

Medieval Europe

300–1500

CHAPTER 12
Kingdoms and Christianity
300–1250

CHAPTER 13
The Early Middle Ages
800–1215

CHAPTER 14
The High Middle Ages
1000–1500

Themes

ARTS AND IDEAS

Universities preserved knowledge in a period when most people did not have a formal education.

BELIEF SYSTEMS

Christianity influenced life during the Middle Ages

GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

There was no strong central government; rather, feudal relationships exerted the strongest pull on loyalties.

This scene for October is from *Les Tres Riche Heures du Duc de Berry* created by the Limbourg Brothers.

Kingdoms and Christianity

THE BIG PICTURE

After the fall of Rome, large and small kingdoms appeared in Europe. In most of these kingdoms, Christianity had a powerful influence on people's lives.



North Carolina Standards

Social Studies Objectives

3.02 Describe events in Western Europe from the fall of Rome to the emergence of nation-states and analyze the impact of these events on economic, political, and social life in medieval Europe;

8.01 Trace developments in literary, artistic, and religious traditions over time as legacies of past societies or as cultural innovations;

Language Arts Objective

2.01.3 Demonstrate the ability to read, listen to and view a variety of increasingly complex print and non-print information texts appropriate to grade level and course by providing textual evidence to support understanding of and reader's response to text.



TIME LINE

CHAPTER EVENTS

330

Constantinople is founded as the new capital of the Roman Empire.

527

Justinian I begins rule of the Eastern Roman Empire.

871

Alfred the Great is crowned king of Wessex.

1054

The Great Schism occurs.

300

WORLD EVENTS

320

Chandra Gupta I founds the Gupta dynasty in India.

476

The Western Roman Empire falls to invaders.

c. 570

Muhammad is born in Arabia.

c. 900

Mayan civilization is at its peak.

960

The Song dynasty begins in China.

History's Impact video program

Watch the video to understand the impact of Christianity as a world religion.



Reading like a Historian

The Dormition Cathedral, pictured above, is known as the spiritual heart of Ukraine. A monastery was founded on the site in 1051, and construction began on the church in 1073. This cathedral in Kiev (also spelled Kyiv) is within the Russian Orthodox tradition.

Analyzing Visuals What features indicate that this building is a Christian church? How does the design differ from houses of worship in your region?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H26

1242

Alexander Nevsky defends Russia against the Teutonic Knights.

1453

Constantinople falls, ending the Byzantine Empire.

1200

1281

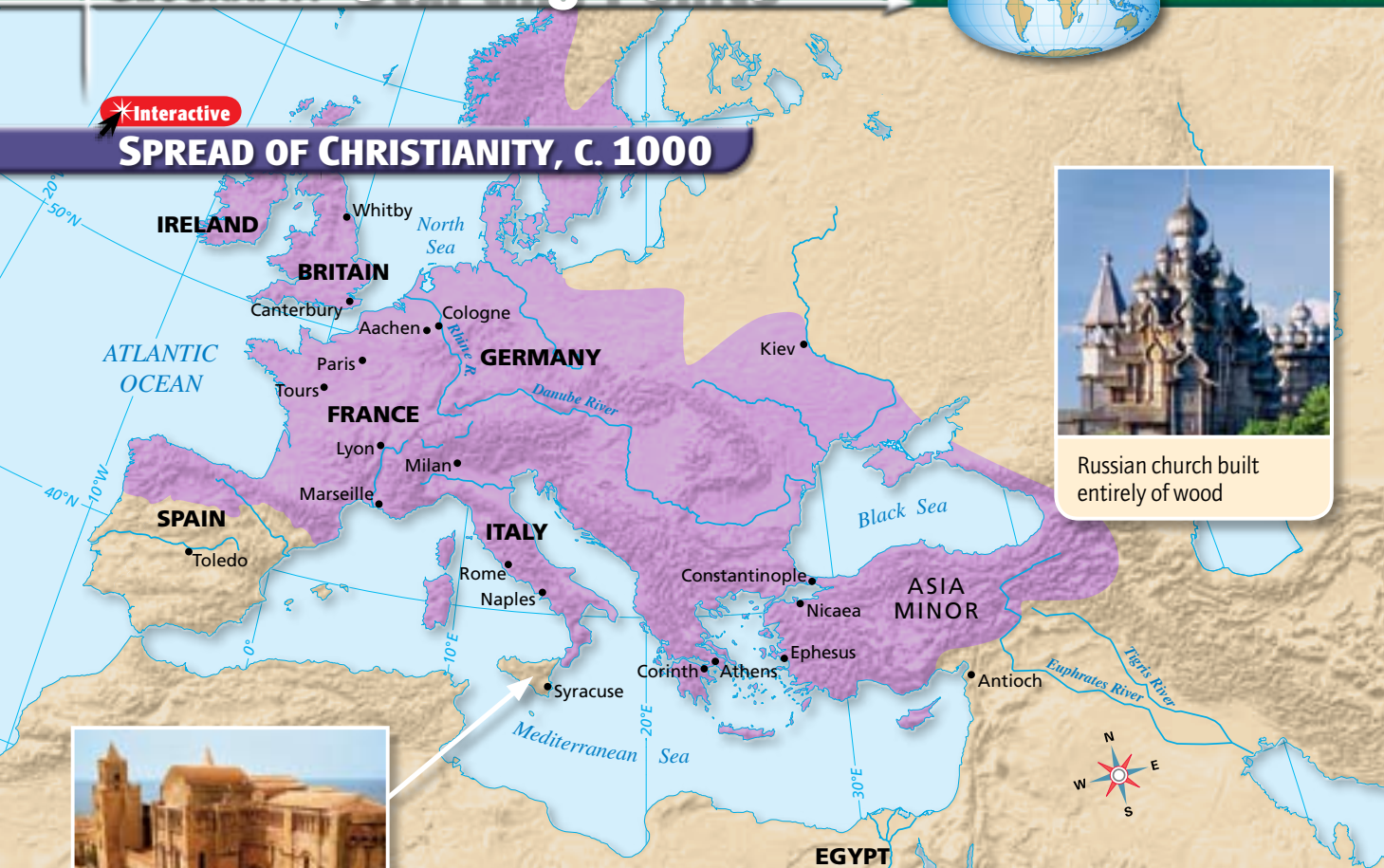
The Mongol invasion of Japan fails.

GEOGRAPHY Starting Points



Interactive

SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY, c. 1000



Russian church built entirely of wood



Church on the island of Sicily, Italy, built in the 1100s

0 200 400 Miles
0 200 400 Kilometers
Azimuthal equal-area projection

- Mainly Christian in AD 325
- Mainly Christian in AD 1000
- Centers of Christianity

CHRISTIANITY, c. 325



0 400 Miles
0 400 Kilometers
Azimuthal equal-area projection

Starting Points

Following the death of Jesus in Jerusalem, Christianity began in the region on the eastern edge of the Roman Empire. In the following centuries, the new religion gained a foothold in scattered locations. Then, through government support and the activities of missionaries, Christianity spread widely, becoming one of the world's great religions.

- 1. Analyze** By the year 1000, Islam had spread far beyond Arabia and included some areas that had been Christian in previous centuries. Compare the maps to identify some of those areas.
- 2. Predict** Where else would Christianity spread after 1000? On what do you base your answer?



Listen to History

Go online to listen to an explanation of the starting points for this chapter.

go.hrw.com

Keyword: SHL CHR

SECTION

1

The Byzantine Empire

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

The Byzantine Empire, once the eastern half of the Roman Empire, was held together for centuries by strong leaders, profitable trade, and the influence of Christianity.

READING FOCUS

1. How did Byzantine emperors rule their empire from Constantinople?
2. What were some important features of Byzantine culture?
3. What led to the decline of the Byzantine Empire?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Byzantine Empire
Justinian I
Theodora
Belisarius
mosaics
icons
clergy
Orthodox Church

TAKING NOTES

Take notes in a diagram like this one on the Byzantine Empire's emperors, culture, and decline.

Emperors

Culture

Decline

THE INSIDE STORY

What did visitors experience in the most spectacular city of the Byzantine Empire?

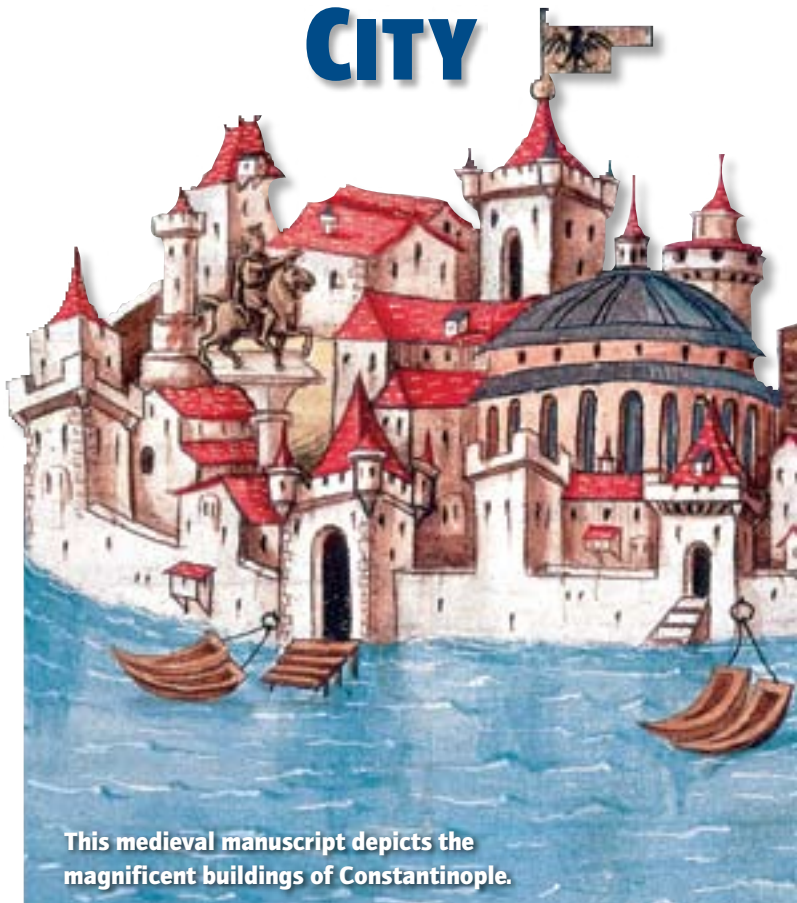
The exotic sights, sounds, and smells of Constantinople were unlike those in any other city. Visitors from other countries in the 400s and 500s were impressed by the sheer size of the city on the Bosphorus, which had at least 400,000 residents and was built on seven hills. Its wide, bustling streets hummed with bazaars and food markets. Its sprawling palaces and churches glittered with gilded domes and high towers. Surrounded by high walls with ramparts and watchtowers, Constantinople impressed visitors as a beautiful, imposing fortress, with many treasures worth protecting. ■

