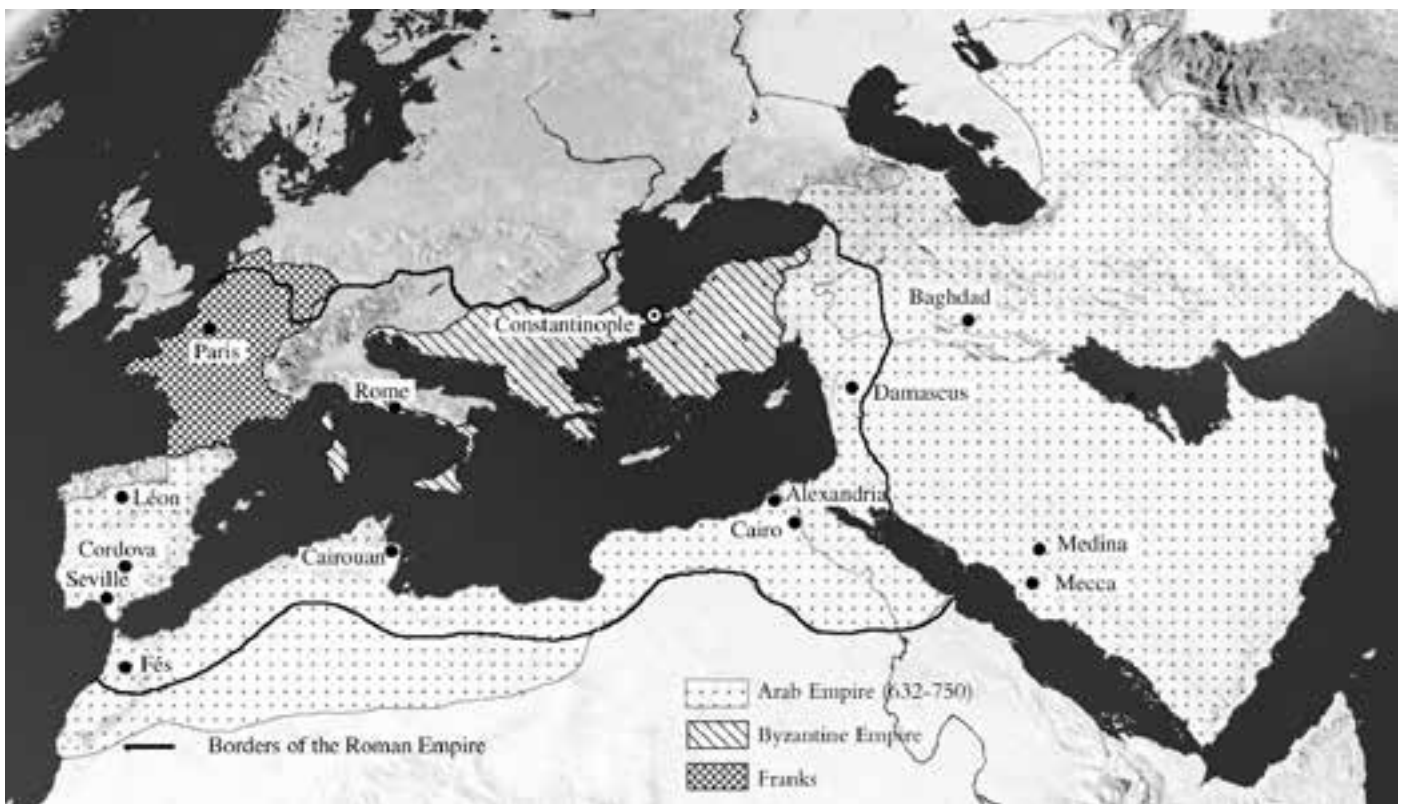




THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE

In AD 284 Diocletian became Roman Emperor. He split the Roman Empire into four parts. In 330 his successor¹, Constantine, rebuilt the old Greek port² of Byzantium 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, grain³, olives and wine which were also traded for spices, gemstones⁴ and ivory⁵. 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 captured⁶ by the Osmanians.



The above map shows you the extent⁷ 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 founded⁸ and when did it end? Explain why!

¹ Nachfolger, ² Hafen, ³ Korn, ⁴ Edelsteine, ⁵ Elfenbein, ⁶ erobern, ⁷ Ausdehnung, ⁸ gründen



THE DECLINE OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The Byzantine Empire was a centre of learning, where the knowledge of the Greeks was combined¹ 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 defended² itself from attack from the sea and land with "Greek fire" – a mixture of chemicals which burst into flame³ when it touched water.
- The decimal system was developed⁴ 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 fractions⁵. They also designed a simple way of writing numbers – we call it Arabic numerals. This knowledge⁶ came to the Empire around 1300. Today we couldn't imagine using anything else!



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

O	S	D	E	C	I	M	A	L	S	Y
B	Y	Z	A	N	T	I	N	E	Y	R
L	S	R	O	M	A	N	A	M	R	O
A	T	W	E	S	T	R	O	P	E	V
C	E	S	E	V	I	L	O	I	I	I
K	M	S	I	L	K	E	E	R	G	F
C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L	E	N	I
J	U	S	T	I	N	I	A	N	B	R
C	O	N	S	T	A	N	T	I	N	E

(←→↑↓↙)



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

¹ verbinden, ² verteidigen, ³ sich explosionsartig entzünden, ⁴ entwickeln, ⁵ Brüche, ⁶ 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 crescent¹ 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 worshipped² a black stone – a meteorite which had fallen “from the gods”, from heaven.

One day, in the desert, Muhammad had a dream. The Archangel³ Gabriel spoke to him. He began to preach⁴ the next day.

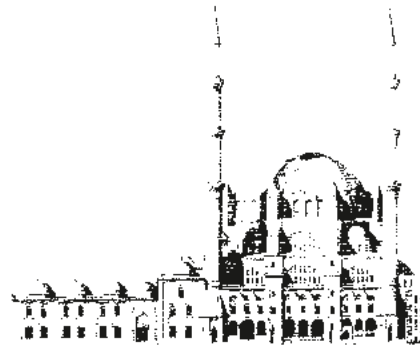
Allah’s words to Muhammad are written in the Muslims’ Holy Book (Koran). The Koran also tells believers how they should live together.

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 mosque⁵.



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

HEADS	
1	Islam originated in the
2	Muslims believe in
3	Muhammad was born
4	The Muslims’ Holy Book
5	The Archangel Gabriel came to
6	The symbols of Islam are the

TAILS	
A	Muhammad in a dream.
B	crescent and the star.
C	Allah and his prophet Muhammad.
D	Middle East in the 6th century.
E	is the Koran.
F	in Mecca.

¹ Halbmond, ² anbeten, auch: gemeinsam beten, ³ Erzengel, ⁴ predigen, ⁵ Moschee