

BYZANTINE EMPIRE

- Strong and growing
- Growing trade with the Orient
- Predominantly Greek-speaking
- Emperor ruled in Eastern despotic style
- Lavish court, modeled on those of Eastern emperors
- Preserved Western learning after the fall of Rome
- Eastern Orthodox Church
- Increasingly Eastern emphasis in art, architecture, fashions, and even tableware.
- Roman customs replaced with Eastern ones

Your student has been instructed to compare the Roman Empire during its decline and the Byzantine Empire during its rise. Your student need not provide all the answers given below.

ROMAN EMPIRE

- Declining in strength and territory
- Weakening trade and empire exhausted by taxation
- Predominantly Latin-speaking
- Unable to turn back invaders
- Lost much learning because of barbarian invasions
- Roman Catholic Church
- Little time for art or architecture
- Maintained Western customs in dress, fashion, and manners, although these began to decline with increased invasions

- Held many Roman values
- Western learning was important
- Laws rooted in Western traditions
- Retained a senate, although the senate had only nominal power
- Practiced a form of Christianity