Medieval Islamic Empires

Timeline Cards

CoreKnowledge®

Subject Matter Expert

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Introduction (Chapter 1), Card 2	Exterior view of Haghia Sophia, built 532–37 AD / Istanbul, Turkey / Bildarchiv Steffens / Bridgeman Images
Chapter 1	The Archangel Gabriel inspiring Mohammed in the mosque of medina (gouache on paper), Ottoman School, (18th century) / Museum of Turkish and Islamic Art, Istanbul, Turkey / Photo © AISA / Bridgeman Images
Chapter 4, Card 1	Preparation of medicines for the treatment of patient suffering from smallpox, miniature from the Canon of medicine, by Avicenna (980–1037), Ottoman manuscript, Turkey, 17th century / De Agostini Picture Library / G. Dagli Orti / Bridgeman Images
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Chapter 5, Card 1	Pope Urban II announcing First Crusade, 1095, miniature taken from This history of Crusades by Guillaume de Tyr, 15th century French manuscript, History of Crusades, 11th century / De Agostini Picture Library / Bridgeman Images
Chapter 5, Card 2	Egypt – Syria: Portrait of Saladin (Salah al-Din Yusuf Ibn Ayyub, 1138–1193), Abual-'Iz Ibn Ismail ibn al-Razzal-Jazari (1136 1206), 15th century. Although Al-Jazari was a contemporary of Saladin, the attribution remains disputed / Pictures from History / Bridgeman Images
Chapter 5, Card 3	Richard Coeur de Lion on his way to Jerusalem, Glass, James William (1825–57) / Private Collection / Photo © Bonhams, London, UK / Bridgeman Images
Chapter 5, Card 4	Troops of Sultan Mohammed II laying siege to Constantinople in 1453 (vellum), Ottoman School, (15th century) / Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, France / De Agostini Picture Library / Bridgeman Images

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After the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, the power of the pope increased throughout medieval Europe.

Big Question: Within the religion of Islam, who is Muhammad?

Hagia Sophia, or Church of the Holy Wisdom, was built in the 500s CE in Constantinople as the main cathedral for the Eastern Empire.

