The Fall of the Roman Empire
2014-15
A Differentiated, Scholarly Approach to Learning

Name: _____________ Period: ____ Teacher: _____________

Universal Theme: Conflict Creates Change

Driving Question: What are the factors that contribute to the fall of a civilization? How can they be prevented?
The Fall of an Empire

Driving Question: What are the factors that contribute to the fall of a civilization? Can they be prevented?

DIRECTIONS:

• Complete the Prior Knowledge and Inquiry questions. Discuss in class. Then...
• You will work in a team (small group).
• You will investigate the causes for why and how an established civilization such as Rome fell.
• After completing a series of activities and conducting some research and investigation, you will decide what you believe are the top three reasons for the fall of Rome.
• In your team, focusing on your top reasons, you will work together to create ways to prevent such a fall from happening again. (How could that fall have been avoided).
• With your team, you will create and present a "community service" POSTER with your ideas that would best save a civilization (the United States) that might be on the brink of failure.
• Which team will make the biggest impact?

STEPS:

1. According to a daily schedule, you will read the chapters in your packet. These must be highlighted using thinking notes and annotation. Aside from just the symbol, now you need to explain further. Directions to be provided.
2. Scholarly discussions will follow all readings.
3. You will complete the response activities following each chapter and participate in whole class discussions.
4. You will be provided research regarding reasons for the fall of the Roman Empire:
   - Complete the Six Themes of History chart where you will first discover the magnitude of problems within the empire.
     **Handouts provided**
   - Continue to research reasons for the fall.
5. With your team, select what you believe are the top TWO reasons for the fall of the empire. (Handout provided)
6. Create a plan for your idea of how to prevent a fall from happening again. This plan must be based on your top TWO reasons selected. (Handout provided)
7. Create your presentation
8. The Byzantine Empire: Read and Highlight with Thinking Notes/Annotation
9. Response Questions
10. Practice Essay Format
11. Essay and Multiple Choice Test
12. Groups Presentations
The Fall of the Roman Empire:
Prior Knowledge and Inquiry

1. Write 3 facts about Rome that you learned in 6th grade:
   A. 
   
   B. 
   
   C. 
   

2. Based on your knowledge of Rome from 6th grade, write three questions or predictions about why the Empire eventually fell:
   A. 
   
   B. 
   
   C. 
   
Brain Pop Notes: Rome

Directions: Write notes about Rome (bullets are acceptable). Include its ORIGIN: AS A REPUBLIC, AS AN EMPIRE. Include information about Government, Citizens, Julius Caesar, Augustus, and Tarquin the Proud.
The Legacy of the Roman Empire

Directions: Locate the following terms in your Reading Notes. Circle or highlight them. For each term, explain its significance to the Roman Empire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>SIGNIFICANCE TO THE ROMAN EMPIRE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constantine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constantinople</td>
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<tr>
<td>mural</td>
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<td>mosaic</td>
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<td>fresco</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>vault</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dome</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>cathedral</td>
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<tr>
<td>aqueduct</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>scribe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>proverb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Legacy of the Roman Empire

1.1 Introduction

"All roads lead to Rome" boasted the ancient Romans. For 500 years, from about 27 B.C.E. to 476 C.E., the city of Rome was the capital of the greatest empire the world had ever seen. Road markers for thousands of miles showed the distance to Rome. But more than roads connected the empire's 50 million people. They were also connected by Roman law, Roman customs, and Roman military might.

At its height, around 117 C.E., the Roman Empire spanned the whole of the Mediterranean world, from northern Africa to the Scottish border, from Spain to Syria. During this time, the Roman world was generally peaceful and prosperous.

There was one official language and one system of law. Roman soldiers guarded the empire's boundaries. Proud Romans believed that the empire would last forever.

But the empire did not last. By the year 500, the western half of this great empire had collapsed. For historians, the fall of Rome marks the end of the ancient world and the beginning of the Middle Ages.

As one historian has written, "Rome perished, yet it lived on." The medieval world would pass on many aspects of Roman culture that still affect us today.

In this chapter, you will discover how and why the Roman Empire fell. Then you will learn how Rome's influence lives on in art, architecture, engineering, language and writing, and philosophy, law, and citizenship.

