

A dramatic painting depicting the fall of an empire. The scene is filled with fire and smoke, with a large crowd of people in the foreground. A prominent white statue of a figure holding a globe stands on a pedestal to the right. The background shows a city with classical architecture, including a large archway and a temple-like structure. The overall atmosphere is one of chaos and destruction.

**THE END OF AN  
EMPIRE...**

Essential Question

What caused the  
Roman Empire  
to end?



(1)

## HOW DID SIZE AFFECT THE ROMAN EMPIRE?

- Under Augustus, the Empire grew huge, he created a peace that lasted for over 200 years, called the **PAX ROMANA**
- Rome made lasting contributions in art, architecture, engineering, philosophy, and the spreading of Christianity
- By A.D. 117, the empire stretched from England to lands that today are part of **IRAQ**
- Rome controlled all the lands of the **MEDITERRANEAN**

(2)

- The great **SIZE** of Rome was one of the reasons that led to its downfall, it was too big to defend
- The empire was being attacked from outside, and inside the borders there was **POLITICAL** chaos, dishonesty, and civil wars
- The empire was beginning to **CRUMBLE**
- Social and economic problems faced the Roman citizens





*“Our history now  
descends from a  
kingdom of gold to  
one of iron and  
rust”*

*-Dio Cassius-*



**HOW DID THE SIZE OF THE  
EMPIRE AFFECT IT?**

(3)



## WHY WAS THE EMPIRE DIVIDED?

- All Romans, of whatever culture, were required to pay **TAXES** and obey roman law
- People found this harder and harder to do, new leaders rose to power and fought each other in **CIVIL WARS**
- Many leaders claimed the throne only to be removed shortly after
- There were more than **60** leaders who called themselves emperor between A.D. 235 to A.D. 284, only 50 years!



(4)

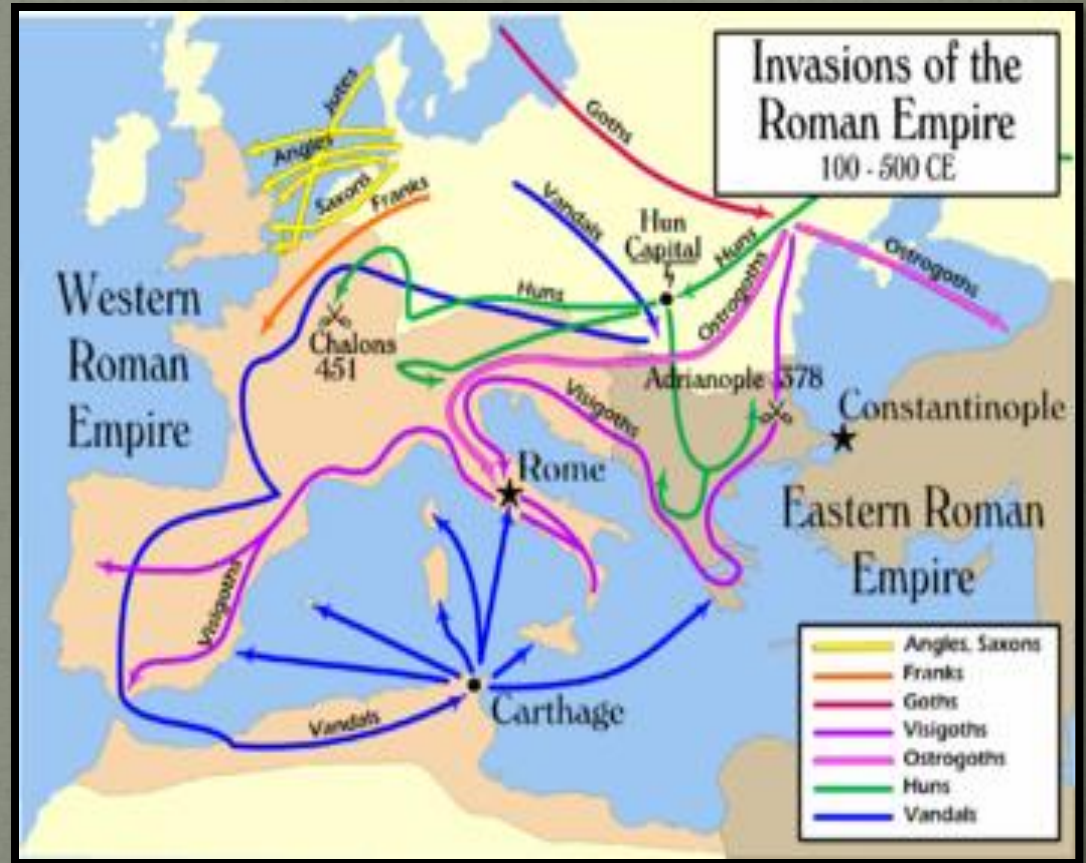
- Soldiers began to lose **LOYALTY** for their empire and have greater respect for their generals
- The generals did not always do what the emperors wanted
- The turmoil caused the empire to suffer, **TRADE** almost stopped, money lost **VALUE**





