

100 Decisive Battles from Ancient times to the Present by Paul K Davis

Battle of Constantinople February - May 1453

I. Vocabulary: **1st:** Guess what the word means from context **2nd:** Look up each definition

Proselytization	Ascendancy	Forthcoming	Ramifications	
Monumental	Breach	Onslaught	Dismayed	Exorbitant

II. Forces engaged – who fought and who were the leaders

III. Historical Setting

1. If one did not want to travel around the Black Sea, what were the 2 ways that connected Europe to Asia?
2. What helped the spread of Islam during its early years and why were people attracted to Islam?
3. Why did Genoa, Venice, and Rome promise aid to Constantinople?
4. What did Mohammed II do in the spring of 1452 and why did he do it?
5. What help did Constantine and Mohammed get from Europe and how did each help the leader?

IV. The Battle

1. Who were the Bashi-Bazouks and the Janissaries?
2. How did Mohammed get ships into the Golden Horn and how many did he get there?
3. How many mines did Mohammed have dug to try to get under the walls of Constantinople and how did Constantine stop the mines?
4. How did Mohammed try to get over the walls of Constantinople and what happened to the attempt?
5. How did the Muslim troops finally get into the city and what lowered the moral of the defenders of the city?

V. Results

1. What happened to Constantine XI and why did the 30 ships of the Venetian fleet turn around and not help the city?
2. What happened the citizens who were not killed in the siege and where did Mohammed go after he captured the city?
3. Why was the Catholic Church in dismayed after the fall of Constantinople to the Muslims?
4. How did the fall of Constantinople help Italy enhance the Renaissance and why did Italian merchants look for new ways to get good from the east?