

Unit 1: The Fall of the Roman Empire & Rise of the Byzantine

Standards:

7.1 Students analyze the causes and effects of the vast expansion and ultimate disintegration of the Roman Empire.

7.1.1 Study the early strengths and lasting contributions of Rome (e.g., significance of Roman citizenship; rights under Roman law; Roman art, architecture, engineering, and philosophy; preservation and transmission of Christianity) and its ultimate internal weaknesses (e.g., rise of autonomous military powers within the empire, undermining of citizenship by the growth of corruption and slavery, lack of education, and distribution of news).

7.1.2 Discuss the geographic borders of the empire at its height and the factors that threatened its territorial cohesion.

7.1.3 Describe the establishment by Constantine of the new capital in Constantinople and the development of the Byzantine Empire, with an emphasis on the consequences of the development of two distinct European civilizations, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic, and their two distinct views on church–state relations.

Essential Questions:

- 1. What were some of the lasting achievements of the Roman Empire and which do you think are still important today?**
- 2. Where was the Roman Empire located, how large was it, and how did its size effect the fall of the empire?**
- 3. Compare and contrast the Roman Empire and the Byzantine Empire.**