(5)

- During the A.D. 200s, Rome was **THREATENED** from all sides
- Persians from the east, Africans from the south, and Germanic tribes from the north
- In A.D. 253, the emperor decided the empire was too large, he **DIVIDED** the kingdom into the Eastern half and the Western half, he and his son ruled the two empires
- The divided empire was even weaker than before, the **BERBERS** attacked from Africa, and Germanic tribes called the **GOTHS** attacked from the north



# WHY WAS THE EMPIRE DIVIDED?



(6)

## WHAT CAUSED THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO BECOME WEAK?

- The Roman border was 3,000 miles long, defending the land from invaders fell to the **PEOPLE** themselves
- The government collected taxes to pay the soldiers, many citizens could not pay, they left or sold their farms and began to **ROB** others, or joined the attacking **ENEMY** armies
- Rome gave citizenship to all the free people in the empire so they could collect more taxes
- This did not work and dishonest leaders started putting **WEALTHY** people in control

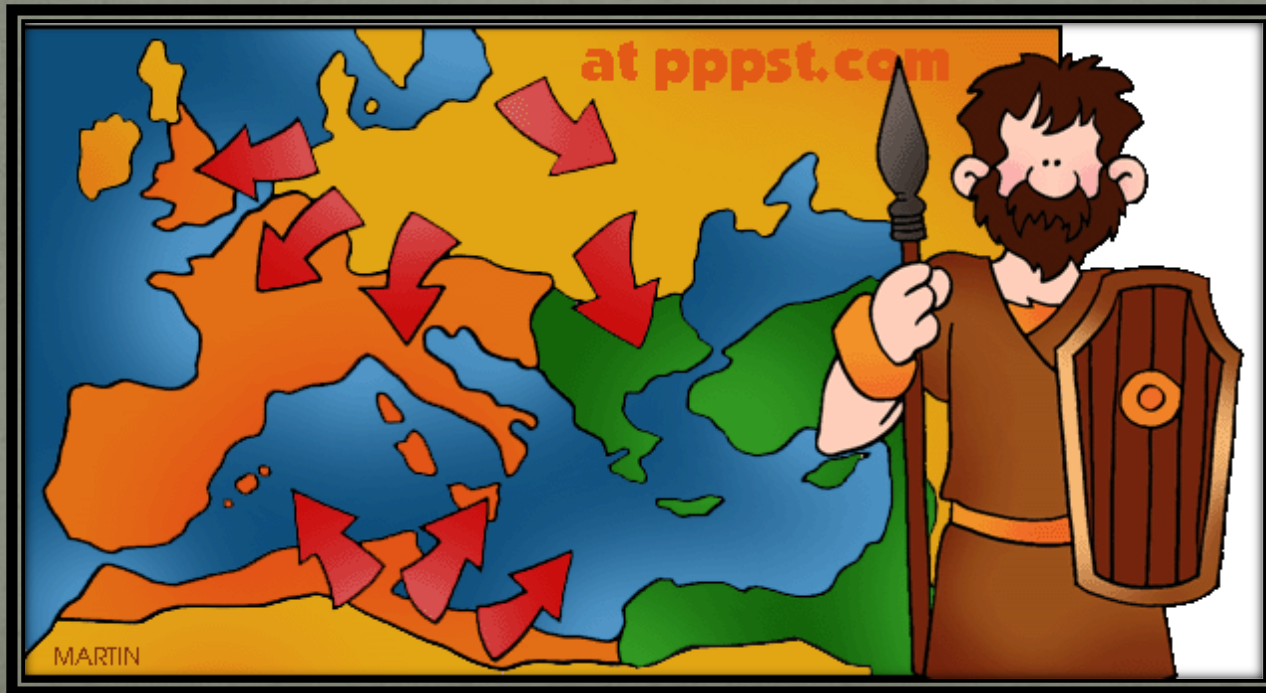
(7)