Emperors Rule in Constantinople

Constantinople—Greek for “The City of Constantin”—became the capital of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine I. For more than 1,000 years, from 395 to 1453, Constantinople was the seat of the Eastern Roman Empire—which became known as the **Byzantine Empire**.

A New Rome Constantinople remained the capital of the Eastern Empire long after Rome fell. Even before the fall of Rome, Constantinople was a larger, richer city than Rome. The city's location on the Bosphorus not only put it in a position to control trade between Asia and Europe, but also helped guard it from attack. The sea protected the city on two sides, and heavily fortified walls protected the landward side. These factors allowed the empire centered in Constantinople to thrive for centuries.

VISIT TO A GLITTERING CITY



This medieval manuscript depicts the magnificent buildings of Constantinople.

Urbs Constantinopolitana Nova Roma, 1400s

Reclaiming the Western Empire After the fall of Rome, the eastern emperors did not give up their claim to the western part of the empire. The Byzantine emperor **Justinian I**, who reigned from 527 to 565, dreamed of restoring the original Roman Empire. In order to accomplish this feat, military action was necessary. The first task was to reconquer territories in northern Africa. These lands had been taken by a Germanic tribe called the Vandals.

In 533, Justinian sent a fleet of ships and troops led by his top general, **Belisarius**, to northern Africa. By 534, the fleet had recaptured the region, and it was absorbed back into the Roman Empire. The next year, Belisarius led troops into Italy to retake that region.

Rebellion at Home At home, Justinian and his wife **Theodora**, who served as co-ruler of the empire, faced a threat from rebels. Many people resented Justinian's efforts to reform the empire's administration. In 532 this opposition led to a rebellion called the Nika Revolt. Leading the revolt were two factions that took their names from popular chariot teams. The Greens represented the lower classes and the Blues the upper classes. Both sides wanted to oust Justinian. The uprising had Constantinople in flames, and Justinian prepared to flee.

The royal couple survived the crisis due largely to Theodora's determination. She stood firm, refusing to flee or back down, and convinced her husband to do the same. As a result, Belisarius and his troops attacked rioters who were assembled in a stadium called the Hippodrome and slaughtered them by the thousands.

Achievements The Nika Revolt destroyed parts of Constantinople, giving Justinian and Theodora a chance to rebuild the city with grand new monuments. The most important new building was the church known as Hagia Sophia (HAH-juh soh-FEE-uh), which in Greek means "Holy Wisdom." The building, a spectacular blend of domes and arches, still stands.

More important, however, were Justinian's initiatives to reform Roman law, which had fallen into a state of confusion. Previous emperors had not always kept good records. Justinian set up a commission that codified, or systematically arranged, the empire's existing laws and legal opinions into a clear system. The resulting document, called the *Corpus Juris Civilis* (Body of Civil Law), had four parts. The first part included all the existing constitutions from the time of Emperor Hadrian. The code was later updated and expanded to include laws created by Justinian himself. Together, the revised law code is called Justinian's Code.

Changes after Justinian Justinian's achievements were many, but they did not last. When he died in 565, he left the government nearly bankrupt from the expense of taking back the empire's territory. Furthermore, Justinian had expanded the empire beyond what the government could effectively administer. After his death, the western provinces once again fell to migrating tribes.

Pressures on the boundaries of the empire continued until the reign of Heraclius, which began in 610. Heraclius defeated the Persians, who had been a constant threat on the Byzantine Empire's eastern border. To the west, he settled migrating Croats and Serbs within the Balkan frontiers to act as buffers against new invaders. The Croats and Serbs were converted to Christianity. This conversion extended Byzantine influence into the region—an influence that would last for centuries.

READING CHECK Summarize What did Justinian accomplish during his reign?

FACES OF HISTORY

Justinian and Theodora

483–565 and c. 497–548



The emperor and empress came from very different back-

grounds. Justinian was the previous emperor's nephew, but Theodora was a former actress, and her profession kept her from marrying an emperor. Justinian fell in love with her nonetheless. He raised her rank to that of patrician and then married her shortly before he became emperor. Her intelligence and political skill made her Justinian's most trusted adviser. In fact, some think she may have taken a more active role in governing than he did. It is known that she promoted the rights of women, changing divorce laws to give women more protection. Justinian is also known for his contributions to the law—the codification of Roman law. In addition, Justinian worked to extend the empire. Early in his reign he made peace with the Persians and concentrated his efforts on taking back the western provinces from invaders.

Infer Why might Theodora have been especially interested in winning more rights for women?

Reading like a Historian

Justinian's Code

Analyzing Primary Sources Among the achievements for which Justinian is best known is his reorganization and simplification of Roman law. In the introduction to his simplified law code, reprinted at right, Justinian explained why he felt such an action was necessary. As you read the introduction, think about

- Justinian's goal in revising the legal code
- his perspective on the law as emperor
- the reasons he gives for his actions

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- 1. Author** What did Justinian hope to achieve by reorganizing and simplifying Roman law?
- 2. Perspective** Why might it be important to a ruler to have a well-organized law code?
- 3. Reasons** What reasons does Justinian give for wanting to revise Rome's law code? Which of these do you think was most important to him? Explain your answer.

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H25

Therefore, since there is nothing to be found in all things as worthy of attention as the authority of the law, which properly regulates all affairs both divine and human, and expels all injustice; We have found the entire arrangement of the law which has come down to us from the foundation of the City of Rome and the times of Romulus, to be so confused that it is extended to an infinite length and is not within the grasp of human capacity; and hence We were first induced to begin by examining what had been enacted by former most venerated princes, to correct their constitutions, and make them more easily understood; to the end that being included in a single Code, and having had removed all that is superfluous in resemblance and all iniquitous discord, they may afford to all men the ready assistance of true meaning.

—Justinian, Prologue to the *Digest*

Some Roman laws dated back to the early days of the Roman Republic, more than 1,000 years before Justinian's time.

Redundant or unfair laws were removed from the law code.

Byzantine Culture

Two institutions were central to Byzantine culture. The emperor and Christianity affected practically all aspects of Byzantine life.

The Role of the Emperor The emperor was a priest-king who was considered the deputy of Jesus Christ on earth and his co-ruler. Thus the emperor had responsibility for both civil and religious law, in effect, uniting the religious and civil spheres of Byzantine society.

An example of the emperor's influence is reflected in the empire's changing culture. Although the people of Constantinople referred to themselves as Romans, Greek cultural influences grew stronger. It was Emperor Heraclius, though, who brought an official end to Roman traditions in the Eastern Empire. He made Greek the official language, replacing Latin. He also replaced the old Roman imperial titles with Greek ones.

Religion and the Arts Christianity greatly influenced the artistic life of the Byzantines. Most Byzantine art, architecture, and literature was based on religious themes.

A large number of the human subjects in Byzantine art were of saints or figures from the Bible. Some portraits are of the emperor and empress. Much art was in the form of **mosaics**, pictures created with tiny colored tiles of glass, stone, or clay fitted together and cemented in place. Some of the tiles contained gold, making the whole picture glitter like a jewel. Mosaics decorated the floors, walls, and ceilings of many Byzantine buildings.

The nature of Byzantine mosaics and painting changed over time. Although the mosaics became more detailed, they did not become more realistic. Designs became more stylized, and artists used symbols to indicate common themes. For example, a hand above a cross symbolized the hand of God, and 12 lambs symbolized the Christian flock, or community, on earth.

Byzantine Religious Art

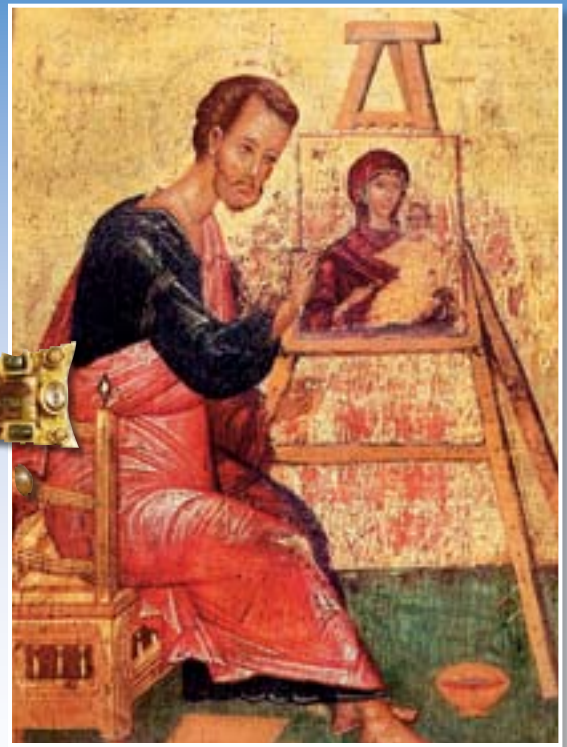
Most of the Byzantine art that has survived deals with religious subjects. Below is a mosaic of Jesus that glitters with gold. At right, a painter creates an religious icon. **Why was so much Byzantine art devoted to religious subject matter?**



Detail, *Deesis* mosaic, Hagia Sophia



Reliquary cross of Justinian, c. 500s.



