Byzantine Empire
Vocabulary

Autocrat:

Cyrillic:

Czar:

Iconoclast:

Icon:

Justinian’s Code:

Patriarch:
I. Geography of Byzantine Empire
   A. at its highest point it extended from Spain to Asia Minor with _____________ as its capital

II. Growth of the Byzantine Empire
   A. _____________
      1. empire is centrally located making it an ideal marketplace (location)
   B. located on the _____________ between the Aegean and Black Sea

III. The Age of _____________ (527 A.D.-565 A.D.)
   A. goal: revive the _____________
      1. re-conquer North Africa, Italy and southern Spain (spent a lot of money)
      2. he beautified Constantinople to restore the glory of Rome
         Ex: The church of _____________ was built. It was the largest structure of its kind at this point in history.
   B. ________________
      1. collection of all the _____________ of ancient Rome
      2. used in Western Europe by the 1100’s
      3. serves as a model for international law today

*Justinian is best remembered for preserving and transmitting the heritage of Roman law

IV. Rise of the Orthodox Christian Church
   A. divisions begin to arise between the Church in Rome and the Byzantine Church
      1. Byzantine Christians did not believe the _____________ in Rome had authority over them
      2. Byzantine priests could get _____________, Romans Priest could not
      3. Disagreement over the appropriate use of _____________
      4. Byzantine priest preached in _____________ while Latin was used in the Roman Church
B. The "______________"
   1. a split occurs in 1054 which breaks the church into two parts
      a. Orthodox Christian Church
      b. Roman Catholic Church

V. Byzantine Contributions
   A. preserved _______________ culture
   B. preserved Roman law
   C. Byzantine architects (domes) preserved Roman architecture

VI. Effects on Russia
   A. _______________ alphabet passed from Byzantine Empire to Russia
   B. Orthodox Christianity
   C. _______________ (Czar is the Russian word for Caesar)
   D. art, music, architecture passed to Russia as well

VII. Downfall of Byzantine Empire
   A. invasion by _______________
   B. struggles of succession
   C. crusaders invade
   D. _______________ (Ottoman Empire) conquer _______________ in 1453
      (official end of Roman Empire)
Name: ____________________________

Byzantium video (55 minutes)

**BYZANTIUM: THE LOST EMPIRE**

1. What did the Ancients call Constantinople? ____________________________

2. Today, Constantinople is known as the city of ______________________ in Turkey.

3. What is the major religion of modern day Istanbul? ______________________

4. The first Christian Roman emperor, ______________________, made Constantinople the capital of the Roman Empire in ___________________ CE.

5. What is the nickname given to the column on Main Street? ______________________

6. Where was Constantine crowned? ______________________

7. What different barbarians threatened Trier? ______________________

8. What would be behind the columns in Palmyra? ______________________

9. What was the name of the giant race track built in Constantinople? ______________________

10. What did the emperors of Byzantium build to protect the city? ______________________

11. Name some of the groups that the Byzantines fought against. ______________________

12. What is the name of the island where the stone came from to build the walls of Constantinople? ______________________

13. What did the Byzantines build to bring water to the city? ______________________

14. Where did they believe they could catch the finest fish? ______________________

15. What was Byzantium’s fuel? ______________________

16. How did they get the impurities out of the olive oil? ______________________

17. What has been added to the Roman architecture to show that it is a Christian city? ______________________

18. According to the video, Rome didn’t fall it just got what? ______________________

19. What emperor remade the Roman Empire? ______________________

20. Who was his wife? ______________________

21. Describe the inside of the church that held the largest dome the world had ever seen.

22. What was the name of the church that held the largest dome the world has ever seen? ______________________
Byzantine Empire
Geography and Trade

In AD 286, the Roman Empire was split into east and west. In 476, Western Rome fell to Germanic invaders. Eastern Rome, called the Byzantine Empire, lasted about 1,000 more years. The Byzantine Empire was a major center of trade. The city of Constantinople was strategically located on the Bosporus Strait.

Directions: Using arrows, illustrate the following on the map. Label the arrows with the appropriate words.

- Silk from China
- Spices from Southeast Asia
- Furs from Viking lands
- Byzantine coin, bezant, to rest of world
- Byzantine/Roman laws from Constantinople to Western Europe
- Gems from India
- Slaves from Western Europe
- Greek literature from Constantinople to Europe
- Wheat from Egypt

Why did Constantinople prosper?
The Rise and Fall of the Byzantine Empire

After the Roman Empire split into two sections, the Eastern Roman Empire was renamed the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire reached its largest size under the emperor Justinian, who ruled from 527 to 565. Justinian dreamed of bringing back the glory of ancient Rome.

