

# THE FALL OF ROME

Owner:

School:

Level and classroom:

## 1-THE FALL OF ROME.

By the 4th century, the Roman Empire had become very weak, and during the 5<sup>th</sup> century, it disappeared. Why?

There were a lot of problems:

- a. The empire was too large to govern effectively.



- b. The army was not what it used to be. There was corruption among rebel generals and non-Roman soldiers.



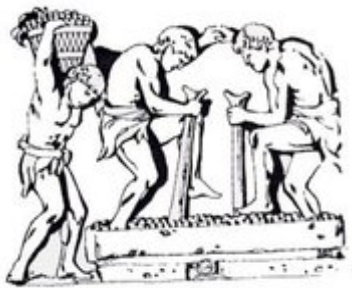
- c. There were a lot of civil wars, many of them were between different Roman generals.



d. Emperors were often chosen by acts of violence, or by birth, so the head of government was not always a capable leader.



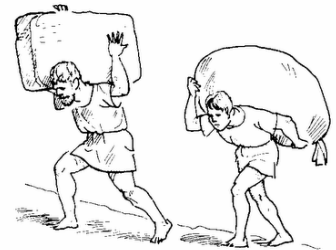
e. The poor were overtaxed and overworked. They were very unhappy.



Poor roman people had to:

Pay taxes

Work too much



f. Prices increased, trade decreased. Rome needed slaves. Without slaves, everything was more expensive.



NO MORE SLAVES





g. The population decreased because of starvation and disease.



h. The barbarians attacked the frontiers. The Huns, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Saxons and other barbarian tribes invaded the Empire.





## 2-BARBARIANS:

In ancient Rome, a barbarian was the name given to any person who lived outside the borders of the Roman Empire.



You were also called a barbarian if you did not speak Latin.

So, barbarian means “stranger”, usually a German, Pict, Dacian...

Barbarians lived beyond the “lines”, or Roman frontier.

There were five main barbarian tribes in Europe. Each wanted to conquer the Roman Empire. These tribes were the Huns, Franks, Vandals, Saxons, and Visigoths.

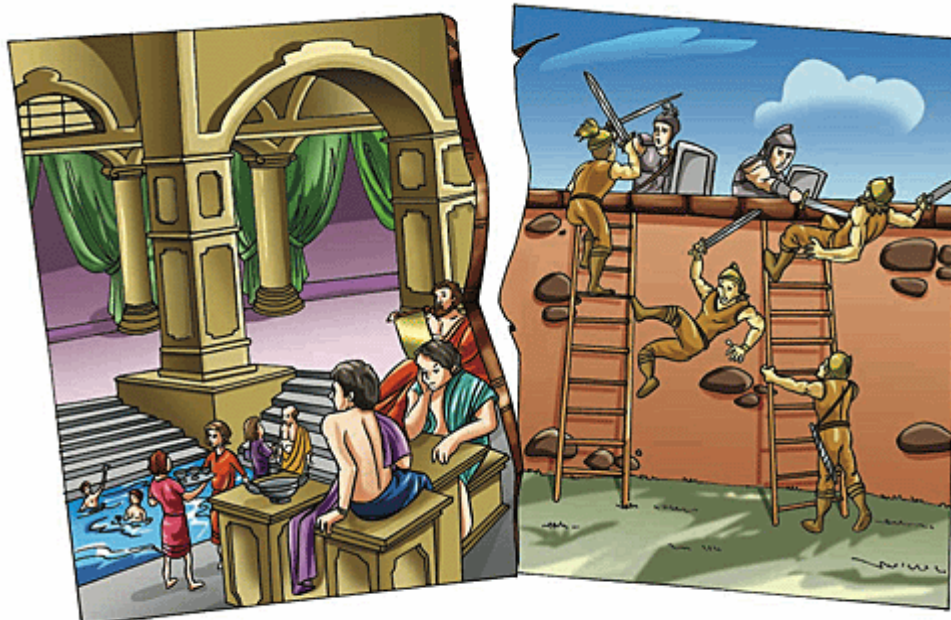


HUN





From time to time, barbarians attacked Rome, but the Roman army stopped them without problems, until the 4<sup>th</sup> century.





