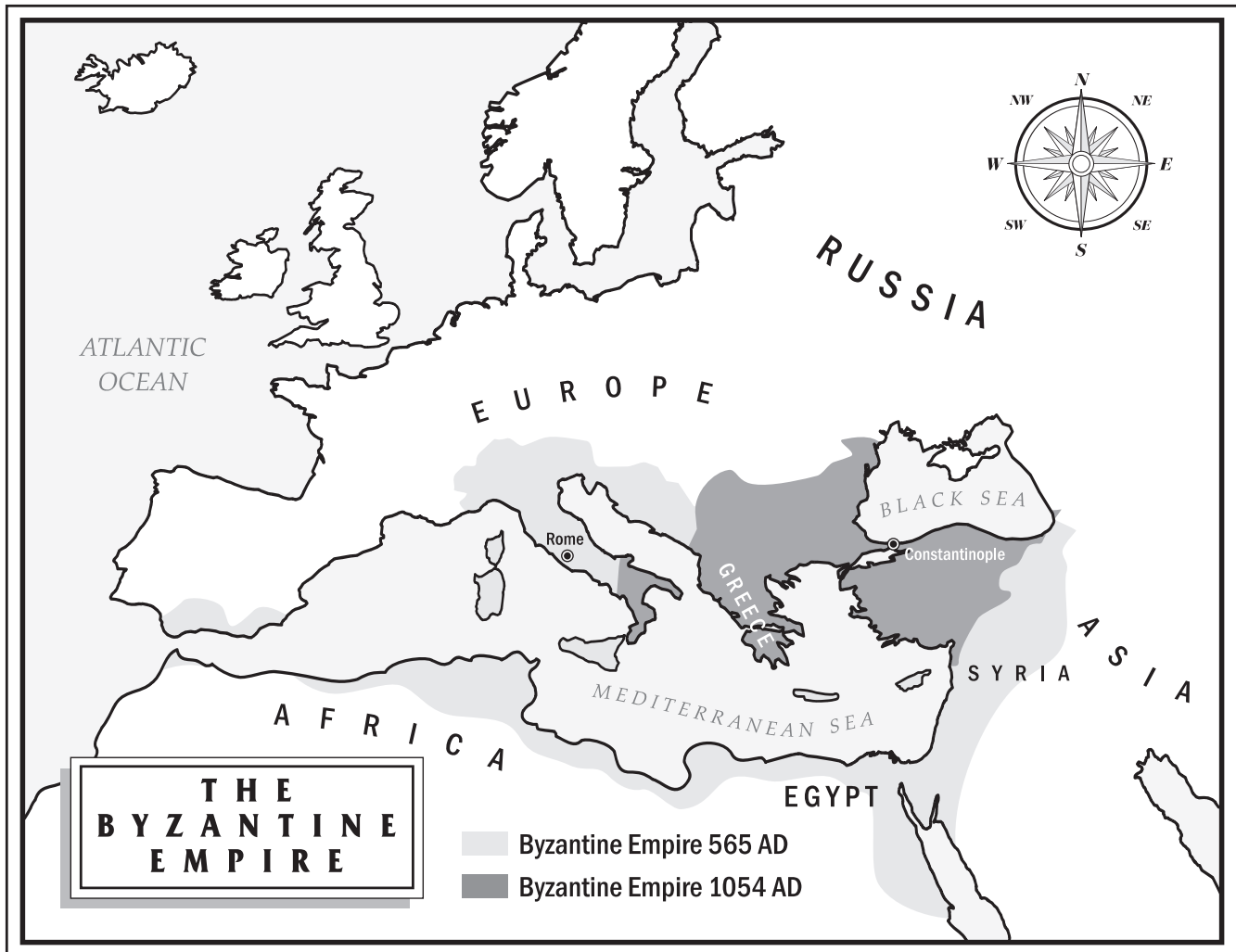


# The Byzantine Empire and Islam

## Map of the Byzantine Empire

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In this unit, you will learn about the Byzantine Empire. Look carefully at the map. Put an X on Constantinople. Put a Y on Rome. Color Greece purple.



