Aim: What were the main achievements of the Safavid Empire?

I Safavids
- o   Safi al-Din founder in 1334
- o   Originally from Iran
- o   Followed the Shi'a branch of Islam
- o   Known as a Gunpowder empire
- o   Always in conflict with the Ottomans (Sunni Muslims)
- o   Redhead army for wearing red headgear

II Characteristics
- o   Isma'il I 14 years old
- o   1499 seized Persia
- o   named himself Shah or king
- o   Killed thousands of Sunni Muslims for not converting
- o   Golden Age under Shah Abbas the Great
- o   Came to power in 1587
- o   Reformed both the military and civilian aspects of life.
- o   Persians and a force like the Ottoman janissaries
- o   Armies had modern artillery.
- o   Reformed his government.
- o   Established relations with Europe.
- o   Chinese artisans into the empire.

III Decline
- o   Abbas killed and blinded his sons
- o   Left grandson Safi to rule, incompetent
- o   1722 attacked by Afghanistan and Ottomans
- o   Weak leaders to follow
- o   Nadir Shah Afshar a Sunni came to rule
- o   He was assassinated by his own men in 1747
- o   Created a legacy based on Persian culture
- o   Left Shi'ism as the staple religion in the region