

The Middle Ages lasted<sup>1</sup> about 1,000 years and are between the Ancient World and the Modern Age. Not many books have survived from this time. However, we know tribes<sup>2</sup> from the north and the east startet invading<sup>3</sup> Europe, destroying<sup>4</sup> the town life and trade<sup>5</sup> of the Western Roman Empire (which fell in AD 476).

There are different opinions on when the Middle Ages ended. For many people, the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus in 1492 marks<sup>6</sup> the beginning of the Modern Age. In any case, we can say that the Middle Ages ended around 1500.

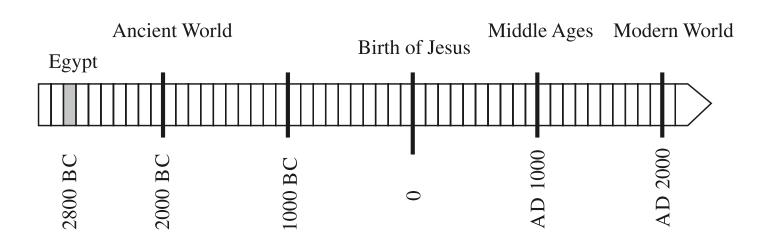
#### Word bank

Pyramids are built in Egypt, US Declaration of Independence, Birth of Jesus, foundation of the first monastery<sup>7</sup>, 2800 BC, 1776, 529, 0



Now match the events with the dates! Then fill in the events with the help of the information and the word bank above!

| Date           | Event |
|----------------|-------|
| Ancient World: |       |
| Middle Ages:   |       |
| Modern World:  |       |



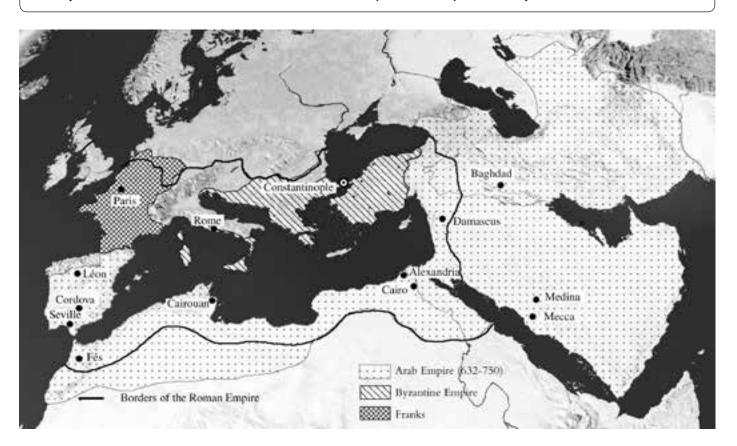
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> dauern, <sup>2</sup> Stämme, <sup>3</sup> eindringen, <sup>4</sup> zerstören, <sup>5</sup> Handel, <sup>6</sup> kennzeichnen, <sup>7</sup> Kloster





## THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

In AD 284 Diocletian became Roman Emporer. He split the Roman Empire into four parts. In 330 his successor<sup>1</sup>, Constantine, rebuilt the old Greek port<sup>2</sup> of Byzantinum at the entrance to the Black Sea. He renamed the city Constantinople and it became the new capital of the Roman Empire. The Western Roman Empire lost power and influence. During the reign of Justinian (527-565) the Byzantine Empire grew immensely. It now held large parts of the old Roman Empire. The empire was rich, producing gold, silk, grain<sup>3</sup>, olives and wine which were also traded for spices, gemstones<sup>4</sup> and ivory<sup>5</sup>. It was also a great centre of learning. Although it was invaded many times and eventually lost most of its lands again (except Greece and Turkey), it lasted until 1453, when Constantinople was captured<sup>6</sup> by the Osmanians.





The above map shows you the extent<sup>7</sup> of the Byzantine Empire around 700 BC. Use this, your atlas and the above text to answer the following questions!

- 1 Can you list the countries included in the Byzantine Empire?
- 2 Name the Byzantine capital and say where it is located!
- **3** What is this capital called today and to which country/continents does it belong?
- 4 List items that the Empire produced and what these were traded for!
- 5 Which emperors made important changes?
- 6 When was the Byzantine Empire founded<sup>8</sup> and when did it end? Explain why!
- <sup>1</sup> Nachfolger, <sup>2</sup> Hafen, <sup>3</sup> Korn, <sup>4</sup> Edelsteine, <sup>5</sup> Elfenbein, <sup>6</sup> erobern, <sup>7</sup> Ausdehnung, <sup>8</sup> gründen



### THE DECLINE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The Byzantine Empire was a centre of learning, where the knowledge of the Greeks was combined<sup>1</sup> with the teachings of the Christian Church. Also, because of travel and trade, it collected ideas from everywhere.

