

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.