1. ***Muhammad ibn al-Wahhab\****

**For this exercise you will** accurately assume the character of a historically important figure during the Early Modern Era (1450-1750c.e.). To prepare, you must research your assigned individual using your textbook and/or the internet, and write a detailed bio that answers the two questions shown below in a THOROUGH and educational way. After all, the goal of this activity is not to simply learn a lot about one person, but to work together as a class unit to review all critical information about lots of important early modern era figures. You will have no more than 15 minutes to finish prepping your character.

Following your preparation you will engage in twenty-three separate 2-minute conversations with all of the other key figures shown below. In your conversation you must fully introduce yourself- being sure to hit all of the important information and context related to your character, while also completing the attached chart with the most important information they present to you.

1. ***Guru Nanak\****
2. Jean Jacques Rousseau
3. Isaac Newton
4. Galileo Galilei
5. Nicolas Copernicus
6. Adam Smith
7. John Locke
8. Hernando Cortes
9. Francisco Pizarro
10. Peter the Great
11. Nicolo Machiavelli
12. Babur
13. Aurangzeb
14. Akbar
15. Vasco de Gama
16. Christopher Columbus
17. Shah Ismail
18. Shah Abbas
19. Martin Luther
20. Mary Wollstonecraft
21. Suleiman the Magnificent
22. Osman Bey
23. Matteo Ricci, Head of Jesuits in China
24. Pope Paul III Council of Trent
25. Tokugawa Ieyasu
26. Prince Henry
27. Zheng He
28. Magellan
29. Sundiata
30. Gutenberg
31. Wu Chengeen
32. Kangxi
33. Louis XIV
34. William Shakespeare
* **How do you think history will remember you?**
* **What was the regional/imperial/state context in which you existed?**

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| **Important Info** (Facts, achievements, relevant context, etc.) |
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| **Formal Written Biography** (putting together all the bullet points above into a cohesive narrative) |
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*Overall Notes:*

* Create a name plate for your explorer for the day of the discussion – these must be typed and folded – easily readable
* Speed Dating is a quick way to meet a lot of people and form a first impression. Have Fun!
* A “good date” looks/acts: charismatic, informative, stays on topic, stays in character. Talks in 1st person, talks to the “date” the whole time – not talking to other groups or just sitting and looking around. Remember this is a conversation, NOT an interview!
* During each “date” you will be filling out your critical information sheet
* At the end of your speed dating experience you will vote for your “best date”. The individuals voted “best date” will earn extra bonus points on their exam.

*Example Conversation:*

**Guru Nanak & Muhammad ibn al-Wahhab**

**Person #1**: Hi, my name is Guru Nanak, who are you?

**Person #2**: O hey, Guru, my name is Muhammad ibn al-Wahhab.

**Person #1** (NANAK): So Mr. Wahhab, tell me a little about yourself.

**Person #2** (WAHHAB): Well, let’s see, I was born in Saudi Arabia in the year 1703. I was always very interested in my Islamic faith and became an important Muslim scholar as I aged. Though a lot of other Sunni scholars in my country thought I was a heretic, I always knew that my interpretations of the Qu’ran were correct. After all, I did believe that we had strayed from the strict beliefs of the Qu’ran, and that we should fully implement Sharia law on the Arabian peninsula.

**Person #1** (NANAK): So what do you think people remember about you the most?

**Person #2** (WAHHAB): Probably that I advocated for a strict return to Islam, and gave birth to the Wahhabi movement that further encouraged the adoption of strict Sharia law in Arabia. Now you tell me about yourself.

**Person #1** (NANAK): I myself was born in India during the year 1469. As I grew up I too became very interested in religion and like you, ended up creating an entirely new religious movement. Mine, however, became an entirely separate religion: Sikhism. Though a simplification, I combined some traditional Hindu beliefs with Islamic principles for a true syncretic religion. I always viewed in the equality of men and women, and though I started out a pacifist, my followers grew to be a very militant people as they were forced to deal with persecution from both Hindus and Muslims alike.

**Person #2** (WAHHAB): So what do you think people remember about you the most?

**Person #1** (NANAK): Probably that I gave rise to the Sikh religion, an important religion that still exists in India today and blends Islamic and Hindu beliefs. Also probably that I felt men and women to be truly equal, and that the faith I gave rise to eventually adopted a militant mentality in response to harsh treatment from Hindus and Muslims.

**Person #2** (WAHHAB): So nice to meet you, and thanks for the info.

**Person #1** (NANAK): To you as well!

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| **Critical Information on Key Figures in the Early Modern Era** |
| **1. Guru Nanak** | * Founder of Sikhism
	+ Still an important religion the India today
* Sikhism blended some beliefs of Islam and Hinduism
* Believed women and men to be equal
* My followers eventually adopted a militant outlook due to persecution and attack by Hindus and Muslims
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| **2. Muhammad ibn al-Wahhab** | * Active during 18th century in modern-day Saudi Arabia
* Founder of Wahhabi movement on Arabian peninsula
* Argued for a return to a strict interpretation of the Qu’ran and full implementation of Sharia law
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| **Critical Information on Key Figures in the Early Modern Era** |
| **3. Jean Jacques Rousseau** |  |
| **4. Isaac Newton** |  |
| **5. Galileo Galilei** |  |
| **6. Nicolaus Copernicus** |  |
| **7. Adam Smith** |  |
| **8. John Locke** |  |
| **9. Hernando Cortes** |  |
| **10. Francisco Pizarro** |  |
| **11. Peter the Great** |  |
| **12. Nicolo Machiavelli** |  |
| **13. Babur** |  |
| **14. Aurangzeb** |  |
| **15. Akbar** |  |
| **16. Vasco de Gama** |  |
| **17. Christopher Columbus** |  |
| **18. Shah Ismail** |  |
| **19. Shah Abbas** |  |
| **20. Martin Luther** |  |
| **21. Mary Wollstonecraft** |  |
| **22. Suleiman the Magnificent** |  |
| **23. Osman Bey** |  |
| **24. Matteo Ricci** |  |
| **25. Pope Paul III** |  |
| **26. Tokugawa Ieyasu** |  |
| **27. Prince Henry** |  |
| **28. Zheng He** |  |
| **29. Magellan** |  |
| **30. Sundiata** |  |
| **31. Guttenberg**  |  |
| **32. Wu Chengeen** |  |
| **33. Kangxi** |  |
| **34. Louis XIV** |  |
| 1. **William Shakespeare**
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