St. Luke Paints the Mother of God Hodegetria, artist unknown, 1410

Religion was also the force behind Byzantine architecture. Early on, Byzantine architects began to build churches by placing a round dome over a square foundation. They did this by resting the dome on corner supports, instead of walls. The most striking example of this style is Hagia Sophia. This style of architecture influenced building styles across Europe and Asia.

Religious Conflicts In the 700s the use of art in churches deeply divided society. This religious controversy threatened the strength of both church and state.

The controversy involved the use of **icons**—paintings or sculptures of sacred figures. The churches contained many beautiful icons, but some Christians objected to their presence. They believed that the use of icons was too close to the non-Christian worship of idols. People who objected to icons were called iconoclasts, which means “icon breakers.”

In 726, the Byzantine emperor Leo III issued a decree, or ruling, forbidding the use of holy images and ordering their destruction.

He even ordered the icon at the entrance to the imperial palace destroyed. Although some people embraced the movement against icons, others objected to it, even resorting to riots.

The iconoclast movement was unpopular with many officials within the church hierarchy, especially in the western church. Because few people could read, many of the **clergy**, or church officials, found sacred images useful for teaching people about Christianity.

By the time Leo III died in 780, a strong reaction against iconoclasm had set in. The movement raged on and off until a council in 843 settled the issue by accepting icons. The dispute over iconoclasm played a crucial role in the growing divide between the emperor in Constantinople and the pope in Rome.

The Church Splits Over time the number of issues that divided the eastern and western churches grew. The use of Greek was one, but theological differences also emerged. For example, the eastern church allowed members of the clergy to marry, whereas the western church did not.

Ideas about church governance also split the eastern and western churches. In the east, the emperor oversaw church law, but he did not govern the church. Church leaders were the bishops of major cities—the pope in Rome and the patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. In the east, while the Byzantines acknowledged that the pope had special importance, they did not accept that he had supreme authority over religious issues. Instead, the Byzantines placed religious authority in the councils where church officials met to settle major issues.

In 1054 the differences became so large that a final schism (si-zuhm), or split, occurred between the churches. The church in the east became the **Orthodox Church**, and the church in the west remained the Roman Catholic Church. (The word *orthodox* comes from Greek words that mean “right opinion.”) At first, the break increased the emperor’s authority. In later years the schism would prove dangerous to the Byzantine Empire, which could no longer rely on help from the west against invaders.

READING CHECK Summarize What led to the split between the eastern and western churches?

The Empire Declines

As far back as the reign of Heraclius, Muslims had been threatening the empire. Over time, Islam, pressure from migrating tribes, and internal conflict and corruption brought about the Byzantine Empire’s fall.

Invaders in the Empire The Byzantines were constantly being attacked on their northern borders by migrating tribes such as the Slavs and Bulgars. In the 600s the Byzantine provinces of Egypt and Syria, whose loyalty to Constantinople had been weakened by religious conflicts, fell to Muslim conquerors.

Leo III, who had issued the decree prohibiting icons, stopped advancing Muslim forces in 718 and again in 740. His successor, Constantine V, won great popularity with his victories against the Bulgars, but his successors failed to maintain those gains.

A Period of Calm By the 800s the Byzantines had endured a century of crises. The empire’s fortunes improved, though, for about 200 years under a dynasty from Macedonia, northern Greece, which ruled from 867 to 1056.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

patriarch head of any of various eastern churches; also, a father-like leader

THE IMPACT TODAY

Today, more than 218 million people are included within the Orthodox tradition. Many countries have their own Orthodox churches.

Linking TO Today

Eastern and Western Christianity

The schism of 1054 left two churches—Roman Catholic in the west and Orthodox in the east—claiming to be the true Christian church. Although attempts have been made to unify the two, the division remains in effect.

A basic issue is that the Orthodox Church has some roots in Greek philosophy, while Roman Catholicism has roots in Roman law. These differences led to different interpretations of beliefs.

The nature of the pope’s power continues to be one of the thorniest issues dividing the two churches. While Orthodox Christians recognize the pope’s authority over bishops, they do not accept the pope as the ultimate authority over doctrine. For Roman Catholics,

these two forms of authority cannot be separated.

There are also subtle differences in the ritual practices of each church. For example, Roman Catholics use unleavened bread in their communion service, while Orthodox Christians view this as an uncalled-for innovation.

Summarize

How do the two churches view the pope’s power?



▲ Easter service at a Greek Orthodox church, Istanbul, Turkey



◀ Roman Catholic service, St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City

READING SKILLS

Understanding Sequencing What clues help you understand the sequence of events in the decline of the Byzantine Empire?

The Macedonian period was in some ways a golden age. The emperors improved the condition of the peasantry and established a law school to train officials in the art of government. They also recovered parts of Syria from the Arabs and annexed the Bulgarian kingdom to the north, extending Byzantine rule over the Balkan Slavs and Bulgars. In addition, missionary activity in southeastern Europe established Orthodox Christianity there.

Internal Weaknesses After about 150 years, the Macedonian dynasty began to decline. Factions were able to force emperors to step down. A series of incompetent emperors came and went—some with startling rapidity.

The conflicts of the Macedonian dynasty's last years were symptoms of a divide within Byzantine society. On one hand was the government located in Constantinople, which was made up of well-educated, cultured members of aristocratic families. They supported emperors who would restrain the military and enlarge the government. They used their energies to make Constantinople a center of culture and learning. But their focus on culture had a cost.

Members of the military aristocracy saw a different view. Based in the provinces, they were more aware of encroaching danger than the government in the capital. They supported emperors who had themselves been soldiers.

Final Decline Continuing strife between the military and the Constantinople government weakened the empire, making it vulnerable to challengers from the outside. And in fact, new enemies—the Seljuk Turks—were conquering areas on the empire's borders. In 1071 the Turks defeated the Byzantine army at Manzikert in eastern Asia Minor, permanently weakening the Byzantines in the region. In 1071 the Byzantines also lost their last outposts in Italy, ending their presence in the west.

The empire carried on, but by 1391 it had been reduced to Constantinople and a few outlying districts. In 1453 the Ottoman Turks attacked the great city. After a siege and fierce battle, Constantinople fell to the attackers. The Ottomans later renamed the city Istanbul. Hagia Sophia became a mosque.

The Ottomans had gained an important seat of power and spread their influence into Greece and the Balkans. Yet Byzantine influence left a strong imprint in that region, too. An important legacy was the Byzantine Empire's preservation of its ancient Greco-Roman heritage, benefitting later generations. It had also served as a buffer between the Christian West and the Muslim East.

READING CHECK Identifying Cause and Effect What was the connection between the rise of Islam and the fall of the Byzantine Empire?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SHL CHR HP

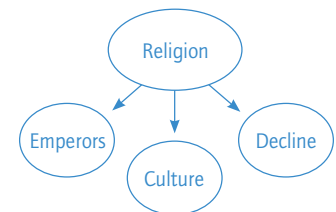
Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Identify** Who was Justinian I, and what did he achieve regarding law?
b. Describe How did the influence of Theodora affect the outcome of the Nika Revolt?
c. Make Judgments How might Justinian I have ensured that his accomplishments lasted longer than they did?
2. **a. Recall** What are mosaics, and what role did they play in Byzantine art?
b. Explain Why did the iconoclasts respond as they did to sacred paintings or carvings that showed human images?
c. Develop Why did the split occur between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church?
3. **a. Identify** Under what dynasty did the Byzantine Empire enjoy a 200-year golden age?
b. Explain Why was the division between the aristocracies of city and countryside a problem?

c. Evaluate Evaluate this statement: "The Byzantines themselves, not the Turks, bear the greatest responsibility for the end of their empire."

Critical Thinking

4. **Categorize** Use your notes and a graphic organizer like this one to describe the impact of religion on the Byzantine Empire's emperors, culture, and decline.



FOCUS ON WRITING

5. **Narration** Imagine that you are the official biographer of Theodora. Write a paragraph in which you describe her character, accomplishments, and role in the Nika Revolt.

Architecture

Hagia Sophia

What is it? Hagia Sophia (HAH-juh soh-FEE-uh), which means “Holy Wisdom,” is one of the world’s most spectacular buildings. Its massive walls and half-domes rise over the old quarter of Istanbul. A dome high above the floor is pierced by many windows. On sunny days, so much light pours in that the dome seems to float on the light instead of on its thick stone supports.

What are some key facts?

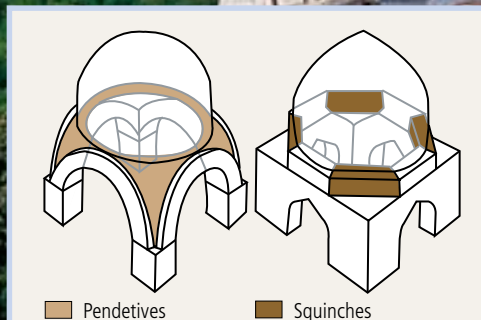
- About 100,000 workers were hired to build Hagia Sophia.
- Construction lasted from 532 to 537—only five years!
- The main room is just slightly smaller than a football field.
- Hagia Sophia was built as a Christian church, became a mosque, and is now a museum.