Use this drawing as a graphic organizer to help you explore Roman influences on modern life.
1.2 The End of the Roman Empire in the West

Rome's first emperor, Caesar Augustus, ended 100 years of civil war and expanded the boundaries of the empire. When he died in 14 C.E., few Romans could imagine that the empire would ever end. Yet by the year 500, the western half of the empire had collapsed. What caused the fall of the mighty Roman Empire?

Problems in the Late Empire

There was no single reason for the end of the Roman Empire. Instead, historians point to a number of problems that combined to bring about its fall.

Political instability. Rome never solved the problem of how to peacefully transfer political power to a new leader. When an emperor died, ambitious rivals with independent armies often fought each other for the emperor's crown.

Even when the transfer of power happened without fighting, there was no good system for choosing the next emperor. Often the Praetorian Guard, the emperor's private army, chose the new ruler. But they frequently chose leaders who would reward them rather than those who were best prepared to be emperor.

Economic and social problems. Besides political instability, the empire suffered from economic and social problems. To finance Rome's huge armies, its citizens had to pay heavy taxes. These taxes hurt the economy and drove many people into poverty. Trade also suffered.

For many people, unemployment was a serious problem. Wealthy families used slaves and cheap labor to work their large estates. Small farmers could not compete with the large landowners. They fled to the cities looking for work, but there were not enough jobs for everyone.

Other social problems plagued the empire, including growing corruption and a decline in the spirit of citizenship. Notorious emperors like Nero and Caligula wasted large amounts of money. A rise in crime made the empire's cities and roads unsafe.

Weakening frontiers. A final problem was the weakening of the empire's frontiers. The huge size of the empire made it hard to defend. It sometimes took weeks for leaders in Rome to communicate with generals. By the 300s C.E., Germanic tribes were pressing hard on the
western borders of the empire. Many of these people settled inside the
empire and were recruited into the army. But these soldiers had little
loyalty to Rome.

The Fall of Rome In 330 C.E., the emperor Constantine took a
step that changed the future of Rome. He moved his capital 850 miles
to the east, to the ancient city of Byzantium. He renamed the city
New Rome. Later it was called Constantinople. (Today it is known
as Istanbul, Turkey.)

After Constantine's reign, power over the vast empire was usually
divided between two emperors, one based in Rome and one in
Constantinople. Rome became the capital of just the western part
of the empire.

The emperors in Rome soon found themselves threatened by invading
Germanic tribes. In 410 C.E., one of these tribes attacked and looted
Rome itself. Finally, in 476, the last emperor in the west was driven
from his throne. The western half of the empire began to dissolve into
separate kingdoms ruled by different tribes.

In the east, the empire continued for another 1,000 years. Today
we call this eastern empire the Byzantine Empire, after Byzantium,
the original name of its capital city. You will learn more about the
Byzantine Empire in Chapter 6.

In western Europe, Rome's fall did not mean the end of Roman
civilization. The influence of Rome lived on through the medieval
period and all the way to our time. As you read about the legacy of
the Romans, think about how ideas and events from the distant past
still affect us today.
1.3 The Legacy of Roman Art

The Romans adopted many aspects of other cultures and blended them into their own culture. This was true of Roman art. The Romans were especially influenced by the art of the Greeks. In fact, historians often speak of “Greco-Roman” art. Rome played a vital role in passing on this tradition, which has had a major influence on western art.

The Romans added their own talents and tastes to what they learned from other cultures. For example, they imitated Greek sculpture, but Roman sculptors were particularly good at making lifelike busts and statues.

Romans were also great patrons (sponsors) of art. Wealthy families decorated their homes with statues and colorful murals and mosaics. Roman artists were especially skilled in painting frescoes, scenes painted on the moist plaster of walls or ceilings with water-based paints. Roman frescoes often showed three-dimensional landscapes. Looking at one of these frescoes was almost like looking through the wall at a view outside. You’ve probably seen similar murals in restaurants, banks, and other buildings.

