

World History
Topic 8
The Roman and Byzantine Empires
30 BCE-1453 CE

NAME: _____

I. The Roman Empire Begins

A. Humble Beginnings

1. a small settlement along the Tiber River
2. mild, rainy winters and hot, dry summers
3. transformed forests into wheat fields, olive orchards, and vineyards
4. mountains, rivers for water and transportation, and plains for farming
5. settlements joined together to form a city
6. the city's soldiers conquered neighbors
7. eventually ruled all of Italy

B. Rise of the Roman Empire

1. free adult males elected officials in the republic
2. Rome's power and wealth grew rapidly, leading to its fall
3. the new emperors brought peace
4. Augustus
 - a. Octavian became the first and greatest emperor
 - b. won the civil wars and brought peace and stability
 - c. shrank the army and raised soldier pay
 - d. peace boosted the economy
 - e. fought corruption and was considered an idea emperor
 - f. **deified** – officially declared to be a god (after his death)
 - g. most emperors were deified, some while still alive
5. Tiberius
 - a. Augustus's stepson
 - b. a law was passed stating the emperor had nearly total power
6. **succession**
 - a. one person or thing following another
 - b. there was no formal way to choose a new emperor
 - b. members of the imperial family and others schemed and killed
 - c. sometimes the army made the final decision
7. other emperors
 - a. Trajan conquered new territories
 - b. Hadrian travelled the empire and built walls around Rome
 - c. Marcus Aurelius wrote a book of philosophy
 - d. others built aqueducts, public baths, temples, stadiums, etc.
 - e. some were failures and some were cruel
 - f. Nero killed citizens and close relatives and persecuted Christians
8. **Pax Romana**
 - a. "Roman Peace"
 - b. lasted over 200 years for 65 million people
9. height of the empire
 - a. reached from Britain to Egypt and the Atlantic to Iraq
 - b. during Pax Romana
 - c. united all territories that bordered the Mediterranean
 - d. dense forests to the north, deserts to the south and southwest, and the ocean to the west stopped further conquests

- e. the Persian Empire lay to the east
 - 1.) ruled by the Parthians and then the Sasanians
 - 2.) Rome faced continuing conflict with them
 - 3.) Parthians defeated the army at Carrhae
 - 4.) Emperors Trajan and Severus had more minor battles with them
 - 5.) couldn't secure their eastern border

C. Practical Achievements

1. roads

- a. major roads extended from Rome like spokes of a wheel
- b. 50,000 miles of paved roads crisscrossed the empire
- c. linked cities and forts
- d. some are still used today
- e. helped the army
 - 1.) allowed soldiers to march quickly
 - 2.) workers traveled with the army
 - a.) military engineers
 - b.) architects
 - c.) stonemasons
 - d.) surveyors
 - 3.) soldiers worked on roads when not fighting
- f. hard-paved and well drained
- g. sped up communication, improving government and trade
- h. roads from ports to inland cities helped supply food

2. architecture

a. **concrete**

- 1.) a building material made by mixing cement with small stones, sand, and water
- 2.) thick, soupy mixture poured into molds to harden
- 3.) made concrete harbors that have survived over 2,000 years
- 4.) lighter and easier to work with than stone
- 5.) build large **structures** – buildings, covered with domes

b. rounded arch

- 1.) supported bridges
- 2.) allowed for longer bridge spans
- 3.) became the most typical feature of Roman architecture

3. **aqueducts**

- a. channels that move water overland
- b. designed water systems to provide towns with clean water
- c. built hundreds of miles
- d. made of stone or concrete underground
- e. built long arched bridges to pipe water across valleys (stand today)
- f. water flowed into public fountains and was piped into wealthy homes
- g. public baths
 - 1.) important part of Roman lifestyle
 - 2.) went daily to bathe, exercise, see friends, and do businesses

4. sewers carried waste away from cities

D. Trade and the Roman Economy

- 1. merchants and goods traveled by road and sea
- 2. industry and commerce grew in cities that traded with other regions
- 3. trade grew
 - a. cleared the sea of pirates
 - b. sea trade was safer, faster, and cheaper than by land
 - c. ships carried grain, wine, olive oil, and pottery