Why is it important?

- Many Byzantine buildings and even mosques followed the same style as Hagia Sophia.
- Mosaics on the walls are exquisite examples of Byzantine art.
- The building’s construction used an ingenious new technique, called pendentives, for supporting the dome.



▲ This illustration shows Hagia Sophia’s vast interior.
Lithograph by Louis Haghe after a drawing by Chevalier Caspar Fussati, 1800s



▲ Pendentives allow builders to create wider, more open spaces.

**Skills
FOCUS**

INTERPRETING VISUALS

- 1. Contrast** How does the interior of Hagia Sophia compare to its exterior?
- 2. Infer** How do pendentives create wider open spaces?

City at a Crossroads

With its location where two continents meet and between two seas, Constantinople was well-placed for trade and communication. One aspect of the site, however, required a solution. Its only river was a small stream, so water had to be brought into the city and stored in more than 100 cisterns.

Roads to Europe

Roads extended west from Constantinople to European markets. Oil, wine, grain, and silk were among the products that merchants carried on these roads.

Areas of Interest

- 1 Harbors and Seawalls
- 2 Forum of Constantine
- 3 Hippodrome
- 4 Palace
- 5 Hagia Sophia





City Walls

About 13 miles of thick walls protected the city. Along the walls were 192 towers, some of which were 70 feet tall. A ditch beyond the walls could be flooded to create a moat.



Golden Horn Chain

When danger threatened from the sea, a huge chain was fastened across the mouth of the Golden Horn to keep out enemy ships.

Istanbul Today

5 Istanbul's location keeps the city of 10 million a busy place, but it poses a new hazard. Some 5,000 oil and gas tankers go through the Bosphorus each year, making the city vulnerable to spills and accidents.



GEOGRAPHY
SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

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Interactive Map

Keyword: SHL CHR

- 1. Summarize** The site of Constantinople, now Istanbul, has probably been occupied for more than 2,600 years. Why has the location been so highly valued?
- 2. Predict** More than once, ships have invaded the Golden Horn in spite of the chain. How do you think they did it?

The Rise of Russia

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

Starting as a blend of Slavs and northern Europeans, the Russians organized as a state, became Christian, and fought invaders.

READING FOCUS

1. How did the Rus affect the early history of Kiev?
2. What factors helped establish Christianity in Russia?
3. What peoples attacked Russia?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Rus
Yaroslav the Wise
Cyril
Methodius
Cyrillic alphabet
Vladimir I
Alexander Nevsky

TAKING NOTES

Take notes on important people and events in the development of Russia.

People	Events

THE INSIDE STORY

Could a blessing create a city?

Long, long ago, a man stood among a cluster of hills. He blessed the hills, predicting that a great city would rise there. Later, three brothers named Kiy, Shchek, and Khoriv, leaders of the Polyane tribe, arrived in the area and built settlements on the hills. One of the settlements became known as Kiev after Kiy, the oldest brother. The city grew, and Kiy rose in influence. He traveled all the way to Constantinople to meet with the Byzantine emperor, who treated him with great honor.

The man who blessed the hills became known in the Russian Orthodox Church as Saint Andrew. The story about him, the brothers, and the founding of Kiev is recorded in *The Russian Primary Chronicle*, written in the early 1100s.

Although the story is a legend, the city certainly played an important role in Russian history. From Kiev, which is now in Ukraine, and the surrounding region, Russia expanded to stretch across most of Asia. Kiev's central role in Russian history is still reflected in its nickname "the Mother of Cities." Now often called Kyiv or Kyyiv, the city remains a cultural center with deep significance for millions of people. ■

A SAINT and Three BROTHERS

◀ This statue in Kiev, Ukraine, commemorates the city's founding by three brothers.

The Rus and Kiev

For thousands of years, hunter-gatherers managed to make a living in the sometimes harsh climate of the lands we now call Ukraine and Russia. Among the people who occupied the plains were the Slavs. They do not enter the historical record, however, until the AD 800s.

The Rus of Kiev The history of the Slavs is told in *The Russian Primary Chronicle*, written during the 1100s. According to this account, during the mid-800s, the Slavs along the Dnieper (NEE-puhr) River were fighting among themselves and asked for help from northern Europeans—perhaps Vikings—called the **Rus**.

HISTORY'S VOICES

“Our whole land is great and rich, but there is no order in it. Come to rule and reign over us.’ They thus selected three brothers, with their kinsfolk, who took with them all the Rus, and migrated.”

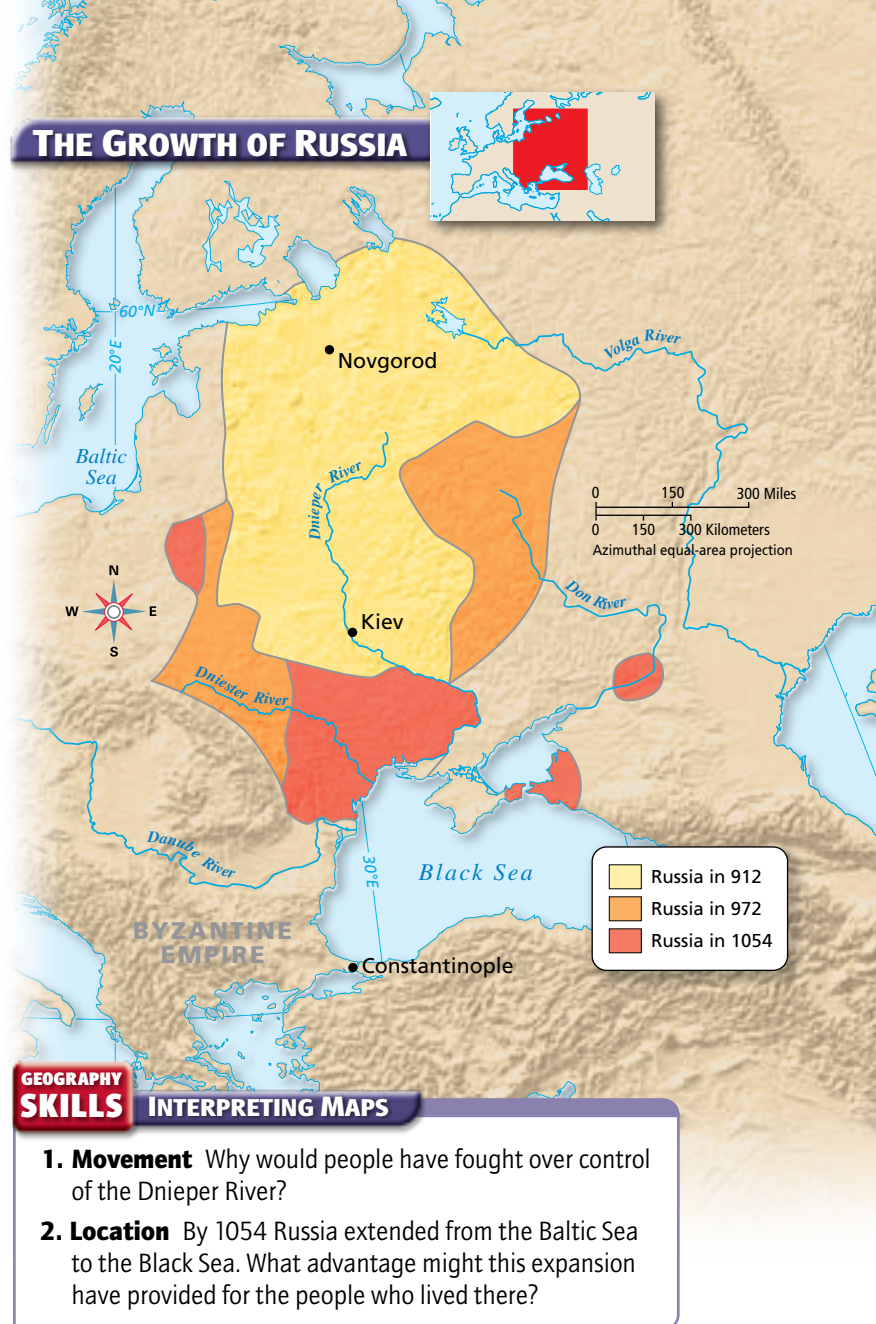
—*The Russian Primary Chronicle*, 860–862 (6368–6370)

The oldest of the three brothers, Rurik, took Novgorod, a trading center, and brought order to the Slavs there. In 882 Rurik’s successor, Oleg, ventured farther south to a town called Kiev. He united the whole region and ruled over it. That state came to be called Kiev after the town on the Dnieper.

Oleg wanted to extend Kiev to the south, and in 907 he successfully attacked Constantinople. Legend claims that he nailed his shield to the city gates to celebrate his victory. That victory enabled Oleg to demand an advantageous trade agreement. The agreement was the beginning of a close connection between the Byzantine Empire and the Russian people.

The Growth of Kiev By the late 900s the Rus had extended their control far beyond Kiev. They defeated a people called the Khazars and freed several Slavic tribes that the Khazars had controlled. Although semi-independent princes ruled some areas, the Kievan region became a state called Kievan Rus.

During the height of Kievan Rus’s power and prestige, the ruler was **Yaroslav the Wise**. Yaroslav became grand prince in 1019 and ruled until 1054. He made many cultural and administrative improvements to Kievan Rus. For example, he collected religious books and hired scribes to translate them from Greek into



the Slavic language. He began an ambitious building program to beautify Kiev. Also, under Yaroslav’s rule, Russian law was codified.