- Rome was not conquering any new **LANDS**, so they were not receiving any new money
- They started to make **CHEAPER** money, so the merchants raised their prices, causing inflation
- The rise of food prices caused even more problems for the poor
- Schools no longer had money to support them, so the public schools **CLOSED** down
- Once again, only the wealthy were able to attend school



(8)

- The wealthiest people fled the **CITIES**, poor people were leaving too
- The city life in Rome was now one of poverty, hunger, disease, and **CRIME**
- The glory of Rome was coming to an **END**



(9)

- Good times once again came to Rome when Emperor **DIOCLETIAN** took power
- He kept the empire divided, but appointed two generals for each half of the empire
- These four leaders were called the **RULE OF FOUR**
- The armies were now **STRONGER** and able to defend Rome
- Diocletian stopped the **INFLATION** by making money out of better metals and setting a price limit on food
- Constantine the Great would later reunite the whole empire



# WHAT CAUSED THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO BECOME WEAK?

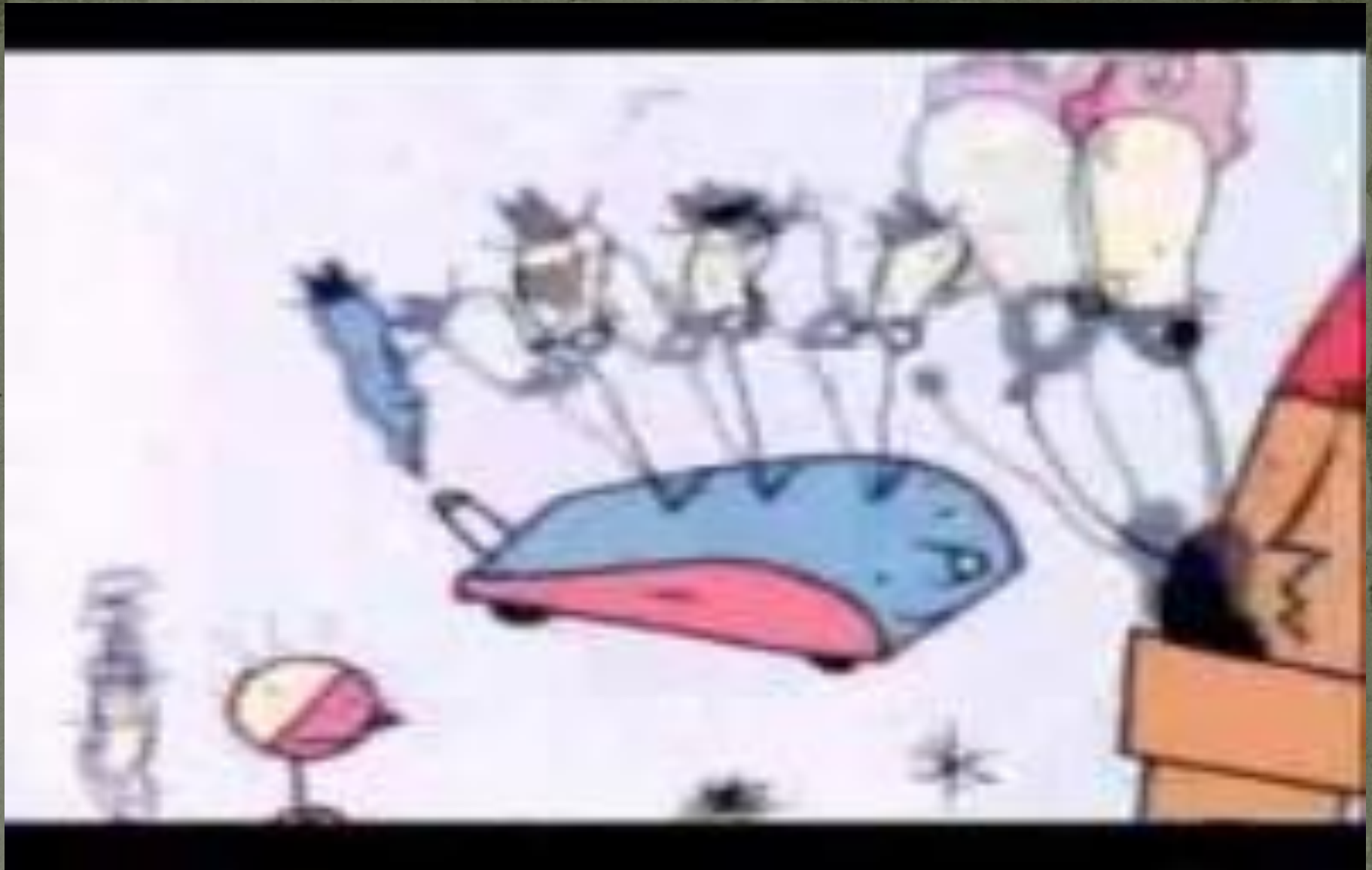


(10) **WHY WERE GERMANIC TRIBES INVADING  
ROME?**

- Constantine changed the capital from Rome to a city called **BYZANTIUM**
- The city was surrounded by water and well protected
- The city was renamed as **CONSTANTINOPLE**, today, this city is called **ISTANBUL**
