

# BELL WORK

What can you predict about the artists who painted these pictures?



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## STANDARD & OBJECTIVES

I can visually analyze and Islamic art and architecture.

**7.10 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources to examine the art and architecture, including the Taj Mahal during the Mughal period.**

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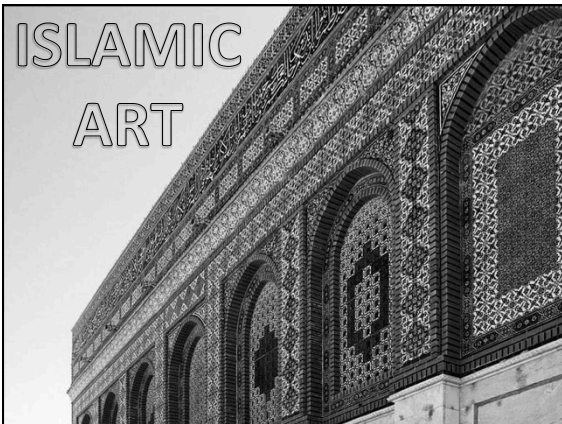
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# ISLAMIC ART



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## ISLAMIC ART FOCUS

- Mosque
  - Main building for worship
  - Mosque directs attention to Mecca (through a MIHRAB (a niche))
- Major monuments/art
  - The result of rulers and the social elite (patrons)
- Textiles, metalwork, ceramics, and other objects were produced for the art market

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## LESSON VOCAB

- Arabesque: a flowing, intricate, and symmetrical pattern deriving from floral motifs
- Calligraphy: decorative or beautiful handwriting
- Kufic: a highly ornamental Islamic script
- Mecca-The birthplace of Muhammad and the city all Muslims turn to in prayer
- Minaret: a tall, slender column used to call people to prayer
- Mosque: a Muslim house of worship
- Qiblah: the direction toward Mecca which Muslims face in prayer

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## CALLIGRAPHY



- Most prized art form
- Appears in most artwork (based on Arabic script, varies in form based on time and place)
- Highest form of art because it was used to transmit the texts revealed from God to Muhammad
- Even royalty did calligraphy sometimes which raised the art form to new heights
- Apprenticeships taught young calligraphers how to write, make ink, sit while writing (good posture!), etc.

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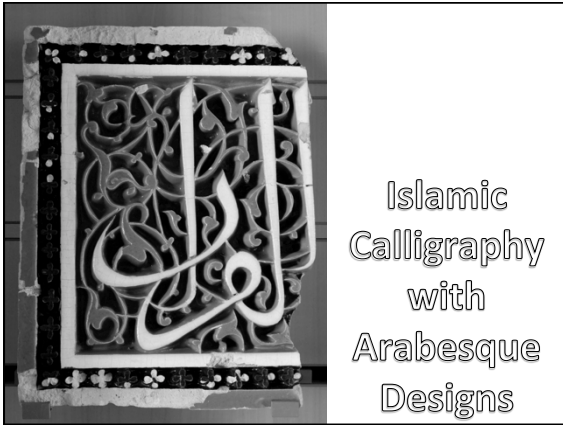
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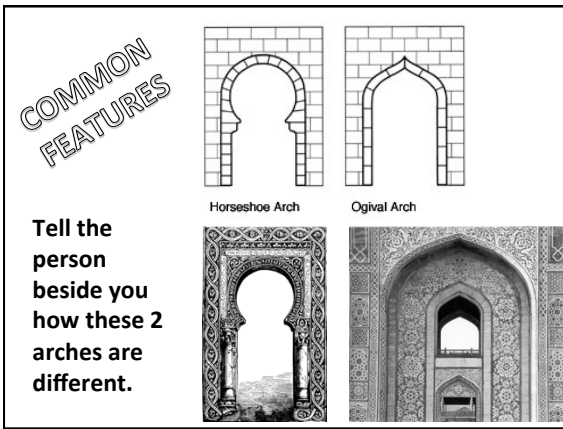
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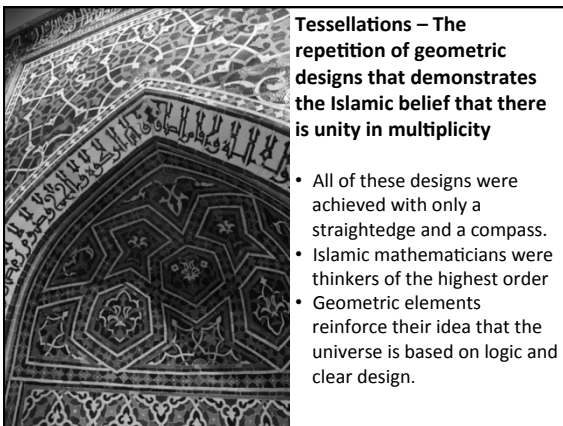
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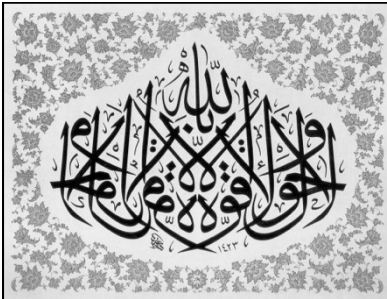
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• Calligraphy comes in a number of scripts, including KUFIC

