

It's The [Final Countdown](#)

The Byzantines

Constantinople was founded by the Roman Emperor Constantine, who also made Christianity legal in the empire. The city is located on a crossroad of trade routes, and was easy to defend from attack. That changed when the Ottomans showed up with cannons.

Justinian is credited with creating a roman law code, reconquering a large portion of the old Roman empire, and building the Hagia Sophia, among other accomplishments.

Empress Theodora was a strong willed woman, arguably stronger than Justinian, who convinced her husband not to flee the city during the Nika Revolt.

[The Middle Ages](#)

Vikings: raiding sailors from Scandinavia, often depicted with horns on their helmets but that has no backing in actual history

Serfs: slaves tied to the land they worked. They couldn't leave, but they couldn't be sold the way that African slaves were in the United States

Flying Buttress: supported the roof a Gothic cathedral with out reliance on thick heavy walls

Feudalism: more localized political system based on mutual relationships between lords and their vassals, typically multiple levels with the king (possibly the Pope) at the top. The title of "Baron" was given to any direct vassal of the king.

[1st Crusade](#): European knights were called upon by Pope Urban II in 1095, after the Byzantine emperor asked for help to recapture the holy land that had been taken over by the Muslims. Things had been fine under the original rulers from Arabia, but the current rulers were pilgrimages more difficult.

Children's Crusade: In the early 1200s, several thousand children from Germany and Northern France attempted their own crusade, unsanctioned by the Church. It failed and many of them ended up being sold into slavery.

The Christian Church: held great influence over people's daily lives, had great political power, great spiritual power, and a lot of money, ruled over a "sort of kingdom" called the Papal States. In the Great Schism (1054) the church split into a western branch (Catholic) and an eastern branch (Orthodox).

[The Renaissance](#)

Venice: Italian city that got stinking rich from trade

The Renaissance: European rediscovery of classical art, writing, and architecture

The Medici: Powerful family of bankers and merchants

Humanists: People that studied classical writing and art

Catholicism: Religion observed by most of France in the 1600s

The [Instant Gratification Monkey](#): Concerned with things that are easy and fun, fears the Panic Monster

Nicholas Copernicus: Scientist who discovered the Sun was the center of the solar system

Florentine textiles had colors that didn't fade, thanks to a dying process that included alum, which they got from Anatolia, making their relationship with the Ottoman Empire very important, at least until they found another source of alum on the European continent.

One could argue that the Renaissance didn't "happen" because it took place over a couple centuries, and really only affected people with the money to afford great art, and the artists they employed. It wasn't a single event like a battle or the signing of a treaty.

This is present day Europe.
Write the name of these cities
next to the correct dot on the
map. Do not connect the
name with a line.

- 1: London
- 2: Rome
- 3: Paris
- 4: Warsaw
- 5: Venice
- 6: Istanbul



Not Europe

Yersinia pestis: Bacteria that causes plague. Could be bubonic, pneumonic, or septicemic.

Mongols: Conquered a huge empire in about 25 years

Great Zimbabwe: Artifact evidence shows great involvement in Indian Ocean Trade

Aksum: Had an early written script

Mali: Home to Mansa Musa, but no golden cities

Kush: Sat on the Nile River in modern Sudan, major economic center

China: Contributed fine porcelain pottery (that's why it's called China) to the Indian Ocean Trade network (aka the Monsoon Marketplace)

Carthage: Seafaring empire, enemy of Rome, later conquered by Rome

The Mongols: big fans of overland trade routes that ran through their empire because they could tax it. They made the Silk Road safe for trade and travel, causing a decline in Indian Ocean Trade during the 1200s. The extensive trade network was the primary reason plague infected rats were able to make their way to Europe and trigger the Black Death.

Trade enriched cities and empires through taxation, but also spread ideas (including religions) and technology, such as the compass, sails, and shipbuilding techniques.

New Asian Empires

Taj Mahal: Massive shrine in India built by a Mughal ruler, Shah Jahan

Ming: Chinese dynasty famous for vases and wall construction

Sulyman I: Great ruler with a name derived from Solomon

Sikhism: Blend of Islam and Hinduism, Male followers wear turbans

Zhung He: Chinese admiral, one of the greatest sailors in history

Samurai: Japan's professional soldiers, always carried two swords

Haiku: Japanese poem with a 5-7-5 pattern of syllables

Emperor: top of Japan's social and political (sort of) structure

Shogun: actual top of Japan's political structure after 1603

Sultan: Ruler to someone who only speaks Arabic

Janissaries: enslaved Christian boys trained as elite soldiers loyal to the sultan

Auspicious Incident: Janissary revolt against the sultan that resulted in the entire corps being disbanded and the leaders being executed

Istanbul was Constantinople. Now it's Istanbul, Not Constantinople. The Ottoman Turks, under Sultan Mehmed II, conquered Constantinople in 1453 and renamed it Istanbul. That's why it got the works.