American artists have often adopted a Roman style to add nobility to sculptures and paintings of heroas. Shown here is a Roman statue of the emperor Augustus and an American statue of George Washington. In what ways are they alike?
The Romans also brought a sense of style and luxury to everyday objects. For example, they made highly decorative bottles of blown glass. A bottle for wine might be made in the shape of a cluster of grapes. They also developed the arts of gem cutting and metalworking. One popular art form was the cameo. A cameo is a carved decoration showing a portrait or a scene. The Romans wore cameos as jewelry and used them to decorate vases and other objects. You can find examples of all these art forms today.

A thousand years after the fall of the empire, Roman art was rediscovered during the period called the Renaissance. You will learn about this time in Unit 7. Great artists like Michelangelo revived the Greco-Roman style in their paintings and sculptures.

A good example is the famous ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. Painted by Michelangelo in the 1500s, the ceiling shows scenes from the Bible. A Roman would feel right at home looking up at this amazing creation. Tourists still flock to Rome to see it.

Roman art has continued to influence painters and sculptors. Roman styles were especially popular during the early days of the United States. Americans imitated these styles to give their art dignity and nobility. Today you can see a number of statues in Washington, D.C., that reflect a strong Roman influence.
1.4 The Legacy of Roman Architecture and Engineering

The Romans were skilled and clever builders. In their architecture and engineering, they borrowed ideas from the Greeks and other peoples. But the Romans improved on these ideas in ways that future engineers and architects would imitate.

**Architecture** The Romans learned how to use the arch, the vault, and the dome to build huge structures. A **vault** is an arch used for a ceiling or to support a ceiling or roof. A **dome** is a vault in the shape of a half-circle that rests on a circular wall.

Roman baths and other public buildings often had great arched vaults. The Pantheon, a magnificent temple that still stands in Rome, is famous for its huge dome. The Romans used concrete to help them build much bigger arches than anyone had attempted before. Concrete is made by mixing broken stone with sand, cement, and water and allowing the mixture to harden. The Romans did not invent the material, but they were the first to make widespread use of it.

The Romans also invented a new kind of stadium. These large, open-air structures seated thousands of spectators. The Romans used concrete to build tunnels into the famous stadium in Rome, the Colosseum. The tunnels made it easy for spectators to reach their seats. Modern football stadiums still use this feature.

The grand style of Roman buildings has inspired many architects through the centuries. Medieval architects, for example, frequently imitated Roman designs, especially in building great churches and **cathedrals**. You can also see a Roman influence in the design of many modern churches, banks, and government buildings. A fine example is the Capitol building, the home of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.

Another Roman innovation that has been widely copied is the triumphal arch. This is a huge monument built to celebrate great victories or achievements. A famous example is the Arc de Triomphe (Arch of Triumph) in Paris, France. This monument...
The ruins of the Roman Colosseum, where gladiators fought for the entertainment of spectators, still stand in Rome today.

Engineering  The Romans changed engineering as well as architecture. They were the greatest builders of roads, bridges, and **aqueducts** in the ancient world.

More than 50,000 miles of road connected Rome with the frontiers of the empire. The Romans built their roads with layers of stone, sand, and gravel. Their techniques set the standard of road building for 2,000 years. Cars in some parts of Europe still drive on freeways built over old Roman roads.

The Romans also set a new standard for building aqueducts. They created a system of aqueducts for Rome that brought water from about 60 miles away to the homes of the city's wealthiest citizens, as well as to its public baths and fountains. The Romans built aqueducts in other parts of the empire as well. The water system in Segovia, Spain, still uses part of an ancient Roman aqueduct. Roman arches from aqueducts can still be found in Europe, North Africa, and western Asia.

What features of Roman architecture can you spot in the U.S. Capitol building?
1.5 The Legacy of Roman Language and Writing

An especially important legacy of Rome for people in medieval times was the Romans' language, Latin. After the fall of the empire, Latin continued to be used by scholars and the Roman Catholic Church. Church scribes used Latin to record important documents. Educated European nobles learned Latin so they could communicate with their peers in other countries.

Latin remains extremely influential today. Several modern European languages developed from Latin, including Italian, Spanish, and French. English is a Germanic language, but it was strongly influenced by the French-speaking Normans, who conquered England in 1066 C.E. English has borrowed heavily from Latin, both directly and by way of French. In fact, we still use the Latin alphabet, although Latin has 23 letters and English has 26.

