Byzantine Empire

On page 45-Warm-up: Why did the Roman Empire fall? (**Think back to your Rome notes**)
Unit IV
World in Transition
Middle Ages/Dark Ages
Byzantine Empire
Fall of the Roman Empire

- Constantly attacked by Germanic tribes
- Drop in the population due to the plague
- Could not afford to pay the military
Emerge of the Byzantine Empire

- Roman Empire split into two by Diocletian—Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire
- The Eastern Roman Empire becomes the Byzantine Empire with the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5 century CE (400s)
- Byzantine Empire is considered a direct continuation of the Roman Empire
Byzantium Empire beginning from the 5th century CE (400s)
Geography

- Centrally located in the Mediterranean
- Great location for trade and commerce
- Silk Road

The Byzantine Empire Under Justinian. Justinian’s reconquests of North Africa, Italy, and the coast of Spain severely strained the empire’s resources.
Political

- Emperor seen as a handpicked representative of God with absolute power
- Emperors appointed by the church
- Also seen as the head of the church “patriarch”
The Great Justinian

- Became emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire in 527
- Developed the Justinian Code (extension of early Roman law which became the basis for much of the legal system of Europe)
- Expanded the empire drastically
Constantinople

- City was heavily fortified
  - Water on three sides plus a wall was built to protect the fourth side.
- Constantinople was one of the greatest centers of trade (on the silk route)
- **Multi-ethnic city** - Greeks, Persians, Romans, Turks, Slavs, Armenians, and Jews lived in the city
- The citizens spoke Greek, but Latin was the official language.
Byzantine Religious Artwork

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Christianity Split - The Great Schism

• Empire troubled by a growing split within the Church
• The Eastern churches refused to claim the Pope as the sole head of the Christian faith
• Disagree about icons
  ◦ Western-Yes
  ◦ Eastern-No
• The Great Schism – Christianity splits into two branches- Eastern Orthodox Church and the Western Catholic Church
The Eastern/Greek Orthodox Church Today
Hagia Sophia – “Holy Wisdom”

- Large cathedral - large dome, 42 windows
- It was the largest church in the world.
The end of Justinian’s Reign

- Towards the end a plague ran through the city.

- In 542, 10,000 people were dying every day.
Closure Questions
(Ticket out the door)

List two things that Justianian is known for.

Why is Constantinople so important?

What happened during the Great Schism?