

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Joe Skvarenina **Humanities Discipline:** History/Geography **Date:** April 15, 2016

**World Religion:** Islam **Teaching Module Title:** Islamic Knowledge as Part of the Western World

### Teaching Module Goals:

1. To discuss how Islamic learning and knowledge transformed the West
2. To discuss Islam's role in the European Renaissance.

### Attached Readings and Websites:

*World Religions* by John Bowker pp.192-193

*The House of Wisdom: How the Arabic Science saved Ancient Knowledge and gave us the Renaissance* by Jim al Khalili.

Oxford Islamic Journeys online, April 09,2016 <http://bridgingcultures.neh.gov/Muslimjourney.Item> #86,Astronomy; Item #267, Medicine; Item #268,Science;Item #274, Discussion points House of Wisdom; Item # 224 calligraphy, architecture, geometry; Item 158,Hydraulic technology; Item 168, Scientific Knowledge to Renaissance Europe; Item 173 Optics

*Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews, and Christians created a cultural of tolerance in Medieval Spain* by Maria Rosa Menocal.

### Study Questions and Prompts for Students:

(History & Geography)

1. What is the Renaissance? How did Muslims contribute to the the Renaissance?
2. Explain how the scientific knowledge which originated in China, India, and the Hellenistic worlds was developed and refined in the Arabic-speaking world.
3. Discuss the Abbasid Caliph Harun Rashid and the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. What can you tell me about it?
4. What were the centers of learning in the Arab world? Discuss Bagdad and Cairo roles as centers of learning.
5. How did Islamic learning come to Toledo and Cordova into Western Europe?
6. Describe the multi-religious nature of Andalusia and its effect on learning
7. Did Islamic learning suffer an inquisition? Describe Medieval Islam.
8. What is the Mihna? What was the role Abbasids Caliph al Mamun 833 AD in the Mihna? Why was "reason" attacked in the Mihna?

(Geography)

1. How were the Arab astrolabe, globe, and maps used in voyages of discovery?
2. How did the Islamic world develop geography and maps? How did they use them in travel and trade?
3. Did Prince Henry the Navigator use Islamic tools on his voyages of discovery?

**Written Assignments and/or Assessment Instruments:**

(History & Geography) Write a paragraph describing Islamic contributions to the following: Astronomy, medicine. Mathematics, Geometry. Hydraulic technology, gardens, book manufacturing, trade and travel, science, textiles, and optics.

(History) How did Islamic learning influence the Renaissance? How did multi-religious, multi-cultural Andalusia influence the spread of Islamic learning? Write two pages per question.

(Geography) How did Islamic geography and travel influence the age of discovery? How did Islamic learning influence Prince Henry the Navigator? Write two pages per question.

(History and Geography) Write a five page book review on Khalili and Menocal's books and be prepared to discuss in class.