

# Muslim Empires WebQuest

## An Internet WebQuest on Muslim Empires

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### Introduction

For more than six centuries, from about 1290 until 1922, the Ottoman Empire was one of the world's great powers. The center of the empire was located in Anatolia, in the region of modern day Turkey. At the height of its influence in the 1500s, it was the mightiest empire on earth. It nearly surrounded the Mediterranean Sea, covering much of southeastern Europe, northern Africa, and the Arab Middle East.

The Safavids were a ruling dynasty that dominated Persia, known as Iran today, in the 1500s and 1600s. Named for an ancestor by the name of Safi al-Din, who ruled in the late 13th century, the Safavid family became the spiritual leaders among a number of Turkish tribes east of Asia Minor establishing their empire near the Caspian Sea.

The Mughal's were a Muslim dynasty in India founded in the 16th century by a descendant of both Genghis Khan and Timur-i Lang named Babur. The dynasty ruled most of the Northern Indian subcontinent until the mid-18th century.

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### Task

Group Task:

You will use the links provided as well as other resources (library, textbook, etc.) to become experts on these empires. After the research is complete, you will work in teams. You and your team will work together to create a Group Report that presents your team's answers to the following questions:

1. What were the similarities and differences between the three Muslim empires?
2. What weaknesses were common to all of the Muslim empires?
3. What were the differences and comparisons in the social and economic organization of the Ottomans, Safavids, and the Mughals?
4. What were the reasons for the decline of the Mughal dynasty?
5. What were the causes of the Ottoman decline in the 17th century?
6. What were the reasons for the decline of the Safavid empire?

You will also need to complete the following for your final product:

- A) Write three, 1-paragraph summaries on who you consider to be the most influential
- a) Ottoman Sultan

- b) Safavid Shah
- c) Mughal Emperor

B) Include one picture or drawing of each ruler you wrote about in your summaries

C) Include at least 2 (height and decline) maps of each individual empire during different periods of their expansion/existence

D) Include one map of all 3 empires together

Each team will turn in a poster, tri-fold, book, PowerPoint, Prezi, or brochure on the 3 Muslim Empires, including all of the above requirements. In addition, each team member will turn in their answers to the individual task questions and their project rubric.

By completing this WebQuest, you should achieve the following goals: 1) use the power of the Internet for advanced exploration; 2) learn information about key aspects of Muslim Empires; 3) realize that complex topics can be looked at from various perspectives; 4) formulate and support an opinion based on your roles; and 5) work with teammates to determine a combined action plan.

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### **Process**

You should start with the pages that are labeled 'Background Information' before moving to the individual empires. There are questions that will be answered within the individual roles, and some may be answered by the background information, but you should read that first in order to have a good understanding of each empire. Each member of the team will contribute to the group task in order to complete the questions. When you are finished, your group will create a document answering the 6 Group Task questions. The task will be graded individually and as a group. Points will be divided as follows:

1. Three paragraphs about the rulers: 10 points each, 30 points total
2. Pictures or drawings of each of the rulers you wrote about: 3 points each, 9 points total
3. The Group Report answers, 30 points total
4. Maps of each of the three empires during different periods of their expansion and 1 of the 3 empires together: 5 points each, 20 points total
5. Individual score for participation (given by your teammates): 0 - no participation, 5 - some participation but no real effort, 8 - sufficient participation, acceptable but not outstanding, 11 - outstanding contribution to the project

Total points available for this project: 100 and it will be recorded in the 'test/project' category.

## **Phase 1 - Background Information**

These sites are important because they will provide basic information about the topic as a whole. Everyone should explore these sites first.

- [Mughal Empire](#)
- [History of Iran - Safavid](#)
- [Mughal Empire - BBC](#)
- [Ottoman Empire - BBC](#)
- [The Rise of the Turks](#)
- [Maps for the Safavid Empire](#)
- [PBS: Mughal Empire](#)

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## **Conclusion**

Remember what you have learned so you can apply that knowledge to our study of exploration and expansion. These empires were powerful and controlled a large land area. How might these empire impact choices made by leaders outside of these regions? You've learned a lot! I'm proud of you! Remember learning never stops, it is always a process. If you learn something new, hopefully it will spark you to want to learn more!