Yaroslav’s military record was mixed. He regained territory that had been lost and defeated a nomadic people called the Pechenegs. On the other hand, when he tried to attack Constantinople, his forces were crushed. In dealing with western Europe, Yaroslav was more clearly successful. He maintained good diplomatic and trade relationships with European countries, partly by arranging marriages between his daughters and European princes.

READING CHECK Find the Main Idea Who were the Rus, and what was their connection to Kiev?

Christianity in Russia

Warfare and trade were not the only ways in which the Byzantine Empire affected Russia. Christianity spread to Russia from the Byzantine Empire.

Cyril and Methodius Before Rurik and Oleg arrived in Russia, the Slavs practiced a native religion. That belief system was based on nature and had many gods.

In 863 a churchman in Constantinople sent two Greek monks to Moravia (now in the Czech Republic) to convert the Slavs to Christianity. The monks, **Cyril** and **Methodius**, were brothers. They spoke the Slavonic language and used it instead of the traditional Greek to celebrate mass. Use of the native language helped Cyril and Methodius convert many Moravians to Christianity.

Cyril and Methodius did not travel far beyond Moravia. However, their desire to translate religious texts for a larger group of readers led them to develop a written alphabet for the Slavonic language. Based mainly on the characters of the Greek alphabet, it is called the **Cyrillic alphabet**.

Use of the Cyrillic alphabet and the Slavonic mass became widespread in what are now Serbia and Bulgaria, and their use eventually spread even farther. As a result of the Greek brothers' efforts, it was the Byzantine version of Christianity that spread to Russia.

Christian Russia Within some 100 years, Christianity was established and claimed an important convert. Grand Duke **Vladimir I** of Kiev gave up the old beliefs and was baptized a Christian. He then married the sister of a Byzantine emperor. Some historians say that Vladimir's conversion was just a preliminary step in gaining economic and political advantages from the Byzantine Empire. Even if his conversion was politically motivated, Vladimir did build libraries, schools, and churches afterwards. In 988 Vladimir made Christianity the state religion of Kievan Russia.

Christianity spread gradually, becoming common in the cities long before it did in the countryside. Meanwhile, tension between the eastern and western branches of the church had grown worse. Following the schism of 1054, the head of the church in Kiev set up a

semi-independent church in Russia that would still be linked to the Orthodox Church in Constantinople. The new church eventually became the Russian Orthodox Church. Vladimir I was made a saint in the new church.

READING CHECK Summarize How did Christianity spread to Russia?

Russia under Attack

During the mid-1000s, Kievan Rus reached the height of its power as a center of trade and culture. But by the end of the 1200s, it had suffered a steep decline. Kievan Rus was under attack—first by princes within its borders, and later by invaders from beyond.

Kievan Rus Weakened After the death of Yaroslav the Wise in 1054, internal disputes became common among the Rus. The main threat was from princes whose lands were within the state's borders.

Many of the princes had grown steadily more powerful and wanted to enlarge their own lands. One of these was Prince Andrew Bogolyubsky. In 1169 he captured the City of Kiev and became the new grand prince. But Andrew insisted on ruling from his home city of Vladimir and installed relatives in the weakened post of prince of Kiev. This action further weakened Kiev's position as the capital. Power was no longer centralized, and the stage was set for fierce attacks from Europe and Asia.

A Threat from the East In the 1200s a new danger appeared. The Mongols, led by Genghis Khan, had swept across Asia to create an immense empire. Mongol raiders entered Rus lands in 1223. The Rus and their allies attacked the Mongols but were badly defeated.

In 1227 Genghis Khan died and his empire was divided into four regions. The empire's western edge was under the control of Batu Khan, a grandson of Genghis Khan. Batu's plan was to conquer Europe. Kiev fell to the Mongols in 1240, and Batu continued westward. He pulled back in 1241 but established a Mongol state in southern Russia. The era of Kievan Rus dominance was over.

Generally, the Mongols left local princes in charge and did not interfere with the church. Some local leaders saw that cooperating with

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

preliminary
coming before something else, often as a necessary introduction

the Mongols was more practical than revolting against them. For example, Alexander, Prince of Novgorod, encouraged the Russians not to rebel against their new masters. As a result, the Mongols did not destroy as much as they had in other lands they had conquered, and complete disaster was avoided.

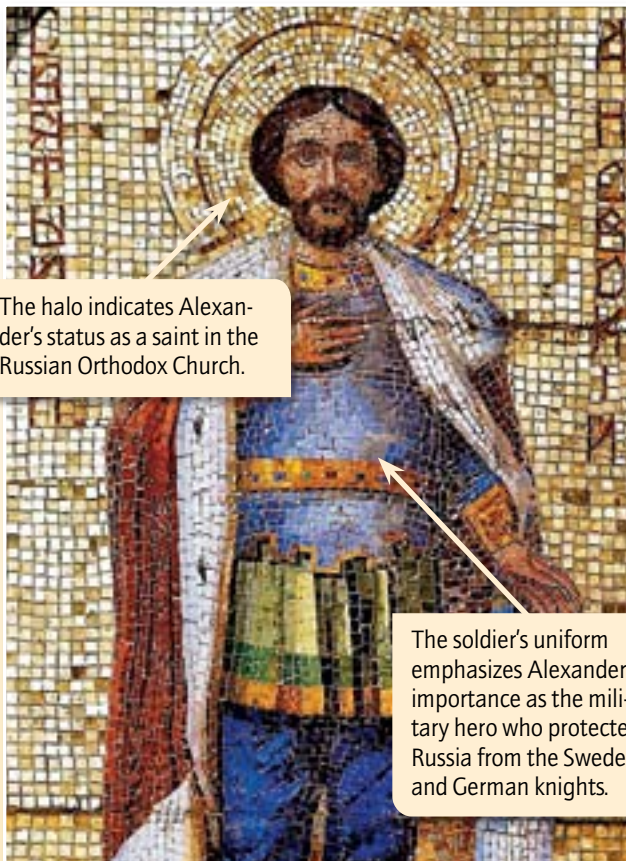
A Threat from the North At about the same time that the Mongols were attacking the Rus, danger also came from a different direction. In 1240 a band of Swedes invaded

Russian territory north of Novgorod. The Swedes wanted to take control of the lucrative trade route between Russia and the Byzantine Empire. The same Prince Alexander who had calmed the Mongol threat now turned his attention to the Swedes.

On July 15, 1240, Alexander launched a surprise attack against the Swedish camp on the Neva River. In hand-to-hand fighting, the Swedes were completely defeated. The victory saved Russia from a full-scale invasion from the north.

FACES OF HISTORY

Alexander Nevsky, c. 1220–1263



The halo indicates Alexander's status as a saint in the Russian Orthodox Church.

The soldier's uniform emphasizes Alexander's importance as the military hero who protected Russia from the Swedes and German knights.

Mosaic on Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Yalta, Ukraine, no date



Alexander appears as a warrior in this 1940 painting.

Images similar to this one were used on WWII posters to rouse the Russians against the invading Germans.

Alexander Nevsky, by Afanasiy Kulikov, 1940

To the Russians, Alexander Nevsky was both warrior and saint. His military genius protected Russia from invaders, and his intelligence made living under the Mongols tolerable. He was revered as a saint partly because his cooperation with the Mongols helped the Russian church thrive. The Mongols protected the church from taxation and from princes who plotted with the Roman Catholic pope. Centuries later, a third role was assigned to Alexander—as a symbol of resistance. When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union during World War II, Soviet leaders used Alexander's name and image to rally the Russian people against the new invaders.

Skills Focus

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- 1. Draw Conclusions** Why do you think Alexander Nevsky is a powerful symbol for the Russian people?
- 2. Analyze Visuals** Which image would you say is more historically accurate? Explain your answer.



Mongols in Russia

This Persian painting from 1350 shows Mongol warriors at their portable dwellings, called yurts.

READING SKILLS

Understanding Sequencing

In this paragraph, which words help you understand the sequence of events?

Invasion from the Baltic The victorious Alexander was later known as **Alexander Nevsky** (“of the Neva”) for his accomplishment. Relying on his new status, Alexander began to meddle in Novgorod’s internal affairs. The city banished him. But later, when another invader threatened Russia, Novgorod did not have a military leader to answer the threat. Alexander was again asked to save his people.

A German military order of knights called the Teutonic Knights wanted to force Russians to abandon the Orthodox Church and convert

to Roman Catholicism. The knights invaded from the Baltic Sea. Having accepted the invitation to lead a defensive army, Alexander fought several battles with the Knights. Then, in April 1242, Alexander’s army met the Teutonic invaders at a narrow strait between two lakes still covered with ice. During the battle, Alexander’s forces lured the Teutonic Knights onto the thinning ice. The ice cracked, and men and horses fell through into the freezing water. The massacre on the ice, as the battle came to be called, remains one of the most famous in Russian history.

Alexander fought Germans and Swedes several more times, stopping a potential expansion into Russian territory. For his victories, Alexander was celebrated as a hero.

From Kiev to Muscovy For more than 200 years after Alexander’s battles, Russia remained under the control of Asian nomadic peoples. The Tatars, a Central Asian people who spoke a Turkic language, emerged as Russia’s rulers after the Mongols. Russia was eventually freed from foreign domination in 1480.

Within Russia, Muscovy, east of Kiev, grew in importance. It became the capital of a nation that gradually expanded to occupy much of Asia, the largest continent.

