

# **The Art of Islam**

# ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

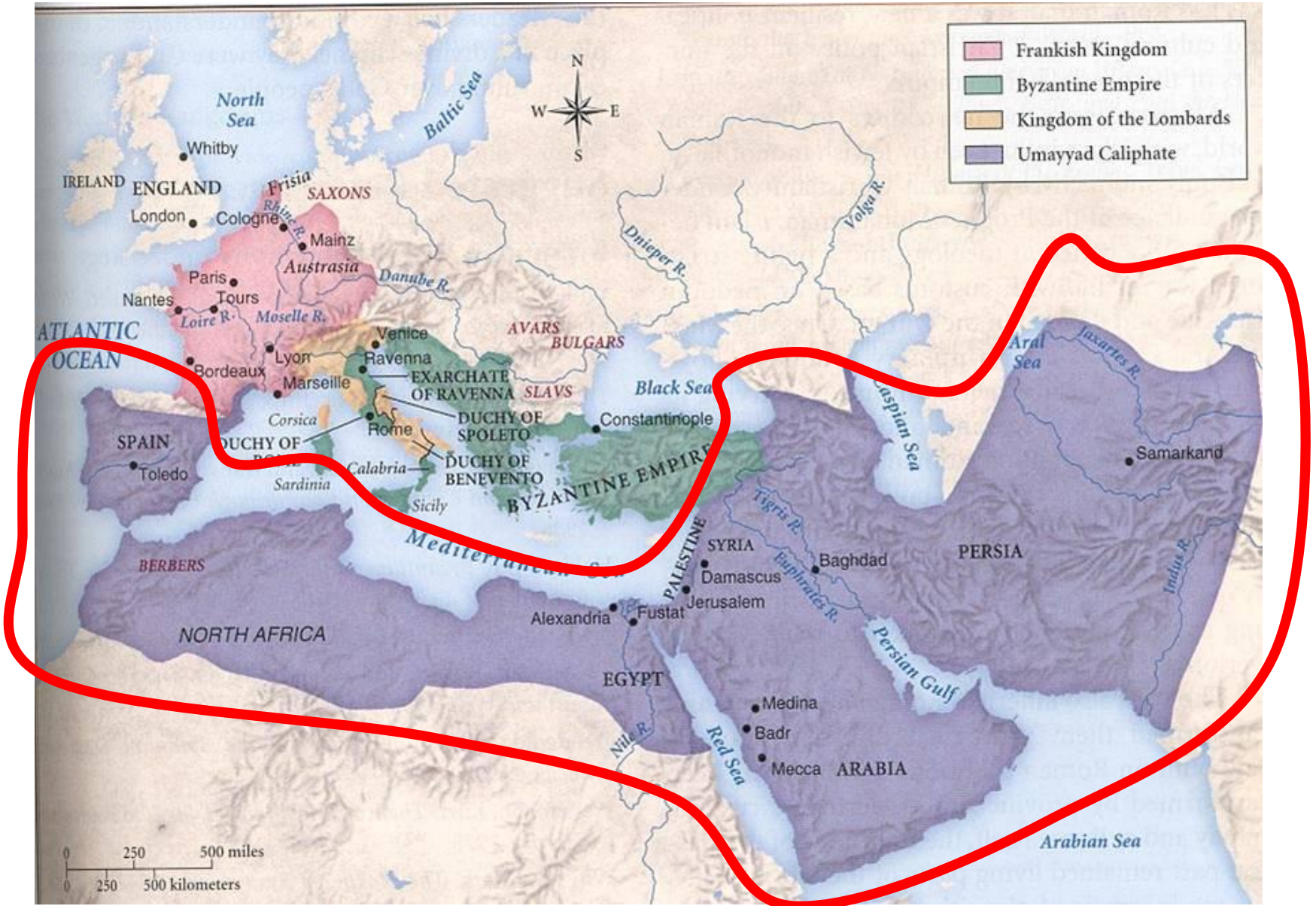
- What are the important elements of Islamic art and architecture?
- How are the ideas and culture of Islam reflected in its art?
- What are the differences between Islam and Christianity?
- How is the art of early Islam different from western art of this period?

