Mecca is an oasis. At an oasis, underground water comes close enough to the surface to form springs and to be brought up in wells. Why might water be valuable in a desert area like Arabia?

The Holy City of Mecca, about A.D. 660
You are a Bedouin nomad living in the Arabian Peninsula. For years, you have heard tales of the holy city of Mecca. Its fame has spread far and wide among the desert peoples. Now you have decided to travel to see Mecca for yourself.

What does your first sight of Mecca tell you about the city?
Mecca is a religious center. People come from all over Arabia to worship at the Ka'aba, a cube-shaped religious monument in the center of the city. Why might worshipers want to visit sites believed to be holy places?

Mecca is a trade city. Because of its location at an oasis and near the west coast of Arabia, merchants come from many lands to trade their goods. Why might trade be important for life in a land that has few fertile areas?