The Byzantine Empire & Early Russia
Why was Constantinople established as the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire?

- To provide political, economic, & military advantages
Why was the location of Constantinople important?

- Protection from the eastern frontier
- **Distance from Germanic invasions in the western empire**
- Easily fortified site on a peninsula bordered by natural harbors
Walls of Constantinople
Why was the location of Constantinople important?

- **Crossroads of trade**
  - Its location combined with control of the **Bosphorus Strait** made the city a hub for trading and shipping between Europe, Africa, and Asia.
Why was the location of Constantinople important?

- Distance from Germanic invasions in the western empire

- Constantinople will be taken over by what group? What is the city name today?
  It was seized in 1453 CE by the Turks, who renamed it Istanbul which today is a major city in modern Turkey.
What was the role of Constantinople?

- Served as the center of power for sea of Byzantine until conquered by the Ottoman Turks.
- Center of trade
Constantinople: The Center of Trade

- **Russia:** Fur, Honey, Timber
- **France:** Wine
- **England:** Tin
- **Spain:** Cork
- **Africa:** Ivory, gold
- **China:** Silk
- **India:** Spices
What was the role of Constantinople?

- Preserved classical Greco-Roman culture

Greco-Roman culture was a mixture of Greek and Roman cultures with Hellenism. Constantinople featured Roman-style architecture (using arches and domes).

Illuminated Manuscripts
- Byzantine monks helped to preserve Greco-Roman culture by copying and illustrating ancient Greek and Roman works.
Byzantine Emperor
Justinian
and
Theodora
527-565 CE
Achievements of Byzantine Emperor Justinian
1. What legal code did the emperor create? **Justinian Code**
   - Byzantine officials sorted through old Roman laws and established a new legal code.

2. What types of laws were included?
   - laws about marriage, slavery, property, inheritance, and women’s rights

What was the significance?
   - Big impact on the European Legal Code
   - This legal code lasted for 900 years.
3. Justinian was able to **reconquer almost all of the land the Romans lost to barbaric invaders**, but not Rome.

4. Able to significantly expand trade
Theodora was born into the lower class and as a teenager worked as a dancer and actress.

She was often a better politician and more wise than her husband.

Established social welfare programs for the poor

Worked for women’s rights

She was able to convince her husband to stay and fight the Nika Rebellion when he wanted to run away.
Hippodrome used for chariot races and circuses.
Nika Rebellion

Byzantine Empire: Justinian and Theodora - III: Purple is the Noblest Shroud - Extra History
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGL_M1SQV5E

- Justinian massacred 30,000 people.

NIKA REBELLION

- Everyone in the hippodrome was murdered after rioting started.
- Thousands of people died.
- Rioting started over the people thinking Justinian's ruling was unfair.
- They thought his rule was too harsh.
Byzantine Achievements in Art and Architecture

What inspired Byzantine Art and architecture?

- **Christian religion & imperial power**
- **Icons**
- **Mosaics**
- **Hagia Sophia**
Examples of mosaics in public and religious structures
Hagia Sophia - a domed church built under Justinian

Virtual Tour of Hagia Sophia
History of the Hagia Sophia

The Hagia Sophia was built during Justinian’s reign. Known as the “Church of Holy Wisdom” when Constantinople fell to the Turks, the Hagia Sophia became a mosque. Today, it is a museum.
What places show some influence in the design of the Hagia Sophia? 
Roman-church size, arches, concrete dome, mosaics 
Greek-columns 
Eastern Influences—intricate & ornate designs
What are Icons?

A religious work of art from Eastern Christianity. The most common subjects are Christ, Mary, saints and/or angels.
Byzantine Culture

What was the main language used by the Empire? Greek

How was Greek and Roman knowledge preserved? Byzantine libraries

Illuminated Manuscripts

- Byzantine monks helped to preserve Greco-Roman culture by copying and illustrating ancient Greek and Roman works.

What Christian church was dominant in the Byzantine Empire? Greek Orthodox Christianity
What conflicts caused the split in the Christian Church?

- Lack of contact from distance
- Differences in the beliefs of the sects
- Differences in who was head of the Church

What was the Great Schism?

This was a permanent split between the Church in the East and the Church in the West that happened in 1054 CE.
East vs. West: Beliefs Conflict

What were the differences in beliefs?

- Should **priest marry**?
- What **language** should be spoken in services?
- Should **divorce** be allowed?
- Who is the **head of the Church**?
East vs. West: A Power Dispute

There was the *Patriarch* who was head bishop of the Byzantine Empire was under the power of the Emperor.

There was a conflict of power between the *Pope in the West* & the *Byzantine Emperor in the East.*
The Western Church: Roman Catholic

1. Centered in **Rome**

2. Farther from the seat of power after Constantinople became the capital

3. Services (liturgy) conducted in **Latin**

4. **The pope had authority** over all bishops & rulers.

5. Priests **cannot marry**.

6. Divorce is **not permitted**.
The Eastern Church: Greek/Eastern Orthodox Church

1. Centered in **Constantinople**
2. **Close to the seat of power** after Constantinople became the capital
3. Services (liturgy) were conducted in **Greek or local languages**.
4. **The emperor had power over** the patriarch and other bishops in the Byzantine Empire.
5. Priests **are allowed to marry**.
6. Divorce is **allowed under certain circumstances**.
- Service are conducted in **Latin**
- Pope has authority over all other bishops, head of the Church
- **Pope claims authority** over all kings and emperors
- Priests **may not marry**
- Divorce **is not permitted**

**Similarities**
- **faith on the gospel of Jesus and the Bible**
- **use sacraments such as baptism**
- Religious leaders are priests & bishops
- Seek to convert people

- Service are conducted **in Greek or local languages**
- **Patriarch has authority** over all other bishops, head of the Church
- Emperor claims **authority** over the patriarch
- Priests **may be married**
- Divorce **is permitted under certain conditions**

**Roman Catholic**

**Eastern Orthodox**
The Decline of the Byzantine Empire

- **Plague of Justinian** that crippled Empire (542-750 CE) Bubonic
- **Attacks from East, West, and North** (Slavs, Persians, Turks, and Russian invasions 7th -11th centuries)
- **Attempt to maintain power** (Through political marriages, bribes and diplomacy)
- **Split of the Church, 1054 CE** (The Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox Church)
- **Walls kept the peninsula strong until 1453 CE** (when it fell to the Ottoman Turks)

What goes up...

...Must come down
BYZANTINE EMPIRE 550 CE
BYZANTINE EMPIRE 1050 CE
Time of the Schism
BYZANTINE EMPIRE 1350 CE
100 years before the Turks
Byzantine Influences on Russia and Eastern Europe

Church architecture and religious art
Who invented an alphabet for the Slavic people? **Cyril**

This was called the **Cyrillic Alphabet**

What role did he play? Had the Bible was translated **into Cyrillic for the Slavic people**

What did East Orthodox Missionaries Do? Spread their faith to the **Slavic people of Russia and Eastern Europe**
Growth of Early Russia

What helped Russia grow in trade development and with the grow of the Orthodox Church?

- **Proximity & contact with Byzantium**, helped with trade.

- **Important cities**: Kiev & Moscow

- **Important Seas**: Baltic & Black

- Grew much bigger, **Orthodox Church chose Moscow as its center**, which allowed it to emerge as an important center
Trade routes: between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea led to the exchange of ideas and culture.