



Istanbul fact cards

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What's "Byzantine"?

The Byzantine empire was a time in history when Istanbul was one of the world's most powerful cities. The dates were between A.D. 395 and 1453. The people in Istanbul are very proud of their city's history.

Who is Mehmet?

After a long war, Sultan Mehmet II was a leader who rebuilt the city of Istanbul in 1453. He invited people from all over Asia and Europe to come to the city and make it a place with many different cultures. He also established Islam as the primary religion.

What's all that water near Istanbul?

The Bosphorus Straight runs through Istanbul, connecting the Aegean and Black Seas. Actually, it divides Istanbul between two continents: Asia and Europe. Istanbul is the only city in the world to be in two continents.

What are the really fancy buildings in Istanbul?

Most of the tall buildings with pointed towers are mosques – houses of worship for Muslims. One of the most famous mosques in Istanbul is the Sultan Ahmed mosque, usually called the "Blue Mosque" because of blue tiles that cover the inside. It's the only mosque in the world to have six turrets (or towers).