

History Knowledge Organiser - Christianity in Three Empires

Christians in the Roman Empire

1. **Followers** of Jesus Christ began to spread Christianity beyond Judea.
2. Christians shared story of Jesus being born in a stable in Bethlehem.
3. Christians shared stories of **miracles**.
4. Christians shared beliefs about God's forgiveness.
5. When people converted to Christianity, they were **baptised**.
6. Roman officials and citizens became more and more worried by Christians.
7. Christians were blamed for many things and often **persecuted** for their beliefs.
8. Believers who are killed for their faith are called **martyrs**.

The Byzantine Empire

1. Roman Empire became very difficult to rule - too big!
2. The Byzantine Empire lasted a thousand years more than the Western Roman Empire.
3. As Rome grew weaker, Constantinople (Byzantine) grew stronger.
4. Byzantine was full of fine public buildings, statues and churches.
5. Constantine built a new palace and a **hippodrome**.
6. Justinian became emperor in 527 AD and reigned for forty years.
7. Justinian created the Justinian **code** - he took laws and organised them into two books of law.
8. Justinian introduced strict rules to make everyone worship in the same way.



Aksum

Farming

1. They found a clever way to do this by using big steps called **terraces**.
2. Those in the fertile hills needed salt for their cattle - lowlanders sold them salt.
3. Salt was as precious as gold.

Merchants

1. Export gold, perfumes and salt.
2. Export slaves.
3. Wheat and barley are also loaded onto ships.
4. Merchants count, weigh and inspect all goods.



These **two coins** were created in about 300BC. On one side of each coin, the writing is in Greek. On the other side, the writing is in Ge'ez. This was the language of the Aksumites.

Emperor Constantine divided empire into two halves



Timeline

310 AD	Constantine became emperor of Rome.
330 AD	Ezana had the Ezana stone erected in Aksum.
410 AD	Alaric the Goth led attack on Rome.
476 AD	Western Roman Empire came to an end.
527 AD	Justinian became emperor of Byzantine.

Important People

Emperor Constantine

1. Became emperor of Rome in 310AD.
2. Fought in many battles before taking full power as emperor.
3. Had a vision where he saw a shape like a cross in the sky.
4. Declared all religions could be practised in Rome - no more **persecution!**
5. Divided empire into two halves: Eastern and Western.

Justinian

1. Became emperor in the sixth century.
2. Carried on Christian traditions.
3. Introduced ten books of law.
4. Made sure everyone worshipped in the same way - harsh punishments for those who didn't.

Ezana

1. Ezana became king of Aksum.
2. Wanted a bishop to lead all the Christians in Aksum.
3. Ezana and his patriarch spread Christianity throughout Aksum's empire.
4. In 330 AD, Ezana had the Ezana stone erected.

Vocabulary

1. Miracle	A remarkable and unusual event thought to be caused by God.
2. Baptised	To be introduced and admitted to a faith.
3. Followers	A person or people who support a particular person or set of ideas.
4. Persecuted	Mistreated because of race, political or religious beliefs.
5. Martyrs	Those who are killed for their faith.
6. Hippodrome	A vast stadium for races.
7. Memorial	An object or place which serves as a memory of people or an event.
8. Aksum	An African empire.
9. Plateau	An area of fairly level high ground.
10. Terraces	A number of level flat areas, like large steps.
11. Ivory	A hard, white material from the tusks and teeth of animals.
12. Converted	Having changed to a new religion or belief.
13. Bishop	A senior member of the Christian clergy (group)
14. Epiphany	A celebration of the three wise men's visit to Jesus Christ.