### 3-BARBARIAN INVASIONS:

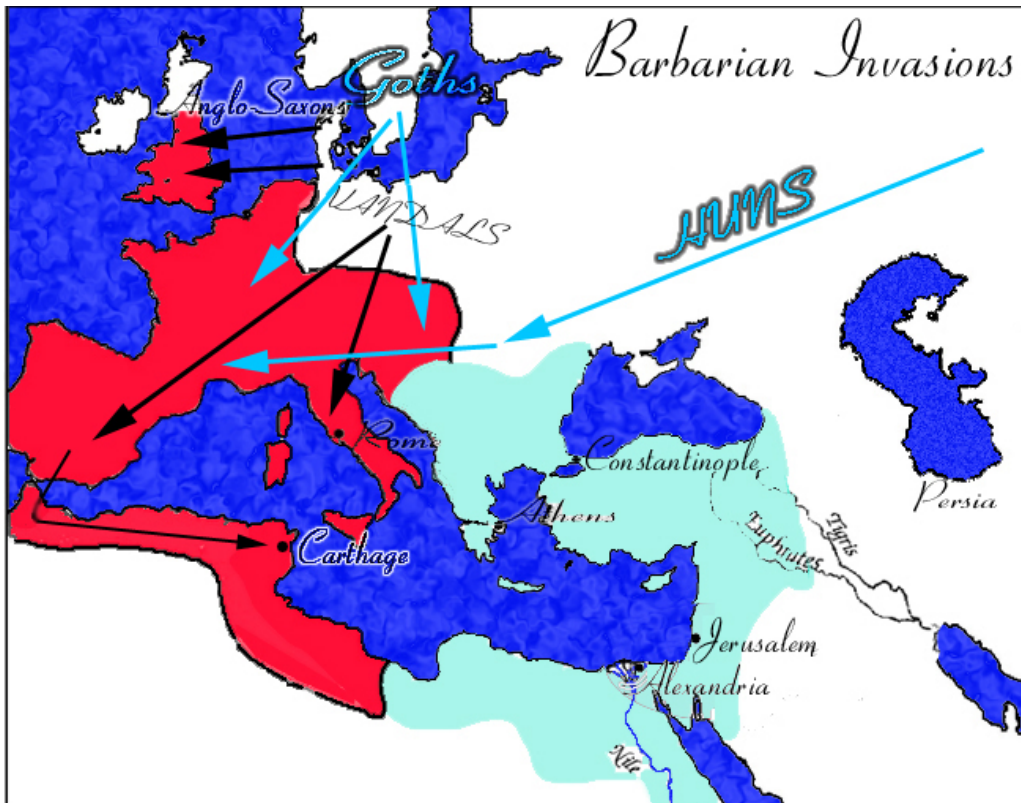
In 377, the Roman Empire was weak, and the barbarians (Visigoths) defeated the Roman army at Adrianopolis. This marked the beginning of the end for the Roman Empire.

In 410, Visigoths sacked Rome.



So, Roman emperors couldn't fight the barbarians. However, they created alliances.

The different barbarian tribes attacked parts of the Western Roman Empire at the same time. They destroyed forts, some cities and strongholds on the way.



