Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Islamic Gunpowder Empires Webquest

Background: The Muslim "gunpowder" empires developed after the fall of the Mongols in the Middle East during the late 13th and early 14th centuries. Even though the Mongols had destroyed the Abbasid Caliphate, the Muslim tradition continued under the leadership of three different empires: the Ottoman in the Middle East, the Safavid in Persia (present day Iran), and the Mughal in Northern India. Unlike the previous Abbasid rulers, the Ottomans, Safavids, and Mughals all had nomadic Turkish origins. Although these empires remained strong throughout the 1450-1750 time period, each began to weaken around the beginning of the eighteenth century as they came into increasing contact with the West.

See the link: <http://islamicgunpowderempires.weebly.com>

Homepage:

1. Why were these empires known as “gunpowder” empires?

Ottoman Empire:

1. Define ghazi.
2. The Ottoman’s military success was largely based on the use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Describe how this helped.

**BBC Ottoman Site:**

1. The Ottoman Empire was one of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and longest lasting empires in history. It replaced the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Empire as the major powerful empire in the Eastern Mediterranean.
2. List 5 aspects that allowed for the Ottoman Empire’s success.
3. Describe how the Ottomans acted toward their conquered people.
4. The Ottoman’s conquered the Constantinople in the year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ bringing an end to the Byzantine Empire.
5. What were the effects of the fall of Constantinople?
6. How did the empire treat people of other religions (millet system)?

**Janissaries:**

1. Who were the janissaries?
2. Explain their background. (religious background & where taken from)
3. They became an important Ottoman military force soon after it was established because the Janissaries were perceived to be the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (who’s) most trustworthy soldiers as well as disciplined troops.
4. Why were they given special privileges and benefits?

**Suleyman the Lawgiver—Video**

1. What is one of the most powerful dramas in history?
2. Sultan Suleyman was compared to the famous Hebrew king \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Who called Suleyman the “Lawgiver”?

**Image: Examine the image of the sultan and his court. Answer the following questions.**

1. What problems might conquered people present for a conqueror?
2. How might people of various religions and customs co-exist without giving up their ways of life?
3. After examining the image, what were the Christian boy soldiers called (hint: answer is in the sections above)?

Safavid Empire:

1. Summarize the origins of the Safavid Empire (how it began as a religious group then became a nation/empire).
2. The state religion of the empire was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Describe how this impacted the people of the empire negatively and posiitively.

Negative-

Positive-

1. In terms of art and culture, what reached new heights of perfection? How so?

**Islam Ottoman Safavid Rivalry Video:**

1. How were the Safavid people similar to the people of the Ottoman Empire?
2. The bitter rivalry between these two empires was based on religion. The Safavid were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Muslims while Ottoman were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Muslims.
3. Why did he allow Christian missionaries in the empire?

**Shah Abbas**

1. How did Shah Abbas reform the military?
2. How did he foster trade?

Mughal Empire:

1. The Mughals were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (religion) who ruled a largely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (religion) majority.
2. Babur was a descendent of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (someon famous).
3. How did Babur rule the Hindus?
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the ruler of the Mughal Empire that is regarded as one of the great rulers of all time, regardless of country.
5. How far did Akbar extend the empire?
6. Describe 3 things Akbar did to win over the Hindus.
7. Explain *Din-i-ilahi.*
8. Explain what Aurangzeb did regarding the Muslim Sharia law?

Why do you suppose he did this?

**Mughal Map:**

1. What two rulers expanded the empire the most?

**Taj Mahal Video:**

1. Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a memorial to his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How long was Shah Jahan obsessed with building the Taj Mahal?
3. Describe the Taj Mahal.

**Decline of the Mughal Empire**

1. How did the British East India Company gain control over India?

Islamic Gunpowder Empires Map

Label and color the three Muslim gunpowder empires.



Key:

1. Based on the map, why might the Ottomans and Safavids have come into conflict?
2. Why do you think these three states did not unite in one Muslim empire?

Overview:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Empire** | **Ottoman** | **Safavid** | **Mughal** |
| Sunni or Shi`a |  |  |  |
| Major Leaders |  |  |  |
| Major accomplish-ments |  |  |  |

1. Which leader do you think was the significant? Why?
2. Which Muslim Gunpowder Empires do you believe promoted the most social and religious reform?

What were those social and religious reforms?

1. If you lived during the time of these empires, which one would you have wanted to live in? Why?
2. Create a brief advertisement trying to get people to move to or visit one of these empires.

Must include: a chatty phrase or slogan, a colored image, at least 3 bulleted reasons why someone should move or visit