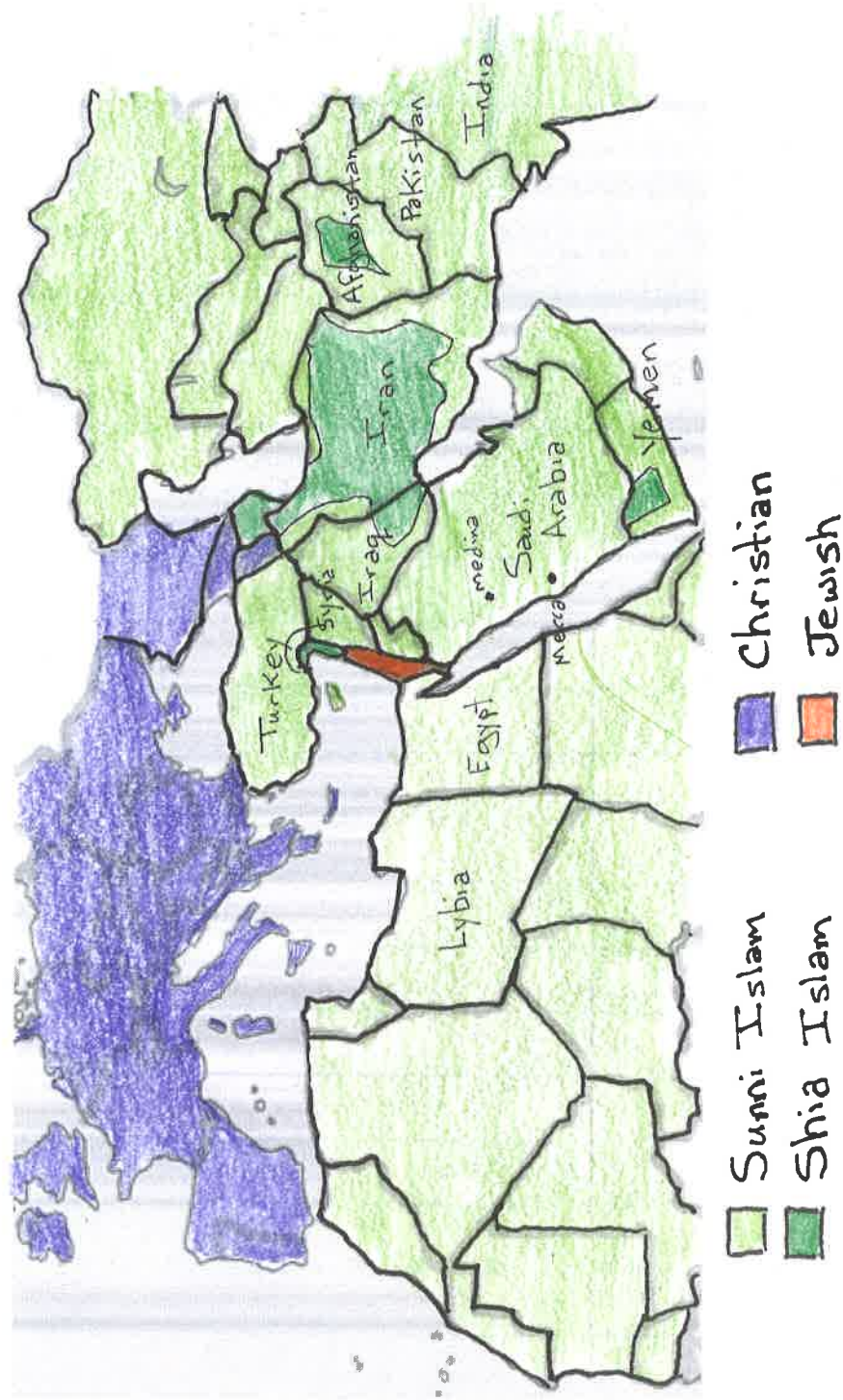


Islam in Western Asia & North Africa



Islam

Based on the teachings of Muhammad (born 571)

Muhammad lived in a polytheistic ("Many Gods") culture on the Arabian peninsula.

He reported being visited by the angel Gabriel which was the beginning of his new beliefs (in 610) which became Islam (the 2nd largest monotheistic religion)

Muhammad taught his version of monotheism (Islam) in the Arabian (polytheistic) town of Mecca. He was chased out of town and fled to Medina (the "Hegira") in 622