Brief history and culture of Turkey and Balkan areas under the former Ottoman Empire
If you could go anywhere in the world for vacation or to live, where would it be? Why would you want to go there? What is it like there – food, climate, activities? What kind of souvenirs would you get there? How do you know what it is like there?
Learn about life in the Ottoman Empire, so you know why they were such an important culture & can convince someone to move there!!
Nomadic Roots

- Ottoman empire began in modern day Turkey
- People are descendants of pastoral nomadic tribes from Central Asia
- called Turkomans/“Turks” by their enemies
- Raiding of weaker neighbors (esp. the Byzantines) was common
- Tribal society
  - loyalty, bravery family and hospitality important
Nomadic society values (hospitality, family, courage, and loyalty) must defend herds and family.

Ghazi warrior and raiding fits well with the idea of being a warrior for the faith (still get to keep fighting).
Osman (1280–1324)

- Founder of the Ottoman Empire
- Made Bursa his capital
- Osman’s dream
  - Tree, symbolizing the empire, with its roots spread throughout 3 continents and its branches covering the sky
- Expanded empire to encompass the Mediterranean coast in Asia Minor
Osman and his dream...
Empire will touch 3 continents

The Ottoman Empire
Under Suleiman I
the Magnificent,
1580

200 Miles
Empire under Osman (pink)
Growth and Expansion
Campaigned & conquered in the Balkans

- Also conquered land in Asia Minor
- Serbians agreed to pay tribute and send troops to fight for the Empire in 1371
- Died at the Battle of Kosovo (1389)
  - “rivers of blood...great number of severed heads and unraveled turbans had made the battlefield into a colorful field of tulips
  - Solidified Ottoman rule of Serbia and would lead to the absorption of Herzegovina, and much of Bosnia
Murad & Battle of Kosovo
New rule was better than the oppressive European feudal system so Ottomans were seen as deliverers.
Conquered Constantinople (re-named Istanbul)
Gave complete control over the Straits and the Black Sea
Was symbolically important to capture the imperial capital of Byzantine empire
Istanbul became the new capital for Sunni Islam and remained the center of the Greek Orthodox church
Entering Constantinople via the Gate of Theodosius
“Saint Sophia”
Orthodox church is converted into a mosque
Becomes symbolic of how the Ottomans treat those of different faith.
Hagia Sophia today