- The empire again split in A.D. 395, the Eastern Empire continued to thrive, but the Western declined rapidly







Istanbul song 2 min

(11)



Germanic tribes began to invade both empires, they were being driven out of their own lands by another group of people called the **HUNS**, from Asia

- Rome was captured by the Visigoths in A.D. 410, they were attacked again in A.D. 455 by a group called the Vandals
- In A.D. 476 Rome finally fell a Germanic chief named **ODOACER**
- This was the end of the Western Roman Empire

# WHY WERE THE GERMANIC TRIBES INVADING ROME?



(12) **WHY WAS THE POWER OF THE CHURCH ABLE TO GROW IN EUROPE?**

- Germanic tribes continued to take control of the **WESTERN** Roman Empire
- As more tribes took over, the Christian **CHURCH** thrived
- The church took care of the people and sent missionaries all over to spread the religion
- Many nations had **KINGS** that converted to Christianity, and their people converted as well

(13)



- As the old Roman empire began to crumble, the Christian church was the only **ORGANIZED** institution controlling Europe
- The bishops' power grew, and the **POPE** had both political and religious power
- Because of the church, Roman culture was able to **SURVIVE**, even though their empire did not

**WHY WAS THE POWER OF THE  
CHURCH ABLE TO GROW IN  
EUROPE?**



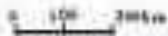
# (14) WHAT CAUSED THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO SPLIT?