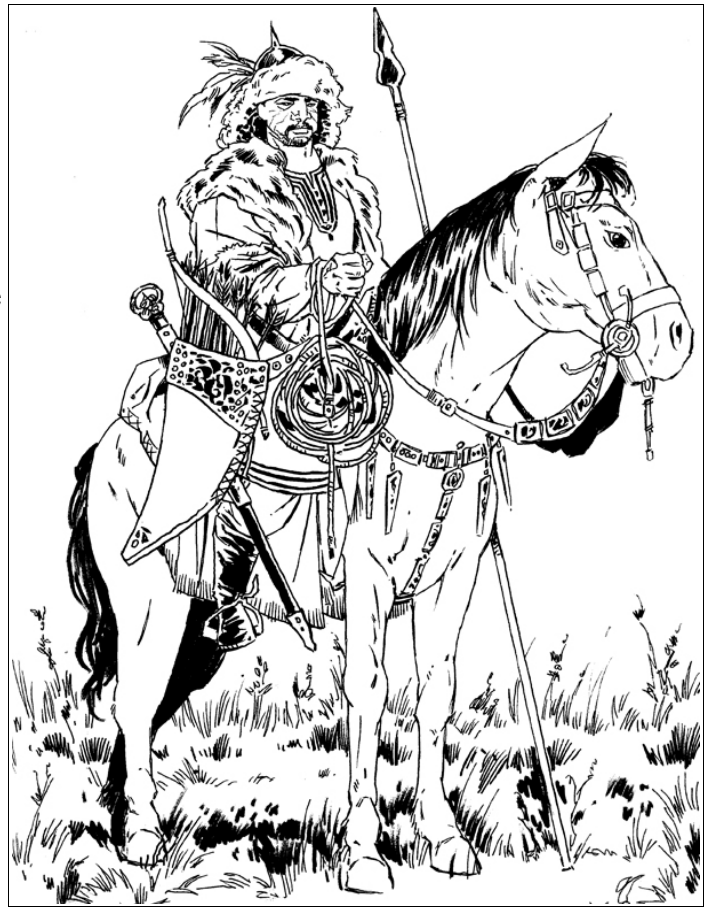
Attila and the Huns:

The Huns were barbarians that came from Central Asia.

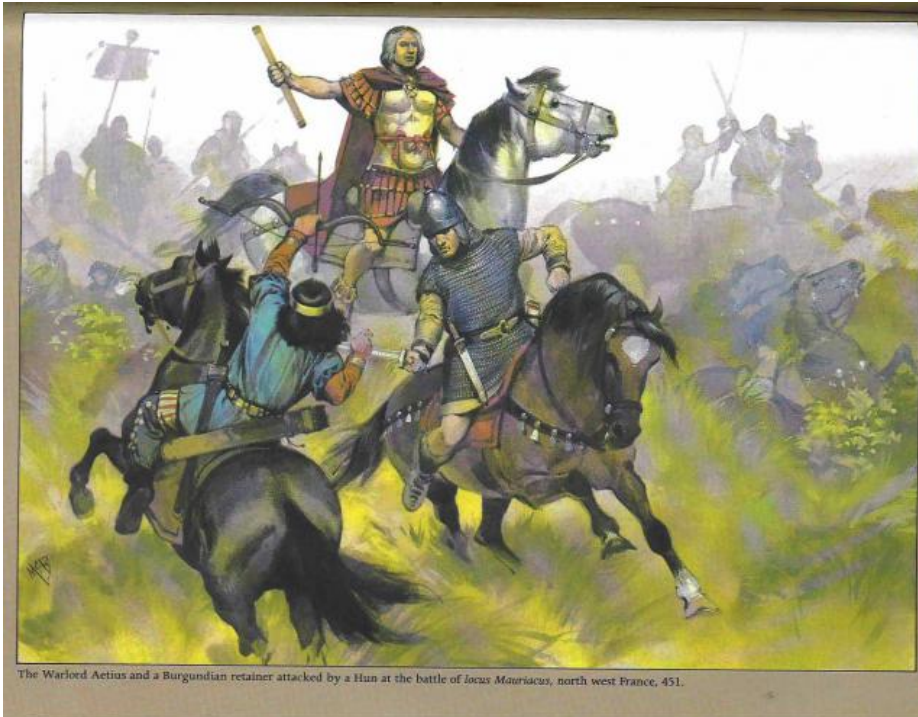
They were expert horsemen and masters with the bow and arrow. They could ride on horseback all night and day!

They were fearsome warriors and terrified the Roman People. They were the most dangerous barbarians.

In 451, Attila, a Hun king, attacked the Roman Empire.



