

Busy Byzantines

Part 1. Opinion: Bias

a) What does the use of the term “Dark Ages” tell us about the bias of writers who use that term?

b) What would Byzantium and Muslim writers from about 1000CE have thought of the term “Dark Ages” to describe the era in which they lived?



Part 2: Option 1: Byzantine Artist



Complex of Mansur Qalaun

Draw a comical cartoon or picture of a poor European during the “Dark Ages” of Europe, looking longingly at the splendors of

a) Constantinople (Byzantium’s Capital) or

b) Bagdad (the largest city in the world in the High Middle Ages)

Option 2: Gossip column:
Make a ridiculous story for the Medieval Times newspaper of how Circus animal tamer’s daughter became one of the most powerful women in history and completely controlled her husband , Justinian.