- d. grain and olive oil fed Rome's one to two million people
- e. got products from Europe, Greece, Anatolia, Syria, Egypt, and Africa
- f. merchants brought goods from all over
 - 1.) Central Asia and China on the Silk Road
 - 2.) over the Mediterranean Sea
 - 3.) across the Indian Ocean
- g. brought a variety of goods
 - 1.) silk from China
 - 2.) medicine and jewels from India
 - 3.) frankincense and animals from Africa
 - 4.) also brought ideas and technologies

4. agriculture

- a. grain fed the massive population and armies
- b. depended on the work of slaves and poor laborers
- c. provincial farmers grew rich
 - 1.) built temples, theaters, and baths
 - 2.) joined the Roman elite
 - 3.) became senators and emperors

5. stable currency

- a. system of money that does not change much in value over time
- b. quickly and widely accepted in trade
- c. made it easier to conduct long-distance trade

II. Origins of Christianity

A. Judea Under Roman Rule

1. Jesus
 - a. Jewish spiritual leader during the Pax Romana
 - b. executed by the Romans
 - c. a new religion emerged based on his teachings
2. Judea
 - a. Jewish kingdom
 - b. large Jewish communities now also existed in Egypt, Syria, Anatolia, Greece, Italy, and southern France
 - c. Romans took control of Judea and the city of Jerusalem
 - d. many Jews opposed Roman rule
3. zealots
 - a. saw Romans as cruel foreigners
 - b. hoped God would send a Messiah, or chosen king to save them
 - c. resisted the Romans by refusing to pay taxes and killing officials
4. Pharisees
 - a. educated Jewish group
 - b. believed good people would be **resurrected** – brought back to life, after the Messiah came
5. Sadducees
 - a. a large, elite group
 - b. supported the traditions of the Temple of Jerusalem
 - c. cooperated with Romans
6. some groups lived **isolated**
 - a. set away from other people or places
 - b. in the desert
 - c. practiced **baptism** – ritual cleansing by plunging into water

B. Jesus's Life and Teachings

1. early life
 - a. according to the Gospels, he was a descendant of King David
 - b. born miraculously
 - c. was a carpenter
2. teacher
 - a. baptized by a prophet named John in the Jordan River
 - b. began teaching from the Hebrew Bible
 - c. traveled through Judea for three years
 - d. told the people God would soon establish a kingdom
 - e. champion of the poor and outcasts
 - f. could heal sick people
 - g. his followers thought he was the Messiah
 - h. preached about how to live a good life
3. opposition, arrest, and death
 - a. went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover
 - b. **authorities** – people who have the right to give orders
 - 1.) Romans feared the large holiday crowds
 - 2.) locals were nervous they'd destroy the city
 - c. Pontius Pilate
 - 1.) Roman governor
 - 2.) had Jesus arrested, beaten, and executed
 - 3.) **crucifixion** – a slow and painful Roman method of execution
 - 4.) nailed him to a large wooden cross and left to hang until dead

4. resurrection
 - a. his body was taken down and laid in a tomb
 - 1.) sealed the tomb and posted guards
 - 2.) his followers visited three days later
 - 3.) guards were gone and the tomb was empty
 - 4.) told the disciples
 - b. many claim to have seen him and believe he was resurrected by God
 - c. believed he was the Messiah or “Christ”

C. Christianity Spread

1. formed by those who believed he was the Messiah
2. Jesus had chosen twelve disciples or apostles who spread his teachings
3. early church
 - a. Peter, James, and Paul spread their faith around the world
 - b. *church* – community, group, or building of Christians
4. gentiles
 - a. non-Jews (many were taught by Peter)
 - b. more and more became Christians
5. Jerusalem
 - a. Romans destroyed the temple
 - b. Jews were forbidden to live there
 - c. left Judea as migrants or were taken away as slaves
6. Paul
 - a. spread Christianity around the Roman empire
 - b. had a **conversion** – a heartfelt change in opinions or beliefs
 - c. believed Jesus had appeared to him and told him to spread the faith
 - d. called an apostle, though not one of the original twelve
 - e. founded churches and preached
 - f. wrote letters called epistles
 - g. said non-Jews did not have to follow Jewish laws
 - h. needed to live moral lives and not worship other gods
 - i. taught about the resurrection
 - j. preached that Jesus’s death saved believers from sin and guilt
 - k. half of the New Testament comes from Paul
7. became its own tradition and grew rapidly
 - a. remained a minority religion for centuries
 - b. roads and the sea allowed Christians to spread their beliefs
 - c. scriptures were in Greek (later Latin) so many could understand them
 - d. people liked the teachings
 - 1.) strong morals
 - 2.) monotheism (belief in one God)
 - 3.) all are equal in God’s eyes (the poor, enslaved, and women)

