traditional beliefs and gods** of the people of Mecca. This was a threat to **Mecca's leaders who had grown wealthy by controlling access to the Kaaba**. These leaders tried to bribe Muhammad to stop his preaching with offers of money and power but these were refused. Instead, **the small Muslim community began to be attacked with several of Muhammad's followers killed**. Muhammad himself was only spared because of the protection of his tribe. In 617 Mecca's leaders attempted to get Muhammad's protection withdrawn by stopping trading with other members of his tribe – however this failed.



Early Muslims praying towards Jerusalem, then the most famous and holy building in the Middle Eastern world.

TROUBLE IN MECCA

In 619, both Muhammad's wife and uncle (the leader of his tribe) died. The new leader of Muhammad's tribe was bitterly opposed to the new Muslim community and withdrew Muhammad's protection. Muhammad began to look for a new home where he and his followers would be safe from further violence. In 621 Muhammad made an agreement with the leaders of the city of Medina to move the Muslim community there. Medina already had a small Muslim community of its own as well as groups of Christians and Jews. In 622, Muhammad and his followers began to leave Mecca, a journey known to Muslims as the Hegira. This event became the first year in the new Islamic calendar. The leaders of Mecca attempted to stop Muhammad and his followers but they managed to escape with only a few losses. However almost all the property of the Muslims who had left Mecca was seized, forcing many Muslims into poverty.



Muhammad and his followers leaving Mecca with as many of their possessions as they could carry with them.

MEDINA

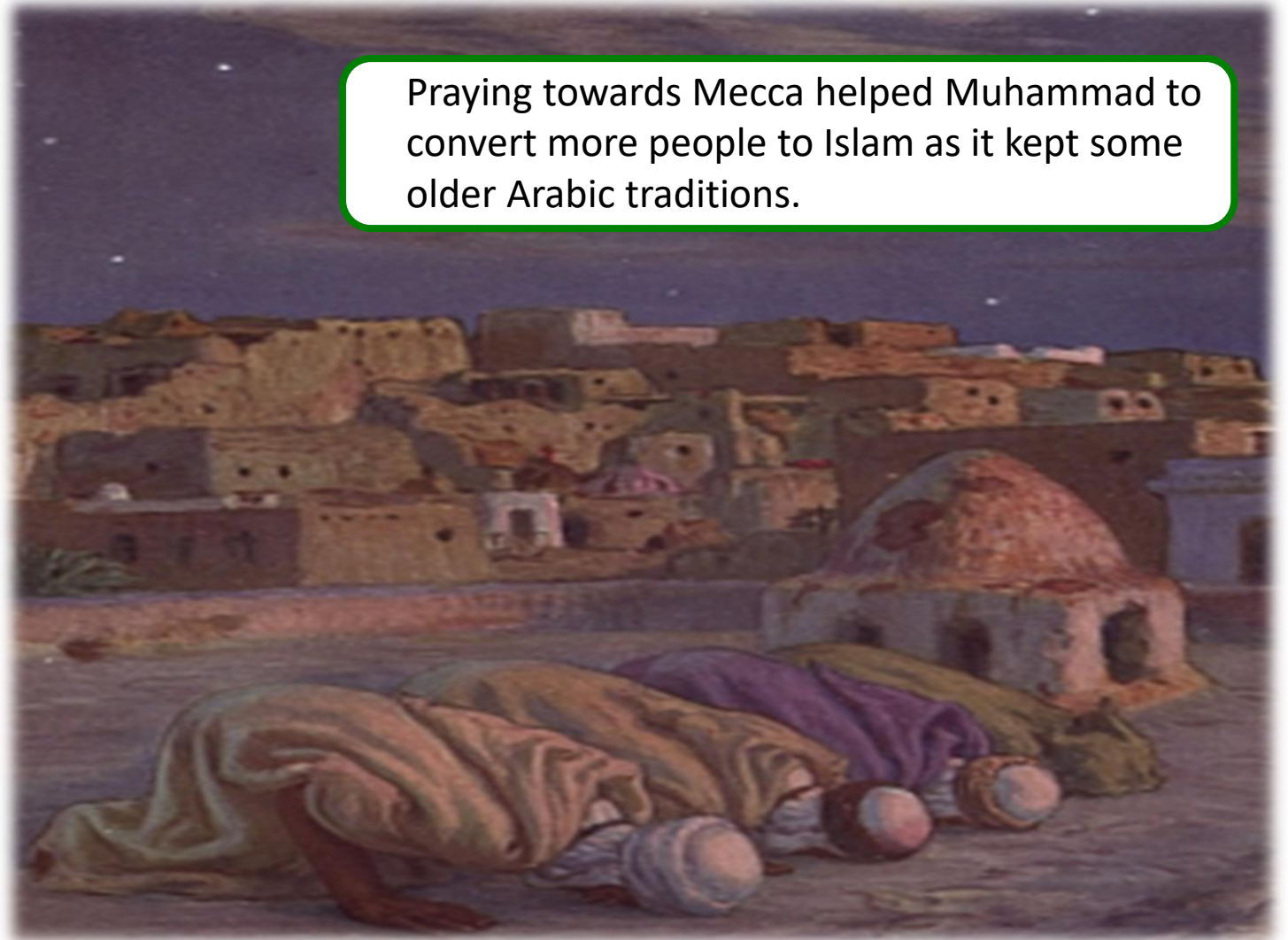
In Medina, **Muhammad** continued to gain followers – including some of the cities most powerful and wealthy leaders. He also began to instruct his followers to face towards **Mecca** when they prayed rather than the city of Jerusalem. To survive, the **Muslims** began to raid trade caravans travelling to, and from, **Mecca**.