Big Question: Within the religion of Islam, who is Muhammad?
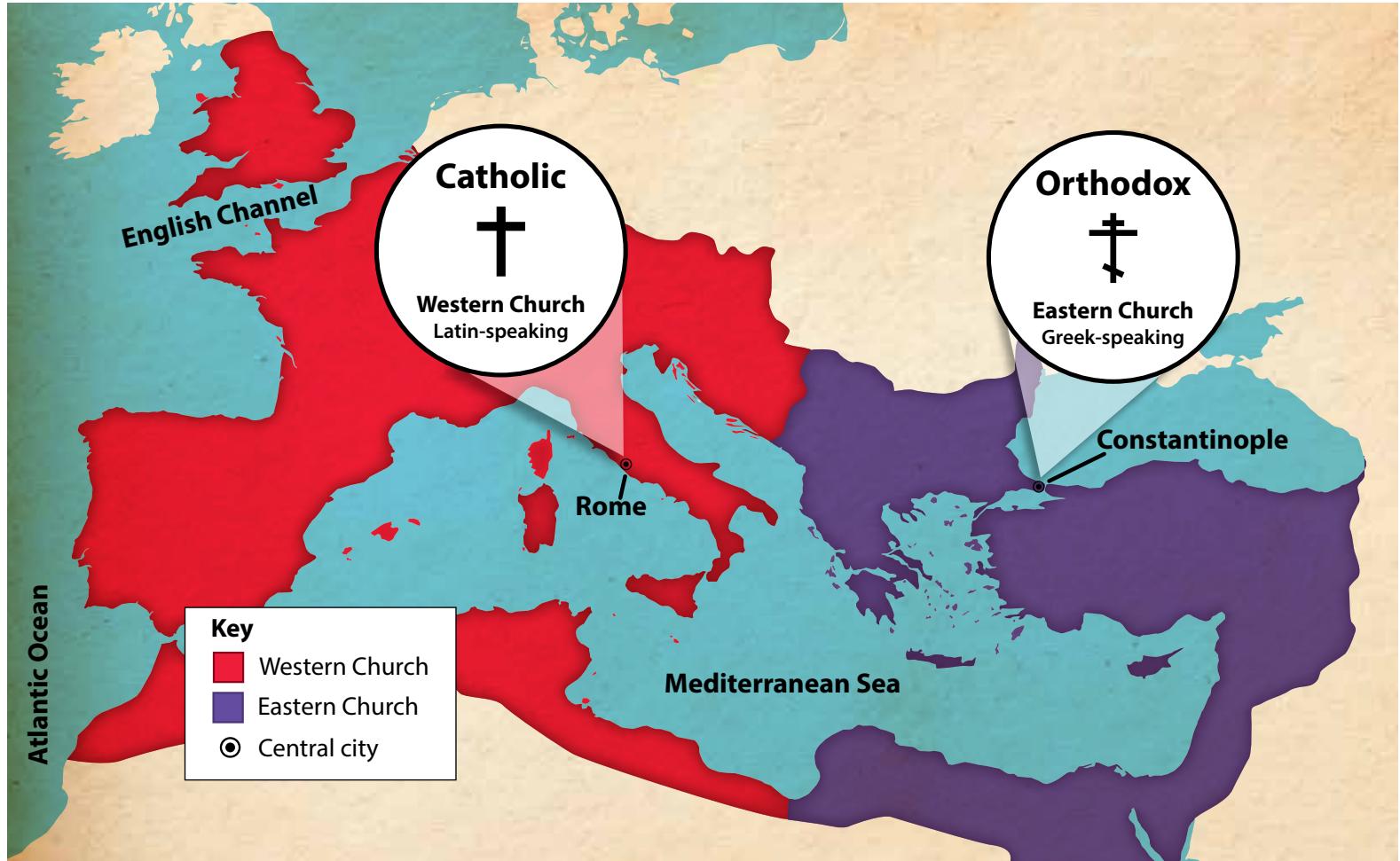
In 1054 CE, a split occurred in the Church in the Eastern and Western Empires.

Catholic

Western Church
Latin-speaking

Orthodox

Eastern Church
Greek-speaking

English Channel

Constantinople

Rome

Atlantic Ocean

Key

Western Church

Eastern Church

Central city

Mediterranean Sea

Big Question: Within the religion of Islam, who is Muhammad?

In 610 CE, Muhammad had his first vision of an angel speaking to him as God's messenger.

Big Question: Within the religion of Islam, who is Muhammad?

The Arabian Peninsula

Map of the Arabian Peninsula showing the Mediterranean Sea, Damascus, Baghdad, Cairo, the Persian Gulf, ASIA, Medina, Mecca, Red Sea, Arabian Peninsula, AFRICA, Arabian Sea, and the Path of the Hegira. Scale: 0 to 400 miles. Compass rose shows N, S, E, W.

In 622 CE, Muhammad and his followers escaped to Medina (the Hegira).

Big Question: What does Muhammad's decision regarding the replacement of the holy stone reveal about his character?

The Spread of Islam

Between 632 CE and 750 CE, Islam spread to the borders of India and China in the east, through northern Africa, and into Spain.

