The Safavid Empire/Persia/Iran Factors to Consider

Student Name ___________________________ Date _____________________

1) The Safavid Empire practiced Shi’ite Islam, which separated it from its Islamic neighbors, all of which were Sunni.
2) The Safavids were also culturally separated from the Sunni Empires, speaking Persian rather than Arabic, and developing their own unique architecture and artistic styles.
3) There were periodic military conflicts between the Sunni Ottoman Empire and the Shi’ite Safavid Empire.
4) The Ottoman Empire defeated the Safavids in the Battle of Chaldiran in 1514, stopping their western expansion into Ottoman territory, but increasing tension between the Ottoman and Safavid Empires.
5) Like the Ottomans, the Safavid Empire used a slave army of forced Christian converts armed with guns.
6) Silk from northern Iran and Persian carpets were in high demand by foreign traders.
7) Safavid rulers supported the creation of a diasporic community of Armenian merchants outside the Safavid capitol, Isfahan, who were allowed to trade in both the Ottoman and Safavid Empires.
8) The Safavids never possessed a navy and relied on the English and Dutch for naval support.