# VOCABULARY

**arabesque, calligraphy, Koran, Mecca, Medina,  
mihrab, minaret, minbar, mosque, Muhammed,  
muqarnas, qiblah, tessellation**

# The Islamic World – 8th century C.E.

## Umayyad Caliphate





**Dome of the Rock**  
Jerusalem  
687 - 692



San Vitale

- What type of Christian church does the Dome of the Rock look like? Give an example.
- What is the importance of this structure?
- How are the mosaics similar to and different other mosaic work from that period?

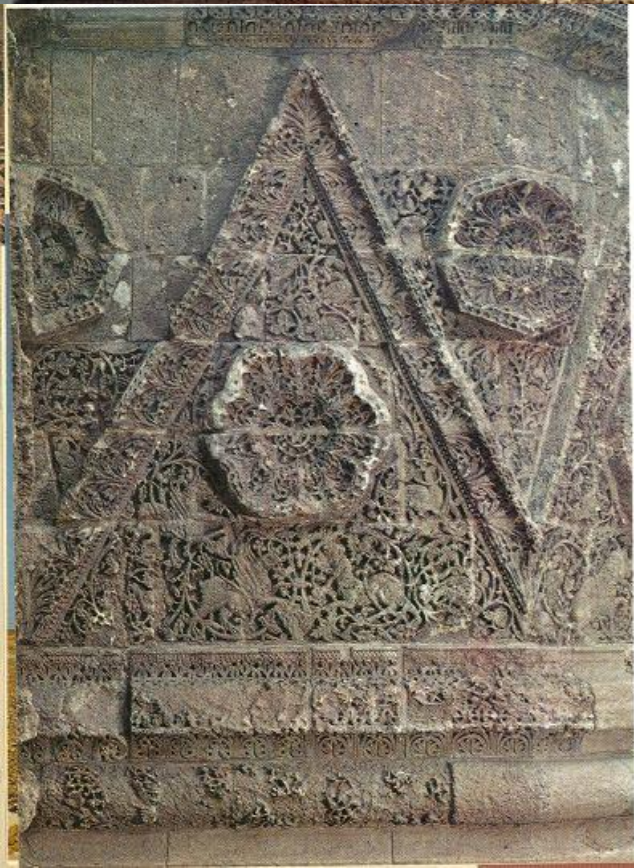
# Dome of the Rock, interior



- What influence might you suspect from looking at this interior?



Frieze of the  
Umayyad palace,  
Mshatta, Jordan  
ca. 740-750

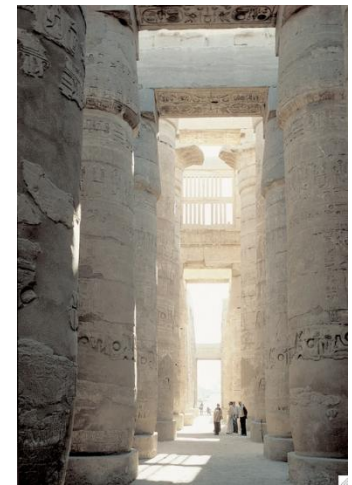


- Describe this frieze.
- How does this design reflect Islamic art ideals?



# Great Mosque Dome, Cordova, Spain 961-965

- What architecture does this look like?
- How is this similar to and different from earlier arches we have studied?
- What support system does this dome use?





## Hall of the Two Sisters Dome Granada, Spain 1354 - 1391



- Describe this structure using architectural terms.