- The Eastern Roman Empire became known as the **BYZANTIUM** empire, this empire would last for another 1,000 years
- In A.D. 527, Justinian I took control of the Byzantium Empire, he and his wife, Theodora, made many changes to the Empire
- He gathered all the laws into one book
- He used money from trade to make the capital, Constantinople, a “**NEW ROME**”
- He built roads, aqueducts, and buildings





**The Byzantine Empire**  
**JUSTINIAN THE GREAT**  
**(527-566)**



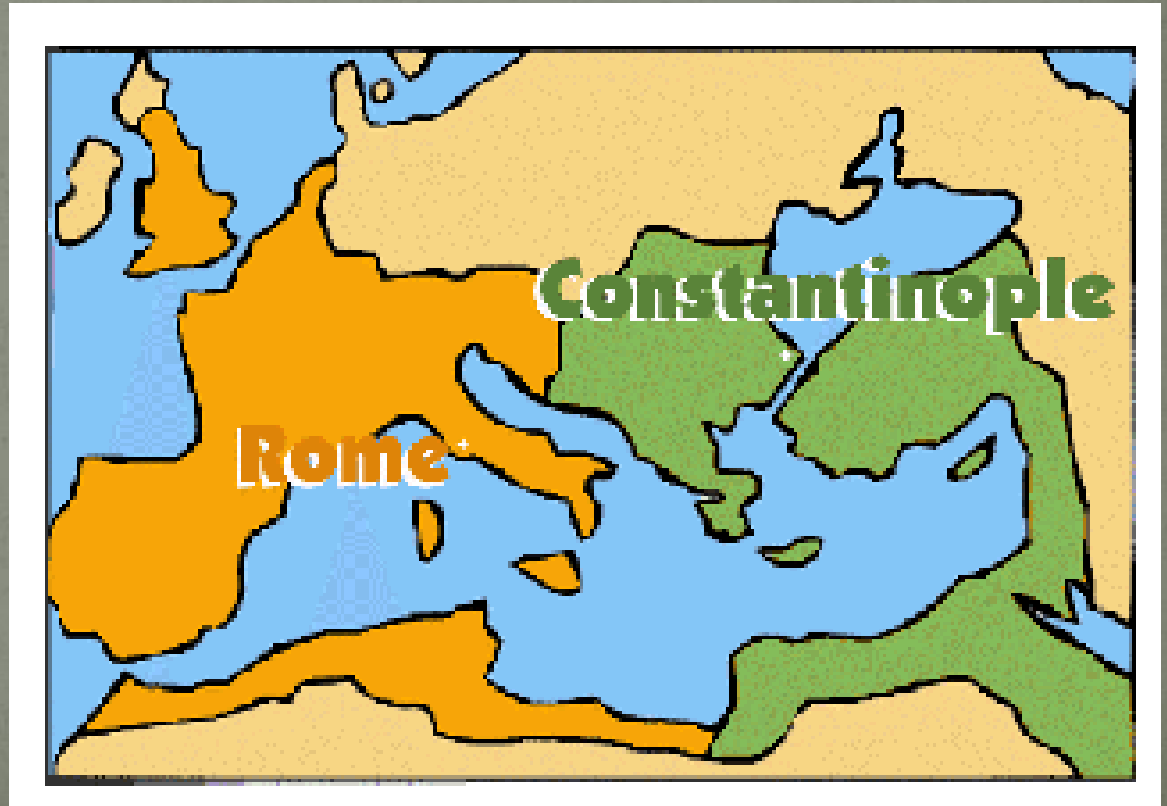
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- Christianity was important in this new empire, but it was different than Christianity in the West
- The people in the Byzantium empire did not believe the church leaders should have the ultimate power, but that political power should remain with the **STATE**
- These differing ideas led to conflicts between the Christians in the Byzantium Empire, and Christians in the Germanic kingdoms

- (16)
- The Christian church eventually split in A.D. 1054
  - The church in the Byzantium Empire was called the **EASTERN ORTHODOX** church, based in Constantinople, the church in the Western Empire was called the **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**, based in Rome.



# WHAT CAUSED THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO SPLIT?



Essential  
Question

What caused  
the Roman  
Empire to end?



# THE END

A dramatic painting depicting a city in flames. The scene is filled with a large crowd of people, some running and some looking towards the viewer. In the foreground, a large, muscular statue of a man stands on a pedestal. The background shows a city with classical architecture, including a large building with columns and a dome. The sky is filled with smoke and fire, creating a sense of chaos and destruction.

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