Objective:

Where was the Byzantine Empire? How did geography and its location affect the development of the Byzantine Empire?

- **Describe** the location of the Byzantine Empire and its capital, Constantinople.
- **Explain** how its geography and location impacted the development of the Byzantine Empire.

Introduction

**Directions:** Examine the maps below, then answer the question that follows.

Which of the pizza restaurants pictured above will make more money? Why?

UNIT 4 | Political Powers and Achievement | SQ 6. Where was the Byzantine Empire? How did geography and its location affect the development of the Byzantine Empire?
Where was the Byzantine Empire (330-1453)?

Directions: Examine the map of the Byzantine Empire below, then answer the questions that follow.

Think Like a Geographer

Labeling Key
CONTINENTS
Oceans
REGIONS
Bodies of Water

Source: Justinian555AD.png created by Tataryn published under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license and modified by New Visions for Public Schools.
**Relative location** is a description of where a place is in relation to how a place is related to other places. For example, Canada is *north of* the state of New York.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>South</th>
<th>Northeast</th>
<th>Northwest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Using the map and directional words above, complete the tasks below.

1. Identify *three continents* on which the Byzantine Empire controlled land.

2. Describe the location of the Byzantine Empire relative to *two regions*.

3. Describe the location of the Byzantine Empire relative to *two bodies of water*.

4. In 1-3 sentences, describe the location of the Byzantine Empire relative to *four* different locations or geographic features.
How interconnected was the Byzantine Empire in the post-classical era?

Directions: Examine the map below and answer the questions that follow.
The map below shows trade routes in existence before the 16th Century, most of which existed during the post-classical era. The Byzantine Empire, at its height, is highlighted in yellow.

1. Which trade networks connected to the Byzantine Empire?

2. Identify four cities that the people living in Constantinople could have traded with.

3. How might living at the intersection of several trade networks have affected the lives of people in the Byzantine Empire during the post-classical era?

Source: Adapted from Philippe Beaujard in "The Indian Ocean in Eurasian and African World-Systems before the Sixteenth Century," Journal of World History (adapted) from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Examination, August 2012.

UNIT 4 | Political Powers and Achievement | SQ 6. Where was the Byzantine Empire? How did geography and its location affect the development of the Byzantine Empire?
How did the location of Constantinople affect its development and that of the Byzantine Empire?

Directions: Examine the map and text below, then complete the tasks that follow.

1. Describe the location of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, relative to two continents.

2. Describe the location of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, relative to two bodies of water.

3. Based on the map above, describe how geography and its location affected the development of Constantinople.
Benjamin of Tudela was a Jewish traveler from the Kingdom of Castille, in modern-day Spain in the 12th century. He traveled throughout Europe, the Middle East and North Africa visiting Jewish communities and writing about his travels. His book, *The Tales of Benjamin* provide historians with descriptions of the Mediterranean world during the post-classical era.

**Benjamin of Tudela’s Description of Constantinople**

. . . The circumference of the city of Constantinople is eighteen miles; one-half of the city being bounded by the continent, the other by the sea, two arms of which meet here; the one a branch or outlet of the Russian [Black Sea], the other of the Spanish sea [Mediterranean Sea]. Great stir and bustle prevails [dominates] at Constantinople in consequence of the conflux [meeting] of many merchants, who resort thither [come there], both by land and by sea, from all parts of the world for purposes of trade, including merchants from Babylon and from Mesopotamia, from Media and Persia, from Egypt and Palestine, as well as from Russia, Hungary, Patzinakia, Budia, Lombardy and Spain. In this respect the city is equalled only by Bagdad, the metropolis of the Mahometans [Muslims]. . .

— Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela, Manuel Komroff, ed., *Contemporaries of Marco Polo*, Boni & Liveright from the NYS Global History and Geography Regents Exam.
4. Who was Benjamin of Tudela?

5. When did Benjamin of Tudela write his description of Constantinople?

6. Based on Benjamin of Tudela’s account, identify three locations merchants came to Constantinople from.

7. According to Benjamin of Tudela's account, why did “Great stir and bustle” prevail [dominate] in Constantinople?

8. Explain the extent to which Benjamin of Tudela’s account is a reliable source of evidence about Constantinople in the 1100s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions to consider when describing a source’s reliability.</th>
<th>Your response to task #8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the source include evidence about the given topic?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Constantinople in the 1100s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the source primary or secondary?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the author biased?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>What are the limitations of the source to give evidence about the topic?</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9. Identify and explain a cause and effect relationship between what is depicted in the map of Constantinople entitled “Trade about AD 1000” and Benjamin of Tudela’s description of Constantinople.
SQ 6. Where was the Byzantine Empire? How did geography and its location affect the development of the Byzantine Empire?

Task 1:
Relative location is a description of where a place is in relation to how a place is related to other places.

Using the maps above, write one sentence to describe the relative location of the Byzantine Empire and Constantinople using the bank of cardinal directions below. For example, Canada is north of the state of New York.

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Task 2
Explain how the location of Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire affected their development.