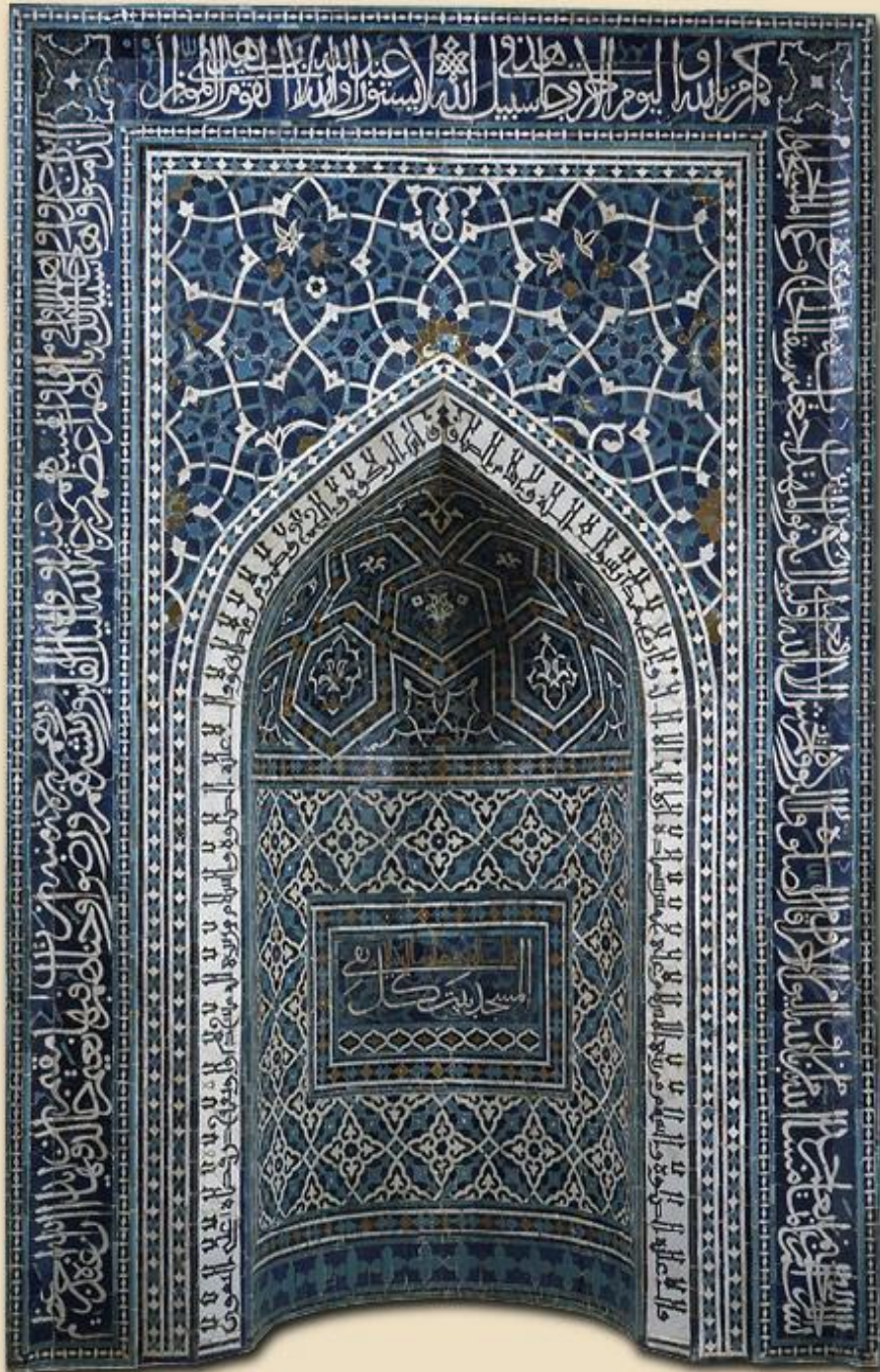
## Mosque of Selim II, Edirne, Turkey 1568 -1575

- What structure inspired this mosque?
- How is the structure and its dome supported?
- Describe the interior of the dome.



