**Muhammad’s Story**

Muhammad learned to be a trader. He married a woman called Khadijah and they had six children. They gave gifts to Halimah whenever the Bedouin came to Makkah. Muslim tradition says that in 610, when Muhammad was 40, he was was spoken to by Allah when sleeping in the mountains. We don’t know for sure as historians whether this is completely factual, but we do know that whatever happened was important!

Muhammad listened carefully to recounted the messages from God to a few close relatives and friends. They believed that these messages were directly from God, and followed what Muhammad told them. These were the first Muslims, following their new religion, Islam, meaning ‘surrender’. Muslims surrendered to God by kneeling and bowing in prayer.

Muhammad taught the Muslims to:

* Give thanks to God (and not to other Gods or spirits)
* Care for orphans, the poor, widows and the weak
* Pray at regular times and wash before praying
* Live a simple life
* Fast (go without food at certain times)

1. Do you think any of these were inspired by Muhammad’s own experiences and beliefs? Which ones, and why? Think back to Muhammad’s early life.

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After five years, Muhammad began preaching to more people. When they found out what he was saying, lots of people were outraged.

1. What do you think made the people of Muhammad’s tribe the most angry, and why? Think back to the culture in Arabia at the time.

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Many in the tribe felt very offended by Muhammad’s message. Some of them told his uncle, Abu Talib, that they would like to kill Muhammad to save him from the evil words of Muhammad.

1. How would members of Muhammad’s clan react to this? Think back to the culture in Arabia at the time.

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