# The Byzantine Empire and Islam

## Vocabulary

1. **Byzantine Empire**—eastern portion of the Roman Empire which lasted beyond the fall of the Western Roman Empire
2. **Eastern Orthodox Church**—Christian church which was created (in 1054) because of differences with Christianity in the Western Roman Empire
3. **Greco-Roman**—culture which is a blending of classic Roman and Greek culture
4. **Hagia Sophia**—Byzantine Christian Church originally built by Emperor Justinian and modified by the Ottoman Turks
5. **Islam**—monotheistic religion begun in Arabia by Muhammad in the 6th century
6. **Islamic Golden Age**—period of great achievements in the Islamic world between the 8th and 15th centuries
7. **Justinian Code**—Byzantine collection of laws and legal decisions of Rome beginning with Hadrian in 117 A.D.
8. **Middle Ages**—period of history roughly between 476 A.D. and 1453
9. **Muhammad**—Islamic prophet born in 570 A.D.
10. **Muslims**—followers of Islam
11. **Ottoman Turks**—Islamic people who conquered the Byzantine Empire in 1453
12. **pilgrimage**—a trip to a place of religious importance
13. **Quran**—Islamic holy book
14. **Roman Catholic Church**—Christian church which resulted (in 1054) because of differences with Christianity in the Byzantine Empire

# An Empire Divided

## Brief #1

### Focus

The Byzantine Empire was the eastern half of the Roman Empire.

When Emperor Constantine reunited the Roman Empire after it had been divided for some time, he built the new capital in Constantinople. Constantinople is the name of the city that we now call Istanbul. Istanbul is in the country of Turkey.

This area is in a very interesting position in the world. The landmass that is Turkey, and which was the Byzantine Empire, is kind of like a land bridge which links the continents of Europe and Asia. In the fourth century, it was at a crossroads of cultures.

Even though Constantine united the Roman Empire and moved the new capital from Rome to Constantinople, the Empire was really two separate kingdoms. Different ideas about religion and a blend of cultures emerged, which made the eastern half of the Roman Empire

very different from the western half. When the western half of the Roman Empire fell in 476 A.D., the eastern half remained intact. **The eastern half of the ancient Roman Empire became the Byzantine Empire.**



### The Byzantine Orthodox Church

One of the main differences that developed between the eastern and western halves of the Roman Empire was between Christianity and the church. Christianity became the official religion of Rome in 380 A.D. But the practice of Christianity was developing differently in different parts of the Empire. In the western half, Christians believed that the pope was the head of the church, and that he even ruled over the emperor. But in the eastern half, Christians believed that the emperor was the head of the church and that he was appointed by God. **In 1054 A.D., the Christian Church split and became two separate churches. The Roman Catholic Church dominated in the west, and the Eastern Orthodox Church dominated in the east.**

### Vocabulary

1. Byzantine Empire
2. Roman Catholic Church
3. Eastern Orthodox Church
4. Greco-Roman



### Byzantine Culture

The early Byzantine Empire had a culture that was Greco-Roman. **Greco-Roman culture is a blending of traditions that are both ancient Greek and Roman.** For example, Greek was the language of everyday use, but Latin was the official language of the government. The Byzantines enjoyed public baths, swimming pools, and chariot racing, much as the ancient Romans did.

# Emperor Justinian

## Brief #2

### Focus

Justinian I was a great Byzantine Emperor.

Justinian became emperor of the Byzantine Empire in 527 A.D. He ruled over the empire when it was at its height. Justinian made many contributions to the Byzantine Empire.



### The Justinian Code

Emperor Justinian established what has come to be called the Justinian Code. **The Justinian Code consisted of the laws and legal decisions of the Romans as far back as the time of Emperor Hadrian in 117 A.D.** Justinian asked scholars to collect these ancient laws and to simplify them. It was the first time that anyone had attempted to do this. Emperor Justinian also added new laws to the code and had scholars provide guidelines for judges and for students of law.

The Justinian Code was not only important in the time of Justinian, but also important to civilizations and cultures that would come after. Much of it is the basis of many of the world's democratic legal systems. For example, the Justinian Code states that a man is innocent until proven guilty.

