

EVERYONE

in the Muslim world wanted to **LEARN NEW THINGS** and share their discoveries.

A THIRST for KNOWLEDGE

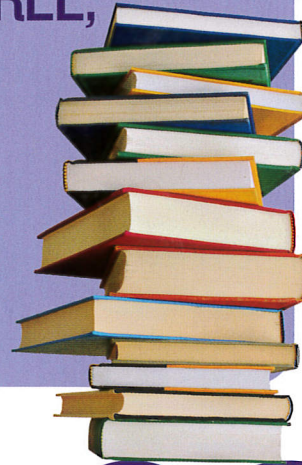
LED TO THE FIRST SCHOOL, ESTABLISHED IN A MOSQUE IN MEDINA IN WHAT IS NOW SAUDI ARABIA IN **622**.



3 TRAVELING teachers, known as **AHL AL-'ILM** ("THE PEOPLE WITH KNOWLEDGE"), helped spread learning to other Muslim towns and cities.

EDUCATION IN MUSLIM CIVILIZATION WAS FREE,

and some students were provided with books, pocket money, and a place to live.



16 **FUNDS CALLED AWQAF** were set up to build schools and to pay for things like teachers' salaries and meals for students.

18 A quest for **ADVANCED EDUCATION** among scholars of the Muslim world led to the spread of universities—ultimately sparking **A REVIVAL OF LEARNING** throughout Europe.

By the 15th century, THE OTTOMANS REVOLUTIONIZED SCHOOLS

by setting up a kind of learning center called a **KULLIYE**. Each complex had a mosque, school, hospital, and dining area.

4 By the **LATE 9TH CENTURY** almost every mosque had an **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** for boys and girls.

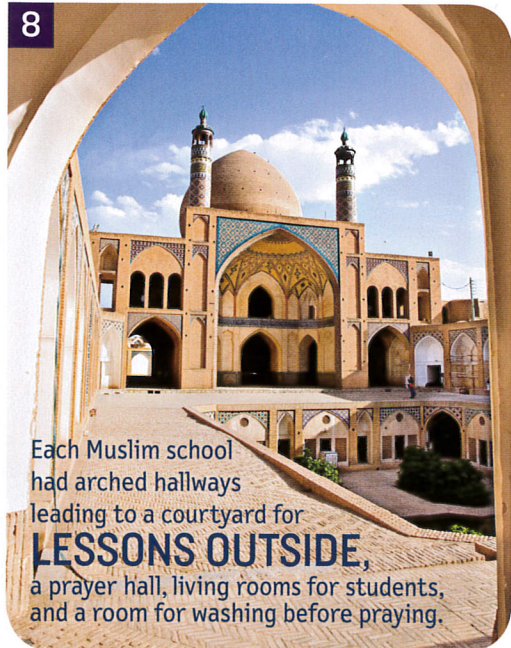
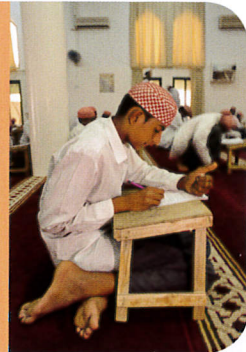
25 SMART FACTS

ABOUT SCHOOLS



6 Kids began school at the **AGE OF SIX**, much as they do now.

7 Among the early skills schoolchildren learned were how to write verses from the Quran and the **99 NAMES OF ALLAH** (God).

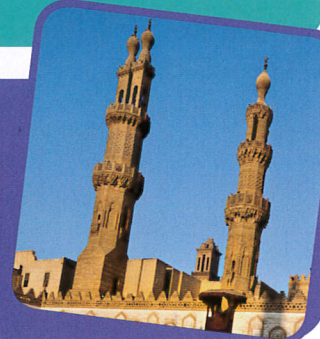


8 Each Muslim school had arched hallways leading to a courtyard for **LESSONS OUTSIDE**, a prayer hall, living rooms for students, and a room for washing before praying.

19 "**UNIVERSITY**" IN ARABIC IS **JAMI'AH**, AND THE WORD FOR "MOSQUE" IS **JAMI'**. In early Muslim civilization, many scholars saw a clear connection between learning and faith.

20 The **MOST SOUTHERLY** of the big universities was in **TIMBUKTU IN MALI, WEST AFRICA**. By the 12th century it had about **25,000 STUDENTS**.

21 **FATIMA AL-FIHRI** used her fortune and talent to build a mosque with a school called Al-Qarawiyyin in Fez, Morocco. It is now the **WORLD'S OLDEST ACTIVE UNIVERSITY**. You can still study there today.



22 **SOME SCHOOLS ATTACHED TO MOSQUES IN THE MEDIEVAL MUSLIM WORLD ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE WORLD'S OLDEST UNIVERSITIES.**

11 **IN 1066** THE FIRST **MADRASA**, A SCHOOL SEPARATE FROM A MOSQUE, WAS BUILT IN **BAGHDAD**.

12 Classroom time was **SUPER SERIOUS**—no talking, laughing, or joking!

13 There were **FOUR DIFFERENT KINDS OF MUSLIM SCHOOLS**: regular (primary) schools, houses of readers (high schools), houses of *hadiths* (religious schools), and medical schools.

14 Most schools had **LIBRARIES** filled with books written in Arabic on **ADVANCED TOPICS** like chemistry, physics, and astronomy.



24 Much **LIKE COLLEGE KIDS TODAY**, students at universities in the Muslim world took **ENTRANCE EXAMS, JOINED STUDY GROUPS,** and **HAD TO PASS FINAL EXAMS TO GRADUATE.**

25 **EUROPEAN STUDENTS TRAVELED TO AND FROM MUSLIM CITIES TO STUDY AT COLLEGES AND TO LEARN ARABIC, CONTRIBUTING TO THE SPREAD OF ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS, AND STYLES.**



17 **AL-QARAWIYIN** was equipped with high-tech gear for the time, such as astronomy instruments, astrolabes, sundials, and sand and water clocks. Students calculated time in a "timers' room," supervised by Al-Muwaqqit ("the timekeeper").