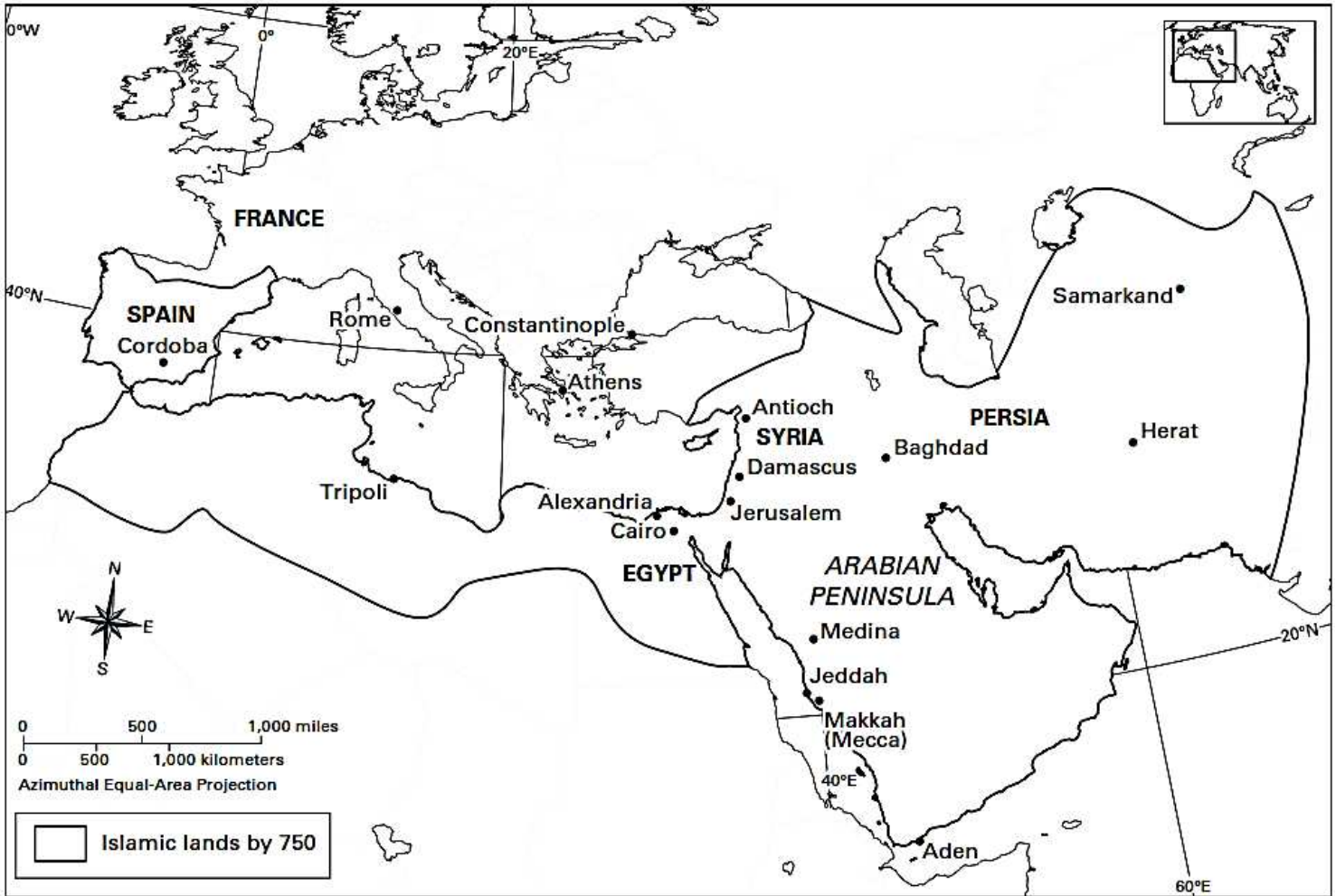Name: _____

Date: _____

Geography Skills: *Analyze the maps in "Setting the Stage." Then answer the following questions and fill out the map below as directed.*

The Arabian Peninsula and Surrounding Lands

1. **Locate** the continents that surround the Arabian Peninsula and **label** them on your map.

2. **Locate** the body of water Arab traders crossed to reach Europe. **Label** this body of water.

3. **Label** the other oceans and seas on your map.

4. What cities on the Arabian Peninsula do you think would have been important trading centers? On your map, **circle each one**. Why do you think these cities became important trading centers?

_____

_____

_____

5. How would the route of a trader traveling from Makkah to Cairo differ from that of a trader traveling from Makkah to Baghdad?

_____

_____

_____

6. Lightly **shade** the areas on your map that were under Islamic rule by the year 750. After spreading along the northern coast of Africa, Muslim armies crossed the Strait of Gibraltar where Africa and Europe nearly meet. After conquering that peninsula, they were likely slowed by what physical feature?

_____

7. According to the map, which city on the Arabian Peninsula is closest to Cairo? How do you think this might have affected the relationship between these two cities?

_____

_____

8. **Locate** the physical feature that formed the southern boundary of Islamic lands in Africa. **Label** this feature. Why do you think the empire stopped here?

_____

_____

Critical Thinking:
Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

9. How might the location of the Arabian Peninsula have contributed to the rapid spread of Islam?

_____

_____

10. Based on what you have learned about the religion, economy, and physical geography of medieval Europe, why do you think the Muslims were not able to conquer most of that continent?

_____

_____

11. How did the location of the Arabian Peninsula help the Muslims conquer territory beyond the Arabian Peninsula?

_____

_____