READING CHECK

Sequence Which people first invaded Russia in 1223? What other groups invaded?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

go.hrw.com

Online Quiz

Keyword: SHL CHR

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Recall** Why did the Slavs ask for help from the Rus?
b. Explain What were some accomplishments of Yaroslav the Wise?
c. Develop How did physical geography affect the relationship between the Byzantine Empire and Kievan Rus? Use the map to help you answer the question.
2. **a. Identify** What did Cyril and Methodius do?
b. Analyze What impact did Vladimir I have on Christianity in Russia?
c. Infer Why do you think Christianity spread more rapidly in the cities than in the countryside?
3. **a. Identify** Who was Alexander Nevsky?
b. Evaluate Which do you think caused more damage to the Kievan state—internal problems or invasions from outside? Explain your answer.

Critical Thinking

4. **Sequence** Use your notes and a graphic organizer like this one to list important events of pre-Christian and Christian Russia. Add more boxes as needed.



FOCUS ON SPEAKING

5. **Persuasion** Imagine that you are Alexander, Prince of Novgorod, or one of the other local dignitaries who have an opinion on how the Russian people should respond to the Mongol conquest. Write and present the main argument you would make at a public meeting—either for rebelling against the Mongols or for living under their rule.

Christianity in Western Europe

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

The spread of Christianity, largely through the work of missionaries and monks, helped unify western Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire.

READING FOCUS

1. What new kingdoms arose in Europe, and how did they become Christian?
2. What characteristics defined Christian European society?
3. What roles did monks and monasteries play in European religion and society?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Alfred the Great
Clovis
medieval
Christendom
Gregory the Great
monasticism
Augustine of Hippo
Benedictine Rule
abbot

TAKING NOTES

Use a graphic organizer like this one to note the influences of Christianity on the lives of people in western Europe.

Christianity

Europe

THE INSIDE STORY

Why was a king on duty in a peasant's kitchen? In the 800s the Christians of southern England were locked in a long struggle against the Danes who ruled the north. Among the leaders of the English Christians was King Alfred, the ruler of the small kingdom of Wessex.

According to a legend, Alfred was separated from his troops after a battle and found himself wandering alone through the countryside. He came across a small cottage, where he asked for shelter. However, Alfred did not tell the owners of the cottage, a peasant and his wife, who he was.

One day Alfred was alone in the cottage with the woman. Busy with her chores, she asked Alfred to keep an eye on some cakes she was baking. Alfred agreed, but soon became lost in his thoughts and did not notice when the cakes burned. For his negligence, the wife scolded Alfred harshly, not realizing that he was actually her king. For his part, Alfred felt bad for abandoning his duty and calmly accepted the rebuke. The legend reveals Alfred's reputation for humility and sense of fairness. ■

New Kingdoms in Europe

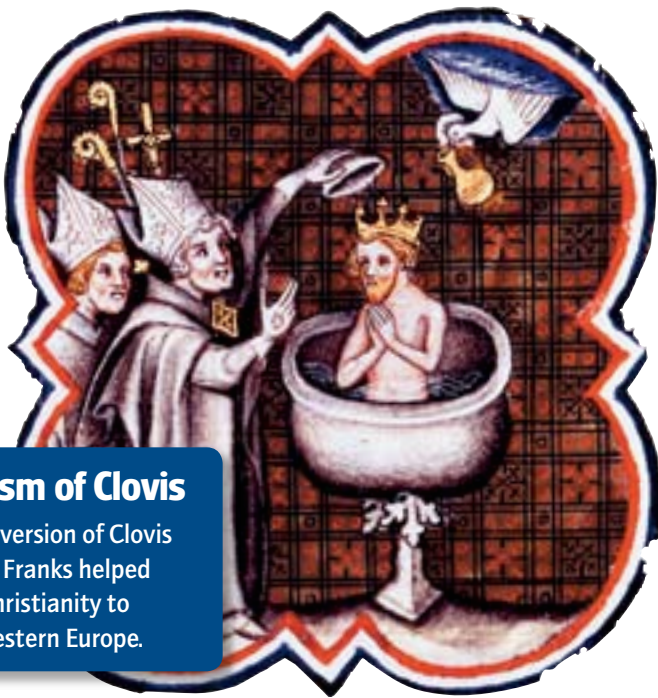
The fall of Rome had very different results in eastern and western Europe. In the east, the Byzantine Empire grew out of the former Roman Empire and flourished. In the west, however, no single empire arose from Rome's ashes. Instead, the Germanic groups who had invaded Rome established many small kingdoms.

King OR Peasant?



▲ In an English folk tale, King Alfred was scolded severely for letting a peasant woman's cakes burn.

King Alfred Burning the Cakes, artist unknown, 1864



Baptism of Clovis

The conversion of Clovis and the Franks helped bring Christianity to northwestern Europe.

Anglo-Saxon England Among the Germanic peoples who established kingdoms in Europe were the Angles and the Saxons. Both groups had once lived in what is now Germany but had migrated to Britain in the 400s. In England they established seven small independent kingdoms. Together, the seven are known as the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

When the Angles and Saxons first moved to England, they were not Christian. Christianity had not made much headway in England. Then in the late 500s a group of monks led by Augustine of Canterbury arrived in the small kingdom of Kent. Augustine converted many of the people of Kent and was named Archbishop of Canterbury. From Kent, Christianity slowly spread through the rest of England.

The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms remained independent for several centuries. However, a threat arose that forced them to band together. The Danes, who had invaded northern England, began to march south. To fight them, the Anglo-Saxons united under **Alfred the Great**, king of Wessex, one of the seven Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. Under Alfred, the Anglo-Saxon forces pushed the Danes back to the north.

After a time, Alfred was recognized as the ruler of all England. As king, he reorganized the army, issued his own code of laws, and improved his court's financial system. Perhaps his greatest achievement, however, was establishing a system of schools that educated adults as well as children.

The Franks Another Germanic kingdom was established in the former Roman province of Gaul—modern France—in the late 400s. That kingdom was established by the Franks. Led by a king named **Clovis**, the Franks defeated their neighbors to build a powerful kingdom.

According to legend, Clovis's victories also led him to adopt Christianity. During a particularly difficult battle, Clovis vowed to become a Christian if his troops won. The Franks did win, and Clovis did become a Christian. In 496 Clovis and 3,000 Franks were baptized in a massive public ceremony.

Under Clovis and his successors, the Franks became one of the major powers of western Europe. The height of Frankish power came in the 800s under a king named Charlemagne. You will read more about him in the next chapter.

READING CHECK Summarize How did the Anglo-Saxons and Franks become Christians?

Christian European Society

When Rome fell in the late 400s, Christianity was mostly confined to southern Europe. By about 600, however, the religion had spread northward into other parts of the continent. The conversion of peoples like the Anglo-Saxons and the Franks helped make western Europe into a largely Christian society.

Following Rome's fall, Christianity appealed to many Europeans. Early in this period, known as the Middle Ages or **medieval** (mi-DEE-vuhl) times, many people's lives were filled with doubt, suffering, and hardship. Christianity offered them comfort, the promise of a happy afterlife, and a sense of community.

Spreading Christianity The appeal of Christianity led many Europeans to want to share their beliefs with others. Some people became missionaries, or people who travel to spread their religion. In addition to Augustine of Canterbury, about whom you have already read, many others went to new lands to spread Christian beliefs.

Among the most famous missionaries was Patrick, who went from Britain to Ireland in the 400s. Though he faced opposition and even hostility from some Irish leaders, Patrick continued to preach. By the time he died around 460, nearly all of Ireland was Christian.

THE IMPACT TODAY

The Archbishop of Canterbury is still considered the highest religious leader in England.

Through the work of missionaries such as Augustine and Patrick, a Christian society formed that included most of western Europe. Historians call that society **Christendom** (CRI-suhn-duhm). Linked by a common religion and its customs, the people of Christendom saw themselves as a community of believers.

Strengthening the Papacy As the bishop of Rome, it might seem that the pope was in a position to exert great influence over all of Christendom. Early in the Middle Ages, however, most popes had little authority. Many people saw the pope as just another bishop.

This lack of authority ended with **Gregory the Great**, who worked to change views of the papacy. He thought that, as the successor to Peter—one of Jesus’ Apostles and considered the first bishop of Rome—the pope was the supreme patriarch of the church. He undertook reforms that strengthened the papacy and canon law, or church law. He encouraged both missionary work and **monasticism**, or voluntary separation from society to dedicate one’s life to God. He also encouraged people to care for the poor and less fortunate. Gregory’s reforms won respect for the papacy and made the pope one of the most influential figures in Europe.

Sharing Beliefs As Christianity spread through the diverse population of Europe, the eastern Mediterranean, and northern Africa, people interpreted the faith in different ways. Debates arose over questions such as the humanity or divinity of Jesus. In order to prevent or resolve conflicts within the church over such issues, influential theologians, scholars who studied religion, wrote explanations that set forth the church’s official positions.

The most influential of these medieval theologians was **Augustine of Hippo**, whose writings helped shape Christian doctrine for centuries. Augustine used ideas of the Greek philosopher Plato to support Christian teachings. In the greatest of his writings, the *City of God*, Augustine argued that people should pay less attention to the material world than they do to God’s plan for the world. Written shortly after the sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410, the *City of God* was an attempt to convince the Romans that God had not abandoned them.

READING CHECK **Infer** How did Christianity change in the early Middle Ages?

Monks and Monasteries

Among the reforms Pope Gregory the Great made was an increased emphasis on monasticism. Gregory, who had been a monk before he became pope, believed that monks played an important role in the church. Many Europeans agreed with him, and monasticism gained popularity in the early Middle Ages.

Monasticism was not new. The first Christian monks had lived in Egypt in the 200s. They usually lived alone as hermits or in small groups. During the Middle Ages, though, a new form of monasticism developed, characterized by groups of monks living in monasteries and abiding by a strict code of rules.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Benedictine Rule

Most monks in Europe during the early Middle Ages lived by a strict set of guidelines called the Benedictine Rule, written by Benedict of Nursia. The rule governed nearly every aspect of monastic life, from how monks spent their time to how they dressed.