Romans and Visigoths united and defeated him at the “Catalaunian Plains” (in Chalons, France)

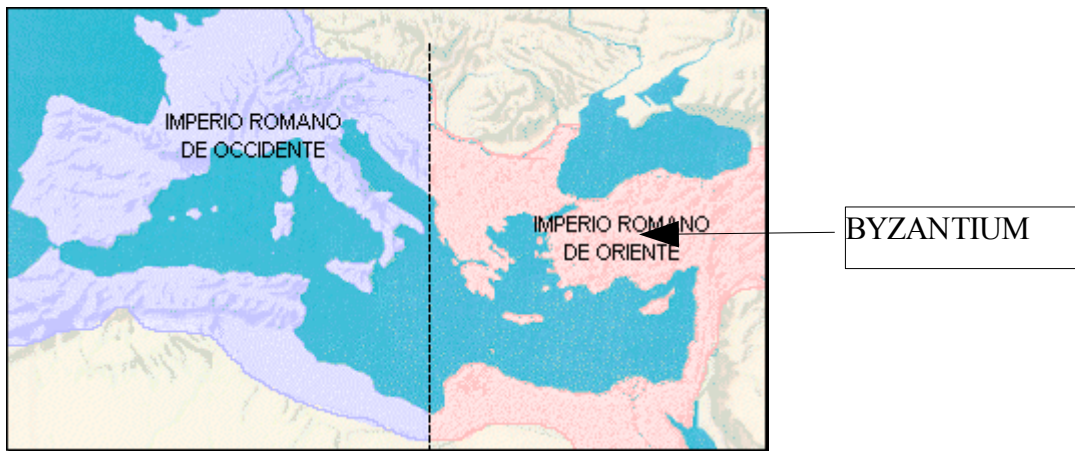


The Warlord Aetius and a Burgundian retainer attacked by a Hun at the battle of *Jocus Mauriacus*, north west France, 451.

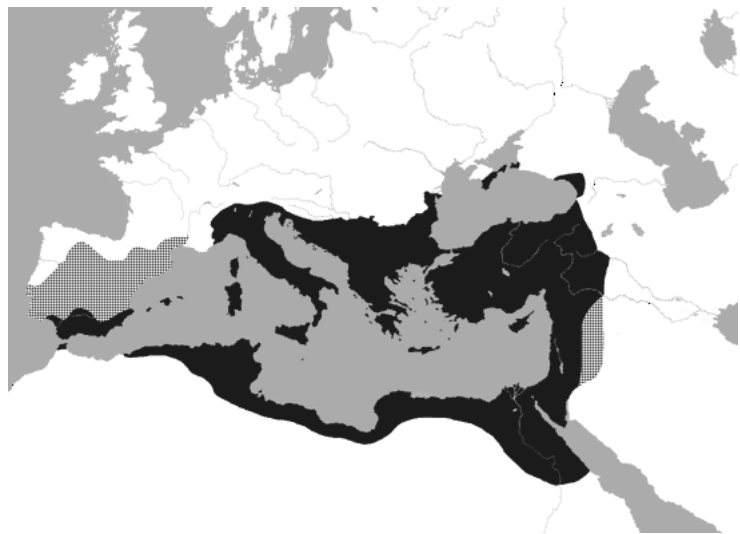


#### 4-BYZANTIUM: THE EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE.

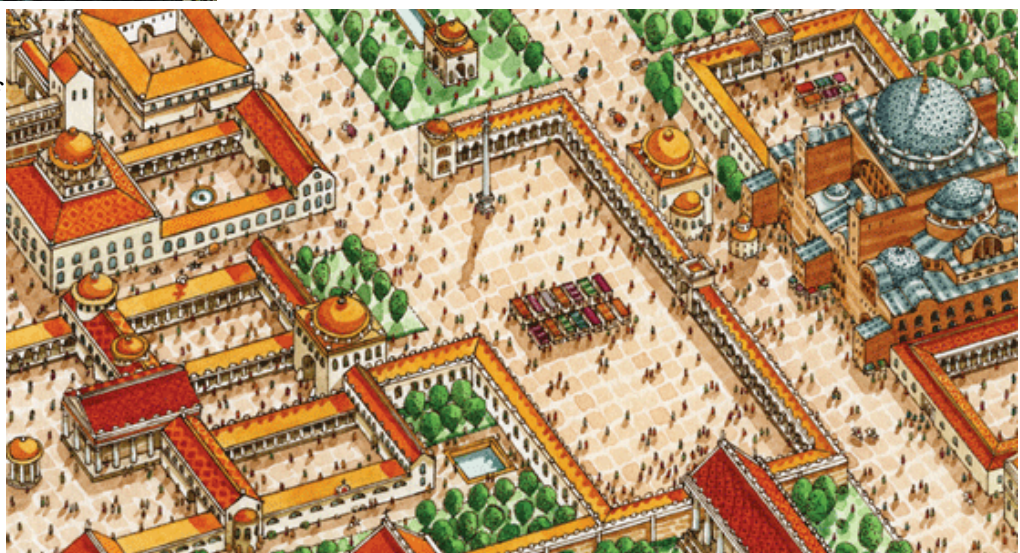
In A.D. 395 Rome split into two separate empires. The Eastern Empire took the name of Byzantium. The Byzantine Empire resisted the barbarians and lasted until 1453.