You can see the influence of Latin on many of the words we use today. For example, our calendar comes from the one adopted by the Roman ruler Julius Caesar. The names of several months come from Latin. August honors Caesar Augustus. September comes from Latin words meaning “the seventh month.” (The Roman new year started in March, so September was the seventh month.) October means “the eighth month.” Can you guess the meanings of November and December?
Many English words start with Latin prefixes. A prefix is a combination of letters at the beginning of a word that carries its own meaning. Attaching a prefix to a root word creates a new word with a new meaning. In fact, the word prefix was formed this way. It comes from pre ("in front of") and fix ("fasten" or "attach"). The chart below on the right shows other examples.

As you can see from the chart below on the left, other English words come from Latin root words. For instance, manual and manipulate are derived from the Latin word manus, meaning “hand.”

Even Latin proverbs are still in use. For example, look at the reverse side of a U.S. penny. There you’ll see the U.S. motto E pluribus unum (“Out of many, one”).

Finally, we still use Roman numerals. The Romans used a system of letters to write numbers. The Roman numerals I, V, X, L, C, D, and M represent 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500, and 1,000 in the Roman number system. You may have seen Roman numerals used on clocks, sundials, and the first pages of books. You might also spot Roman numerals on buildings and in some movie credits to show the year in which they were made.

### Latin Roots Used in English Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Root</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>English Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>anima</td>
<td>life, breath, soul</td>
<td>animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>civis</td>
<td>citizen, community</td>
<td>civic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lex, legalis</td>
<td>law, legal</td>
<td>legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>manus</td>
<td>hand</td>
<td>manual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>militare</td>
<td>to serve as a soldier</td>
<td>military</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portare</td>
<td>to carry</td>
<td>portable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unus</td>
<td>one</td>
<td>united</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>urbs</td>
<td>city</td>
<td>suburb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>verbum</td>
<td>word</td>
<td>verbal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Latin Prefixes Used in English Words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Latin Prefix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>English Word(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in, im, il</td>
<td>not</td>
<td>inactive, impossible, illogical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inter</td>
<td>among, between</td>
<td>international</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>com, co</td>
<td>together, with</td>
<td>communicate, cooperate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pre</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>precede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post</td>
<td>after, behind</td>
<td>postpone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re</td>
<td>back, again</td>
<td>remember</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>semi</td>
<td>half</td>
<td>semicircle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sub</td>
<td>under, less than, inferior to</td>
<td>submarine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans</td>
<td>across, through</td>
<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.6 The Legacy of Roman Philosophy, Law, and Citizenship

Roman philosophy, law, and ideas about citizenship were greatly influenced by the Greeks. But the Romans made contributions of their own that they passed on to future generations.

A Philosophy Called Stoicism A Greek school of thought that became especially popular in Rome was Stoicism. Many upper-class Romans adopted this philosophy and made it their own.

Stoics believed that a divine (godly) intelligence ruled all of nature. A person's soul was a spark of that divine intelligence. "Living rightly" meant living in a way that agreed with nature.

To the Stoics, the one truly good thing in life was to have a good character. This meant having virtues such as self-control and courage. Stoics prized duty and the welfare of the community over their personal comfort. Roman Stoics were famous for bearing pain and suffering bravely and quietly. To this day, we call someone who behaves this way "stoic."

Law and Justice Roman law covered marriages, inheritances, contracts (agreements) between people, and countless other parts of daily life. Modern legal codes in European countries like France and Italy are based in part on ancient Roman laws.

Another legacy of the Romans was the Roman idea of justice. The Romans believed that there was a universal law of justice that came from nature. By this natural law, every person had rights. Judges in Roman courts tried to make just, or fair, decisions that respected people's rights.

Like people everywhere, the Romans did not always live up to their ideals. Their courts did not treat the poor or slaves as equal to the rich. Emperors often made laws simply because they had the power to do so. But the ideals of Roman law and justice live on. For example, the ideas of natural law and natural rights are echoed in the Declaration of Independence. Modern-day judges, like judges in Roman courts, often
make decisions based on ideas of justice as well as on written law. Similarly, many people around the world believe that all humans have basic rights that no written law can take away.

