

- d. Fasting from sunrise to sunset during Ramada.
- e. Making a pilgrimage to Mecca to view the Kaaba (black stone which gives forgiveness )

### C. The Spread of Islam

1. Caliphs ( successors of Muhammad) directed a rapid expansion of Islam
  - a. It spread into productive land of the weakening Persian and Byzantine Empires.
  - b. It organized the Arab people around a common cause, but not wholly united.
  - c. It, like most religions, developed a rift: *Sunni* Muslims believe leadership belongs to "one who follows...the Prophet; *Shi'a* Muslims believe leadership belongs to a hereditary descendant of Muhammad's household (imam)
2. The Umayyad Dynasty (671-750) built their capital at Damascus . They expanded the empire to parts of France, northern Africa and into India.
3. The Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258) built a capital in Baghdad. The non-Arab Muslims had become dissatisfied with being treated as second-class class citizens so they revolted against the Umayyads. They worked to create a multi-cultural Muslim empire.

### D. The Contributions of Islamic Culture

1. A unified civilization through a blending of the cultures of the conquered people.
2. Economics: extensive trade routes (spices, silk, carpets)
3. Academics: copied and preserved many manuscripts of ancient writings; picturesque poetry and prose
4. Medicine: hospitals, pharmacies, and delicate operations
5. Mathematics: Arabic numerals , decimal, zero
6. Art and Architecture: Islam forbids the representation of man and animals in art so they excelled in calligraphy ; they demonstrated skilled craftsmanship in the building of mosques