

How was Islam different/ the same from other Arab tribal religions?

- Tribal religions had multiple Gods while Islam had one God. There was unity of all people under Islam joining different kinds of people together as opposed to the tribal religions. The Muslim religion was not as dogmatic as the tribal religions, meaning that Islam were more likely to live side by side other religions unlike the tribal religions.

What were the early goals of Islam?

- To bring unity, solidarity, and peace was one of the first goals of Islam. It was also to enlighten the people about the existence of the one true God Allah.

What led to splits/separations?

- Once Muhammed died there was disarray because the people of Islam spoke to God through Muhammed. Without him they had no idea what to do next, they feared that God would soon leave them too, so they looked for a new leader. This is where the ultimate schism began in the Islamic religion. The two factions that were created were the Sunni and the Shias. The Sunni wanted to appoint Muhammad's close friend Abu Bakr because they believed that the next leader should have been another elite. On the other hand, the Shia wanted to make Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law the successor because they believed that his successor should be a relative. Eventually the Sunni won the dispute, and Abu was appointed the leader, but this feud only continued throughout the years.