The emperor Justinian (482-565) was a wise ruler. He was a very important man. He conquered a lot of territory. He almost restored the old Roman Empire! His generals conquered Italy, North Africa and part of Spain. But this empire was very expensive for Byzantium, and disappeared after Justinian.



This is a picture of the old Constantinople. (Istanbul)





Byzantine armies:

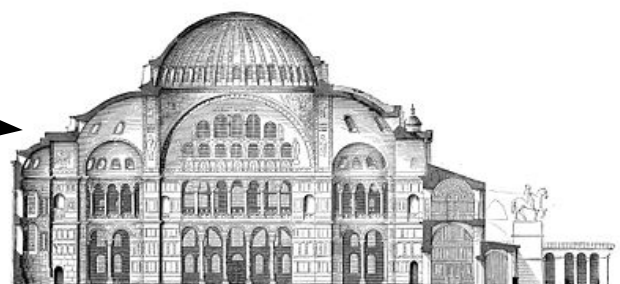


Byzantine art:



MOSAIC

CHURCH OF  
SAINT SOPHIA





## 5-BARBARIAN KINGDOMS:

After 476, the Western Roman Empire completely disappeared. It was divided into different kingdoms.

These kingdoms were the origins of modern European countries.

For example, Visigoths established in Gaul, and, Later, in Hispania. (Spain)

Franks ruled Gaul. (France)

Ostrogoths conquered Italy.

Vandals controlled North Africa.

And more...



The barbarian kingdoms maintained the Roman culture, and also adopted Christianity.



But remember, the Eastern Roman Empire existed until 1453.

EXERCISES:

1-Try to find the words in the wordsearch.

Causes of the fall of Rome: *corruption wars taxes inflation starvation disease barbarians emperors*

N G J E P B G Y Z Z S J N T A X E S B T R N D B O  
 Y Y O G H V M C E F R N W O W Q D S G T I S Y X G  
 S N A I R A B R A B O Z Y O I N V E D J F K I F W  
 I K P W X X J X D Q R M B M O T S G L H C S D K P  
 E C Q X H O A O B Q E C R D E A A E R U S J U L Y  
 M F Z F J C E H F D P F S R E H S L S M P S D B N  
 G C W H T D C T G M M W C S F R K J F C K N O Y L  
 L R K H U J O K V I E R I G T P H V X N S I P E F  
 C Z I F B I T R O N L D C A Y S U S W N I F J S X  
 C N J C Q Q D T H G O P I I Z R P Q D K A Q O B P  
 O T D S M Q Z Y R V M M K T N H K R G V W G U O A  
 R D I Q V U M C W R W X Q T W T Y V U L P W E H J  
 R S H E H T D A X M I T G I N C N X B A K H Q D R  
 U U N O P T T V D Q X E Z P S D F X G G S A I C J  
 P Q W N E C Y F T A S J V F X V O T E I K O D W T  
 T S H S O R N D J S F K Z J X K X A T Q J S Z H K  
 I P J W I F Y K T C I N E P Q H A T G K X X X J N  
 O T I M A H J A C Q X O O D S L I A Z F M K P I O  
 N G X S M R R K Y M W P S P M Z X C C A S K J C B  
 T F Z A F V S J G G Q A X C B V G S H I L H P K L  
 W A W F A F K U I T J L H H Q B B J Q N O J L I X  
 K M X T H Z L C U N F A S D H W U A L M J P G O R  
 I O I Q S L M A E I F B Q Q S Q X B W Z W J S R K  
 E O D W O T R W Z I N W S F X Y B T R J U Y E A R  
 N W D J C P G F A M Q E H M N C Y R Q U A J H D L

2-True or false?

