

Worksheet 2

(2nd Teaching Period)

Webquest - Instructions for all the groups:

Each group represents a social /professional group with special interests in Medieval Europe. Each group has a **special mission!** When you finish you will present your findings to the other groups.

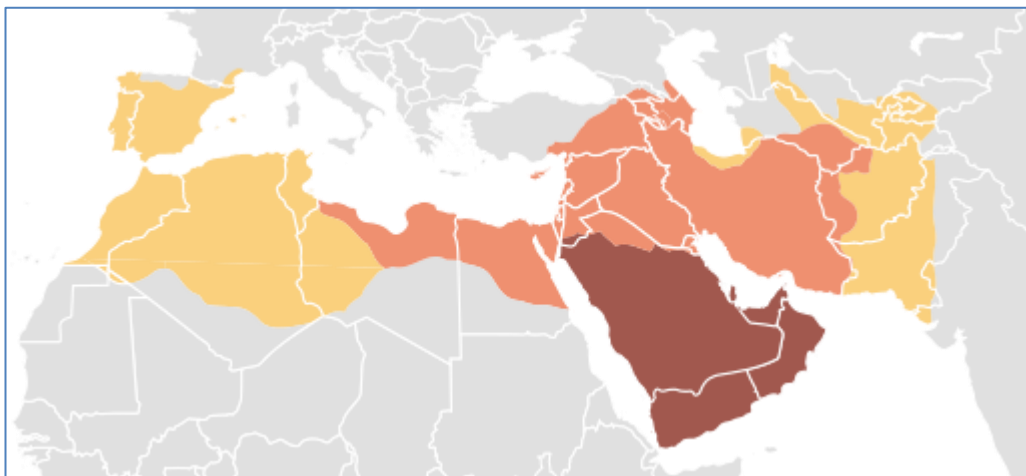
Work with the members of your group, as you have been randomly divided by [“Random scroll generator”](#).

Group A: Generals

Your mission is to register the territorial expansion of the Arabs until its culmination.

i) Observe the following map from:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_of_expansion_of_Caliphate.svg



and read the following text:

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?ParagraphID=ebw>

Then record the most critical battles that stopped the further expansion of the Arabs in the Western Europe and the Byzantine Empire.

ii) Read the following extract by the modern historian Ostrogorsky and find out what factors made the expansion of the Arabs easier:

After Heraclius' victories, Persia had been left in a state of utter chaos; one usurper succeeded another and the backbone of the *Sassanid** empire was broken. But in spite of their success, Byzantium too had exhausted its resources in the long exacting struggle. At the same time irreconcilable religious differences had raised up a wall of hatred between Constantinople and its eastern provinces, the separatist tendencies of the Syrians and *Copts** had been strengthened, and their willingness to defend the empire finally undermined. Abuses

in the military organisation of these districts and disruption in administrative circles, due to their overpowerful influence of the big landowners, helped to ease the task of the [Arab] conquerors, especially in Egypt.

Notes: *Sassanian*: the Persian dynasty
Copts: christian monophysite Egyptians

Text from: George Ostrogorsky, History of the Byzantine State, Translated by John Hussey, Basil Blackwell, Oxford 1968 (pp 110-111), adapted

iii) Read the following extract by the byzantine chronicler Theophanes and find out the reason why the Arabs were eager to fight bravely in the wars of conquest.

Muhammad taught those who harkened to him that he who killed an enemy or was killed by an enemy entered paradise. He said paradise was a place of carnal eating, drinking, and women: there were rivers of wine, honey, and milk, and the women there were not like those here, but of another sort... He said many other prodigal and foolish things. Also, his followers were to have sympathy for one another and help those treated unjustly.

Text from The Chronicle Of Theophanes, Trans. By Harry Turtledove (1982), public domain via: <https://archive.org/details/TheChronicleOfTheophanesTrans.ByHarryTurtledove1982/page/n21/mode/2up> (adapted)

Group B : Economists



Your **mission** is to look at the recourses given and find the answers to the following questions:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Incense_trade_route#:~:text=The%20incense%20trade%20route%20included,Arabia%20to%20India%20and%20beyond

<https://www.arabamerica.com/economic-history-and-trade-routes-of-arabia>

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/trade-merchants-in-arab-society.html>

<https://www.timemaps.com/encyclopedia/history-of-arabia/>

- I.
 - a. What types of financial activity did the Arabs have?
 - b. What were the innovations adopted?
 - c. How did they influence the global economy?
- II. Search for the products that the Arab merchant used to trade.

Group C : Architects 1

Your **mission** is to observe some famous sights and locate the characteristics of the religious Arabian architecture.



Süleymaniye Mosque (located in Constantinople, Turkey. It was commissioned by Suleiman the Magnificent)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C3%BCleymaniye_Mosque

<https://www.touristtube.com/Things-to-do-in-Istanbul/Suleymaniye-Mosque-360>

Hint: one of the things to observe is whether there are icons similar or equivalent to the ones we find in Christian churches.

Then look at the information about **Al Aqsa Mosque (Jerusalem)**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque

...and **Dome of the Rock** (Jerusalem)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dome_of_the_Rock

Group D : Architects 2

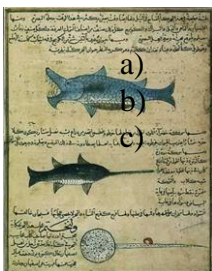


Your **mission** is to observe some famous sights and locate the characteristics of the secular Arabian architecture.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhambra>

<https://www.airpano.com/360photo/alhambra-granada-spain/>

Group E : Scientists



Your **mission** is to investigate the Arabs' contribution to the sciences and to pinpoint:

- the areas of science where the Arabs excelled
- on which prior work did they base their achievements
- how much influence did they exert to their contemporaries and the future generations.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_in_the_medieval_Islamic_world
<https://faseb.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1096/fj.06-0803ufm>

Group F: Philologists

Your mission is to estimate the impact of the Arabic literature to the non Arabic world.

- What kind of influence did the medieval Arabic literary arts wielded to the European civilisation?
- Do you know any well known fairy tales which are part of the “1,001Nights” collection? If you don’t visit the following web pages:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Thousand_and_One_Nights

<https://fairytalez.com/author/a-1001-nights/>

What do you think about the Arabian fairy tales?



Group G: Linguists

Your mission is to make a list of words that derive the Arabic language. Then you can use [quizlet](#) to make your own glossary.

Group H: Art Historians

Your mission is to identify the characteristics of the Arabian (Islamic) art. You can

https://www.benaki.org/index.php?option=com_collections&view=collection&id=39&Itemid=540&lang=en

http://islamicart.museumwnf.org/pm_partner_list_eiac.php?type=museum&lng=en

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/orna/hd_orna.htm



Good luck on your missions!