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The Arab Conquests of the Middle East

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Reviewer: Megan Harris  
Reading Level: Young adult  
Rating: Outstanding  
Genre: Informational books;  
Subject: Islamic Empire--History--622-661--Juvenile literature; Books--Review;

Around AD 610, Muhammad began telling people about his remarkable visions. The people known as “Arabs” were mostly scattered among inter-warring tribes and small trading cities near bodies of water. By AD 661, the Arabic people, united under Muhammad's new religion, conquered Egypt, Jerusalem, Syria, and most of the Byzantine Empire.

January is the author of more than twenty non-fiction books, including *the Iranian Revolution*. *The Arab Conquests of the Middle East* is an informational text on this exciting period in history. The text is written for 6th through 9th grade readers, and it includes a glossary, a "Who's Who" index, and a timeline. Each book section is accompanied by a rich collection of paintings, period art, architecture, and photographs. Beginning from Muhammad's birth, *Arab Conquests* is composed in chronological order, which breaks each chapter into specific themes with easy-to-digest subheadings. Turquoise boxes throughout the reading mark noteworthy side-articles related to the main reading. At the back of the book, January lists his primary and secondary sources, recommended additional reading, and websites that can be useful to readers. This book is rich in content but is also pleasant and easy to read. *The Arab Conquests of the Middle East* is an excellent choice for advanced readers who need more engaging content, or for older students who may struggle with literacy.