

NAME: _____ DATE: _____ PERIOD: _____

HHS-AGE OF EXCHANGE AND ENCOUNTER: MUSLIM CULTURE -6

Objectives: identify key inventions and innovations created during the Golden Age of Muslim culture

Why: To recognize the accomplishments of cultures outside of Europe

Skills: reading for main ideas, using textual evidence to support your answers, finding supporting details, making inferences

Setting the Stage(Contextualization):

The Abbasids (the dynasty that took control of the Muslim Empire after the Umayyads) governed during a prosperous period of Muslim history known as the “Golden Age.” Riches flowed into the empire from all over Europe, Asia and Africa. Rulers could afford to build luxurious cities and moved the capital to Baghdad. An extensive trade network stretching from Europe to Asia and crisscrossing the Arabian Peninsula was established. The Abbasids supported the scientists, mathematicians and philosophers that those cities attracted. In the special atmosphere created by Islam, the scholars preserved existing knowledge and produced an enormous body of original learning. Muslim scholars will preserve, blend and expand knowledge especially ***in math, astronomy, architecture and medical science.*** Though the Muslim Empire eventually dissolved, Muslim culture continued and the knowledge developed and preserved by the scholars would be drawn upon by European scholars in the Renaissance, beginning in the 14th century.

→ **DIRECTIONS: READ THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.**

THE MIDDLE AGES: BIRTH OF AN IDEA

The phrase “Middle Ages” tells us more about the Renaissance (a period of great learning and a revival of the study of arts and literature) that followed it than it does about the era itself. Starting around the 14th century, European thinkers, writers and artists began to look back and celebrate the art and culture of ancient Greece and Rome. Accordingly, they dismissed the period after the fall of Rome as a “Middle” or even “Dark” age in which no scientific accomplishments had been made, no great art produced, no great leaders born. The people of the Middle Ages had squandered the advancements of the cultures before them, namely Classical Greece and Rome, and stuck themselves in what 18th-century English historian Edward Gibbon called “barbarism and religion.”

This way of thinking about the era in the “middle” of the fall of Rome and the rise of the Renaissance prevailed until relatively recently. **However, today’s scholars note that the era was as complex and vibrant as any other.**

Main Idea Questions:

1. **True or False:** Historians today believe that Europe and the Middle East were stuck in a period known as the Dark Ages and no one made any great accomplishments to culture or learning.

Give 2 supporting details to help prove your answer (you may paraphrase or provide a direct quote)
1.
2.

THE MIDDLE AGES: THE RISE OF ISLAM

The Islamic world was growing larger and more powerful. After the prophet Muhammad's death in 632 CE, Muslim armies conquered large parts of the Middle East, uniting them under the rule of a single caliph. At its height, the medieval Islamic world was more than three times bigger than all of Christendom (Christian controlled areas). Under the caliphs, great cities such as Cairo, Baghdad and Damascus fostered a vibrant intellectual and cultural life. Poets, scientists and philosophers wrote thousands of books (on paper, a Chinese invention that had made its way into the Islamic world by the 8th century). Scholars translated Greek, Iranian and Indian texts into Arabic. Inventors devised technologies like the pinhole camera, soap, windmills, surgical instruments, an early flying machine and the system of numerals that we use today. And religious scholars and mystics translated, interpreted and taught the Quran and other scriptural texts to people across the Middle East.

Main Idea Questions:

2. **True or False:** The Middle East encouraged scholars and academics to preserve knowledge and create new technologies.

Give 2 supporting details to help prove your answer (you may paraphrase or provide a direct quote)

1.

2.

Directions: As you read your (p. 273-279), answer the questions below AND complete the diagram to show the key elements of Muslim culture. Pay particular attention to the accomplishments ***in math, astronomy, architecture and medical science.***

1. **MAKING INFERENCES** What united the scholars of different cultures who worked in the House of Wisdom? (p. 276)

2. **MAIN IDEA** How did Muslim scholars help preserve the knowledge of the ancient Greeks and Romans? (p. 274-276)

3. **EVALUATE** What do you consider to be the most significant development in scholarship and the arts during the reign of the Abbasids? **EXPLAIN YOUR REASONING.** (use your chart to help you!)

4. **INFERENCE/SUPPORTING DETAIL** How did the religion of Islam influence Muslim art and the study of science?

Web Notes: finding SPECIFIC supporting details, summarizing and making inferences **Directions:** Complete the web with examples and short explanations

