MUSLIM GOLDEN AGE & EMPIRES LESSON

ASSIGNMENT #1

Islamic Golden Age
Watch The Islamic Golden Age of Learning (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AOrXJuhNcM). As you watch, please answer the following questions in a separate Google Doc.

1. What was the dawn of the Islamic Golden Age of the 7th Century profoundly inspired by?
2. What language was commonly written and spoken by most Muslims that encouraged the sharing of knowledge?
3. Who supported Muslim learning allowing it to thrive?
4. What was the first building built in every village?
   a. What did this building quickly become?
5. In 653 CE, what types of schools arose?
   a. What did they combine in their teaching?
6. What invention in the 8th century contributed to the rapid growth in learning?
   a. What was published?
   b. What was the impact?
7. What was created in 841CE by a princess with her inheritance?
8. What was unique about these universities (identify 2 of your choice)?
9. What kind of subjects were studied at these universities (identify 5 of your choice)?
10. How did scholars share knowledge before universities?
    a. What did these gatherings become known as?
11. What did scholars do with the works of Ptolemy, Aristotle, Hippocrates, and Calen in the House of Wisdom?
12. What contributions in learning were made by the Banu Musa Brothers?
13. Who were Muslim hospitals open to?
    a. What were some of the characteristics of Muslim hospitals (identify 3 of your choice)?
14. What was the key to Muslim advances in science, philosophy, mathematics, astronomy, art, and architecture?
15. Similar to other parts of the world, the Muslims relied upon experimentation and observation to make advancements. What parts of society today have been shaped by the Islamic Golden Era?

ASSIGNMENT #2

Ottoman Empire

NOTES

The Ottomans
The Ottomans were another Turkish-speaking nomadic people who migrated from Central Asia into northwestern Asia Minor. In the 1300s, they expanded across Asia Minor into the Balkans.
Their growing forces threatened the crumbling Byzantine empire. In 1453, Muhammad II captured Constantinople, which he renamed Istanbul.

In the next 200 years, the Ottoman empire continued to expand. At its height it stretched from Hungary to Arabia and Mesopotamia and across North Africa. In 1529 and 1683, Ottoman armies besieged Vienna, sending waves of fear through Western Europe. Although they failed to take Vienna, the Ottomans ruled the largest, most powerful empire in both Europe and the Middle East For centuries.

**Sultan Suleiman “the Magnificent”**
The Ottoman empire enjoyed its golden age under the sultan Suleiman who ruled from 1520 to 1566. Called Suleiman the Magnificent by westerners, he was known to people as the “Lawgiver.” A brilliant general and wise ruler, Suleiman modernized the army and conquered many new lands. He strengthened the government of the rapidly growing empire and improved its system of justice.

As sultan, Suleiman had absolute power, but he ruled with the help of a grand vizier and a divan, or council. A huge bureaucracy supervised the business of the government, and the powerful military kept the peace. As in other Islamic states, Ottoman law was based on the Sharia, supplemented by royal edicts. Government officials worked closely with religious scholars who interpreted the law.

**Social Organization**
The Ottomans divided their subjects into four classes, each with its appointed role. At the top were “men of the pen” - such as scientists, lawyers, judges, and poets - and “men of the sword,” soldiers who guarded the sultan and defended the state. Below them were “men of negotiation” - such as merchants, tax collectors, and artisans, who carried out trade and production - and “men of husbandry,” farmers and herders who fed the community.

The Ottomans ruled diverse peoples who had many religions. The men of the sword and men of the pen were almost all Muslims, while the other classes included non-Muslims as well. Non-Muslims were organized into millets, or religious communities. These included Greek Christians, Armenian Christians, and Jews. Each millet had its own religious leaders who were responsible for education and some legal matters.

**Janissaries**
Like earlier Muslim empires, the Ottomans recruited officers for the army and government from among the huge populations of conquered peoples in their empire. The Ottomans levied a “tax” on Christian families in the Balkans, requiring them to turn over young sons to the government. The boys were converted to Islam and put into rigorous military training at the palace school. The best soldiers won a prized place in
the janissaries, the elite force of the Ottoman army. The brightest students received special education to become officials and might serve as judges, poets, or even grand vizier. As boys were recruited into the janissaries, so non-Muslim girls were sought to act as slaves in the households of the wealthy. Most female slaves were from Eastern Europe. (The word slave is derived from Slav.) Slaves were accepted as members of the household and often became free on the death of their masters.

Decline
The Ottoman empire was a powerful force for 500 years. By the 1700s, however, European advances in both commerce and military technology were leaving the Ottomans behind. While European industry and trade pressed ahead, the aging Ottoman empire remained dependent on agriculture. Russia and other European powers chipped away at Ottoman lands, while local rulers in North African and elsewhere broke away from Ottoman control. From time to time, able sultans tried to revive Ottoman power, but with limited success.

Instructions: Using the reading above, answer the following questions in a Google Doc. Upon completion, share both assignments in ONE Google Doc.

Questions
1. Who were the Ottomans?
2. What empire did they take over (during the Crusades)?
   a. What did the Ottomans rename Constantinople?
   b. Listen to They Might Be Giants’ Song Istanbul for fun! (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sl4XCVOmXg)
3. Who was sultan Suleiman the Magnificent?
   a. What 4 measures did he take to earn that title?
4. The Ottomans divided their subjects into 4 classes. Identify and briefly describe those 4 classes.
5. Which of the classes were Muslim? Which of the classes were non-Muslim?
6. What is a millet?
   a. What is each Millet responsible for for non-Muslims?
7. Who were the Janissaries?
   a. How were soldiers recruited?
   b. How were non-Muslim girls treated?
8. What was the cause of Ottoman decline?