WHI.7 The Byzantine Empire Part 2

**Byzantine Art and Architecture**

The Byzantines were inspired by the Christian religion and the need to project imperial power

Icons- Eastern Orthodox works of art (usually paintings) depicting a religious scene or figure

**Iconoclasts**

The Byzantines went through a time period of time during which Icons were banned by people called “iconoclasts”

During this time, the only acceptable religious artwork was the cross.

**Mosaics**

Mosaics- Byzantine art made up of small colored glass, stone, or painted material

Religious in nature

**Byzantine Architecture**

Hagia Sophia- Christian Eastern Orthodox church built by Justinian, later becomes a mosque when the city is taken by Muslims

**Byzantine Cultures Influences Eastern Europe and Russia**

In the 9th century, (900s AD) people from north of the Black Sea, Slavs, began to travel into Constantinople to trade via rivers.

Through cultural diffusion the Slavs picked up Byzantine culture

Orthodox Christianity spreads north from the Byzantine Empire into Russia and Eastern Europe

**St. Cyril and the Cyrillic Alphabet**

St. Cyril and his brother St. Methodius were priests who wanted to create a bible for Slavic people to read

They created the Cyrillic Alphabet that's used today by Russians

**Spread of Eastern Orthodox Religion**

Along with the spread of the Cyrillic language to the slavic (Russian) people, the religion of the Byzantines (Eastern Orthodox) spreads to the slavs as well.

Because of this, Russians (slavic people) are today Eastern Orthodox and write cyrillic