

Welcome!

Grade 4, Unit 2

Empires in the Middle Ages, Part 2

In the second part of this unit, students will continue to explore the Middle Ages in Europe and the Islamic medieval empires.

What's the story?

Students will learn more about these two separate regions and their **medieval history**. They will also study how they are related by a common past—the **decline of the Roman Empire**—and what is their **impact on the present**.

What will my student learn?

Students will expand their knowledge about the Middle Ages in Europe and the Islamic empires to better **understand the modern world**.

They will practice **taking notes** about the informational texts they read throughout the lessons. Students will also write an **informative**, an **explanatory**, and a **persuasive paragraph**. Finally, these lessons provide multiple opportunities for peer collaboration.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is an empire?
Follow up: What are some of the names for rulers of an empire? Why did some people believe that the Roman Empire would last forever? What other empires are you learning about?
2. What was the Battle of Yarmouk?
Follow up: What was the tradition for the first day of battle? Was the outcome of the battle surprising? Why?
3. What are some of the elements of Islamic architecture that you studied?
Follow up: What is the significance of a dome in the architecture? What is calligraphy and how was it used in the architecture? What is one of the architectural masterpieces that you read about?
4. What events led to the First Crusade?
Follow up: Why did it take the Muslims by surprise? What sparked the Second Crusade?