Historians remember Justinian best for the way he reformed the law. He had officials collect all the laws of ancient Rome. The laws were gathered together, edited, and organized into a collection called Justinian’s Code. The collection included laws passed by Roman assemblies and Roman emperors. It also contained the legal writings of Roman judges. The Code covered subjects like marriage, property, inheritance, and crimes.

Justinian used the law to bring the Byzantine Empire together under his control. He had power over the politics of the empire and the Church. After Justinian died, the Byzantine Empire stayed strong for many years. Its greatest strengths were a strong central government and a wealthy economy. Trade and industry grew in cities like Constantinople, the capital. The bezant, the Byzantine gold coin, was used in places from England to China.

By the 1000s, the Byzantine Empire was weakening. Constant warfare and struggles for the throne hurt the empire. Powerful local lords took control of some areas. As the empire weakened, its enemies attacked. The Normans conquered southern Italy, and the Seljuk Turks invaded from Asia Minor.

In the 1090s, the Byzantine emperor asked Europe for help against the Seljuk Turks, who were Muslims. Pope Urban II sent Christian knights to help fight the Turks in the first of four Crusades. The Crusades were military expeditions from Europe to take back lands that had been conquered by the Muslims. During the Fourth Crusade, Christian knights attacked Constantinople. They wanted its riches, so they burned the city and stole many valuables. A Byzantine emperor took back the capital in the 1260s, but the Byzantine Empire never recovered.

In 1453, the Ottomans conquered the city of Constantinople. They renamed it Istanbul, and it became the capital of the Ottoman Empire. The fall of Constantinople was the end of the Byzantine Empire. However, the culture of the Byzantine era lasted much longer. For example, the Ottomans borrowed features of Byzantine government, social life, and architecture. Byzantine culture continued to influence Europe throughout the Middle Ages.
The Rise and Fall of the Byzantine Empire

Crossword Puzzle
Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS
2. The __________________ invaded the Byzantine Empire from Asia Minor.
5. The Byzantine Empire’s greatest strengths were a strong central government and a wealthy __________________.
7. Justinian got officials to gather, edit, and organize the _____________ of ancient Rome.
8. The ______________ conquered southern Italy.
9. By the 1000s, the Byzantine ______________ was weakening because of constant warfare and struggles for the throne.
10. The ______________ was the Byzantine gold coin that was used from England to China.

DOWN
1. ______________ dreamed of bringing back the glory of ancient Rome.
3. ______________ culture continued to influence Europe throughout the Middle Ages.
4. Justinian had power over the politics of the Byzantine Empire and over the ______________.
6. During the Fourth ______________, Christian knights attacked Constantinople.
The Rise and Fall of the Byzantine Empire

Map – Justinian’s Empire, 527–565
Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

1. Which body of water did Justinian’s Empire surround?

2. Name two areas that became part of the Byzantine Empire after Justinian’s conquests.

3. Name two areas that were part of the Byzantine Empire before Justinian’s conquests.
Place: Constantinople

“One could not believe there was so rich a city in all the world,” noted the crusader Villehardouin about the splendor of Constantinople. In its glory from the A.D. 500s to 1000s, this “New Rome” on the Bosporus was dedicated to the Christian religion. What role did Constantinople play in the history of the Byzantine Empire?

The city of Constantinople, a center of trade and education, stood at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Its citizens were the descendants of various peoples but still considered themselves Romans. Social acceptance depended on knowledge of Greek language and adherence to the Christian faith. In preserving its Greek and Roman heritage, Constantinople also developed its own distinct culture.

A city of great power and pageantry, Constantinople was home to half of a million people. Vessels that crowded its great harbor filled the city’s markets with silks, spices, furs, precious stones, perfumed woods, carved ivory, gold, silver, and enameled jewelry. Within the walls of the fortress city stood magnificent examples of Byzantine architecture, such as the Hippodrome, the Great Palace, and the church of Hagia Sophia.

Life in Constantinople included government regulation of trade and industry, as well as control of banking, insurance, and credit services. The poor were put to work in the state bakeries and market gardens. The lives of all citizens were also greatly affected by the close ties between the church and state.