- Arabic alphabet has 28 letters from 17 different shapes – written from right to left
- Arabic numerals are written from left to right, however
- KUFIC is used for official texts – traditional for the Koran

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### Islamic Architecture

- Built to accommodate as many worshippers as possible in prostrate position: Communal Prayer
- No elaborate ritual with a center of visual attention (like an altar)
- Emphasizes horizontality as opposed to verticality (Christian Churches).
- Roofed part held up by a combination of arches/ columns called a HYPOSTYLE hall.
- Worshipers face Mecca. Wall opposite entrance faces Mecca (qibla).
- QUIBLA (the direction toward Mecca) usually marked by a niche (often domed) called a MIHRAB

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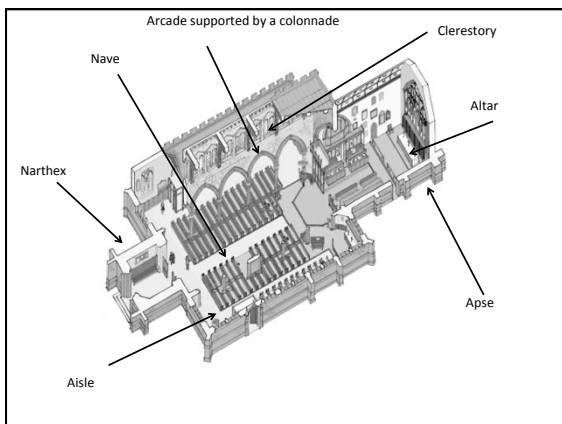
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DOMES OF THE ROCK, 687-691 CE, Jerusalem, Israel

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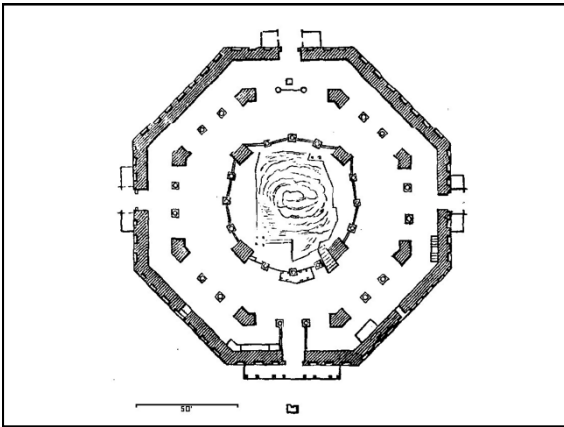
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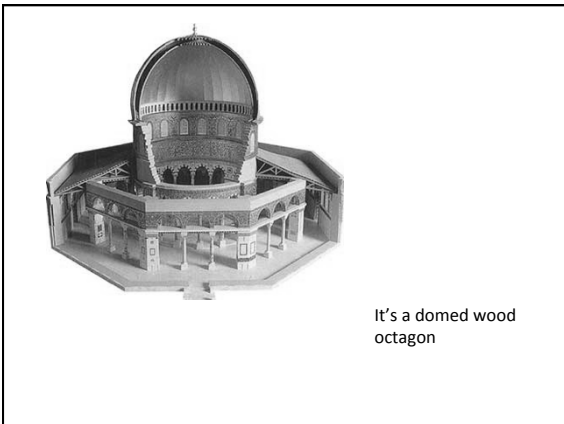
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It's a domed wood octagon

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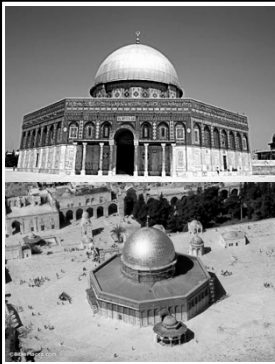
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Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

- Built on the reputed site of the Temple of Solomon
- Sacred rock where Adam was buried, Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac, Muhammad ascended to heaven, and Temple of Jerusalem was located.
- This rock/place is significant for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
- One of the most important sites of pilgrimage for Muslims worldwide