Muslim making the call to prayer from the roof of a new mosque in Medina.



MEDINA

In March of 624 Muhammad and his followers **attempted to raid another Meccan trade caravan but they were ambushed by a large force from Mecca**. In the Battle of Badr, the Muslims were outnumbered by three to one but still managed to win – capturing many prisoners. For Muhammad and his followers, this victory was a confirmation of their new faith which began to attract more and more converts.



Praying towards Mecca helped Muhammad to convert more people to Islam as it kept some older Arabic traditions.

CONFLICT

The Meccans responded by launching an attack against the city of Medina with an army of 3,000 men. The two sides faced each other at the Battle of Uhud in March of 625. The Muslims lost the battle and retreated back to Medina but the Meccans did not follow them – believing that Muhammad had been killed. After recovering, Muhammad began campaigns against tribes who had made alliances with Mecca. These raids were very brutal, and often resulted in the massacre of those who refused to convert to Islam. Leaders of tribes opposed to the Muslims were sometimes assassinated.



Muslim and Meccan cavalry soldiers using lances to attack their enemies from a distance.

CONFLICT

In 627, the Meccans launched another huge attack against Medina with a force of 10,000 men.

Muhammad and his men dug trenches around the city and managed to repel the Meccans.

The failure of the Meccans to capture Medina caused them to lose a large amount of support as well as trade. In 628 Muhammad and the leaders of Mecca signed a peace treaty which allowed Muslims to visit Mecca and the Kaaba shrine. During the truce, Muhammad continued attacks on tribes allied with Mecca. He also sent letters to rulers in and around Arabia, urging them to convert to Islam.



Muslim forces preparing to ride out from Medina to face the Meccan army.

CONFLICT

In 629 a tribe allied with Mecca attacked a tribe which had allied with the Muslims. Muhammad sent a letter to Mecca demanding that they either pay compensation to the families of those killed, cancel their alliances, or declare that the peace treaty was no longer in operation. **Mecca's leaders replied that the peace treaty was cancelled.** Muhammad then assembled an army of over 10,000 followers and marched towards Mecca. **In December of 629 Muhammad and his soldiers entered Mecca and marched straight towards the Kaaba.** They circled the building seven times and then **smashed the statues of the different Arabian gods and goddesses.** Most of **Mecca's population then converted to Islam.**

Muslim cavalry soldier outside the walls of Mecca.



IN POWER



Image showing Muhammad and his followers destroying the statues of the old gods and goddesses around the Kaaba.



Following the conquest of Mecca, Muhammad continued the expansion of Islam into northern and western Arabia by forcing tribes and their leaders to convert. In February of 632 Muhammad made a final pilgrimage to Mecca before giving a speech on Mount Arafat in which he tried to convince members of the Muslim community to see themselves as a single group rather than members of Arabia's different tribes. He then returned to Medina where he suddenly fell ill and died on June 8th.

IN POWER

LT 2 & 3 – THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD & SPREAD OF ISLAM IN ARABIA



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Arabia and Syria.

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trader and negotiator.

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Ignoring the needs of the poor.

5. In 610, Muslims believe that Muhammad was...

visited by an angel who began giving him messages from God.

6. Many of Muhammad's early followers were...

people with no tribes, ex-slaves, and foreigners.

7. Muhammad's main message was that...

there was only one god (Allah)



8. Muslims were attacked after Muhammad...

Spoke out against traditional beliefs and gods.

9. In 622, Muhammad and his followers...

fled Mecca for the city of Medina.

10. In Medina, Muhammad told his followers to begin...

facing towards Mecca when they prayed.

11. To survive, the Muslim community began...

raiding trade caravans from Mecca.