“Idleness is the enemy of the soul. And therefore, at fixed times, the brothers ought to be occupied in manual labour; and again, at fixed times, in sacred reading . . . There shall certainly be appointed one or two elders, who shall go round the monastery at the hours in which the brothers are engaged in reading, and see to it that no troublesome brother chance to be found who is open to idleness and trifling, and is not intent on his reading; being not only of no use to himself, but also stirring up others . . .

Vestments [clothing] shall be given to the brothers according to the quality of the places where they dwell, or the temperature of the air. For in cold regions more is required; but in warm, less. This, therefore, is a matter for the abbot to decide. We nevertheless consider that for ordinary places there suffices for the monks a cowl and a gown apiece—the cowl, in winter hairy, in summer plain or old—and a working garment, on account of their labours. As clothing for the feet, shoes and boots.”

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- 1. Describe** How did monks dress?
- 2. Analyze** What activities took up a monk’s time?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H25

Not all monks in Europe lived by the same rules. Two main forms of monastic life became common in Europe in the early Middle Ages. Although both forms had similar rules about a communal life based on labor, worship, and scholarship, the organization and details of life in their monasteries were quite different.

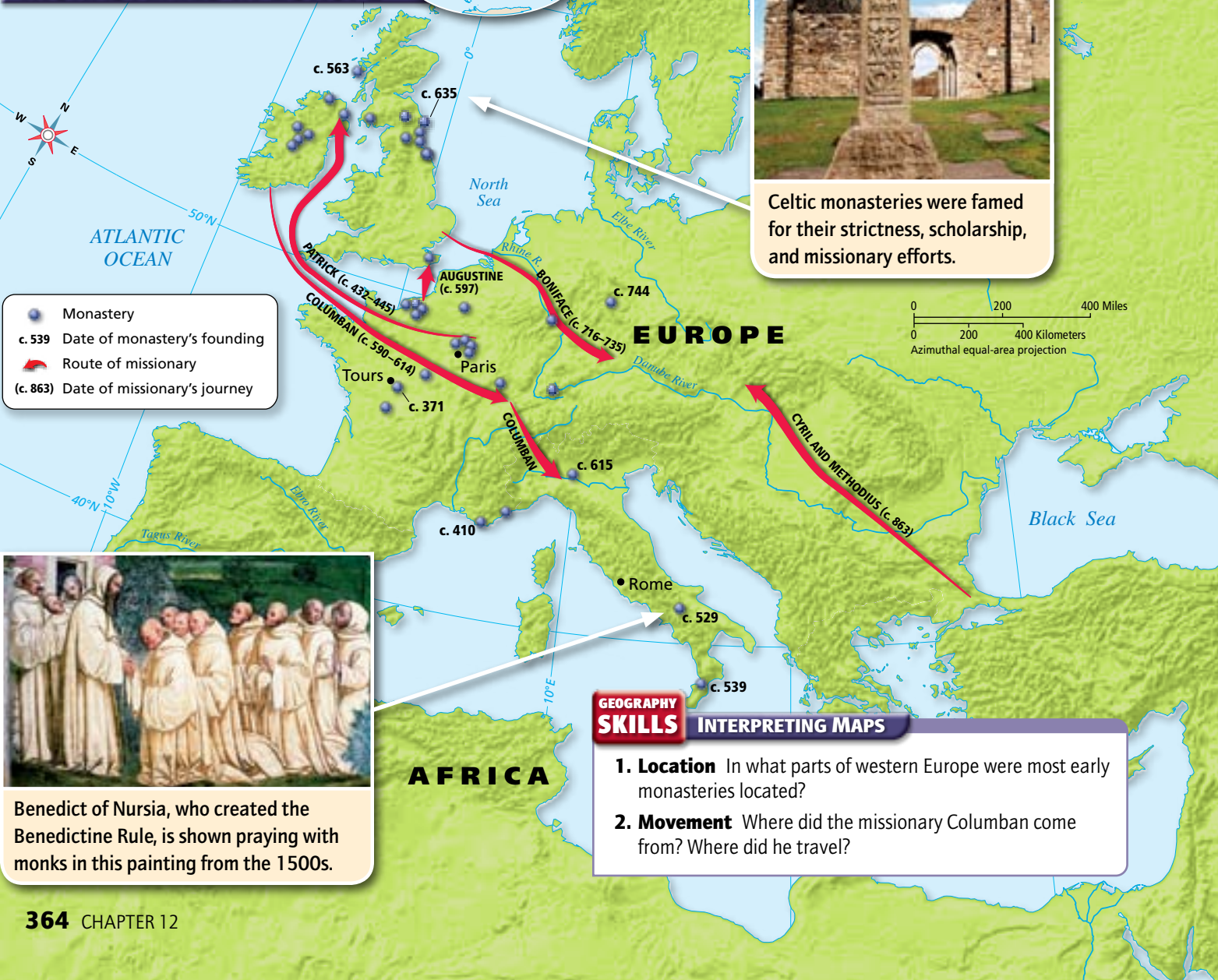
Benedictines The most common form of monasticism in most of Europe during the Middle Ages was Benedictine monasticism. It was based on a rule written by a monk named Benedict of Nursia, who lived in Italy in the early 500s. This rule, or collection of guidelines for monks, is called the **Benedictine Rule**.

Benedict was the son of a Roman noble, but as a young man he abandoned the city to become a hermit. His dedication to God inspired a number of other Christians, who wanted to live as he did. In 529 they persuaded Benedict to establish a monastery at Monte Cassino in central Italy with himself as its first **abbot**, or leader. In time, other monasteries adopted Benedict's teachings as guides for their lives as well. This adoption marked the beginning of the Benedictine Order, or type, of monasticism. Each monk who joined the Benedictine Order had to take vows of poverty and obedience.

MISSIONARIES AND MONASTERIES IN EUROPE



Celtic monasteries were famed for their strictness, scholarship, and missionary efforts.



Benedict of Nursia, who created the Benedictine Rule, is shown praying with monks in this painting from the 1500s.

The Benedictine Rule was based on a combination of prayer and labor. It outlined a schedule for a monk's day, including nine distinct prayer services and periods of work. Sometimes this work consisted of farm labor, and sometimes it involved copying manuscripts from the monastery library. The rule also set up the organization of the Benedictine Order. Each Benedictine monastery was a distinct entity. There was no central authority that governed them all. Instead, each monastery was run by an abbot chosen either by the monks themselves or by a local noble.

Benedictine monasticism made tremendous contributions to Europe. The monks ran schools that trained some of the finest minds of the Middle Ages, including theologians and other writers. By copying ancient manuscripts, they helped preserve the knowledge of Greece and Rome. In addition, their monasteries became centers of wealth and power, because kings and nobles donated money or gifts in exchange for prayers said on their behalf. As they became wealthier, the monasteries were drawn into local politics. Many monks acted as advisers and aides to local and national rulers in Europe.

Celtic Monasteries Not all European monasteries were run according to the Benedictine Rule. A second major branch of monasticism, which historians refer to as Celtic (KEL-tik) monasticism, developed in Ireland.

In general, Celtic monks were more ascetic, or severe, than Benedictines. Monks often took part in long fasts and spent days at a time in solitary contemplation. Many Celtic monasteries were built on small islands far offshore to more fully separate the monks from the rest of society. The monks believed that this isolation would help them stay focused on their faith.

Like Benedictine houses, Celtic monasteries were led by abbots. Celtic abbots had greater authority than their Benedictine counterparts. In mainland Europe, the most important religious officials were the bishops who headed the church in each city. Because Ireland had no large cities, people did not turn to bishops for spiritual guidance. Instead, they looked to the abbots of local monasteries.

One of the most famous Celtic monasteries was at Lindisfarne, a narrow peninsula that becomes an island at high tide, on the coast of

England. Its fame stems from the Lindisfarne Gospels, a beautifully illustrated manuscript of the Gospels produced between 715 and 720. The Lindisfarne Gospels are among the greatest artistic achievements of the Middle Ages.

Many Celtic monks were scholars, running schools and preserving ancient knowledge. Other monks from Celtic monasteries were active missionaries, working to spread Christianity to the people of the British Isles. Some monks even traveled to the mainland to build Celtic monasteries in France and Germany.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
entity having an independent or separate existence

READING CHECK **Make Generalizations**
What contributions did monks make to Europe?

SECTION 3 ASSESSMENT

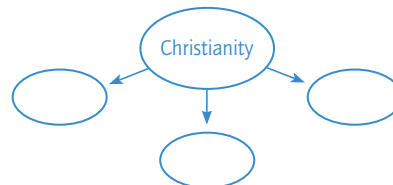
go.hrw.com
Online Quiz
Keyword: SHL CHR HP

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Identify** Who was **Alfred the Great**, and for what is he best known?
b. Explain What led to the conversion of the Franks to Christianity?
c. Elaborate Why do you think western Europe broke apart into small kingdoms rather than remaining unified after the fall of Rome?
2. **a. Recall** What did Patrick achieve in Ireland?
b. Summarize What were the major achievements of Pope **Gregory the Great**?
c. Extend How do you think the idea of **Christendom** affected life in medieval Europe?
3. **a. Describe** What was daily life like for the monks who lived in Celtic monasteries?
b. Compare and Contrast How were Benedictine and Celtic monasteries similar? How were they different?
c. Support a Position What do you think was the most significant role played by Benedictine monasteries in Europe? Support your answer.

Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing** Use your notes and a concept map like the one below to describe how the spread of Christianity in western Europe affected various aspects of daily life. Add more ovals as necessary.



