

**UNIT 5 - STUDY GUIDE**  
**World History & Geography 1** Rev.1/20/2011 ©studentsfriend.com  
The Early Middle Ages: 500 AD to 1000 AD

**Overview:** We have completed our tour of the world's great civilizations of Eurasia during ancient times. Now we move forward to the next era of history, the middle ages. Unit 5 will focus on the first half of this era, a 500-year period after the fall of three great classical civilizations in India, China, and the Mediterranean. But civilization was not lost everywhere. Great civilizations flourished in the eastern half of the old Roman Empire, now called the Byzantine Empire, and in the Americas. An advanced civilization would return to China. And in the Middle East, a great new Islamic civilization would emerge from the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula to change the course of history.

---

**Essential Question: What is human nature?**

Can the Maya teach us anything about human nature?

**Essential Question: What makes a good society?**

What are two weaknesses of democracy?

How has equality between Muslim men and women changed since the early days of Islam?

**Essential Question: How does human choice make history?**

How do the Maya and the Roman Empire show us that a civilization can create its own downfall?

**Essential Question: How does technology make history?**

Is written language necessary for ruling a country or empire?

**Historical Force: How does trade make history?**

Why did Vikings in Russia become involved with the Byzantine Empire to the south?

How did the construction of a canal affect China?

**Historical Force: How does geography make history?**

How did the monsoons affect Southeast Asia?

How can core civilizations affect outlying regions?

1. Read for understanding pages 17-20 of the *Student's Friend*. Demonstrate your understanding by MAKING NOTES and TAKING QUIZZES over the topics on pages 17 and 18, and by summarizing KEY POINTS for the eight main topics on pages 19 and 20 with answers to the questions: What is it? Why is it important?
2. Correctly spell the 16 main topics on pages 17-20.
3. On a map of the world, locate the Byzantine Empire, Scandinavia, Russia, Southeast Asia, Korea, Maya, Arabia, and Mecca.
4. Be familiar with the historical timeline from the Big Bang through the early middle ages.
5. What is meant by the term "classical period?"
6. What were the Dark Ages, and why were they considered dark?
7. How were the Buddha, Jesus, and Muhammad similar? How were they different?
8. How does Islamic law differ from legal systems in the West?
9. Why did Muslims break into two sects, the Sunni and the Shi'a?