

Chapter Summary

Roman Civilization

Lesson 1 *The Roman Way of Life*

- The capital of the Roman Empire was Rome. Wealthy nobles, artisans, shopkeepers, and enslaved people lived in the city.
- The Roman family was important in Roman culture. The father was the head of the family. Women had few rights and were not full citizens.
- As Rome conquered more territories, the number of enslaved people increased. Enslaved people worked in homes, on farms, and helped build bridges and roads throughout the Empire.
- Romans adapted Greek ideas about religion, science, architecture, art, literature, and theater.
- The Roman language, Latin, served as the basis for many European languages.

Lesson 2 *Rome's Decline*

- During the A.D. 200s, the power of Rome declined because of a weakened government, a failing economy, and invasions by Germanic groups.
- Emperors such as Diocletian and Constantine tried to reform the empire.
- Emperor Constantine moved the capital of the Empire to the city of Byzantium. The city was renamed Constantinople. Today, it is called Istanbul, Turkey.
- Emperor Theodosius divided the Empire into two empires: the Western Roman Empire, with its capital in Rome, and the Eastern Roman Empire, with its capital in Constantinople.
- Over the next several hundred years, German invaders—including the Vandals and Visigoths—gained control of most of the Western empire.
- Rome had a lasting impact on the modern world. Even today, Rome influences law, government, art, architecture, language, and religion.

Chapter Summary *Cont.*

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Lesson 3 *The Byzantine Empire*

- The eastern half of the Roman Empire became known as the Byzantine Empire.
- Constantinople was the capital of the Byzantine Empire. Located on a peninsula that connected Europe with Asia, the city became a busy trading center.
- When Constantinople was first established, it was heavily influenced by the Western Roman Empire. Over time, however, the city became more influenced by the Greeks.
- The Emperor Justinian and his wife Theodora ruled the Byzantine Empire at the height of its power. They organized the military and simplified the laws. They also supported the arts.