



SKILLBUILDER

Reading a Historical Map

►► Defining the Skill

Historical maps show an area of the world as it was in the past. Different historical maps contain different kinds of information. Some show trade routes or routes of exploration. Some show how an empire or nation has increased or decreased in size. Some show how political boundaries have changed over time. The map key tells what the symbols, lines, and colors on a historical map represent.

►► Applying the Skill

The historical map below shows how the Ottoman Empire gradually collapsed. During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Ottoman Empire was one of the most powerful empires in the world. It lasted for more than 600 years, but by 1922 the empire was gone.

How to Read a Historical Map

Strategy 1 Read the title to learn the time period that is shown on the map.

Strategy 2 Read the key. Shown first on this key is a dotted line, which represents the boundary of the Ottoman Empire in 1807. Look at the map and find that boundary. As you follow the boundary, notice which bodies of water it touches and which continents it covers.

Strategy 3 Look at each color on the key and the time period represented by that color. Then look for each color on the map. Some of the color regions are scattered. Be sure to locate all of them.

Strategy 4 Read the map. Notice when different regions were lost to the Ottoman Empire. Some of these regions became independent; others fell under the rule of other nations.

Write a Summary

Writing a summary will help you gain a clearer understanding of the map. The paragraph to the right summarizes the information from this historical map.

►► Practicing the Skill

Turn to page 245 in Chapter 9, Section 1. Look at the historical map entitled *Changing Boundaries in Palestine, 1947–49*, and then write a paragraph summarizing what you learned from it.



SUMMARY In 1807 the Ottoman Empire stretched from Bosnia and North Africa in the west to Kuwait in the east, and from Russia in the north to Egypt in the south. Beginning in 1807, the area claimed by the Ottomans was gradually taken over by Greece, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and Great Britain.