

Chapter 13: Islamic Art Study Guide

1. List five regions conquered by Muslim soldiers in the seventh century.
2. What important Christian city fell to the Muslims in 1453? By which specific group?

EARLY ISLAMIC ART

3. Define or identify following:

- arabesque
- caliph
- calligraphy
- iman
- iwan
- Koran (Qur'an)
- Kufic
- Minaret
- Mirhab
- Muhammad
- qibla wall
- Umayyads

4. Where was the Dome of the Rock constructed? The shape was influenced by _____. How was it decorated?
5. List four features of the Great Mosque at Damascus that show the influence of the Greco-Roman world.
Why are there no human or animal forms in the mosaics of the Great Mosque at Damascus?
6. All mosques are oriented toward the city of _____.
7. What is the distinguishing feature of the minaret from Samarra (FIG. 13-9)?
8. Islamic ornament is characterized by _____.
9. Why were textiles so highly valued in the Islamic world?

LATER ISLAMIC ART

10. Define or identify the following:

- madrasa
- muqarnas
- Ottoman Turks
- Sinan the Great

11. List three types of objects that were often decorated with calligraphy:
12. What are some examples of luxury items, who were they created for, and what purpose did they serve?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Study the reproductions of the following buildings: Hagia Sophia (FIGS. 12-3 to 12-5), the Mosque at Cordoba (FIGS. 13-11 to 13-13), and the Pantheon (FIG. 10-48). Compare the lighting effects created by each and describe the means used to achieve such effects.
2. After having read the chapter, do you feel that the essential qualities of Islamic art distinguish it from or relate it to Western art? How?