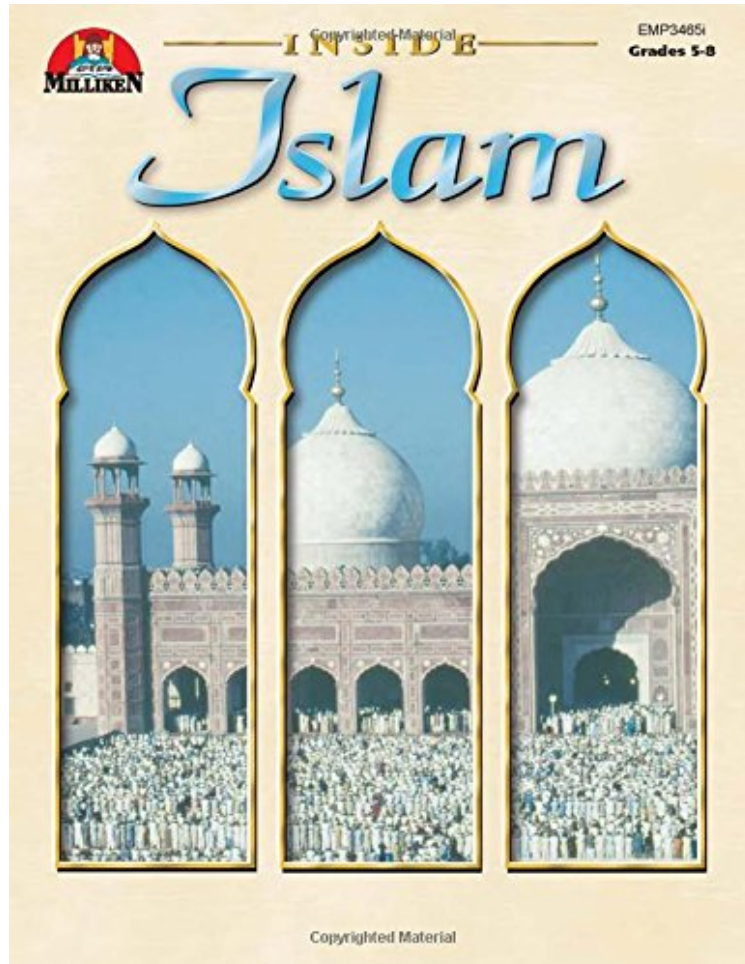


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## Inside Islam

Walter Hazen

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**Walter Hazen : Inside Islam** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inside Islam:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful for middle school study of Islam By mjenkins I used this book and the others on Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism as part of my research on World Religions to teach to Middle school students. I liked the concise and complete information. Just right for the beyond basics I wanted for my students but not at all headed toward the expert level. Perfectly met my needs as a supplement to my text book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Valuable Introduction to a Timely Topic By Daniel L. Berek With some 1.3 million followers, Islam is central to the lives of a major portion of the Earth's population. However, this important faith, the third of the great monotheistic religions, is grossly misunderstood by most people in the West. This book is a very good attempt to correct this situation, at least for teachers of Middle and High School social studies (the level depending on the instructor's differentiation). The book is reasonably comprehensive, covering the development of

Islam, along with the life and teachings of the Great Prophet Muhammad, before going on to the spread of Islam, covering the Caliphs, Umayyads, Abbasids, Crusades, and the Mongols. Three major Muslim monarchies are covered: the Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Dynasty, and the Mughal Empire. The maps, unfortunately, are marginal, lacking detail and covering only selected areas. Although North Africa is featured, much of West Africa is missing, including Nigeria and Mali; I also wish the author had included Muslim scholarship, as is evident in Timbuktu and Djenne (Mali). The teacher will definitely want to show students the magnificent adobe mosques in Mali, most of which have been declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites - and with good reason. The third chapter goes into the teachings of Islam and practices of Muslims, covering the Koran, the mosque, and the Five Pillars, continuing into the fourth chapter, Sharia - Islamic Law. Chapter five covers women in Islam and the controversies surrounding equal rights. The sixth chapter goes on to explain the two main Islamic sects, the Sunni and Shia - a topic very much in the news these days, before covering Sufism, a very interesting mystical sect. Chapter seven covers the Arab and Islamic contributions to architecture, art, literature, and science. Finally, chapters go over holy festivals and days of observance, also providing comparisons of Islam with other world religions. A bibliography and Internet sites are also included. While there is much information - a very good value for the money - social studies teachers will want to augment this information with hands-on activities, such as games, foods, building models, and re-enacting historic events. However, the wealth of information packed in this volume ought to provide the instructor with many ideas and much inspiration.

This book is designed to help students understand the culture and history of the world's largest religions. The development, spread, teachings, practices, holy days, and festivals are all covered in a concise, yet thorough manner. In addition to valuable historical and practical information, the books provide maps, questions for discussion, essay ideas, key word lists, and answer keys.