SENTENCE	TRUE	FALSE
Roman emperors were always wise and kind		
Slaves were very important in Roman economy		
There were a lot of civil wars in Rome		
Only Roman people could enter the Roman army		
The Roman Empire was too large		
The Roman army always defeated the barbarians.		
4 <sup>th</sup> century was a good time for Rome		



3-A strange emperor.

Look for the biography of Heliogabalus and write it here (Spanish or English)

4-Barbarians: What is a barbarian? Why were they called barbarians?

Match the four correct sentences:

Barbarians are very strong	Barbarians have black or brown skin.	They can't understand Roman citizens.
Barbarians live near Rome	Barbarians are from Dacia, Germany, North England...	Barbarians are Vikings, Saxons, Huns, Spanish, Arabs, English, Vandals and Visigoths.
They live beyond the "lines"	Barbarians have long hair and big beards	Barbarians attacked the Roman Empire from time to time

5-The fall or Roman Empire. Link with arrows:

Many Roman generals		Was too large
Poor roman citizens		Decreased
The Roman Empire in 5 <sup>th</sup> century		Provoked civil wars
Many emperors		Invaded the Roman empire
Population in Rome		Worked too much and paid high taxes
Huns, Visigoths, Franks and more barbarians		The Roman Empire dissapeared
In the 5 <sup>th</sup> century		Were bad rulers

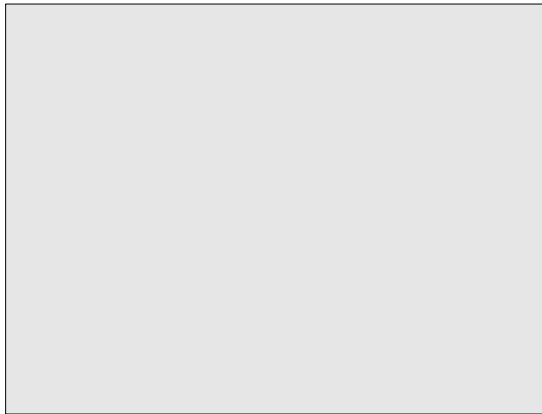
6-The battle at Catalaunian plains. Complete the worksheet:

Catalaunian plains:

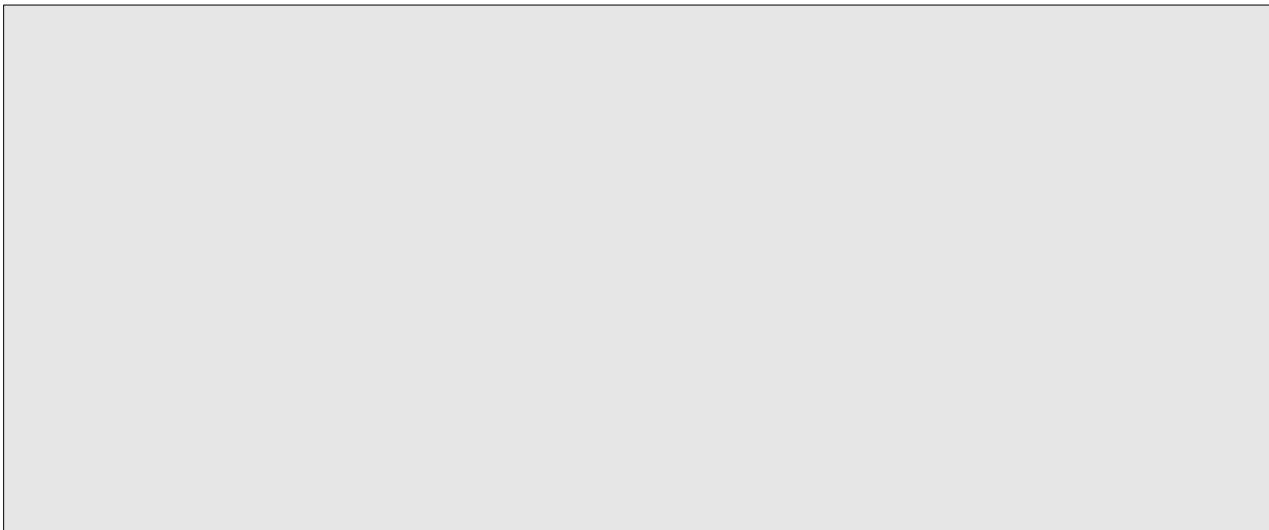
Year	
Sides (4 or 2 names)	
Leaders (2 names)	
Winner	
Important deaths	
Site (current name)	