But not everything in the Justinian Code was democratic. There were laws that discriminated against Jewish people and others who practiced a faith different from the official religion of the Byzantine Empire.

### Vocabulary

1. Justinian Code
2. Hagia Sophia



### The Hagia Sophia

**The Hagia Sophia is one of the most famous sites in modern-day Turkey. It has been many things over the centuries, but originally it was an Eastern Orthodox Church that was built by Emperor Justinian in 537 A.D.** Justinian had materials from the construction of the church sent from many parts of the world, including Egypt and Syria. Nearly 10,000 people helped to build the church. It was considered to be a masterpiece of architecture in its day. Since its original construction, parts of it were destroyed by earthquakes. After the Hagia was a Christian church, it became an Islamic mosque. Now it is a museum, and people from all over the world still go to see one of the great examples of Byzantine architecture.



### Expansion of the Byzantine Empire

During Justinian's rule he expanded the Byzantine Empire to include Northern Africa, Italy, islands in the Mediterranean, and some of Spain. But change was coming. In 1453, the Byzantine Empire was conquered by the Ottoman Turks.

# Islam

## Brief #3

### Focus

The birth of Islam was an influential development of the Middle Ages.

So far most of what you have learned in this book is about the ancient world. Remember that scholars date the ancient world from about 3500 B.C. (when people began to keep written records) to about 476 A.D. (the fall of the Roman Empire in the west).

But what period comes after the ancient world? The period of time from about the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D. to about the time that the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople in 1453 is called the Middle Ages. **The Middle Ages is the period of time between the ancient world and the modern world, or the world in which we all live.** One of the most influential things that happened during the Middle Ages was the development and spread of a religion called Islam.



### Muhammad

**Muhammad was a man who was born in Arabia in about 570 A.D.** Nowadays we call this part of the world Saudi Arabia. **According to the Quran, which is the sacred book of Islam,** he went to the desert to pray. While he was in the desert praying, an angel came to him and told him what god wanted his people to do. When Muhammad returned from the desert he began to preach. Soon he had many followers. This marks the beginning of the religion called Islam.



### The Teachings of Islam

Islam is an Arabic word that means *submission*.

**People who practice the Islamic faith are called**

**Muslims.** Islam, like Judaism and Christianity, is a

monotheistic religion. Muslims believe in the Five Pillars of Islam. These are things that are considered to be the basic duties of all Muslims. They include a belief in god and the prophet Muhammad and giving to charity. Muslims also believe in making a pilgrimage to Mecca. **A pilgrimage is a journey that a person takes to a place that is important to his or her religion.** Muslims make a pilgrimage to Mecca because they consider it to be a sacred place.

### Vocabulary

1. Middle Ages
2. Muhammad
3. Quran
4. Islam
5. Muslims
6. pilgrimage
7. Ottoman Turks
8. Islamic golden age

# Islam

## Brief #3 (cont.)



### The Spread of Islam

As people travel around the world and interact with one another, ideas are exchanged. Many of these ideas are ideas about religion. All religions are spread from one place to another this way.

Islamic traders in the Middle Ages helped to spread the religion of Islam from inside of Arabia to places outside of Arabia. In addition, Muslims invaded and conquered lands. As they did, they converted the people who lived there to Islam.

One group of people who helped to spread Islam was the Ottoman Turks. **The Ottoman Turks were people who lived within the Byzantine Empire.** They migrated there from Asia. They conquered the Byzantine Empire, which was a Christian empire in 1453. The Ottoman Empire was an influential and powerful Islamic empire. It survived until 1923.



### Islamic Golden Age

From about the 8th to the 15th centuries, the Islamic world entered what scholars call the Islamic golden age. **The Islamic Golden Age was a period of time when the sciences, arts, and medicine expanded and flourished in the Islamic world, specifically in places where the religion of Islam was the major belief system.**

Advances in chemistry, along with the first tar roads, pharmacies, psychiatric hospitals, and stained glass were all invented in the Islamic world of the Middle Ages. Scholars also believe that the first candy was produced by Muslims during the Middle Ages.

