

Quiz Answers for Teachers

Note: The main source for the answers is: "Muslims in Europe." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims_in_Europe _
In the case of other sources, they are documented in the footnotes.

1. How many Muslims live in Europe?

6 million

12 - 20 million

40-50 million

Answer: Exact numbers are hard to come by because Western censuses rarely ask respondents about their faith. But it is estimated that between 12 and 20 million Muslims now call Europe home and make up four to five % of its total population. Muslims are the largest minority on the continent. Given continued immigration and high fertility rates, it is projected that Europe's Muslim population will double by 2025. Islam is the fastest growing religion in Europe¹.

2. How many Muslims live in the US?

6 million

12-20 million

40-50 million

Answer: Also for the United States it is very difficult to make an exact figure. Estimates vary from 3 to 8 million. California, New York, Illinois, New Jersey and Indiana are the states with the largest Muslim communities in the US².

3. Which country in Europe has the largest proportion of Muslims?

Spain

France

Germany

Great Britain

Answer: France is the country in Europe with the largest proportion of Muslims, followed in Europe by the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Italy. The Muslim population in France is now estimated at 5 to 6 million (compared to a total French population of about 60 million people), or 7 to 10 % of its total population. This is only an estimate, since census of religious adherence is prohibited by French law. Most social scientists believe this number is too low, and speak of as many as 8 million Muslims in France (compared to 12 to 20 million in the European Union)³.

4. Muslims in Europe have the following origins:

¹ Leiken, Robert S. "Europe's Angry Muslims." *Council on Foreign Relations: Foreign Affairs Articles*, July-August 2005. http://www.cfr.org/publication/8218/europes_angry_muslims.html; Khalaf, Roula. "Muslim's integration in Europe is urgent challenge." *Financial Times*, July 15, 2005, p.15; Le Quesne, Nicholas. "Islam in Europe: A Changing Faith." *Time*, December 2001. <http://www.time.com/time/europe/eu/printout/0,9869,188641,00.html>

² Leiken, Robert S. "Europe's Angry Muslims." *Council on Foreign Relations: Foreign Affairs Articles*, July-August 2005. http://www.cfr.org/publication/8218/europes_angry_muslims.html; Numan, Fareed H. "A Brief Statement." *Islam 101*, December 1992. http://www.islam101.com/history/population2_usa.html

³ Leiken, Robert S. "Europe's Angry Muslims." *Council on Foreign Relations: Foreign Affairs Articles*, July-August 2005. http://www.cfr.org/publication/8218/europes_angry_muslims.html; "Muslims in Europe." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims_in_Europe

- South & Central Asia (Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, etc.) + Turkey
- North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, etc.) + Turkey
- Middle East (Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, etc.) + Turkey
- Balkan countries (former Yugoslavia, Albania, etc.) + Turkey
- All of the above

Answer: All of the above. The majority of the Muslims in France are from Algerian, Moroccan, and Tunisian origin. In Great Britain they are mainly from Pakistani, Bengali, and Indian origin. In Germany the first generations of Muslims came from Turkey, Arab countries, and the former Yugoslavia. In Italy, from Morocco, Tunisia, Albania, and to a lesser extent, from the Middle East, Egypt, Libya, and Pakistan. In the Netherlands the majority is from Indonesia (a former colony), North Africa, and Turkey. For more information about the origins of Muslims in Europe, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims_in_Europe.

5. The majority of the Muslims in modern-day Europe arrived:
 Centuries ago after World War I after World War II

Answer: The majority of the Muslims in modern-day Europe arrived after WW2.

6. The majority of those Muslims came to Europe:
 as illegal immigrants as asylum seekers as migrant workers

Answer: The first big numbers of Muslims who immigrated to Europe mostly came following World War II until the mid-'70 as migrant workers. The West European countries needed a larger work force. Because the local workforce was inadequate, they sought beyond their borders. The Muslims in modern-day Europe are essentially this first generation of immigrants (WWII-mid '70's), recent immigrants (family reunion immigrants, asylum seekers and illegal immigrants who came during the '80's till now), European converts to Islam, and those born to the first three groups.

7. True or False: Most Muslims in Europe are foreigners (not being of the nationality of the country they live in.)

Answer: False. Many of the first generation Muslims obtained citizenship. In some countries a double nationality is allowed. This has eased the choice of immigrants to apply for citizenship (it implies that they won't lose the nationality of their motherland). The majority of the second and third generations, mostly born in the country where their parents migrated to, obtained citizenship.

In France for example, the second and third generations are born in France and as such they are French citizens. They do not intend to go to their country of origin, with which they have few bonds. They often feel like immigrants, and are often perceived as "foreigners" by the society in general, even though they may have little knowledge of the country of their ancestors.