12. Muhammad attacked tribes and leaders who...

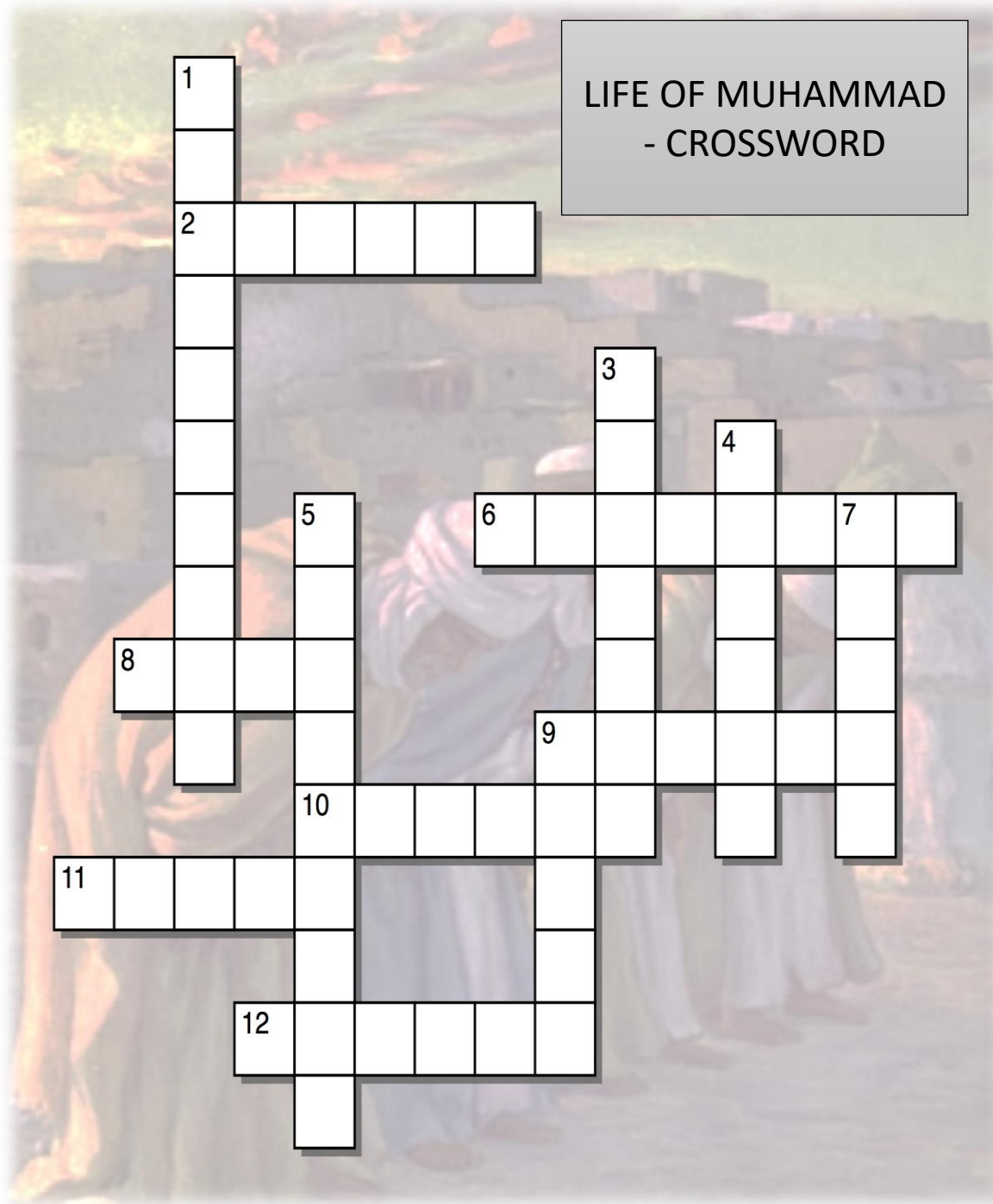
made alliances with Mecca.

13. Muhammad sent letter to leaders asking them to...

convert to Islam.

14. When the Muslims captured Mecca they...

destroyed the statues of the gods and goddesses around the Kaaba.



LIFE OF MUHAMMAD
- CROSSWORD

Across

2. Muhammad became one of these at the age of six.

6. Muhammad's wife.

8. People ignored by Mecca's wealthy citizens.

9. City which Muhammad and his followers fled to.

10. Many early converts to Islam were former _____.

11. Area which Muhammad travelled to as a young boy.

12. Name given to Muhammad's journey to Medina.

Down

1. Mecca's leader tried to have Muhammad's _____ withdrawn.

3. Muhammad destroyed the _____ of the Arabian gods around the Kaaba.

4. Angel who Muslims believed visited Muhammad.

5. City which early Muslims prayed facing towards.

7. Arabic word for God.

9. Muhammad's birth town.