N
W — E
S

EUROPE

ASIA

• Rome

Spain
• Córdoba

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Mediterranean Sea

Syria
Damascus
• Baghdad

Jerusalem

Persia

Cairo •

Egypt

AFRICA

0   1,000 miles

Red Sea

• Medina
• Mecca

Arabia

Arabian Sea

Extent of Islam at Muhammad's death in 632 CE
Extent of Islam by 750 CE
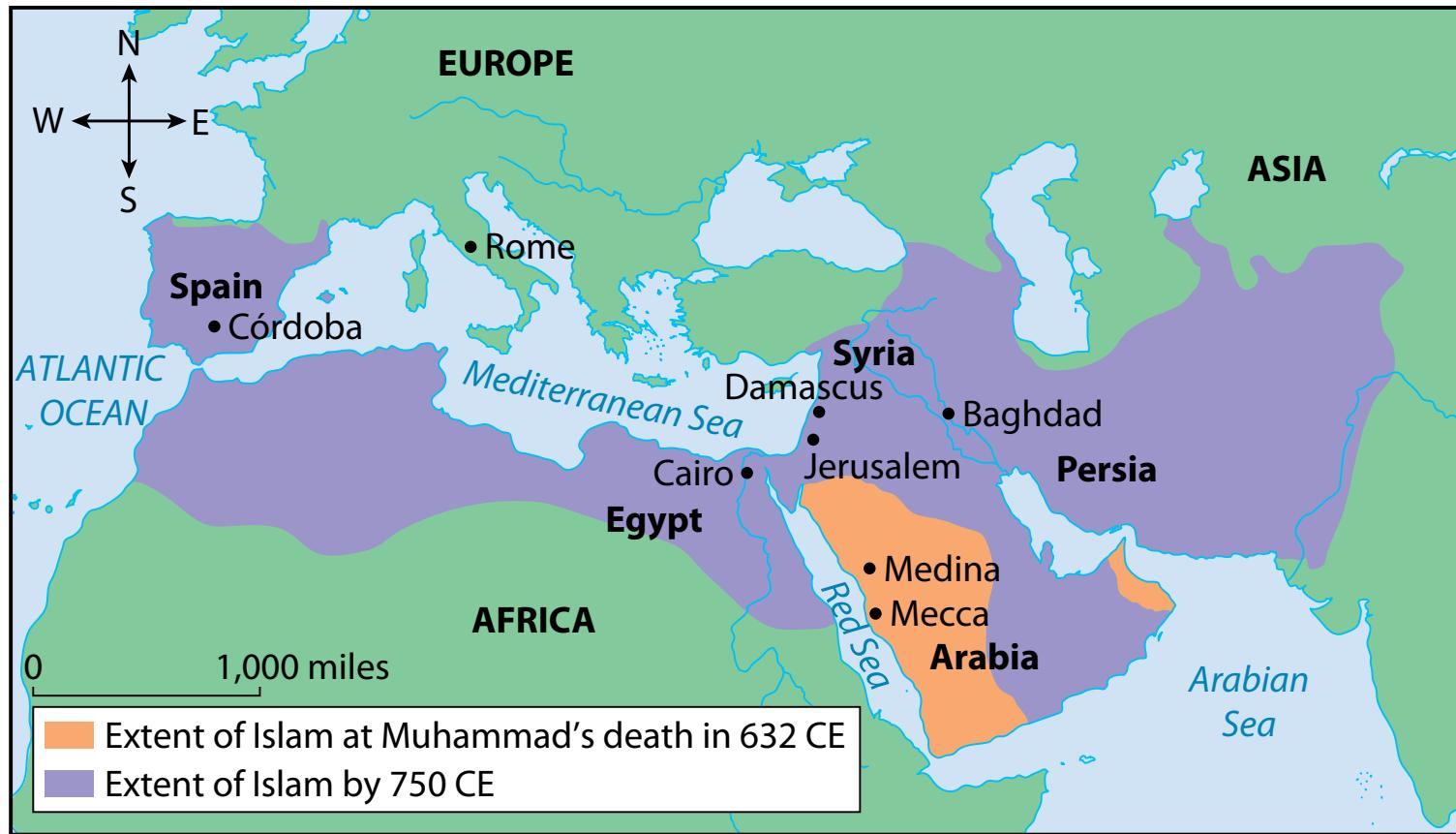
Big Question: Why was the flight to Medina the start of a new period in the history of Islam?
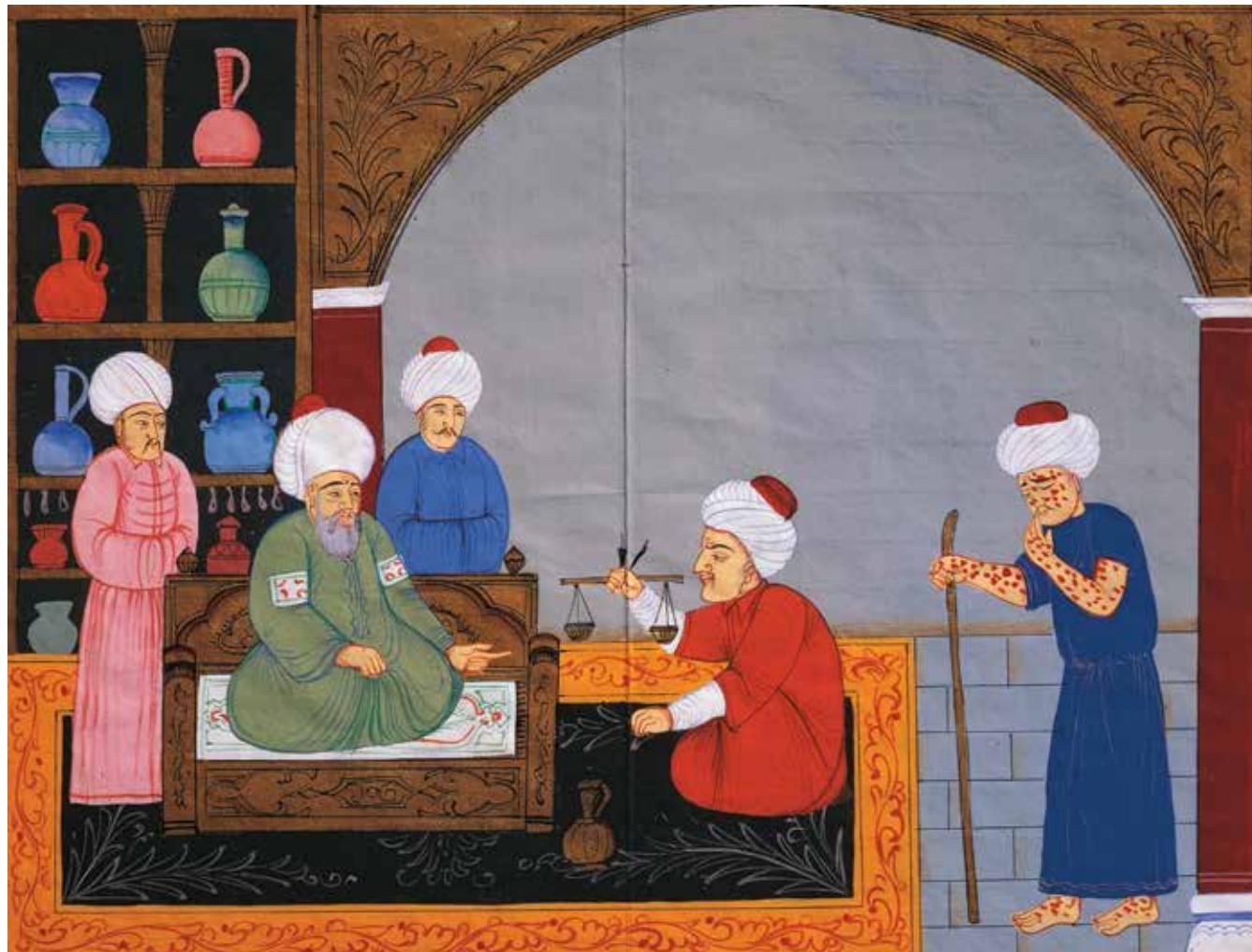
750–1200 CE: Europeans became aware of Islamic knowledge, especially in medicine and mathematics.

Big Question: How did the Islamic Empire contribute to the development of Western knowledge and culture?

The distinctive features of Islamic art and architecture were introduced to Europeans.

Big Question: How did the Islamic Empire contribute to the development of Western knowledge and culture?

Pope Urban II called on Christians to recapture the Holy Land during the First Crusade (1096–1099 CE).

Big Question: What events caused the First Crusade?

In 1187 CE, Saladin reclaimed Jerusalem.

Big Question: What events caused the First Crusade?

In 1192 CE, at the end of the Third Crusade, Richard the Lionhearted and Saladin arrived at a compromise regarding the Holy Land.

Big Question: What events caused the First Crusade?

In 1453 CE, the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople and renamed it Istanbul. They converted the church Hagia Sophia into a mosque.

Big Question: What events caused the First Crusade?