D. Christianity and the Empire

1. opposition
 - a. the growth scared Roman officials
 - b. did allow other religions
 - 1.) people had to worship Roman gods and emperors loyally
 - 2.) Jews were an exception, and Rome respected that
 - c. but saw Christians as disloyal
 - 1.) quit worshipping the gods
 - 2.) would anger the gods
 - 3.) government’s job to keep the gods happy
2. persecution
 - a. Emperor Nero blamed Christians for a fire that burned Rome

- b. many were then killed
- c. scared some away from Christianity
- d. produced some **martyrs** – people who die for their beliefs
- e. courage strengthened the faith for some

3. Emperor Constantine

- a. fought under the cross because of a dream
- b. won the battle
- c. ended persecution
- d. became a Christian
- e. later made it Rome's official religion
- f. included the gospels and letters in the Christian Bible
- g. Roman cities were led by Christian bishops

III. Beliefs of Christianity

A. The Christian Bible

1. gathered sacred writings and developed the faith
2. centered on the life of Jesus and the belief that he was the son of God
3. the Old and New Testaments
 - a. together became the holy text of Christians
 - b. the Hebrew Bible became known as the Old Testament
 - c. the **New Testament** – writings that form part of the Christian Bible which tell the story of Jesus and his early followers
 - 1.) written down between 50-150 CE in Greek (widely spoken)
 - 2.) contains 27 documents called books
4. the **Gospels**
 - a. the first four books of the New Testament
 - b. describe the life and teachings of Jesus from four points of view
 - c. presented in **parables** – stories with a moral
5. **epistles**
 - a. formal letters
 - b. written by apostles and other early leaders to new churches
 - c. explain Christian teachings or solve problems
 - 1.) the Trinity
 - 2.) resurrection
 - 3.) salvation
6. Acts of Apostles – described the life of Paul and other early Christians
7. Book of Revelation
 - a. the last book
 - b. predicts the future
 - c. Jesus's return to Earth and a final battle between good and evil

B. Christian Beliefs About God

1. the Son of God
 - a. Jesus
 - b. God in human form
 - 1.) death proved his was human
 - 2.) resurrection proved he was divine (godlike)
 - 3.) **controversial** – subject to disagreement or argument
 - 4.) hoped to be resurrected as well
 - 5.) believe in eternal life in the presence of God
2. the soul and salvation
 - a. everyone has a soul, or spirit
 - b. people need God to forgive their sins, or wrongdoings
 - c. then their souls can live on in the presence of God after death
 - d. have faith that God will forgive people who are truly sorry
 - e. Jesus promised eternal salvation to those who believe in him
 - f. view his death as a sacrifice for everyone's sins to be forgiven
3. the **Trinity**
 - a. the three persons, or forms, of God according to Christian beliefs
 - 1.) God the Father – created the universe
 - 2.) Jesus the Son – God's son, and God in human form
 - 3.) the Holy Spirit – the Holy Ghost, God's power experienced on Earth

C. Practicing Christianity

1. Jesus's teachings
 - a. **ethics** – issues of right or wrong

- b. the “Golden Rule” – treat others as you would like to be treated
- c. God loves all of his creations and Jesus asked people to do the same
- d. Jesus showed concern for the poor and humble

2. Christianity today

- a. world’s largest religion
- b. 2 billion in the world
- c. thousands of **denominations** – religious groups
- d. share some beliefs and rituals and disagree on others
- e. Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy are the largest two
- f. Protestantism is a large family of groups
 - 1.) Baptist
 - 2.) Methodist
 - 3.) Lutheran
 - 4.) Presbyterian
 - 5.) Pentecostal
 - 6.) Episcopalian

3. rituals

- a. Sunday as a day of rest and prayers
- b. Holy Communion or Eucharist
 - 1.) a ritual meal at worship services
 - 2.) includes bread and wine or juice
- c. baptism

