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| **Byzantine Empire**When the Roman Empire split into two separate empires, the **Eastern Roman Empire** became known as the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire continued on for 1,000 years after the Western Roman Empire, including Rome, collapsed in 476 CE. The Byzantine Empire ruled most of Eastern and Southern Europe throughout the Middle Ages. Its capital city, Constantinople, was the largest and wealthiest city in Europe during the time. **Constantine** Emperor Constantine I came to power as emperor in 306 CE. He made the Greek city of Byzantium the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire. The city was renamed to **Constantinople**. Constantine ruled as emperor for 30 years. Under Constantine, the Empire would thrive and become powerful. Constantine also embraced Christianity, which would become a large part of the Roman Empire for the next 1000 years. **Justinian Dynasty** The peak of the Byzantine Empire occurred during the Justinian Dynasty. In 527 Justinian I became Emperor. Under Justinian I, the empire gained territory and would reach the peak of its power and wealth. Justinian also established many reforms. One major reform had to do with the law. First, he had all the existing Roman laws reviewed. These laws had been written down over the course of hundreds of years and existed in hundreds of different documents. Then he had the laws rewritten into a single book called the Corpus of Civil Law, or the **Justinian Code**.  **The Hagia Sofia Church in Constantinople (Istanbul today)**Justinian also encouraged the arts including music, drama, and art. He funded many public works projects as well including bridges, roads, aqueducts, and churches. Perhaps his best known project was the **Hagia Sophia**, a beautiful and massive church built in Constantinople. **Split from the Catholic Church** In 1054 CE, the Catholic Church split. Constantinople became the head of the Eastern Orthodox Church and it no longer recognized the Catholic Church in Rome. **Wars against the Muslims** Throughout much of the Middle Ages the Byzantium Empire fought the Muslims for control of the eastern Mediterranean. This included asking the Pope and the Holy Roman Empire for help during the first Crusade to regain control of the Holy Land. They battled the Seljuk Turks and other Arab and Muslim forces for hundreds of years. Finally, in 1453, Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Empire and with it came the end of the Byzantine Empire. **Fun facts about the Byzantine Empire*** Byzantine art is almost entirely focused on religion.
* The official language of the Byzantine Empire was Latin until 700 CE when it was changed to Greek by Emperor Heraclius.
* The emperor often paid gold or a tribute to enemies to keep them from attacking.
* Emperor Justinian granted the rights of women to buy and own land, which was a big help to widows after their husbands had died.
* From the time of the early Roman Republic to the fall of the Byzantine Empire, Roman rule had a major impact on Europe for nearly 2000 years.
* The city of Constantinople is called Istanbul today and is the largest city in the country of Turkey.
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**Byzantine Empire**

**Questions**

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| 1) What empire split into two with the eastern portion becoming the Byzantine Empire? |
|  | Greek Empire |
|  | Chinese Empire |
|  | Persian Empire |
|  | Ottoman Empire |
|  | Roman Empire |
| 2) What city became the capital of the Byzantine Empire? |
|  | Rome |
|  | Constantinople |
|  | Alexandria |
|  | Jerusalem |
|  | Babylon |
| 3) What Byzantine emperor embraced Christianity and made it the religion of the empire? |
|  | Constantine |
|  | Augustus |
|  | Justinian |
|  | Commodus |
|  | Diocletian |
| 4) How long did the Byzantine Empire remain in power after the fall of Rome and the Western Roman Empire? |
|  | 100 years |
|  | 300 years |
|  | 500 years |
|  | 1000 years |
|  | 2000 years |
| 5) What was the Corpus of Civil Law? |
|  | A pledge that people said before the Roman court started |
|  | A list of people who had broken the law |
|  | A single book that recorded all of the Roman laws |
|  | A test lawyers must pass before they could practice law |
|  | A group of judges who decided the fate of criminals |
| 6) What emperor brought the Byzantine Empire to its peak of power? |
|  | Valentinian I |
|  | Arcadius |
|  | Justinian I |
|  | Zeno |
|  | Leo III |
| 7) What is the Hagia Sofia? |
|  | A castle for the emperor built by Arcadius |
|  | A church in Constantinople built by Justinian I |
|  | A statue to the Virgin Mary built by Zeno |
|  | A towering statue built in the honor of Constantine |
|  | A book that held all of the Roman laws written in one place |
| 8) What marked the end of the Byzantine Empire? |
|  | The fall of the city of Rome to Odoacer |
|  | The start of the Renaissance in Italy |
|  | The death of Justinian I |
|  | The fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire |
|  | The rise of the Russian Empire |
| 9) Who did the Byzantine Empire constantly fight with for control over the Holy Land and the eastern Mediterranean? |
|  | The Muslims |
|  | The Egyptians |
|  | The Romans |
|  | The Greeks |
|  | The Vikings |
| 10) What is the name of the city of Constantinople today? |
|  | Ankara |
|  | Athens |
|  | Istanbul |
|  | Thessaloniki |
|  | Sofia |