

THE DESTRUCTION OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION

“Roman” Empire/Classical Civilization after German Invasion



Byzantine Empire After the “Fall of Rome”

This is the Empire Islam Invaded



The First 25 Years, 656 AD

The Shadow of Mohammed



First Stage of Classical Civilization Annihilation, 661 AD



Islam, A Century Later, 750 AD



Classical Mediterranean Civilization

- It took 10 days to sail from Carthage (North Africa) to Italy. By land the same trip took 140 days.
- The cost of shipping a ton of grain from Egypt to Rome was the same as shipping it 75 miles by ox cart.
- Egypt and North Africa were part of the Mediterranean civilization, not Africa. The journey from Egypt to Nigeria overland took a year.
- Under Rome the sea was free of danger for trade.
- There would be as many as 500 boats in the harbour at Constantinople at any one time.

The Collapse of the Freedom of the Sea



Before Islam, Rome communicated with France by ship. After Islam, the route over the Alps had to be used to avoid Muslim sea raiders.

The Muslim writer, Ibn Khaldun bragged, *"The Christians could not float a plank on the Inland Sea."* (Mediterranean)

- Europe was impoverished economically and culturally isolated.
- The supply of Papyrus from Egypt was completely cut off, making writing and record-keeping an expensive business!
- Literacy rates fell quickly.
- Christian ships were specifically targeted.
- Communication became more difficult.
- All European and Byzantine areas became poorer and more isolated.
- The so-called “Dark Age” began.

Tasks

1. Explain what the term, “Classical Civilisation” means.
2. Why was trade and travel across the Mediterranean so important to the Roman Empire?
3. Why was Muslim expansion and piracy so damaging to classical civilisation?
4. What were the long-term consequences of Muslim expansion and piracy in the Mediterranean?

Answer in full sentences and paragraphs.