4. holidays

- a. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, a miracle
- b. Easter celebrates his resurrection

D. Judeo-Christian Tradition

- 1. Judaism and Christianity are separate religions with many differences
- 2. but share many common **elements** – parts
 - a. worship one God
 - b. read the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as scripture
 - c. similar ethics
 - d. respect the Ten Commandments
- 3. helped shape life in Europe, the Americas, etc.
 - a. contributed to art and literature
 - b. influences law (equality for example)

IV. Roman Culture and Its Legacy

A. Role as a Site of Encounter

1. **site of encounter** – place where people from different cultures meet and exchange products, ideas, and technologies
2. a multicultural empire
 - a. Egyptians, Greeks, Syrians, Jews, Celts, and Gauls
 - b. dozens of religions
 - c. hundreds of languages
 - 1.) Greek
 - 2.) Aramaic
 - 3.) Hebrew
3. international influences
 - a. Parthian Persian, Kushan, Kiongnu, and Han empires
 - b. shared ideas, customs, and beliefs
 - c. Arab merchants
 - 1.) brought frankincense, myrrh, spices, gold, ivory, pearls, precious stones, and textiles
 - 2.) from Africa, India, and East Asia
 - 3.) by camel caravan
 - d. Chinese silk from sea routes and the Silk Road
 - e. Roman metalwork and glassware
 - f. Mithraism, a religion from Persia, encouraged loyalty to the king
 - g. Christianity spread to Persia and Africa

B. Greco-Roman Culture

1. something that combines elements of Greek and Roman culture and traditions
2. Roman practices
 - a. visiting public baths
 - b. worshiping emperors
3. Greek traditions
 - a. seeing plays by Greek authors
 - b. studying Greek philosophy
4. government spread culture
 - a. built roads that made travel easier and spread ideas
 - b. founded colonies in provinces with forums, amphitheaters, and baths
 - c. allowed people to become Roman citizens
 - 1.) lived under Roman law
 - 2.) used Roman courts to settle disputes
 - 3.) males could serve in the army
5. army shared culture
 - a. sent to the far reaches of the empire
 - b. married local women and settled where they served
 - c. military outposts grew into towns and cities

C. Roman Art and Language

1. arts
 - a. colorful **mosaic** floors – a design formed with small tiles of glass, stone, or pottery
 - b. colorful painted murals on walls and ceilings
 - 1.) beautiful landscapes
 - 2.) events from mythology and history
 - 3.) scenes from daily life
 - c. statues of gods, heroes, and important people
 - 1.) in markets, temples, and other public places

- 2.) many were copies of Greek statues
 - a.) Greeks idealized their subjects (made them look ideal)
 - b.) Romans made them look real
- d. vases and jars of blue glass
- e. mirrors of polished silver
- f. silver and gold jewelry with gems

2. Latin

a. Romance languages

- 1.) languages that developed from Latin
- 2.) soldiers, colonists, and merchants spread Latin
- 3.) changed into Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese
- 4.) spoken by millions today

b. English

- 1.) not a romance language
- 2.) yet half of our words come directly or indirectly from Latin

c. language of education, used to name plants and animals

d. language of the Roman Catholic Church

D. Literature and Science in Ancient Rome

1. built on Greek **achievements** – accomplishments that requires effort or skill

2. oratory

a. the art of giving speeches

b. Cicero

- 1.) politician during the end of the Roman republic
- 2.) spoke about political issues
- 3.) used power of persuasion to win election into high office
- 4.) his speeches were written down as models

3. poetry

a. Virgil

- 1.) lived around the same time
- 2.) wrote the *Aeneid*, modeled on Homer's epics

b. Horace

- 1.) wrote a collection of poems called the *Odes*
- 2.) about friendship and love and gave advice

c. Ovid

- 1.) wrote witty verses
- 2.) explored love and retold Greek and Roman myths

4. satire

a. work of literature that makes fun of their subject

b. Juvenal

- 1.) mocked Roman life
- 2.) said citizens only wanted free food and entertainment

5. biography

a. Plutarch

- 1.) wrote 227 works including *Parallel Lives*
- 2.) compares Greek and Roman soldiers, orators, and politicians
- 3.) wrote essays on politics, religion, ethics, philosophy, etc.