The Conquest of Constantinople

Indeed you should know that they gazed well at Constantinople, those who had never seen it; for they could not believe that there could be in all the world a city so rich, when they saw all those tall ramparts and mighty towers with which it was shut all around, and those rich palaces and those tall churches, of which there were so many that nobody could believe their eyes, had they not seen it, and the length and breadth of the city which was sovereign among all others.—Villehardouin

The significance of religion in Byzantine culture and the close ties between church and state are depicted in this mosaic. Emperor Constantine IX is shown holding a purse of money; his wife, Zoe, is holding a signed and sealed document confirming the donation to the church, with Christ shown as the recipient.
Focus on Place

You can describe a place by naming various physical and human characteristics that give an area its identity. Human characteristics include aspects of a culture—language, religion, political systems, economic activities, and social structures, for instance. Religion was a distinguishing human characteristic in the Byzantine capital of Constantinople (the present-day city of Istanbul, Turkey). The Christian religion influenced virtually every aspect of life, including art, architecture, and politics. By comparing the human characteristics of a place, such as the economic and religious activities of its people, you can determine significant features of each.

1. What are the human characteristics of a place?

2. Describe Constantinople’s human characteristics.

3. What aspects of life in Constantinople were influenced by the Christian religion?

4. What human characteristics make your community distinct from other communities?

THE SPLENDOR OF HAGÃ‰S SOPHIA

When Hagia Sophia was completed around 537, it was considered the largest Christian building in the world. In the following account, Procopius, Justinian's official court historian, describes this magnificent structure.

... the Emperor, disregarding all questions of expense, eagerly pressed on to begin the work of construction, and began to gather all the artisans from the whole world. ... Indeed this also was an indication of the honor in which God held the Emperor, that He had already provided the men who would be most serviceable to him in the tasks which were waiting to be carried out. And one might with good reason marvel at the discernment of the Emperor himself, in that out of the whole world he was able to select the men who were most suitable for the most important of his enterprises.

So the church has become a spectacle of marvellous beauty. ... For it soars to a height to match the sky, and as if surging up from amongst the other buildings it stands on high and looks down upon the remainder of the city, ... and it abounds exceedingly in sunlight and in the reflection of the sun's rays from the marble. ...

The whole ceiling is overlaid with pure gold, which adds glory to the beauty, yet the light reflected from the stones prevails, shining out in rivalry with the gold. And there are two stalactite colonnades, one on each side, ... And they too have vaulted ceilings and decorations of gold.

One of these two colonnaded spots has been assigned to men worshippers, while the other is reserved for women ... who could recount the beauty of the columns and the stones with which the church is adorned? One might imagine that he had come upon a meadow with its flowers in full bloom. For he would surely marvel at the purple of some, the green tint of others, and at those on which the crimson glows and those from which the white flashes, ... And whenever anyone enters this church to pray, he understands at once that it is not by any human power or skill, but by the influence of God, that this work has been so finely turned. And so his mind is lifted up toward God and exalted, feeling that He cannot be far away, but must especially love to dwell in this place which He has chosen.

1. Briefly describe the church in your own words.

2. Did men and women pray together or apart? How do you know?

3. What feelings did the church inspire in those who entered it to pray?

4. Where in this account might Procopius be flattering Justinian? In what way did he flatter the emperor? Write your answers on a separate sheet.

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Byzantine Empire

- Eastern portion of the Roman Empire after the fall of Rome

Constantinople

- capital of the empire, strategic location made it a center of trade

Economy

- very prosperous and based on trade (strategic location between Mediterranean and Black Seas)

Contributions of the Byzantine Empire

- preserve Greco-Roman heritage
- Justinian’s Code – laws
- Influenced Russia (Eastern Orthodox religion, Cyrillic alphabet, art and architecture)

Justinian (Emperor)

- his main goal was to re-establish the Roman Empire
- Justinian’s Code - collections of laws from the Roman Empire, it is what he is best remembered for, similar to Twelve Tables (Rome) and Hammurabi’s Code (Babylon)

Religion

- Hagia Sophia (church)- largest religious structure of the time, built for religious worship
- Great Schism - In 1054 the Church split into Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Church
- both were Christian churches but differed in beliefs over icons and marriage by priests (Byzantine priests could marry)

Downfall

- struggles over succession
- invasions by the Turks
- conquered by the Ottoman Turks in 1453