THE END OF AN 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**.
• 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?
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!
- 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**
WHY DID LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE EMPIRE BEGIN TO WEAKEN?
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?
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.
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.
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.
WHAT CAUSED THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO BECOME WEAK?
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 DID DIOCLETIAN DO TO REORGANIZE THE EMPIRE?
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.
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?
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
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?
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

(527-565)
• 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
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?
THE END