

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

**B#12—Crash Course World History**  
**Fall of the Roman Empire → Byzantine Empire**

emperor	barbarians	govern	domestic bliss
robbery	imperialism	conquered	iron fist
loyal	Roman Legion	non-Roman	Italy
Roman	violence	peace	Rome

1. How and when Rome fell remains the subject of considerable historical debate—but today I’m going to argue that the Rome didn’t really fully fall until the middle of the \_\_\_\_\_ century. Technically the city of Rome was conquered by \_\_\_\_\_ in 476 CE.
2. After 476, there was never a \_\_\_\_\_ Emperor in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Rome was doomed to fall as soon as it spread outside of \_\_\_\_\_ because the further the territory is from the capital, the harder it is to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Thus \_\_\_\_\_ itself sowed the seeds of destruction in Rome. This was the argument put forth by the Roman historian Tacitus, “To \_\_\_\_\_, slaughter, plunder, they give the lying name of empire; they make a desert and call it \_\_\_\_\_.”
5. There are two ways to overcome this governance problem: First, you rule with the proverbial \_\_\_\_\_. Regardless, the Romans couldn’t do this because their whole identity was wrapped up in an idea of justice that precluded indiscriminate \_\_\_\_\_. The other strategy is to try to incorporate \_\_\_\_\_ people into the empire more fully: In Rome’s case, to make them Romans. This worked really well in the early days of the Republic and even at the beginning of the Empire. But it eventually led to Barbarians inside the Gates.
6. The decline of the \_\_\_\_\_ started long before Rome started getting sacked. It really began with the extremely bad decision to incorporate \_\_\_\_\_ warriors into the Roman Army. By the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ centuries CE, though, the empire had been forced to allow the kind of riffraff into their army who didn’t really care about the idea of Rome itself. They were only \_\_\_\_\_ to their commanders.
7. This was of course a recipe for \_\_\_\_\_, and that’s exactly what happened with general after general after general declaring himself \_\_\_\_\_ of Rome.
8. There was very little stability in the West. For instance, between 235 and 284 CE, \_\_\_\_\_ different people were either emperor or claimed to be.

Byzantine	Persian	Greek	Christianity
Bosporus	Constantinople	trade	military
urban	Hippodrome	Greek	politically
sport	law	same thing	

9. So remember when I said the Roman Empire survived until the 15th century? Well that was the Eastern Roman Empire, commonly known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Empire. So while the Western empire descended into chaos, the eastern half of the Empire had its capital in Byzantium, a city on the \_\_\_\_\_ Strait that Constantine would later rename \_\_\_\_\_ when he moved his capitol east.

10. As the political center of the Roman Empire shifted east, Constantine also tried to re-orient his new religion, \_\_\_\_\_, toward the east, holding the first Church council in Nicaea in 325. The idea was to get all Christians to believe the \_\_\_\_\_-that worked- but it did mark the beginning of the emperor having greater control over the Church.

11. Although the Byzantines spoke \_\_\_\_\_ not Latin, they considered themselves Romans. There was a lot of continuity between the old, Western Roman Empire, and the new, Eastern one. \_\_\_\_\_, each was ruled by a single ruler who wielded absolute \_\_\_\_\_ power.

12. War was pretty much constant as the Byzantines fought the \_\_\_\_\_ Sassanian Empire and then various Islamic empires.

13. \_\_\_\_\_ and valuable agricultural land that yielded high taxes meant that the Byzantine Empire was like the Western Roman Empire, exceptionally rich, and it was slightly more compact as a territory than its predecessor and much more \_\_\_\_\_, containing as it did all of those once independent Greek city states, which made it easier to administer.

14. Like their Western counterparts, the Byzantines enjoyed spectacle and \_\_\_\_\_. Chariot races in Constantinople were huge, with thousands turning out at the \_\_\_\_\_ to cheer on their favorites.

15. Perhaps the most consistently Roman aspect of Byzantine society was that they followed Roman \_\_\_\_\_.

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Women Carthage	peasant Justinian	Blues codify	Hagia Sophia Theodora	actress Greens
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16. The Eastern Roman Empire's codification of Roman laws was one of its greatest achievements. Much of the credit for that goes to the most famous Byzantine Emperor, \_\_\_\_\_ . He was born a \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere in the Balkans and then rose to become emperor in 527. He ruled for almost 30 years and in addition to \_\_\_\_\_ Roman law, he did a lot to restore the former glory of the Roman Empire. He took \_\_\_\_\_ back; he even took Rome back from the Goths, although not for long. He's responsible for the building of one of the great churches in all of time— which is now a mosque—the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ or Church of Saint Wisdom.

17. Maybe the most interesting thing Justinian ever did was be married to \_\_\_\_\_ who began her career as an \_\_\_\_\_, dancer, and possible prostitute before become Empress. And she may have saved her husband's rule by convincing him not to flee the city during riots between the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Theodora fought to expand the rights of \_\_\_\_\_ in divorce and property ownership, and even had a law passed taking the bold stance that adulterous women should not be executed.

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Orthodox	emperor	pope	regent	Patriarch	ceasaropapism
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19. So, in short, the Byzantines continued the Roman legacy of empire and war and law for almost \_\_\_\_\_ years after Romulus Augustus was driven out of Rome.

20. The Byzantines followed a different form of Christianity, the branch we now call Eastern or sometimes Greek \_\_\_\_\_.

21. How there came to be a split between the Catholic and Orthodox traditions is complicated - In the West there was a \_\_\_\_\_ and in the East there was a \_\_\_\_\_. The Pope is the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He sort of serves as God's \_\_\_\_\_ on earth and he doesn't answer to any secular ruler. In the Orthodox Church they didn't have that problem because the Patriarch was always appointed by the \_\_\_\_\_. So it was pretty clear who had control over the church, so much that they even have a word for it- \_\_\_\_\_: Caesar over Pope.

22. The fact that in Rome there was no \_\_\_\_\_ after 476 meant there was no one to challenge the Pope, which would profoundly shape European history over the next \_\_\_\_\_ years.