

## Module 6: The Byzantine Empire and Eastern Europe

### Topic 1 Content: Geography of the Byzantine Empire

#### Introduction



#### Geography of the Byzantine Empire

Click each marker to learn about the Byzantine Empire's unique geography. Exit the interactivity when you have finished exploring the content. Click NEXT to begin.

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#### Advantages of Being on a Peninsula



Constantinople was on a peninsula that was located on the shores of the Bosphorus, a strait that linked the Mediterranean and Black Seas. The city's natural harbors, coupled with being bordered on three sides by water, made Constantinople easy to defend, and an important center of trade.

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#### Advantages of Being Far from Invaders



Constantinople was situated far from the Germanic invasions that threatened the survival of the western half of the Roman Empire at the time.

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#### Advantages of Being at a Crossroads



Constantinople was located at a crossroads of trade that linked the Asian and European markets. The city's favorable location made it one of Europe's busiest marketplaces. Europeans sought silk, spices, jewelry, and ivory from the East, and industries in Constantinople turned many of these raw goods into finished products for other parts of the world. In addition, taxes from trade and industry were collected to support the activities of the imperial government.