**Citizenship** When Rome first began expanding its power in Italy, to be a “Roman” was to be a citizen of the city-state of Rome. Over time, however, Rome’s leaders gradually extended citizenship to all free people in the empire. Even someone born in Syria or Gaul (modern-day France) could claim to be a Roman. All citizens were subject to Roman law, enjoyed the same rights, and owed allegiance (loyalty) to the emperor.

The idea of citizenship as both a privilege and a responsibility has descended from Roman times to our own. While most people in the United States are citizens by birth, many immigrants become citizens by solemnly promising loyalty to the United States. Regardless of where they were born, all citizens have the same responsibilities. For example, they must obey the law. And all enjoy the same basic rights spelled out in the Constitution and its amendments, including the Bill of Rights.

### 1.7 Chapter Summary

In this chapter, you explored the rich legacy of ancient Rome. The Roman Empire fell more than 1,500 years ago, but it left a lasting mark on western civilization. We can see Rome’s influence today in our art, architecture, and engineering, language and writing, philosophy, law, and ideas about citizenship. In the next chapter, we’ll look at the society that developed in western Europe in the centuries after Rome’s fall.
The Legacy of the Roman Empire

How and why did the Roman Empire ultimately fall? What happened to the eastern and western halves of the empire following the fall of Rome? Use complete, detailed sentences.

How do Roman ideas about citizenship influence contemporary times? Explain in 3-5 sentences with a topic sentence.
What contributions did the Roman Empire make in the following areas? Your goal is to find as many contributions per box as possible. You can use words, symbols, and/or pictures to express your knowledge. If your pictorial representations might be unclear to others, provide a caption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art</th>
<th>Architecture</th>
<th>Language and Writing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Six Themes of History and the Fall of the Roman Empire

Directions: As you review the causes for the fall of the Roman Empire, write them in the appropriate Theme of History column. Think about: In which area did most of the problems exist?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geography</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Economics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Image]</td>
<td>[Image]</td>
<td>[Image]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>Belief Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reason:
Explanation (use evidence):

Reason:
Explanation (use evidence):
Brainstorm your ideas...

What could have been done to prevent the fall of Rome?
Plan Your Service Project

Directions: You have learned about the factors that led to the Fall of Rome. Now you must act to save the United States from the same misfortune.
- Whole Class: Discuss prevention ideas for the problems that existed during the fall of Rome.
- Break into your groups and look at your top two reasons for the fall.
- Now, pretend you are going to prevent the fall of the United States who has been exhibiting the same two factors that weakened Rome.
- Begin to brainstorm prevention ideas to save the United States.
- Now, it’s time to save your country. Explain your plan to present to your community. This is the same as an advertisement campaign to promote the prevention of a factor leading to the fall.
  --Presentation should be between 3-5 minutes (NO LONGER THAN 5).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catchy Title for Project:</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>To whom will you be presenting your plan?</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is your prevention plan? #1</th>
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</table>
What is your prevention plan? #2

How will you present your plan for saving the U.S.? What product?
Why do you think it is important to serve your country in this way? How will this make a difference?

Any Additional Notes:
The Byzantine Empire

Directions: Locate the following terms in your Reading Notes. Circle or highlight them. For each term, explain its significance to the Byzantine Empire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>SIGNIFICANCE TO THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Byzantine Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constantinople</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Orthodox Church</td>
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<td>Justinian I</td>
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<td>Theodora</td>
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<td>public works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justinian's Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>patriarch</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>liturgy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>icon</td>
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<tr>
<td>schism</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Byzantine Empire

6.1 Introduction

In the last chapter, you learned about the decline of feudalism in western Europe. In this chapter, you will learn about the Byzantine Empire in the east. This great empire straddled two continents, Europe and Asia. It lasted from about 500 to 1453 C.E., when it was conquered by the Ottoman Turks.

The Byzantine Empire was the continuation of the Roman Empire in the east. As you learned in Chapter 1, in 330 C.E. the emperor Constantine moved his capital from Rome to the ancient city of Byzantium. The city was an old Greek trading colony on the eastern edge of Europe. Constantine called his capital New Rome, but it soon became known as Constantinople (Greek for “Constantine’s City”).