6. philosophy

a. inspired by the Greeks

b. Seneca

- 1.) wrote about Stoic philosophy
- 2.) urged people to accept suffering and practice self-control

7. science

a. Ptolemy

- 1.) astronomer who wrote the *Almagest* about the universe
 - 2.) wrote about geography and optics, the study of light
 - b. Pliny the Elder
 - 1.) wrote *Natural History*, a scientific encyclopedia
 - 2.) cited his 100 sources, which was uncommon
- 8. medicine
 - a. Claudius Galen
 - 1.) dissected, or cut open, animals such as monkeys
 - 2.) studied how the body worked
 - 3.) discovered arteries and veins carry blood, not air
- E. Popular Entertainment on a Massive Scale
 - 1. round amphitheaters
 - 2. stadiums
 - 3. **gladiator** games
 - a. men and women who fought one another and wild animals as a part of public entertainment
 - b. held in an arena like the Colosseum in Rome
 - c. originally staged at funerals – the gladiator was a sacrifice
 - d. *gladiator* means swordsman in Latin, but used a variety of weapons
 - e. slaves or criminals
 - f. trained to fight and entertain
 - g. could win their freedom with skill and victories
 - h. became celebrities
 - i. some battled between teams
 - j. flooded arenas to fight in boats, recreating historical naval battles
 - k. exotic animals like lions and elephants
 - l. criminals and prisoners of war fought wild animals
 - m. showed off the wealth of the emperor or aristocrats
 - 4. chariot races
 - a. took place in the Circus Maximus
 - 1.) huge racecourse
 - 2.) seated 270,000 people
 - b. far more common than gladiator games and most popular
 - c. horses pulled charioteers seven times around
 - d. fans cheered on their favorite team
- F. Roman Government and Law
 - 1. government by citizens
 - a. changed after the republic turned into an empire
 - b. civic duty remained important
 - c. the wealthy paid to construct buildings or fund public events
 - 2. the Twelve Tables
 - a. early on, no written laws and judges decided
 - b. based on **tradition** – a custom or practice that is handed down over generations
 - c. finally wrote this law code for many important issues
 - 1.) family relations
 - 2.) property
 - 3.) inheritance
 - 3. influence of Roman law
 - a. lasted longer than the empire did
 - b. developed into civil law, which is used around the world

V. The Decline of the Roman Empire

A. The Pax Romana Ends

1. ruled for centuries
2. Marcus Aurelius died
 - a. last of five powerful emperors
 - b. the empire declined over the next 300 years and collapsed
 - 1.) no more conquests
 - 2.) widespread corruption
 - 3.) heavy dependence on slave labor
 - 4.) lack of education
 - 5.) restless poor in cities
 - 6.) depopulation from epidemics
 - c. military commanders hoped to become emperor, causing civil wars
 - d. Septimius Severus
 - 1.) won a civil war and restored peace briefly
 - 2.) but valued his army above his people

B. The Imperial Crisis

1. torn apart by civil wars and split into pieces
2. generals quickly killed or defeated the previous emperor, one after another
3. economic problems
 - a. wars were expensive
 - b. raised taxes to pay and bribe soldiers
 - c. hurt the common people and the economy
 - d. made coins with less gold or silver and more copper
 - e. merchants raised prices, causing **inflation** – a general rise in the cost of goods
 - f. trade was more dangerous
4. foreign invaders
 - a. busy fighting civil wars and left the borders undefended
 - b. outsiders raided
 - c. slow **communication** – way of passing on information, about raids
 - d. Sassanian Persians captured and executed Emperor Valerian
5. Germanic tribes
 - a. Germans were made up of Franks, Vandals, and Goths
 - b. **barbarians** – word used by Greeks and Romans for people who did not share their cultures
 - c. savage or uncivilized
 - d. in reality
 - 1.) adopted Greco-Roman culture
 - 2.) lived in or near the empire
 - 3.) converted to Christianity
 - 4.) joined the Roman army
 - 5.) became leading Roman generals

C. The Late Empire

1. Diocletian
 - a. the next emperor
 - b. a military leader
 - c. sent troops to the frontier
 - d. persecuted Christians, whom he blamed for Rome's problems
 - e. divided the empire in two
 - 1.) he ruled the east
 - 2.) Maximian, his co-emperor, ruled the west

f. his reforms failed

2. Constantine

a. became emperor

b. had converted to Christianity and made it legal

c. built “New Rome” a new capital in the east (Turkey)

d. constructed on the old Greek city of Byzantium

e. after his death, the city was called Constantinople after him

D. The West Collapses

1. enemies took advantage of the weak empire and it **collapsed** – fell apart, broke into pieces

