Early Islamic History (A.D. 570–661)

Directions: Use the information on the time line to answer the questions in the spaces provided.

Background
The prophet Muhammad brought the message of Islam to the people of Arabia. After his death, his successors, or caliphs, spread Islam through preaching and conquest. The first four caliphs were called the Rightly Guided Caliphs. Under their rule, the Arab Empire expanded to include all of southwest Asia.

1. Why did the year A.D. 622 become the first year of the Muslim calendar?

2. About how old was Muhammad when he died?

3. What did the first four caliphs have in common?

4. What happened to Ali in A.D. 661?