FOCUS ON WRITING

5. **Description** Write a paragraph describing a day in the life of a monk in a Benedictine or Celtic monastery. In your paragraph, explain what activities the monk performed throughout a typical day.

Views of a Ruler

Historical Context The documents in this investigation describe different aspects of Justinian I and his rule of the Byzantine Empire.

Task Study the documents below and answer the questions that follow. Then, using evidence from the documents and from the chapter, write an essay about how to evaluate Justinian's rule.

DOCUMENT 1

Justinian's Code

Early in his reign, Justinian ordered scholars to collect and organize all Roman laws into a single code of law. This excerpt is from *The Institutes*, the part of Justinian's Code that served as a guide for law students.

Justice is the set and constant purpose which gives to every man his due. Jurisprudence is the knowledge of things divine and human, the science of the just and the unjust...

The precepts of the law are these: to live honestly, to injure no one, and to give every man his due. The study of law consists of two branches, law public and law private. The former relates to the welfare of the Roman State; the latter to the advantage of the individual citizen. Of private law then we may say that it is of threefold origin, being collected from the precepts of nature, from those of the law of nations, or from those of the civil law of Rome.

DOCUMENT 2

Justinian and His Attendants

This famous mosaic panel from the Church of San Vitale in Ravenna, Italy, was created in 547. It shows Emperor Justinian I surrounded by symbols of earthly and heavenly power. Justinian stands in the center, dressed in purple with a golden halo. He is flanked on the right by Bishop Maximian and the clergy and on the left by imperial officials and military officers. Although Justinian never visited Ravenna, the city was the seat of Byzantine authority in Italy.



Justinian and Attendants, Church of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy, c. 547

DOCUMENT 3

Procopius as Official Historian

Hailed as the last of the great ancient historians, Procopius served as Justinian's official historian. The excerpt below is from *On Buildings*, Procopius's account of the public works undertaken by Justinian.

In our own age there has been born the Emperor Justinian, who, taking over the State when it was harassed by disorder, has not only made it greater in extent, but also much more illustrious, by expelling from it those barbarians who had from of old pressed hard upon it . . . But this Sovereign does not lack the skill to produce completely transformed states—witness the way he has already added to the Roman domain many states which in his own times had belonged to others, and has created countless cities which did not exist before. And finding that the belief in God was, before his time, straying into errors and being forced to go in many directions, he completely destroyed all the paths leading to such errors, and brought it about that it stood on the firm foundation of a single faith. Moreover, finding the laws obscure because they had become far more numerous than they should be, and in obvious confusion because they disagreed with each other, he preserved them by cleansing them of the mass of their verbal trickery, and by controlling their discrepancies.

DOCUMENT 4

Procopius as Secret Historian

Between writing glowing accounts of Justinian's military successes and public works projects, Procopius wrote a book about Justinian commonly known as the *Secret History*. In this work, Procopius paints quite a different picture of the emperor.

Now such was Justinian in appearance; but his character was something I could not fully describe. For he was at once villainous and amenable; as people say colloquially, a moron. He was never truthful with anyone, but always guileful in what he said and did, yet easily hoodwinked by any who wanted to deceive him. His nature was an unnatural mixture of folly and wickedness . . . This Emperor, then, was deceitful, devious, false, hypocritical, two-faced, cruel, skilled in dissembling his thought, never moved to tears by either joy or pain, though he could summon them artfully at will when the occasion demanded, a liar always, not only offhand, but in writing, and when he swore sacred oaths to his subjects in their very hearing. Then he would immediately break his agreements and pledges, like the vilest of slaves, whom indeed only the fear of torture drives to confess their perjury.

Skills FOCUS

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

DOCUMENT 1

- a. **Describe** What basic rules guide Justinian's law?
- b. **Elaborate** How does this excerpt affect your evaluation of Justinian's character?

DOCUMENT 2

- a. **Describe** Which details from the mosaic symbolize Justinian's earthly and spiritual powers?
- b. **Interpret** Some historians have called this mosaic an early example of political propaganda. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

DOCUMENT 3

- a. **Identify** According to Procopius, how did Justinian transform states?
- b. **Explain** For what audience might Procopius have written this account?

DOCUMENT 4

- a. **Compare** How does this description of Justinian compare to the one in Document 3?
- b. **Evaluate** What may account for the difference between the opinions in *On Buildings* and the *Secret History*?

DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY QUESTION

Historians often have to interpret contradictory, incomplete, and biased information. How does one balance evidence from different sources? How should the sources on Justinian be evaluated? Do they tell us that he was a tyrant or a great ruler? Using these documents and the chapter, write an essay evaluating Justinian's rule.

See **Skills Handbook**, pp. H25, H26

VISUAL STUDY GUIDE

Christianity

Roman Catholic Church

- After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Christianity was preserved in the east.
- The head of the church was, and still is, the pope.
- Monks and missionaries helped spread Roman Catholicism throughout western Europe.
- Roman Catholicism was the main form of Christianity in western Europe for centuries.

Orthodox Church

- The Orthodox Church separated from the western church in 1054 over issues of belief and governance.
- Authority is not centralized, and the pope is not the head of the church.
- Many countries have their own Orthodox churches.
- The Orthodox Church remains the main form of Christianity in southeastern Europe.

Western Christendom

- Establishment of small kingdoms by Germanic groups
- Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in England
- Alfred the Great and the Danes
- Franks in France, Christianized under Clovis
- Missionaries—example: Patrick
- Theologians—example: Augustine of Hippo
- Gregory the Great and power of the papacy
- Growth of monasticism
- Two types of monasteries—Benedictine and Celtic

Byzantine Empire

- Capital at Constantinople—well-situated for trade and defense
- Justinian and Theodora—territorial expansion, Nika Revolt, Justinian's Code
- Emphasis on religion in society and the arts
- Iconoclast movement
- Schism in church in 1054
- Golden age under Macedonian dynasty
- Decline due to internal problems and invasion
- Conquered by Ottoman Turks in 1453

Russia

- The Rus invited to rule over the Slavs on the Dnieper
- Kievan Rus under rule of Yaroslav the Wise
- Cyril, Methodius, the spread of Christianity, and Cyrillic alphabet
- Christianity made state religion under Vladimir I
- Mongol conquest
- Threats from Swedes and German knights averted by Alexander Nevsky
- Decline of Kiev and rise of Muscovy

Review Key Terms and People

Identify the term or person from the chapter that best fits each of the following descriptions.

1. alphabet developed for the Slavonic language
2. paintings or sculptures of sacred figures
3. ruler of Kievan Rus during its height
4. defended Russia from Teutonic Knights
5. voluntary separation from society in order to dedicate one's life to God
6. wife of Emperor Justinian I and his co-ruler
7. a list of rules that monks followed
8. king of Wessex who united the English to push the Danes back to the north
9. having an independent or separate existence



Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (pp. 347–353)

- 10. a. Recall** What was the Nika Revolt, and how did it end?
- b. Explain** What caused the split between the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church?
- c. Elaborate** Why did the Byzantine Empire eventually fall?

SECTION 2 (pp. 356–360)

- 11. a. Recall** About when did the Slavs of Russia enter the historical record?
- b. Describe** What happened during the massacre on the ice, and why was the battle significant?
- c. Evaluate** Of the threats that Kievan Rus faced, which had the longest-lasting impact?

SECTION 3 (pp. 361–365)

- 12. a. Identify** Which king united the Franks?
- b. Compare** How did Benedictine and Celtic monasteries differ? How were they alike?
- c. Elaborate** How did Augustine of Hippo influence Christian doctrine?

Analyzing Primary Sources

Reading Like a Historian *The following passage is from a message from Pope Gregory to a bishop in England. It advises the bishop not to destroy the pagan temples there.*

“[We] have come to the conclusion that the temples of the idols among [the English] people should on no account be destroyed. The idols are to be destroyed, but the temples themselves are to be aspersed [sprinkled] with holy water, altars set up in them, and relics deposited there . . . In this way, we hope that the people, seeing that their temples are not destroyed, may abandon their error . . . may come to know and adore the true God.”

—Pope Gregory the Great, *Message to Bishop Augustine*, 601

- 13.** Why did Pope Gregory instruct the English bishop not to destroy pagan temples?
- 14.** How did Pope Gregory hope to convert the residents of England to Christianity?
- 15.** How do you think Pope Gregory's instruction to the English bishop affected the growth of Christianity in England?

Using the Internet

- 16.** In the Byzantine Empire, new styles developed in art and architecture. Using the keyword above, do research to learn more about art and architecture of the Byzantine period. Then sketch a design for a picture or building in the Byzantine style.

Reading Skills

Understanding Sequencing *Use what you know about understanding sequencing to answer the questions below.*

- 17.** Which of these events happened first?
- A. the rise of Kievan Rus
 - B. the invitation from the Slavs to the Rus
 - C. the attacks by the Swedes and Teutonic Knights
 - D. the rise of Muscovy
- 18.** Which of the following correctly describes the timing of the attack on Constantinople by Ottoman Turks?
- A. occurred during the reign of Justinian
 - B. prevented the Nika Revolt
 - C. caused the final fall of the Byzantine Empire
 - D. preceded the split within the Christian Church

WRITING FOR THE SAT



Think about the following issue:

After the fall of Rome, the power of the Roman Empire shifted east to Constantinople and gave rise to the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantines played a key role in preserving and transmitting Greek and Roman culture. They are also remembered for their many contributions to law, art, architecture, and the development of Christianity.

- 19. Assignment:** Was the Byzantine Empire primarily a conservative force that preserved Greek and Roman traditions, or was it mostly a creative force that gave rise to new political, religious, and cultural traditions? Or was it both? Write a short essay in which you develop your position on this issue. Support your point of view with reasoning and examples from your reading and studies.