### Hagia Sophia - Byzantine



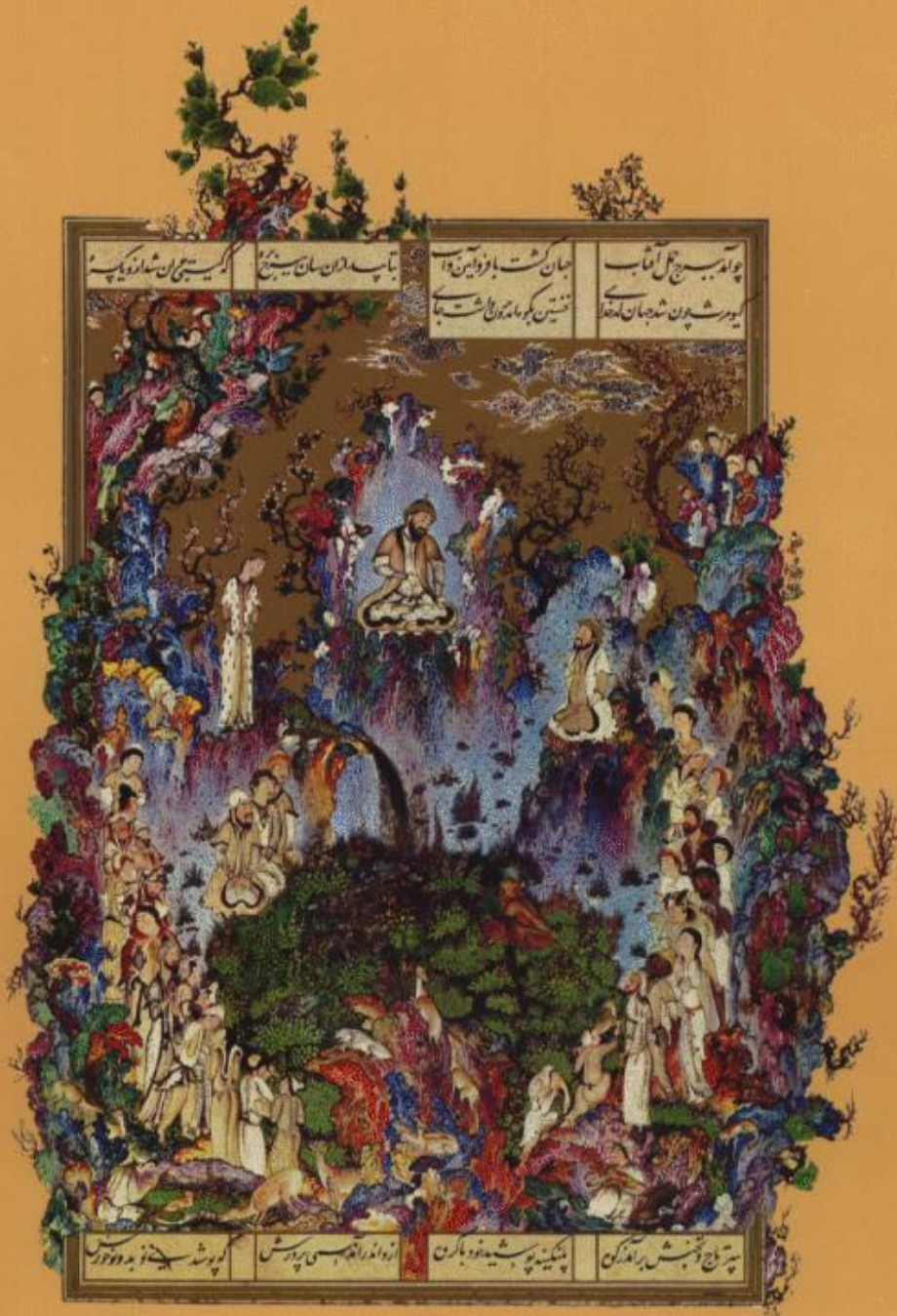


Mihrab from Imami Madrasa  
Isfahan, Iran  
ca. 1354

- How is calligraphy and arabesques used in this mihrab?
- What other Islamic art form does this invoke?
- What is the function of a mihrab?

Sultan-Muhammed,  
The Court of Gayumars  
folio 20 verso of the *Shahnama*  
Tabriz, Iran  
ca. 1525-1535

- How is Persian art different from the Islamic art we've seen so far?



# Key Concepts

- The chief building for Muslim worship is the mosque, which directs the worshipper's attention to Mecca through a niche called a *mihrab*.
- Mosque architecture use the central plan / dome design reminiscent of Hagia Sophia.
- Calligraphy is the most prized art form, and appears on most Islamic works of art.
- Both figural and non-figural works incorporate calligraphy with arabesques and tessellations.
- Persian Islamic art often used figures in their work.