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extensive decoration from a variety of periods, including mosaics, painted wood, marble, multi-colored tile, and carved stone covers the interior of the

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- 1,280 square meters of elaborate mosaics cover walls that enshrine the mystical rock under the dome
- Intricate patterns and geometric shapes of mosaics replace figurative art (against Muslim belief to represent Allah in any figurative form)

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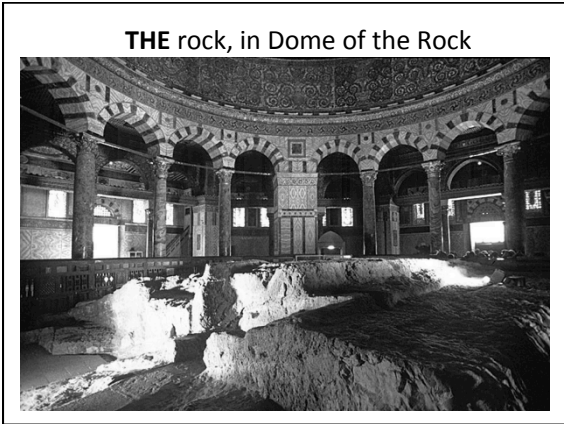
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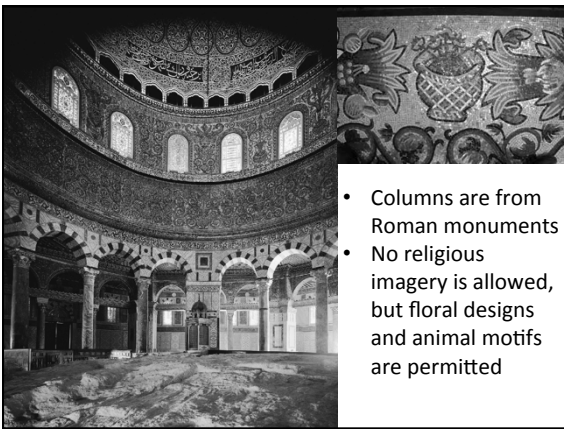
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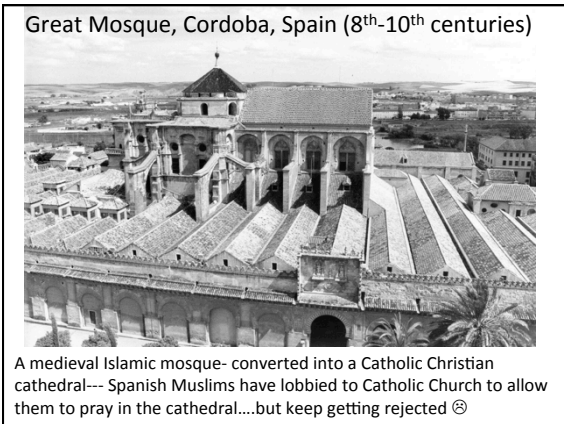
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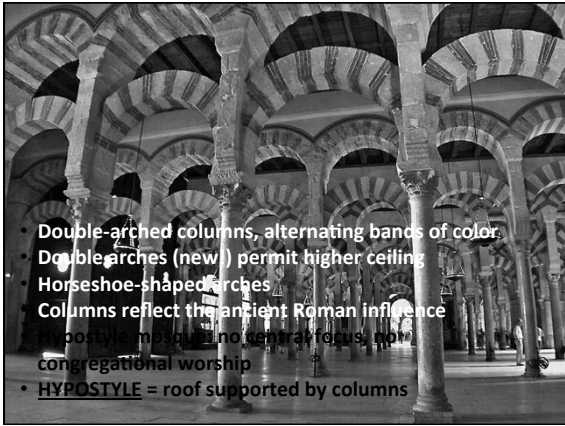
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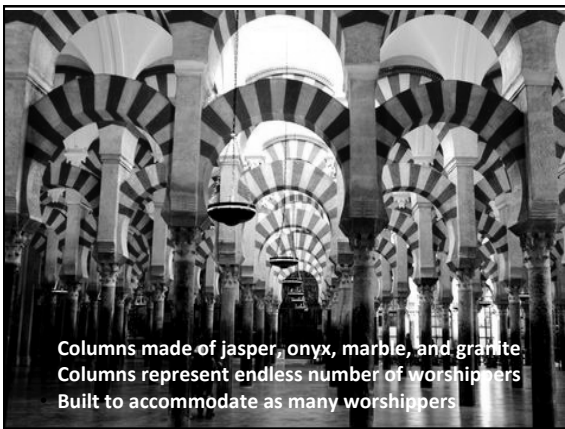
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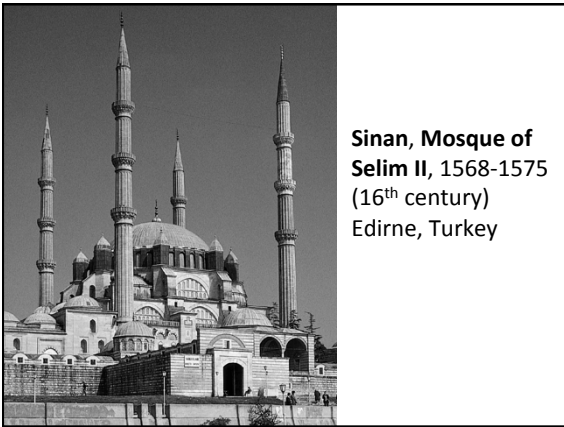
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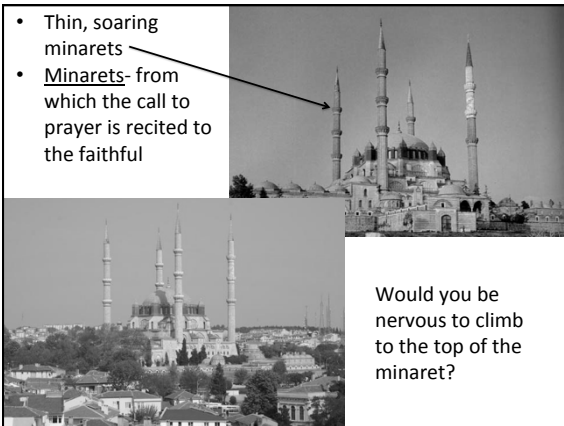
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A word about MINARETS...



