Name _____

HOW DID MEHMED II TAKE CONSTANTINOPLE?

For about 1,000 years no army had broken Constantinople's land walls. In 1453 Mehmed II took the city in 53 days. Use this sheet, the Six Hundred Years reading and the siege picture to see how his plan came together, step by step.

◆ CAUSES, OLDEST FIRST ◆

1300s–1400s (1)

The city is surrounded

What had the Ottomans already done to the lands around Constantinople?

1452 (2)

Rumeli Hisarı is built

Where did Mehmed build a fortress, and what was it for?

1452–1453 (3)

Orban's great cannon

What new weapon did Mehmed have, and what did it do?

April 1453 (4)

A huge army

How big was Mehmed's army, and how many defended the city?

22 April 1453 (5)

Ships over the hill

How did Mehmed get his ships past the chain into the Golden Horn?

↓ LED TO

1453

TURNING POINT

The final attack, 29 May

What happened on 29 May 1453?

↓ WHICH LED TO

What did Mehmed do with the city?

What happened to Hagia Sophia?

Who lived in the city afterward?

1. **Which part of Mehmed's plan do you think mattered most? Give two pieces of evidence from this sheet.**

2. **Mehmed made the city his capital instead of destroying it. Why would a sultan want this city in particular?**