The Fall of the Roman Empire

The Roman Empire greatly influenced the Mediterranean region. Using pages 8 – 12 from Pathways: Civilizations Through Time, List the contributions of the Roman's to European society.

1. They copied and developed **Greek Art**
2. They copied and developed **Greek architecture**
3. Built great cities decorated with **works of art**, **magnificent gardens**, **arenas**, **public baths**, and **theatres**
4. Roman scholars and poets wrote **thousands of books**,
5. Great libraries were created filled with ancient works from **Greece** and **Egypt**
6. **Latin** was a common language spoken throughout the empire.
7. A **code of laws** were developed for ALL the people that the Roman's ruled (**Right to a fair trial**, **rescue from poverty**, **protection from war**, **protection from pirates** (Women, slaves, non-Romans were denied all rights of Roman citizenship
8. **PAX ROMANA** – Roman Peace – encouraged trade and exchange of ideas

**Rome demanded what in return:**

1. **Taxes**
2. **Slaves**
3. **Submission**

**The Fall of Rome**

What date? **Rome fell in 410 C.E.**

Who conquered Rome? **The Goths, a Germanic people sacked Rome.**

What part of the empire remained intact? **The Eastern Roman Empire with its capital in Constantinople (NOW Istanbul) remained strong. The Western Empire fell**.

**What happened to the rest of Europe?**

1. **Germanic peoples** moved into Roman provinces of **Gaul** **(France)**, **Britain** and **Spain**.

These people were the Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Goths, Vandals, Lombards and Franks

1. They brought their own **customs**, **religions**, and **laws**
2. **Roads** fell into disarray
3. **Travel** became dangerous
4. **Cities** decayed and were **deserted**
5. People lost their ability to **read** and **write**, except for monks
6. Roman ways became a distant memory to the people
7. **476 C.E.** to **800 C.E.** was considered the Dark Ages

Use page 17 - 19

**Missionaries and the Spread of Christianity**

Christian missionaries spread **Roman culture** throughout **Europe**.

The Roman Catholic Church and its leader the **Pope**, believed that spreading Christianity was an important duty.

The process of spreading Christianity throughout Europe took a **long time**, lasting throughout the Middle Ages.

**St. Patrick** converted the Irish

**St. Augustine** converted the English

The **Vikings** did not accept Christianity until the eleventh century

Christianity eventually became the official religion of western Europe.

**The Byzantines and Orthodox Christianity**

Constantine the Great – **280 – 337** C.E. was the first **Christian** Roman Emperor making **Byzantium** his capital. He fortified the city and renamed it **Constantinople** now known as **Istanbul**.

It lay right between **Europe** and **Asia** and became a major centre for trade.

It also became the **last** stronghold of Christianity, withstanding the attacks of **Muslim** invading armies for centuries.

The Christianity from this region was known as **Orthodox** Christianity.

The **Byzantine** emperors were usually very religious and had important **church duties** to perform.

**Justinian:**

-**collected** all the **written laws** of the Roman Empire into a legal code now known as the Justinian Code.

-it eventually became the basis for the law in **every** western country except England.

**Theodora**

* Had humble beginnings. Her father was a **bear trainer** in the Byzantine **circus**.
* She was very **effective** and **powerful**
* She brought in **reforms** that gave women the right to keep any property they inherited