

**late 11th century** -- Turkey is ruled by the Seljuks, until the late 13th century

**c. 1300** -- The Ottoman Empire is established

**17th century** -- Sultan Osman II is killed by the Janissaries

**1918** -- The Ottoman Empire ends

**1923** -- Turkey becomes a republic; Ankara becomes the capital

#### Things to Think About \_\_\_\_\_

- How does Turkey represent both East and West?
- Research the different civilizations that have ruled Turkey, including the Hittites, Romans, Byzantines, and Seljuks. How were they similar and different? What traces did they leave in Turkey?
- Describe the history of the Ottoman Empire. What was its effect on the world? How did the vast empire crumble during World War I?
- Why was it necessary to build underground cities like Yeralti Sehri in Cappadocia? What other defensive steps were taken in the region?
- Describe the mystical orders in Turkey, such as the Bektasi Dervishes. What were their practices and beliefs?
- What is differentiated erosion? What was its result in Cappadocia?
- How did people and nature combine to shape Cappadocia?
- Why is visiting Cappadocia like being in a fairy tale?

#### Internet Resources \_\_\_\_\_

**[www.turkey.org/intro.html](http://www.turkey.org/intro.html)** -- The official site of the Republic of Turkey, with information on business and economy, politics, culture, tourism, and current affairs.

**<http://www.discoverturkey.com/english/main-e.html>**

--Turkish Ministry of Culture site, with links to various sites on Turkish history, cities and regions, and art and culture.

**[www.turkishodyssey.com/turkey/turkey.htm](http://www.turkishodyssey.com/turkey/turkey.htm)** -- Turkish history and geography, plus maps, information on places of interest, and more.

#### Other Resources \_\_\_\_\_

##### FOR STUDENTS:

**Baralt, Luis A. Turkey.** Children's Press, 1997.

**Feinstein, Steve. Turkey in Pictures.** Lerner Publications, 1989.

**Lyle, Gamy. Turkey.** Chelsea House, 1999.

##### FOR ADULTS:

**Brown, Dale M. Anatolia: Cauldron of Cultures.** Time-Life Books, 1995.

**Horobin, Gilbert. Turkey.** Odyssey Publications, 1999.

**Stoneman, Richard. A Traveller's History of Turkey.** Interlink Books, 1998.

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After studying the map and reading about Turkey and Cappadocia's place in the world, read the sections on vocabulary and important people, places, and dates to provide a focus while viewing the program. After viewing the program, review the sections listed above and consider the Things to Think About. Research topics further using the Inter-net and other resources provided.

#### **Context in the World**

Turkey is a land that represents both East and West, divided between the continents of Asia and Europe. Ancient civilizations lived and flourished here, including the Hittites, Romans, and Byzantines. The Seljuk Turks reigned from the late 11th to late 13th centuries, followed by the great Ottoman Empire, which ruled Turkey and a vast expanse until World War I. Turkey became a republic in 1923. The country has long been embroiled with Greece over the island of Cyprus. Internally, Turkey has also faced problems with Muslim fundamentalists and political extremists, and has fought against its Kurdish ethnic minority and Kurdish separatists, who want to set up an independent country. In 1999, northwestern Turkey was struck by two severe earthquakes, the first in August and the second in November, that left more than 20,000 dead and many, many homeless

(but spared Cappadocia). The government was criticized after the first quake for what some charged were inadequate, chaotic rescue efforts as well as for having allowed contractors to construct substandard buildings in the stricken area.

#### **Vocabulary**

- arabesque** -- An ornament or style, usually with flowers or fruit, in an intricate design of interlaced lines.
- Bektasi Dervishes** -- A mystical religious order, founded in the 13th century in Hacibektas, that was declared illegal when the Ottoman Empire ended.
- Byzantine Empire** -- The empire that ruled Turkey c. 300 to 1100 AD.
- caravansary** -- An inn for those traveling in caravans.
- Hittites** -- Indo-European nomads who ruled Anatolia c. 2000 to 1200 BC.
- Janissaries** -- The elite infantry troops and sultan's palace guard of the Ottoman Empire.
- mausoleum** -- A large building for the entombment of the dead above ground.
- meydanevi** -- The room in a monastery where initiation into the religious order took place.
- minarets** -- Tall, thin towers attached to mosques.
- mosques** -- Muslim houses of worship.
- Ottoman Empire** -- The empire that ruled Turkey c. 1300 to 1918.
- peribaca** -- The "fairy chimneys" left by the erosion of lava deposited by the eruption of Erciyes Dagı.
- Seljuks** -- The central Asian nomads who ruled Anatolia from the late 11th to late 13th centuries.
- tekke** -- The monastery where Turkish monks live.

#### **Important People**

- Haci Bektas Veli** -- Founder of the order of the Bektasi Dervishes in the 13th century.
- Justinian I** -- Byzantine emperor who rebuilt Kayseri in the 6th century.
- Osman II** -- Sultan who was killed by the Janissaries in the 17th century.

#### **Important Places**

- Anatolia** -- The central portion of the eastern part of Turkey, on the continent of Asia.
- Ankara** -- The capital of Turkey.
- Byzantium** -- The name given to Istanbul when it was the center of the Roman Empire.
- Cappadocia** -- A mountainous area in Anatolia in central Turkey.
- Constantinople** -- The name given to Byzantium (later Istanbul)

in 330 AD in honor of the Roman Emperor Constantine.

- Döner Kümbet** -- An ornate mausoleum in Kayseri.
- Erciyes Dagı** -- Mount Erciyes, a volcano in Cappadocia that erupted millions of years ago.
- Goreme** -- Both a city and the valley in which it is located, in Cappadocia, that is the site of many attractions.
- Haci Kilig** -- A Seljuk site in Kayseri.
- Hacibektas** -- The city in which the Bektasi Dervishes were founded in the 13th Century.
- Istanbul** -- The largest city in Turkey, once called Byzantium and Constantinople, and once the capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires.
- Karanlık Kilise** -- The Dark Church, a church in Goreme decorated with many well-preserved frescoes.
- Kaymakli** -- An agricultural town in Cappadocia that is the site of the underground city Yeralti Sehri.
- Kayseri** -- A city, called Caesarea by the Romans, that was the center of ancient Cappadocia.
- Kültepe** -- The Hittite city of Kanesh, containing many archaeological finds.
- Ortahisar** -- A village that is the site of a castle and fort carved from limestone.
- Peribacalari Vadisi** -- The Valley of the Fairy Chimneys, in Cappadocia.
- Rock of Simeon** -- A three-headed peak, resulting from natural erosion, located in the Valley of Zelve.
- Sultanhanı** -- A caravansary in Cappadocia built in the 13th century.
- Tokali Kilise** -- The Church of the Buckle, a church in Goreme carved out of stone and decorated with frescoes.
- Uchisar** -- The site of a castle carved from limestone.
- Urgüp** -- A city in Cappadocia.
- Uzumlu Kilise** -- The Church of the Grapes, a mosque in Zelve carved out of limestone.
- Uzun Yolu** -- A caravan route that united Cappadocia with Persia.
- Yeralti Sehri** -- The underground city located in Kaymakli, built between the 6th and 10th centuries.
- Zelve** -- Both a city and the valley in which it is located, in Cappadocia, that is the site of many attractions.

#### **Important Dates**

- c. 2000 BC** -- The Hittite civilization begins in Anatolia, dominating the area until c. 1200 BC
- 100 BC** -- Anatolia becomes part of the Roman Empire
- c. 300 to 1100 AD** -- Turkey is part of the Byzantine Empire