#### Here are some of them:

- The Empire defended<sup>2</sup> itself from attack from the sea and land with "Greek fire" a mixture of chemicals which burst into flame<sup>3</sup> when it touched water.
- The decimal system was developed<sup>4</sup> in India in AD 400 a new method of counting. It uses a system of **10**. They used "**0**" to represent zero and also the symbol "." to separate whole numbers from fractions<sup>5</sup>. They also designed a simple way of writing numbers we call it Arabic numerals. This knowledge<sup>6</sup> came to the Empire around 1300. Today we couldn't imagine using anything else!



Use the facts you now know about the Bzyantine Empire to find 18 words!

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|---|----|---------------|---|--------|---|---|
|---|----|---------------|---|--------|---|---|

| 0 | S | D | E | C | I | M | Α | L | S | Υ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| В | Υ | Z | Α | N | Т | I | N | E | Υ | R |
| L | S | R | 0 | M | Α | N | Α | M | R | 0 |
| Α | Т | W | E | S | Т | R | 0 | Р | E | V |
| C | E | S | Е | V | I | L | 0 | I | I | I |
| K | М | S | I | L | K | E | Е | R | G | F |
| C | Н | E | М | I | C | Α | L | E | N | I |
| J | U | S | Т | I | N | I | Α | N | В | R |
| С | 0 | N | S | Т | Α | N | Т | I | N | Е |

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|      |
|      |

Now write down! (Solution: see the answer page)

<sup>1</sup> verbinden, <sup>2</sup> verteidigen, <sup>3</sup> sich explosionsartig entzünden, <sup>4</sup> entwickeln, <sup>5</sup> Brüche, <sup>6</sup> Wissen





# A New Religion

Islam is a world religion which began in the Middle East in the 6th century. The followers of Islam (Muslims) believe in one God, Allah, and in Muhammad, his prophet.

The symbols of Islam are the crescent<sup>1</sup> and the star.

Muhammad was born in AD 570 in Mecca (today Saudi Arabia) and died in AD 632. The people there believed in gods and worshipped<sup>2</sup> a black stone – a meteorite which had fallen "from the gods", from heaven.

One day, in the desert, Muhammad had a dream. The Archangel<sup>3</sup> Gabriel spoke to him. He began to preach<sup>4</sup> the next day.

Allah's words to Muhammad are written in the Muslims' Holy Book (Koran). The Koran also tells believers how they should live together.

Islam has the same roots in Christianity, Judaism, and in Arabic natural religions. Certain prophets, such as Abraham can be found in all three religions.

In the Holy Wars (jihad) Muhammad and his followers conquered many countries in the name of Islam. The religious leaders who came after him were called Caliphs.



Symbol of Islam



A Muslim place of worship called a mosque<sup>5</sup>.



### Join heads to tails! (Solution: see the answer page)

| HEADS |                               |   | Tails   |  |  |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| 1     | Islam originated in the       | Α   | Muhammad in a dream.  |  |  |
| 2     | Muslims believe in            | В   | crescent and the star.  |  |  |
| 3     | Muhammad was born             | C   | Allah and his prophet Muhammad.   |  |  |
| 4     | The Muslims' Holy Book        | D   | Middle East in the 6th century.   |  |  |
| 5     | The Archangel Gabriel came to | E   | is the Koran.   |  |  |
| 6     | The symbols of Islam are the  | F   | in Mecca.   |  |  |
|       | 4 5                           | <ol> <li>Islam originated in the</li> <li>Muslims believe in</li> <li>Muhammad was born</li> <li>The Muslims' Holy Book</li> <li>The Archangel Gabriel came to</li> </ol> | 1 Islam originated in the 2 Muslims believe in B 3 Muhammad was born C 4 The Muslims' Holy Book D 5 The Archangel Gabriel came to E |  |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Halbmond, <sup>2</sup> anbeten, auch: gemeinsam beten, <sup>3</sup> Erzengel, <sup>4</sup> predigen, <sup>5</sup> Moschee