**Arabs, Franks, and the Battle of Tours (Poitiers)**

Introduction: Almost immediately after the death of Muhammad, Muslims followed the Prophet’s commandment to spread his teaching and the Muslim Empire steadily expanded its territory. Muhammad’s successor was Abu Bakr (632-634), who was chosen by the Meccan community to lead them as the “deputy of Allah.” Bakr battled against the Bedouins, who had at first converted to Islam, then rejected it. The Bedouins were defeated, bringing the entire Arabian Peninsula under Muslim control. Immediately following this victory, Muslims began to conquer parts of the byzantine Empire and the Sassanid Empire (Persia and Iraq), proclaiming jihad (holy war) to spread Muhammad’s teachings. Muslim forces crossed the Straits of Gibraltar in 711, entering Europe. In 732 Muslim and Christian armies fought at Tours, France, (near Poitiers) in a battle that would decide who would control Europe.

*Directions: answer the following questions about the four primary documents.*

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| **From an Arabian Chronicler** |
| 1. Paraphrase Musa’s view of the Franks when speaking to his caliph.
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| 1. Why does Musa believe that his view of the Franks is correct?
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| **Isidore of Beja’s Chronicle** |
| 1. Who long did the battle last, according to this source?
 |  |
| 1. What phrase in the introduction to the document lets you know whether this source is Christian or Muslim in origin?
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| 1. According to this account, who won the Battle of Tours? How did they win?
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| **Chronicle of St. Denis** |
| 1. What nickname was given to Charles Martel? How is this nickname justified by St. Denis?
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| 1. Paraphrase this account of the battle.
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| 1. On what points do the three above accounts agree?
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| **Anonymous Arab Chronicler: The Battle of Poitiers, 732** |
| 1. According to this account, why were the Muslim soldiers eager to engage the Franks in battle?
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| 1. What words in the document suggest that this is a Muslim account?
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| 1. What excuse does this account give for the Muslim defeat at Tours?
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Summary Questions (Staple on RIGHT SIDE)

1. Do these sources agree on the facts? List the fact on which they agree and disagree.
2. What might Europe have been like in the Middle Ages and beyond that time, if the Muslims had won the Battle of Tours (Poitiers)? Support your ideas with information from the readings.

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