The Roman Empire Splits

Byzantine Empire
By 330, the emperor **Constantine**, had built a new capital city in **Constantinople** on the site of the Greek city **Byzantium**. The Byzantine Empire arose from this site.
At its height, the Byzantine Empire covered an area from Rome through southeastern Europe and Asia Minor, down to Egypt and across North Africa.
Justinian Looks to the Past

• In 527, Justinian I began to plan ways to make the Byzantine Empire as great as the Roman Empire had been in the past.

  – With a strong **army**, he conquered:
    • Many lands that Rome had **lost**
    • Alexandria in **Egypt**
    • Carthage in northern **Africa**
    • Athens in Europe
History Profile

- Read the “Byzantine Empire.”
- You will be assigned groups to pull out details about one of the following terms:
  - Justinian
  - Theodora
  - the Justinian Code
  - Nika Revolt
  - Hagia Sophia
- What did you learn about that particular topic? Write it on the poster.
Stop and Jot

• Who is Justinian I?
• As we go through the PowerPoint today, keep adding notes to his box.
Justinian Code

• Emperor Justinian chose ten men to review 1,600 books full of Roman Law (Twelve Tables) and create a simpler legal code.
  – create the Justinian Code with just over 4,000 laws.
  – Many of the laws in Justinian’s Code reflect the point of view of his wife, Theodora.
  – Many codes are still used in international laws today.
Stop and Jot

• What is the Justinian Code?
• Why is it important?

“The penalty [for robbery] is three times the value of the property, and this whether the robber be caught in the act or not. [However], if a man by mistake thought that property was his own...he cannot be convicted of robbery.
Empress Theodora

- Theodora encouraged her husband to make new laws that were fairer to **women**.
  - Laws allowing parents to leave property to **daughters**
  - Laws improving **women’s** rights
  - *Innocent until proven guilty*

- Theodora assisted her husband in choosing **government** leaders.

- She believed jobs should be given based on **ability** and not **social class**.

What Chinese concept does this concept sound like?
Empress Theodora

• Theodora’s early life was spent at the **Hippodrome**, or circus.
• Her father was a bear keeper and she was a circus performer, but left the circus in her 20s.
• Most empresses came from **noble** families.
• Theodora’s early life gave her a prospective of what life was like for **ordinary** citizens. Her husband also came from a **poor** family.
• Like Rome, a small number of citizens were **wealthy**, while most were working class or **poor**.
Stop and Jot

• Who is Theodora?
• Why is she important to the Byzantine Empire?
Nika Revolt

• In 532, a riot broke out over Justinian’s Law Code and taxation.
  – Named the Nika Revolt after the people’s cry “Nika” (meaning Conquer!)
Nika Revolt

• Justinian was ready to flee the capital and surrender when his wife Theodora convinced him to stay.
  – He remained, crushed the revolt, and firmly established his reign as emperor.
Stop and Jot

• What was the Nika Revolt?
• What caused the Revolt?
Byzantine Economy

- Justinian worked to build a strong economy.
- Constantinople was a meeting place for merchants from Europe and Asia.
- New industries – Silk
- He ordered silkworm eggs smuggled from China, along with mulberry trees.
- This ended the monopoly China held on the world’s silk trade.
Silk Road
Chinese Silk Trade

- The Chinese kept silk making a secret for about 3000 years.
- They didn’t want others to know how to make silk.
- If anyone told the secret, they would be put to death.
- They traded the silk along a route that was known as the Silk Road.
- The Silk Road connected China with lands in the west.
- Bandits and thieves often traveled the Silk Road.

Why?
THE SILK ROAD
Stop and Jot

• What was the Silk Road?
• What continents did it connect?
• What is the importance of the Silk Road?
Byzantine Accomplishments

• **Taxes** collected from **trade** and industry were used for a building program to make Constantinople the **New Rome**.

• One example is the Church of **Holy Wisdom**, or **Hagia Sophia**.
if these walls could talk...
Stop and Jot

• What is the Hagia Sophia?
• What does it represent for the Byzantine Empire?
Religious Dispute

• Justinian and Theodora were both Christians, but they disagreed about religious ways.

• Disputes concerning religious beliefs and traditions often caused conflicts in between the east and the west.

• One argument concerned the use of icons in religious worship and prayers. Another was who was in charge on earth.
The Great Schism of 1054

• In 1054 the **Christian** Church **split** because of disagreements over religious issues.

• Two branches of Christianity form:
  – *Eastern Greek* **Orthodox** Church
  – *Roman* **Catholic** Church
Diary Entry

• Read the diary entries representing an Eastern Orthodox Christian and a Roman Catholic.

• As you read, notice similarities and differences between the two sects.

• Notate those differences and similarities in your notes.
Religious Dispute

- **Orthodox** Christians, (east) or those who held **strict** religious beliefs, thought the use of **icons** (pictures of Christ) was forbidden in the *Ten Commandments*.

- Orthodox Christians thought this was a form of worshipping **idols**.

- In the west where few people could **read** or **write**, church leaders believed the use of icons was a good way to teach about **Christianity**.
The Great Schism of 1054

**Eastern Greek Orthodox Church**
- Based in Constantinople
- Official language – Greek
- Church led by a **Patriarch** referred to as a Bishop
- Bishops couldn’t marry.
- Priests could marry.
- Scriptures were the final authority on all matters.
- Emperor or political ruler was above the Bishop.
- Rejected the use of icons.

**Roman Catholic Church**
- Based in Rome
- Official language – Latin
- Church led by a Pope referred to as Father.
- Church leaders could not marry.
- Only Pope and Bishops could interpret the scriptures.
- The Pope was the Supreme head of Church - above any political ruler.
- Religious icons accepted.
Fall of Constantinople

“All good things must come to an end.”
EXIT TICKET

Link and explain the following words:
Eastern Orthodox
Constantinople
Patriarch
Great Schism of 1054
Justinian
Empress Theodora
Hagia Sophia
Roman Catholic
Pope
Byzantium
Justinian Code