**Lesson #14**

**Guided Reading**

**Islamic Art**

**Overview of Islam Religion-**

* Started by a man named Muhammad (570-632 ACE)
* Emerged from the Middle East in the 7th Century ACE
* **Muhammad-** “The last great prophet and the Messenger of God”
* God=Allah
* **The Koran-** the holy scripture of Islam
	+ Compilations of messages Muhammad received from God
* **Mosque-** Islamic place of worship (Think of a church, temple or catacomb)
	+ **Mezquita-** Spanish for mosque and a famous mosque in Cordoba, Spain
	+ **Mihrab-** most important part of a mosque
		- A niche in the wall, large enough to hold a standing figure.
		- Indicates, or tells you, the direction of Mecca
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This is the Mihrab at Al Azhar Mosque

Notice how large and how it looks as if it’s built into the wall

* + - **Mecca-** Islamic city where Muhammad received message from Allah
			* When Muslims pray, they always face Mecca by facing East (For the USA)
* **Minaret**- A large slender tower that is attached to a Mosque
	+ 
* **Muezzin-** a man who calls Muslims to prayer from the minaret to the mosque

**The Spread of the Muslim/Islamic Religion-** After the Islamic Religion was founded, missionaries were sent to spread the word of Allah

* **Moors-** Muslim people in Spain
	+ Controlled the Iberian Peninsula for @ 800 years
	+ The Moors preserved ancient Greek and Roman knowledge seen in books, libraries, artworks and architecture. This helped bring about the Renaissance (One of the art movements we will be learning about)
	+ **Al-Andalus-** Arabic name for the parts of the Iberian Peninsula the Moors governed.
* We DO NOT see paintings of people in Spain because it was against the law to portray images of human beings
	+ In the Islamic/Muslim religion, it is prohibited (not allowed) to imitate Allah’s works. Because Muslim’s believe that Allah created man, people were not allowed to imitate people or human figures.

**The Alhambra-** fortress or palace in Granada. The court of Lions is in the center or at the heart

* Built by **Ibn el-Ahmar**, the first king of the Nasrid Muslim dynasty in Spain
* Construction started in the 1240’s
* Originally started out being houses, baths, schools, gardens and barracks that were surrounded by HUGE walls and defense towers
* **Acequias-** aqueducts or irrigation canals that transported water to the gardens
* **The Doors of Justice-** one gate at Alhambra located on the HUGE walls and barracks that led you into the city
	+ Had relief sculptures on the gate that represented Islamic laws and faith
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Unfortunately, the actual door in non-existent anymore and you cannot see the reliefs

* **The Court of Lions-** an open space located at the center of the city (Alhambra)
	+ Built around a large fountain in the shape of a lion
	+ 124 marble columns decorated with stucco patterns
	+ Heavily influenced by images found in the Koran



* Notice the columns
* See the wide-open space?
* What do you think they used this space for?



Here is a detail of the fountain of lions located in the center of the Court of Lions

**End of the Moorish Rule in Spain-** This is the decline of Muslim rule in Spain

* Muslims ruled Spain for 781 years
* **Reconquista-** means reconquest or to take back
	+ These were Christians who used armies to take over Spain and convert them back to Christianity
* Boabdil of Granada (The Moorsih King) surrendered to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella in 1492