

iCONN Learning Activity

A Byzantine Time Capsule

Level: High School (Grade 9)

Task: It is 1453 and Constantinople is under attack from the Ottoman Turks. Emperor Constantine XI has given you the task of preserving Byzantine artifacts. You will need to obtain examples of Byzantium's political, social, economic and artistic achievements. He also wants biographies of famous Byzantine rulers. Once you gather these artifacts and biographies, you will place them in a time capsule which will be buried in the center of the city with the hope that future generations will uncover it and be able to appreciate all the glory of the Byzantine Empire. Emperor Constantine has emphasized that all things selected must be good examples of Byzantium's past; therefore, you will need to justify your selection. If you cannot do this task you will be sent to the front lines to face the Turks. You must not fail your emperor. Infantry duty waits.

Research Question: What are the significant achievements of the Byzantine Empire?

Content Area(s): Social Studies – World History – World Civilization

State Content Area Standard(s):

Social Studies:

Program Goal: As a result of education in Grades K-12, students will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture and how different perspectives emerge from different cultures.

Standard 2. Students will use historical thinking skills to develop an understanding of the major historical periods, issues and trends in world history.

iCONN Database(s):

General Reference Center Gold: This database contains full text articles from encyclopedias, reference books, newspaper references, and periodicals.

Discovering Collection: This database contains reference articles, primary documents and multimedia sources. The articles are about history, literature, biography, science and social studies. The *Discovering Collection* includes resources on people, geography, history, literature, science and health.

Wilson Biographies Plus: This database contains illustrated profiles of over 120,000 individuals from antiquity to the present.

Expanded Academic ASAP: This database contains full-text articles from scholarly journals.

History Resource Centers (U.S. & World): This database contains integrated collections of full-text periodicals, reference works and primary source documents; chronology links graphical timeline to relevant articles; 1,000+ and 1,323 primary source documents in U.S. and World history, respectively; 1,600+ historical maps and atlases; links to 110+ full-text history journals; extensive cross-references and inter-linking; comprehensive coverage of 50 of the most-studied topics in U.S. history.

Start with General Reference Center Gold to find a background article. Read the background article to learn major people or events in YOUR TOPIC.

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on "Select iCONN resources"
3. Open *General Reference Center Gold*
4. Select *Subject guide* to search via subject

5. Enter *Byzantine Empire* in the search box
6. Limit the articles to *full text*
7. Click on *SEARCH* (or hit ENTER)
8. If necessary, choose a more precise subject heading to narrow your topic and view fewer, more relevant results, otherwise view the more generalized results for the search
9. Look at the results list
10. There will be results from an array of resources (e.g., *Magazines & Journals, Reference, News, Multimedia*)
11. Open and read relevant documents/view relevant resources
12. Print or email yourself relevant documents

Alternate Search Strategies:

Now that you know the names of people and events, search the Discovering Collection for another general essay about events or a biography.

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *Discovering Collection*
4. Enter *Byzantine* in the search box (The first search results are *Reference* documents.)
5. Look at the *Type of Article* in the far right such as *Event Overview, Era Overview, or Biography*. Look at the title of the article before you open the article
6. Open, read and print relevant documents
7. Click on the *additional pages* to see all of the *Reference* documents
8. Follow the same strategy for the resources listed under the tabs (e.g., *Primary Documents* and *Multimedia*)
9. Look at the *related searches* on the left
10. You can narrow your search by clicking on a *related search* such as *Byzantine Architecture*

See if there is a biography about YOUR PERSON

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *Wilson Biographies*
4. Check off the *Biographies Plus Illustrated*
5. Enter your person, (last name, first name – if there are two names) such as Theodora, in the *Search for* box
6. Sort by *Relevance*
7. Click *Start* (or hit ENTER)
8. Look at the results list (The relevancy is listed in percentages to the left of the title. Click on the most relevant title to go to another results list. For example, clicking on the resources that have 100% relevancy.)
9. To print, save or e-mail click on *Print-Email-Save* button located on the left side of the page
10. Click *Exit Program* to close *Wilson Biographies Plus*

See if there is information about YOUR TOPIC in the History Resource Center

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *History Resource Center – World*
4. Enter *Byzantine Empire* in search box
5. Click *Search* (or hit ENTER)
6. Note the related subjects hyperlinks appearing to the left of your results list. If necessary, focus your search by clicking on an appropriate related subject
7. In the results list, note the type of resource/article shown to the right of the article’s title (e.g., *Era Overview, Viewpoint Essay, Topic Overview*)
8. Click on an article title to view it

9. Note the “Table of Contents” links at the top of the document. They may take you to additional resources, such as multimedia images
10. Print, email, or mark selected articles applicable to your topic. (If you mark articles, be sure to “View mark list” and print or email your articles to yourself before exiting the database.)
11. For additional resources, go into other “active” (highlighted) tabs, such as Periodicals, Primary Sources, or Maps & Multimedia

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

Students needing help are given extra assistance.

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Revised by iCONN Staff, August 2005