After Constantine’s reign, control of the huge empire was usually divided between two emperors. One was based in Rome, and one in Constantinople. After the fall of Rome, the eastern half of the empire continued for another 1,000 years. Today we call this eastern empire the Byzantine Empire, after Byzantium, the original name of its capital city.

East and west remained connected for a time through a shared Christian faith. But the church in the east developed in its own unique way. It became known as the Eastern Orthodox Church. Over time, Byzantine emperors and church officials came into conflict with the pope in Rome. The conflict eventually led to a permanent split between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church.

In this chapter, you’ll learn about the Byzantine Empire, one of its greatest emperors, and its distinctive church. Let’s begin by exploring the empire’s heart—the fabulous city of Constantinople.
6.2 Constantinople

Constantinople was more than 800 miles to the east of Rome. Why did Constantine choose this site to be the capital of the Roman Empire?

One reason was that the site was easy to defend. It was surrounded on three sides by water. The Byzantines fashioned a chain across the city's harbor to guard against seafaring intruders. Miles of walls, fortified by watchtowers and gates, made invasion by land or sea difficult.

Constantinople also stood at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and the many sea and overland trade routes linking east and west. Under the Byzantines, this location helped make the city, and some of its citizens, fabulously wealthy. For more than 700 years, Constantinople was the richest and most elegant city in the Mediterranean region. Ivory, silk, furs, perfumes, and other luxury items flowed through its markets. A French soldier who saw the city in 1204 exclaimed, "One could not believe there was so rich a city in all the world."

At its height, Constantinople was home to around one million people. The city's language and culture were Greek, but traders and visitors spoke many languages. Ships crowded the city's harbor, loaded with goods. The city streets, some narrow and twisting, some grand and broad, teemed with camel and mule trains.

Life in Constantinople was more advanced than in western Europe. The city boasted a sewer system, rare in medieval times. Social services were provided by hospitals, homes for the elderly, and orphanages.

Despite the luxuries enjoyed by the rich, many people lived in poverty. The emperor gave bread to those who could not find work. In exchange, the unemployed performed such tasks as sweeping the streets and weeding public gardens.

Almost everyone attended the exciting chariot races at a stadium called the Hippodrome. Two chariot teams, one wearing blue and the other green, were fierce rivals. In Constantinople and other cities, many people belonged to opposing groups called the Blues and Greens after the chariot teams. At times the rivalry between Blues and Greens erupted in deadly street fighting. But in 532, the two groups united in a rebellion that destroyed much of Constantinople. You'll find out what happened in the next section.
1.3 The Reign of Justinian I

One of the greatest Byzantine emperors was Justinian I, whose long reign lasted from 527 to 565. But Justinian's reign nearly came to an abrupt end much sooner. In January 532, the emperor and his beautiful wife, Theodora, were attending the chariot races at the Hippodrome. As in the past, Blues and Greens at the races had often fought with each other. This time, however, both groups were upset over the arrests of one of their members. To Justinian's horror, they united in denouncing him. Fighting broke out, spilled into the streets, and escalated into a full-scale rebellion.

The rioting continued for a week while Justinian and Theodora hid in the palace. Much of the city was in flames. Justinian's advisors wanted him to flee the city. Theodora, however, urged him to stay and fight. With her encouragement, Justinian put down the revolt. According to the official court historian, Procopius, 30,000 people were killed in the fighting. Constantinople lay in ruins.

Justinian was determined to rebuild the city on an even grander scale than before. He put huge sums of money into public works. Soon Constantinople had bridges, public baths, parks, roads, and hospitals. The emperor also built many grand churches, including the magnificent Hagia Sophia ("Holy Wisdom"). Today this great cathedral is one of the most famous buildings in the world.

Besides rebuilding Constantinople, Justinian tried to reclaim some of the empire's lost territory. He launched military campaigns that, for a time, won back parts of North Africa, Italy, and southeastern Spain.

Justinian is most famous, however, for creating a systematic body of law. Under his direction, a committee studied the thousands of laws the Byzantines had inherited from the Roman Empire. They revised outdated and confusing laws. They also made improvements, such as extending women's property rights. The result of their work is known as Justinian's Code. It became the basis for many legal codes in the western world.

