

## The Rise of Christianity

### Lesson 3 A Christian Europe

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How do new ideas affect the way people live?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What issues divided the western and eastern Christian churches?*
2. *How did Christianity spread across Europe?*

#### Terms to Know

**icon** a painting of Jesus, Mary (the mother of Jesus), saints, or Christian holy people

**iconoclast** originally: a person who destroys icons; today: someone who criticizes traditional beliefs or practices

**excommunicate** to declare that a person or group no longer belongs to the church

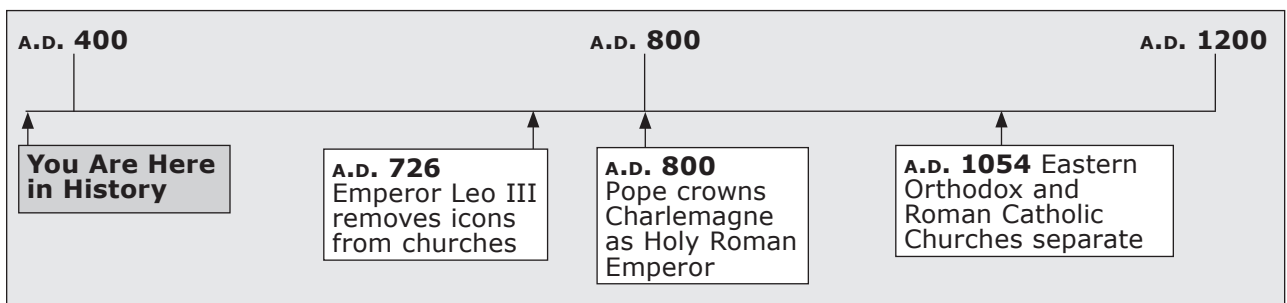
**schism** separation or division

**monastery** a religious community

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



## The Rise of Christianity

### Lesson 3 A Christian Europe, *Continued*

#### Two Christian Churches

The eastern part of the Roman Empire became known as the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine church was Christian. It was called the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Eastern Orthodox Church and the Byzantine government worked together. The Byzantine emperor was in charge of the Church. He was seen as God's representative on Earth.

Within the Eastern Orthodox Church, there was conflict over the use of **icons**. Icons are paintings of Jesus, the apostles, and Christian holy people called saints. Some people thought icons helped explain Church teachings. Others felt that the icons were a form of idol worship forbidden by God. In A.D. 726, Emperor Leo III ordered the removal of icons from all Christian churches. Officials who carried out this order were called **iconoclasts**.

The use of icons was one of several issues that divided the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. The most serious issue was about church authority. The pope in Rome believed he was in charge of all Christian churches. The Byzantines did not accept this. They believed the patriarch of Constantinople and other Byzantine bishops had as much power as the pope.

In the late A.D. 700s, a foreign army invaded Italy. The pope asked the Byzantine emperor for help. The emperor refused. The pope then turned to a Germanic people called the Franks. They successfully defended Rome and drove out the invaders. In return, the pope crowned their king, Charlemagne, emperor. This angered the Byzantines.

#### Issues Dividing the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches

- Use of icons
- Authority of the pope
- Byzantine emperor's refusal to help defend Rome
- Relationship between church and government

Another issue that divided the two churches was their relationship with the government. In the Byzantine Empire the emperor had power over the church and the government. In the West, the pope claimed authority over all the governments and churches in Europe.



#### Identifying

1. Identify three characteristics of the Byzantine church.

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#### Defining

2. What is an *icon*?

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#### Identifying

3. In the Byzantine Empire, who had more power—the emperor or the pope?

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#### Reading Check

4. What issues divided the eastern and western Christian churches?

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## The Rise of Christianity

### Lesson 3 A Christian Europe, *Continued*



#### Explaining

5. What did monks and nuns do?

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#### Comparing

6. How were Basilian Rule and Benedictine Rule similar?

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#### Identifying

7. How did monks and nuns help spread Christianity?

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The differences between the two churches were so serious that in A.D. 1054 their leaders **excommunicated**, or cast out, each other. This resulted in a **schism**, or separation, between the two churches that remains today.

### The Spread of Christianity

During the A.D. 300s, Christians in the Eastern Roman Empire formed **monasteries**. These were religious communities where men called monks spent much of their days praying and studying. They also worked outside the monasteries. In nearby towns and villages, monks ran schools and hospitals and helped the poor.

Christian women could join convents, which were similar to monasteries. As nuns, these women served the poor and also spent time in prayer and study.



#### In the A.D. 300s, monks and nuns:

- Studied and prayed in their religious communities
- Ran schools and hospitals in towns and villages
- Helped the poor
- Helped spread Christianity in Europe

Eastern monasteries and convents followed a set of rules created by the Greek bishop Basil. The Basilian Rule told men and women how they were supposed to live in their religious communities. Western monasteries and convents followed the Benedictine Rule, which was created by an Italian monk named Benedict. In general, monks and nuns were expected to pray, study, live simple lives, and perform good deeds.

One of their major duties was to help spread Christianity. They did this by working as missionaries. Missionaries teach their religion to people who are not believers.

Two Byzantine missionaries, brothers Cyril and Methodius, wanted to bring Christianity to the Slavs in Eastern Europe. The Slavs spoke very different languages.

## The Rise of Christianity

### Lesson 3 A Christian Europe, *Continued*

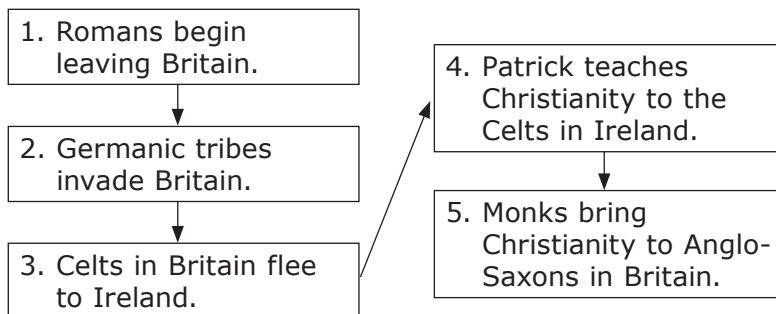
Cyril invented a new alphabet that made it possible to translate the Bible into Slavic languages. It is called the Cyrillic alphabet in honor of Cyril. It is still used today by people who speak Slavic languages, such as Russian.

In Western Europe, Christian missionaries did much of their work in Britain and Ireland. After the Romans left Britain, Germanic tribes invaded from present-day Germany and Denmark. The tribes included people called the Angles and the Saxons. Over time, they became the Anglo-Saxons. They lived in Angleland, or England.

The people who were already living in Britain were the Celts. Many of them were driven across the sea to Ireland after the Anglo-Saxons arrived. A priest named Patrick spread Christianity to Ireland. He set up churches and monasteries and converted many people to Christianity.

In A.D. 597, about 40 monks from Rome went to Britain. Their mission was to bring Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons of Britain. They succeeded. Within about 100 years, most of England had become Christian.

#### Christianity Spreads to Britain and Ireland



#### Check for Understanding

List two major issues that divided the Eastern and Western Christian churches.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

How did Christianity spread to Britain and Ireland?

3. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### ? Examining Details

8. How did the missionary brothers Cyril and Methodius spread Christianity to the Slavs?

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#### ✓ Reading Check

9. Why were monasteries and convents important in Christian Europe?

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10. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Label the top tab *Church Division* and the bottom tab *Missionaries*.

Use both sides of the Foldable to record words or phrases about each.