## Decline of the Caliphate ER Name:

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| **The End of the Golden Age:** between 1100-1600, the Caliphate lost all of its scientific and economic advantages. The question is: ***Why***? Why did the center of medieval world science and trade enter such a long period of decline? |

You will look at three factors for why this occurred. Your job is to read each and briefly summarize what it says. Then, at the end, explain the decline of the Golden Age and choose which factor was the most important in your opinion.

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| **The Mongols:** The Mongols conquered almost all of Asia in the 1200s. When they arrived in the middle east, they destroyed the center of the Caliphate—the city of Baghdad. Millions died, hundreds of thousands of books were burned or thrown in the river.  The Mongols set the Caliphate back a hundred years in its development. They also caused a lot of destruction. They destroyed cities and killed a lot of people. The Mongols also took over the Caliphate’s trade system. Now the Caliphate was no longer the center of trade and could not make money as easily. |
| **Summarize: How did the Mongols contribute to the decline of Caliphal Science and Trade?** |

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| **Intellectual Conservativism:** in the years from 632-1100, the Caliphate embraced learning, questioning, and science. However, starting in the 1000s, culture began to shift.  A guy named Al-Ghazali successfully convinced people to turn away from science and philosophy. He did this by arguing that the world could not be effectively explained by science. He argued that religious visions should be what people relied on.  After Al-Ghazali, the progressive, inquiring, scientific culture of the Middle East dies. It is instead replaced by a conservative culture that made few advancements and produced little art of note. |
| **Summarize: How did Intellectual Conservatism contribute to the decline of Caliphal Science and Trade?** |

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| **New Trade Routes:** much of the wealth of the Middle East was based upon the domination of the Silk Road. However, in the 1250s, the Mongols became the masters of that trade route and the Caliphate loses strength.  Even worse is the creation of global trade. In the 1480s, Europeans find a way around Africa. Now Europeans don’t have to pay the Caliphate’s exorbitant prices for spices and Chinese goods like silk and porcelain.  By 1600, Europe controls world trade. Without their position in trade, the Caliphate has only its own resources to rely on, which are not very considerable. In fact, until the discovery of gasoline in the late 1800s, there was almost no material wealth to most Middle Eastern countries. |
| **Summarize: How did new trade routes contribute to the decline of Caliphal Science and Trade?** |

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| Explain in your own words why the Caliphate declined: |
| Which factor do you think is most significant? Why? |

Well Hola! And Bonjour!