Procopius, the court historian, wrote glowing accounts of Justinian's achievements. But he also wrote the Secret History, in which he called the emperor "a treacherous enemy, insane for murder and plunder." Throughout Byzantine history, distrust and divisions often plagued the imperial court. Justinian's court was no exception.

public works construction projects built by a government for public use, such as buildings, roads, and bridges

During rioting in Constantinople, Theodora encouraged her husband, Emperor Justinian I, to stay and fight for his city.
The Hagia Sophia was built between the years 532 and 537. Its architectural features have inspired the design of many Orthodox churches.

6.4 The Eastern Orthodox Church

To the Byzantines, Christianity was more than a religion. It was the very foundation of their empire.

When Constantine built his new capital, he intended it to be the religious center of the empire as well as the seat of government. Constantine himself tried to settle religious disputes by calling bishops together in council.

Over time, the Byzantine church became known as the Eastern Orthodox Church. The word *orthodox* means “in agreement with right belief.” The medieval Eastern Orthodox Church was based on a set of beliefs that its leaders traced back to Jesus Christ and to the work of bishops in early Christian councils.

The Role of the Eastern Orthodox Church in the Empire

Religion and government were more closely linked in the Byzantine Empire than in the west. The Byzantines viewed the emperor not just as the head of the government but as the living representative of God and Jesus Christ. This meant that church and state were combined into one all-powerful body.

The state religion also united people in a common belief. The Eastern Orthodox Church played a central role in daily life. Most people attended church regularly. Religious sacraments gave shape to every stage of the journey from birth to death. Monasteries and convents cared for the poor and the sick. These institutions were supported by wealthy people and became quite powerful. Let’s look at some of the practices of Eastern Orthodoxy.

Church Hierarchy

Like Roman Catholic clergy, Orthodox clergy were ranked in order of importance. In Byzantine times, the emperor had supreme authority in the church. He chose the patriarch of Constantinople, who ranked next to him in matters of religion.
like the pope in the west, the patriarch did not claim strong authority over the patriarchs and bishops. Instead, he was “first among equals.” The patriarch of Constantinople (which today is Istanbul, Turkey) still holds this honor.

Orthodox priests served under patriarchs and other bishops. Unlike Roman Catholic priests, who were not allowed to marry, many Orthodox priests were married. Bishops, however, could rise only from the ranks of unmarried clergy.

**Liturgy and Prayer** The Orthodox church service corresponding to the Roman Catholic mass was the Divine Liturgy. Both the clergy and worshippers sang or chanted the liturgy. The liturgy was conducted in Greek or in the local language of the people.

Orthodox Christians also prayed to saints. Two saints were particularly important in Byzantine times. Saint Basil promoted charity and reformed the liturgy. Saint Cyril helped create the Cyrillic alphabet, which allowed scholars to translate the Bible for people in eastern Europe to read.

**Architecture and Art** Christian faith inspired magnificent works of architecture and art in the Byzantine Empire. With its square base and high dome, Hagia Sophia served as a model for many Orthodox churches. The architecture of the church also reflects Orthodox views of life and death. The simple base represents the earthly world. Upon it rests the “dome of heaven.” Rich decorations on the inside were meant to remind worshippers of what it would be like to enter God’s kingdom.

Building on the Greek love of art, the Orthodox church used many images in its services and prayers. Byzantine artists created beautiful icons, which were usually painted on small wooden panels. Artists also fashioned sacred images as mosaics and painted them in murals.

An image of Christ as the Pantocrator, or ruler of all, gazed down from the dome of all Orthodox churches. Christ was usually shown holding a gospel and giving a blessing. Most churches also placed an icon of Jesus’ mother, Mary (called the Theotokos, or god-bearer) and the Christ child over the altar.

Many Byzantines believed that sacred pictures helped bring them closer to God. But icons also became a source of violent disagreement, as you will see next.

**Liturgical** a sacred rite of public worship
**Icon** a type of religious image typically painted on a small wooden panel and considered sacred by Eastern Orthodox Christians.

The architecture of Greek Orthodox monasteries copied the features of the Hagia Sophia. The simple base and domed roof echoed Orthodox views of life rooted in the earth with the “dome of heaven” above.
6.5 Conflict Between East and West

Medieval Europe and the Byzantine Empire were united in a single faith, Christianity. Over the centuries, however, cultural, political, and religious differences brought the two parts of the old Roman Empire into conflict.