7-Attila the Hun:

7.A) Draw a picture of Attila the Hun:



7.B) Write down a short biography of Attila the Hun, in English:



You can use this link:

<http://www.greatkat.com/03/attilathehun.html>

(If you want)



8-Barbarians, barbarians...



Fill the table.

<b>BARBARIAN TRIBE</b>	<b>PLACE WHERE THEY STABLISHED</b>	<b>FAMOUS LEADER</b>
Saxons		
Franks		
Visigoths		
Huns		
Vandals		

\*You will need internet to do this exercise.

9-Important dates. What happened in...?

<b>393</b>	
<b>476</b>	
<b>377</b>	
<b>410</b>	
<b>451</b>	
<b>1453</b>	

10- Colour in this map: The Byzantine Empire during Justinian (6th Century)



11- True or false? Mark with an X

SENTENCE	TRUE	FALSE
The Byzantine Empire survived until 1453		
Justinian was a fool ruler.		
Saint Sophia is a famous castle.		
Mosaics are important in Byzantine art.		
Justinian conquered France and Germany.		
Byzantium was the Western part of the Roman Empire.		
Constantinople is nowadays the capital town of Turkey.		

12- Solve this wordsearch about the Byzantine Empire:

- An important emperor.
- The name of a very important Byzantine Church.
- Art consisting of small pieces of colored stone or glass. Very important in Byzantium.
- Capital of the Byzantine Empire.
- Byzantine generals conquered this peninsula.
- Byzantium conquered the northern part of this continent.





## GLOSSARY:

Among: Entre (varios)	en las Islas Británicas)
Army: Ejército.	Sides: Caras o bandos.
Ancient: Antiguo.	Site: Lugar, sitio.
Arrow: Flecha.	Slave: Esclavo.
Beginning: Principio.	Soldier: Soldado.
Birth: Nacimiento.	Starvation: Hambre.
Bow: Arco.	Stranger: Extranjero.
Called: Llamado.	Stronghold: Baluarte. (Se refiere a un castillo o fuerte bien defendido)
Capable: Capaz, capacitado.	Tax: Impuesto.
Century: Siglo.	Vandal: Vándalo (Tribu de bárbaros que se estableció en el norte de África)
Current: Actual.	Visigoth: Visigodo (Tribu de bárbaros que se estableció en Hispania y Galia)
Disease: Enfermedad.	Weak: Débil.
Effectively: Efectivamente (Con efectividad, con eficacia)	Wise: Sabio.
Fall: Caída.	
Fearsome: Terribles, temibles, que dan mucho miedo.	
Fort: Fuerte, fortaleza. (Es decir, una construcción fortificada)	
Frank: Franco (Tribu bárbara que se estableció en la Galia, después de echar a los Visigodos)	
From time to time: De vez en cuando.	
Frontier: Frontera.	
Government: Gobierno.	
Horsemen: Jinetes.	
However: Sin embargo.	
Hun: Huno (De la tribu de los hunos)	
King: Rey.	
Kingdom: Reino.	
Often: A menudo.	
Overtaxed: Sobrecargado de impuestos.	
Overworked: Sobrecargado de trabajo.	
Population: Población.	
Rebel: Rebelde.	
Ruler: Gobernante.	
Saxons: Sajones (Tribu de bárbaros que se estableció	

### VERBS:

To conquer: Conquistar.
To decrease: Disminuir, decrecer.
To defeat: Derrotar.
To establish: Establecerse.
To govern: Gobernar.
To fight/fought/fought: Luchar.
To increase: Incrementar.
To invade: Invadir.
To last: Durar.
To maintain: Mantener.
To need: Necesitar.
To ride: Montar (en bici, moto o a caballo)
To split: Dividirse.
Used to be: Lo que solía ser. (Es decir, que el Imperio Romano ya no es lo que era)