- Have a base
- Have an internal staircase
- Have a gallery (at top) from which MUEZZINS call people to prayer
- Gallery is often covered by canopies to protect the muezzins from the weather

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- Many small windows light interior well
- Decorative mosaics and tile work
- Octagonal interior, with 8 pillars resting on a square set of walls

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ISLAMIC  
ART

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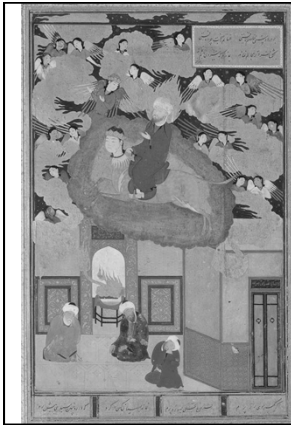
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**The Night Journey of Muhammad on His Steed, Buraq;** leaf from a copy of the *Bustan of Saadi*, dated 1514. From Bukhara, Uzbekistan. In The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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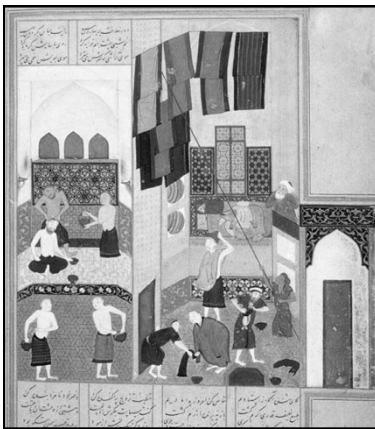
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**The Caliph Harun Al-Rashid Visits the Turkish Bath**  
By: Kamal al-Din Bihzad  
Ink and pigments on paper, 1494

- Asymmetrical composition depends on balanced placement of colors and architectural ornaments within each section
- Caliph = community leader
- Groomed by barber, attendants bring water for his bath

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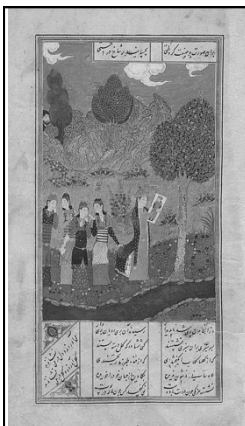
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**The Portrait of Khusrau Shown to Shirin**  
1494  
Ink, pigments, and gold on paper

- From an illustrated copy of the *Khamasa*
- Romantic scene in a landscape setting
- Princess Shirin sees a portrait of Khusrau and falls in love with him (aww)
- Various points of view at once (typical) –frontal and from above simultaneously
- Doll-like figures stand out (brilliant colors)

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# FINAL ASSESSMENT

**Make a drawing of an Islamic mosque. The mosque must include a dome, an arch, and a minaret. Using your fanciest hand writing, title the drawing "mosque". This will represent calligraphy. Go!**



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