2. Attila and the Huns

a. nomads from the plains of Central Eurasia

b. fierce mountain warriors

c. attacked Rome, China, Persia, and India

d. caused a decline in the trade on the silk roads

e. moved into Europe and attacked Rome under their leader, Attila

f. Romans defeated that invasion at the battle of Chalons

g. Germans fled ahead of the Huns

3. German Goths

a. crossed the Danube River looking for refuge

b. Romans fought them, but the Goths won at Adrianople

c. invaded Rome

d. Romans hired **mercenaries**

1.) soldiers who fight for pay rather than for their country

2.) not always loyal

e. failed to stop the invasions

4. Theodosius

a. last emperor to rule both the eastern and western halves

b. supported Christian **orthodoxy** – traditional or established religious beliefs

c. made Christianity the official Roman religion

d. he died, and Roman troops had to hand Britain over to the Germans

e. German generals dominated western Roman emperors

5. the fall of Rome

a. the city of Rome was attacked, captured, and looted by Goths

b. Vandals later plundered Rome

c. Odoacer

1.) a German general

2.) deposed, or removed from power, the last western emperor
Romulus Augustus

3.) became king of Italy

d. people fled to the country as cities were attacked

e. trade and learning declined

f. for 500 years only clergy (church workers) understood Latin

6. the eastern Roman empire, the Byzantine Empire, survived for another 1,000 years

VI. The Byzantine Empire Rises

A. The New Rome

1. Byzantines

- a. thought of themselves as Romans but actually very different
 - 1.) didn't control the city of Rome
 - 2.) mostly Christians
 - 3.) spoke Greek, not Latin
- b. **Byzantine** empire
 - 1.) a word used by historians to describe the eastern Roman empire after the fall of the western Roman empire
 - 2.) the capital, Constantinople, was built on Byzantium

2. location

- a. on the Bosphorus **Strait**
 - 1.) a narrow body of water that cuts through land connecting two larger bodies of water
 - 2.) links the Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- b. Asia on one side, Europe on the other

3. defense

- a. built on a peninsula and easy to defend
- b. two rings of thick walls
- c. a **moat** – a trench filled with water

4. trade

- a. great location
- b. good harbors
- c. merchants brought many goods
 - 1.) spices from India
 - 2.) furs from Russia
 - 3.) silk from China
 - 4.) grain from Egypt
- d. traders from Western Europe and Asia
- e. grew rich

B. Justinian and Theodora

1. Justinian

- a. born to peasants
- b. his uncle Justin began as an impoverished soldier
- c. worked his way to the throne
- d. Justinian was his **successor** – person who follows another in an office or role
- e. ruled for 40 years

2. Theodora

- a. his wife
- b. also lower class, daughter of a bear trainer at the circus
- c. became an actress

3. the couple

- a. both intelligent, bold, and ruthless
- b. made a colorful and unusual royal couple

4. conquests

- a. worked for 30 years to restore Rome
- b. won back Spain, Italy, and North Africa
- c. recaptured the city of Rome
- d. caused money problems
- e. disease broke out

f. lost these territories after his death

5. legacy

- a. rebuilt Hagia Sophia, the empire's church
- b. collected a law code

C. The Shrinking Empire

1. declined for 800 years and then fell

2. foreign invaders

- a. Germans took back western lands
- b. Slavic people invaded from the north
- c. conflicted with Persians to the east and were attacked by Muslims
- d. Arab Muslims conquered the Sassanian Persian empire
- e. the Byzantines lost Syria, Egypt, and North Africa
- f. the Turks (Muslim Central Asian people) seized Turkey

3. kept control of the **core**

- a. center, most important part
- b. Greece and western Turkey today
- c. Constantinople
- d. more like a city-state
- e. hired Italian ships and soldiers to defend their capital

4. Constantinople's defenses

- a. strong walls
- b. heavy chain across the city's harbor
- c. **Greek fire**
 - 1.) a chemical mixture that burned furiously, even in water
 - 2.) shot it at enemy ships or troops attacking the city walls
 - 3.) a secret weapon, terrible to see

