WHI 7 Byzantine Empire Pt. 1

**Constantinople**

The city of Constantinople was the capital of the Byzantine Empire

It was originally known as Byzantium, but when Constantine moved his capital there he renamed it after himself.

Constantinople is the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, and the Byzantine Empire, the successor to Rome.

**Why Constantinople?**

* Protection of the eastern frontier
* Distance from Germanic invasions in the western empire
* Crossroads of trade
* Easily fortified site on a peninsula
* Bordered by natural harbors

**Role of Constantinople**

Capital of the Byzantine Empire until it falls to the Ottoman Empire in 1453

The Byzantine Empire, because it was the successor to Rome (Rome Pt. 2) preserves Greek and Roman culture (Greco-Roman)

Because it location, the city remains a center of trade

**Byzantine Emperor Justinian**

The greatest of all Byzantine Emperors was Justinian

Accomplishments include:

* + Creating a new, updated legal code- Justinian's Code
  + Reconquering former Roman territories
  + Expanding trade, making Byzantine Empire rich

**The Byzantine Empire: A Blend of Greek and Roman Traditions**

The Byzantine Empire is a blend of ancient Greek and Roman traditions.

Because they were closer to Greece the language spoken was Greek

Christianity reigned in the Byzantine Empire, but it because a different form: Greek Orthodox Christianity

Greek and Roman knowledge and history was stored in Byzantine libraries

**The Great Schism:**

**The Christian Church Breaks in Two**

The cultural and political differences between the Western and Eastern Roman Empires weakened the unity of the Christian church and led to its division into two

The primary reason for the schism, or breakup of the Christian church, was a dispute over who was in control of the church. Should it be the Pope in Rome or someone more local to the Byzantines in the east?

**The Great Schism**

In the early 1000s the head of the Christian church in Constantinople, called the Patriarch, said that the Pope in Rome only had control over his own diocese (zone) and didn't control Constantinople

In 1054 the Pope and the Patriarch excommunicated each other

The Christian Church is now divided between the Roman Catholics based in Rome and the Eastern Orthodox Church based in Constantinople

**Eastern and Western Church**

Eastern Church

-Centered in Constantinople

-Close to the seat of power once Constantinople is the Byzantine capital

-Used Greek language in the liturgy (church service)

Western Church

-Centered in Rome

-Farther from the seat of power after Constantinople became the capital

-Used Latin in the liturgy

**Differences Between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Church**

Roman Catholic

* Services are conducted in Latin
* The Pope has authority over local bishops
* The Pope claims authority over kings and emperors
* Priests cannot marry
* Divorce isn't allowed

Eastern Orthodox

* Services are in Greek or the local language
* The Patriarch and other bishops lead church as a group
* The emperor claims authority over the Patriarch
* Priests can marry
* Divorce is allowed in some cases

**Results of the Great Schism**

Eventually, people in the West accept the Pope's authority and people in the East accept the Patriarch

Practices such as celibacy become accepted in the west, and it becomes accepted that priests could marry in the east