In Germany, policy toward immigrants long favored ethnic German ancestry. This has shifted since 2000. For the first time many German-born children of foreigners have the automatic right to citizenship.

Muslim newcomers (recent immigrants) in Europe can apply for citizenship after a certain amount of years, depending on the legislation of the country. In the Netherlands for example, foreigners can apply for the Dutch citizenship if they have stayed five years legally in the country. An increasing number of foreign Muslims has the Dutch nationality⁴.

8. True or False: Muslims in Europe are allowed to build mosques .

Answer: True. In France for example, 1535 mosques are numbered, though only a dozen have been built for that use.

In the Netherlands there are about 200 mosques. They were built by each of the various ethnic groups, while Muslim cemeteries also can be found in dozens of towns and cities. Right up to the eighties, the Dutch Government used to give subventions for the construction of mosques and churches, but this came to an end after it was decided that this was contrary to the idea of separating religion from the state. So now the building of mosques has been left to the Islamic organizations.

Belgium counts some 290 places of Islamic worship. Throughout Europe, Christian churches receive public subsidies but only in Belgium do mosques share in this. In Germany, there are 2,200 mosques and prayer rooms, most of which are built by Turkish bodies. The construction of mosques occasionally arouses hostile reactions in the respective neighborhoods (e.g. In Germany), and in some countries certain mosques are being associated with radical Islam (e.g. Britain and France)⁵.

9. True or False: All Muslims are Arabs

Answer: False.

The Islamic world is the world-wide community of those who identify with Islam, known as Muslims, and who number approximately one-and-a-half billion people. Muslims are not all connected ethnically, but like Christians or Buddhists, only by the common heritage of a religion. Overall, Arabs make up less than one quarter of the world's 1.3 billion Muslims.

Many Muslims not only live in, but also have an official status in the following regions:

- Southwest Asia: Arab nations such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq and non-Arab countries like Turkey, Iran,
- Africa: Arab countries like Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and non-Arab like Mali, Nigeria, or Somalia,
- The Balkans: countries like Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Eastern Europe: parts of Russia and Ukraine (especially in the Crimea).
- Central Asia: Afghanistan, formerly Soviet states like Uzbekistan
- South Asia: Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Maldives
- Southeast Asia: Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia

⁴ Landman, Nico. "The Netherlands." Euro-Islam.Info, <http://euro-islam.info/pages/nether.html>; "Muslims in Europe." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims_in_Europe; Robelen, Erik W. "The Great Divide." *Education Week*, May 11, 2005; Pfaff, Steve. "Islam in Europe: Identities and Interests in a Changing Religious Economy." Department of Sociology, University of Washington. May, 2005.

⁵ "Muslims in Europe." Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslims_in_Europe; "Islam and Muslims in Europe." <http://www.islamawareness.net/Europe/>; Evans, Leslie. "Is Europe Unable to Assimilate Its Growing Islamic Minority?" UCLA, International Institute, May 26, 2004. <http://www.international.ucla.edu/article.asp?parentid=11511>; Al-Matboli, Ahmed. "Building Mosques, no easy job in Germany." Islamonline.net. <http://www.islamonline.net/English/News/2005-04/17/article05.shtml>

Also worthy of mention are provinces of Kurdistan, Kosovo, and Chechnya, where Muslims are in the majority. Some definitions would also include the sizable Muslim minorities in several countries of the European Union (especially France), several regions of the Russian Federation, northwestern India, People's Republic of China, Singapore and the Philippines, USA and Canada⁶.

10. True or False: All Arabs are Muslims.

Answer: False. The Arab world comprises twenty-three countries stretching from Morocco in the west to Oman in the east: Algeria, Bahrain, Comores, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Western Sahara/Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. These countries have a combined population of 300 million.

The Arabic language forms a unifying feature of the Arab world. Though different areas use local dialects of Arabic, all share in the use of the standard classical language. The Arab League is a political organization intended to encompass the Arab world. Its permanent headquarters are located in Cairo. The majority of people in the Arab world adhere to Islam and the religion has official status in most countries (though none are fully theocratic). But, there are sizable numbers of Arab Christians, living primarily in Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, and Syria. The greatest proportion of the people who makes up the Arab diaspora (Arab emigrants worldwide) are also Christian, as are the majority of Arab Americans. There were also significant minorities of Arab Jews residing throughout the Arab world prior to the establishment of the state of Israel and their subsequent emigration. Today there still exist tiny communities of Arab Jews, ranging anywhere from 10 to 1,000 members each, still inhabiting the Arab world⁷.

⁶ "Islamic World." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_world

⁷ "Arab World." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_world