5. defenses fail

- a. *crusaders*
 - 1.) soldiers from western Europe
 - 2.) looted and did great damage
- b. Turkish Ottoman empire
 - 1.) used cannons with gunpowder to break down the walls
 - 2.) ended the Byzantine empire

D. The Empire's Influence

1. violent politics

- a. plots and power struggles in the courts
- b. rulers were blinded or poisoned by rivals

2. the lure of Constantinople

- a. attracted visitors
 - 1.) merchants to trade
 - 2.) scholars to study
 - 3.) artists to work
- b. impressed visitors
 - 1.) elaborate ceremonies
 - 2.) glittering jewels
 - 3.) rich clothing
 - 4.) religious practices
- c. Eastern Europeans adopted Byzantine culture

3. spreading faith

- a. **missionary** – someone who tried to convert others to a particular religion
- b. traveled southeastern Europe, home of the Slavs
- c. converted them to Christianity

d. Cyril and Methodius

- 1.) brothers from a noble family
- 2.) gave up wealth to become priests
- 3.) invented the **Cyrillic alphabet** – used mostly for Slavic languages such as Russian and Bulgarian, as well as for others

E. Early Russia

1. Kievan Rus

- a. first large state in Russia and Ukraine
- b. based in Kiev and founded by the Rus, Vikings from northern Europe
- c. joined with local Slavs
- d. controlled trade routes along Russia's rivers

2. trade

- a. made the state rich
- b. brought Russians into contact with Byzantines
- c. converted to Christianity
- d. influenced by Byzantine architecture

3. the Russian empire

- a. Kiev declined
- b. a new empire developed
- c. considered itself the “third Rome”
- d. took up the legacy
- e. emperors took the title *tsar* (caesar)

VII. Byzantine Religion and Culture

A. Religious Differences

1. the Nicene Creed

- a. was Jesus human, divine or both?
- b. a council of bishops met in Nicea
- c. adopted a **creed** – statement of beliefs
- d. said Jesus is both human and divine

2. controversy over **icons**

- a. holy images, usually a portrait of Jesus or a saint
- b. displayed in homes and churches
- c. a pathway to God
- d. but worshiping objects is forbidden in the Bible
- e. **iconoclasts**
 - 1.) people who opposed icons
 - 2.) “image breakers” went into churches and smashed icons
- f. Western Europe used them to teach about God
- g. caused bitterness

B. Church Organization

1. bishops

- a. most important Christian leaders
- b. each church had its own early on
- c. then led all of a city’s churches
- d. then led all of a region’s churches

2. patriarchs

- a. bishops of the five most important cities
- b. Constantinople, Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem

3. apostolic succession

- a. Jesus gave authority to the apostles
- b. the apostles passed it down to the bishops

4. the **Pope**

- a. father, or head, of the church
- b. bishop of Rome claimed authority over all Christians
- c. successors of the apostle Peter, the first bishop
- d. Eastern emperors wanted to be the head in charge of their church

C. The **Great Schism**

1. the split between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches

2. Eastern Orthodox Church

- a. *Orthodox* means following established beliefs
- b. the Byzantine emperor was the head
- c. patriarchs handled day-to-day affairs
- d. everyone was equal
- e. the emperor could remove a patriarch if he chose
- f. rituals and teachings in Greek
- g. priests could marry
- h. now led by patriarchs

3. Roman Catholic Church

- a. based in Rome
- b. *Catholic* means universal, or concerned with all people
- c. the pope was the head and claimed authority over all nonreligious rulers
- d. rituals and teachings in Latin
- e. priests could not marry

4. relations have improved but the division remains

D. A Unique Culture

1. architecture and literature

- a. Justinian's church, Hagia Sophia, with a dome
- b. librarians and monks copies and preserved manuscripts

2. Justinian's Code

- a. a law code published by the Byzantine emperor Justinian
- b. had lawyers organize local laws, imperial decrees, and judges' decisions
- c. produced a **unified** code – joined together as a single whole
- c. gave great power to the emperor
- d. **discriminated** – treated some people differently or worse
 - 1.) Jews
 - 2.) non-Christians
- e. allowed women to inherit property
- f. protected individual rights