The two regions had been quite different even in the days of the old Roman emperors. The eastern half of the empire had many cities, much trade, and great wealth. The western half was mostly rural and agricultural, and not nearly as wealthy.

Other differences became more pronounced after the fall of Rome. Byzantine culture was largely shaped by its Greek heritage. The west was influenced by Frankish and Germanic cultures. In Constantinople, people spoke Greek. In the west, Latin was the language of scholars, diplomats, and the church.

Perhaps most important was the conflict that developed between the churches of east and west. After the fall of Rome, popes gradually emerged as powerful figures in western Europe. The popes claimed supreme religious authority over all Christians. The emperors and patriarchs of the east resisted such claims.

Other differences added to the conflict. Let’s look at three major disagreements and how they led to a split in the Christian church.

**Iconoclasm** The first major disagreement concerned religious icons. Many Christians in medieval times used images of Jesus, Mary, and the saints in worship and prayer. Some Christians in the east, however, believed that people were wrongly worshipping the icons themselves as if they were divine. In 730 C.E., Byzantine emperor Leo III banned the use of religious images in all Christian churches and homes.

The policy of iconoclasm (“icon smashing”) led to the destruction of much religious art. Throughout Christian lands, people cried out in protest. In Rome, popes were angry because Leo’s order applied to parts of Italy that were under Byzantine control. Pope Gregory III even excommunicated the emperor.

The Byzantine Empire lifted its ban on icons in 843. But the disputes over iconoclasm had caused a major split between the east and west. It also helped drive popes in Rome to look for support and protection against enemies.
The Crowning of a Holy Roman Emperor  Another major disagreement occurred in 600 c.e. At the time, Empress Irene as the ruler of the Byzantine Empire. Because she was a woman, Pope Leo III did not view her as a true ruler. More important, the pope needed the protection of a strong leader to help defend the church in the west.

As you learned in Chapter 2, Leo decided to crown Charlemagne, the king of the Franks, as Holy Roman emperor. The pope’s action outraged the Byzantines, who felt that they were the rightful rulers of the Roman Empire.

The Final Break  Matters between east and west came to a head in 1054. The patriarch of Constantinople, Cenularius, wanted to reassert Byzantine control of the church. He closed all churches that worshiped with western rites. Pope Leo IX was furious. He sent Cardinal Humbert to Constantinople. The cardinal marched up to the altar of Hagia Sophia. In front of everyone, he laid down a bull (a proclamation by the pope) excommunicating Cenularius.

Cenularius responded by excommunicating the cardinal. This was only a symbolic act, for the patriarch did not have that power. But it showed that the split, or schism, between east and west was complete. Despite future attempts to heal the division, the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church were now separate churches.

6.6 Chapter Summary  
In this chapter, you learned about the Byzantine Empire and the Eastern Orthodox Church. After the fall of Rome, the eastern half of the Roman Empire lived on with its capital at Constantinople. Today it is referred to as the Byzantine Empire. Destroyed by rioting in 532, Constantinople was rebuilt by the emperor Justinian I.

The Byzantine Empire was a Christian state. The Eastern Orthodox Church was at the center of daily life and inspired great art and architecture.

Byzantine emperors and patriarchs clashed with popes in Rome over a number of issues. These disagreements led to a schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. In Unit 2, you will read more about the fate of the Byzantines.

The division between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches lasted until 1964. Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras met in Jerusalem and made a formal statement that undid the excommunications of 1054.
The Byzantine Empire

What made Constantinople an ideal location for a capital? How did the location help the Byzantine Empire prosper? Provide 3-5 detailed, complete sentences.

Who was Justinian I? How did he contribute to the development of the Byzantine Empire? Write a paragraph with a topic sentence and 4-6 sentences.
What role did the Eastern Orthodox Church play in the Byzantine Empire? Using words, pictures, and/or symbols, show your understanding. The more examples per column you can find, the better. Should your pictorial representations be unclear for others, be sure to provide captions.

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What ultimately led to the permanent division between the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church? Show multiple perspectives by creating a comic strip. Color not necessary.