

NAME: _____

THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

VOCABULARY: slavery, divided, economic, taxes, barbarian, invasions.

There are many reasons why the greatest empire in history ended. When you read about the reasons, ask yourself, "Which of these reasons was the most important one to explain why the Roman Empire fell?"

1. **CHRISTIANITY:** The Roman Empire needed a powerful army to keep control of conquered countries. When many Romans became Christians they believed in living together without wars and in peace.
2. **SLAVERY:** There were many slaves in the Roman Empire. They did the hard work. There were not enough jobs for all of the people because the slaves did most of the work.
3. **The Empire was too big:** It was very hard to defend the empire because it was too big. In 285 A.D. the Roman Empire was DIVIDED into two parts with two capitals. The Western Empire had its capital in Rome. The Eastern Empire had its capital in Constantinople, which is present day Istanbul, in Turkey.
4. **ECONOMIC Problems:** There was not enough food to feed all the people in the empire. **Taxes** were very high and most of the people were very poor. There was very little money to spend because most money was used to pay taxes.
5. **INVASIONS:** Because the Roman army became weaker, **BARBARIANS** started to invade the empire. In 476 A.D. the Western Roman Empire ended. The Eastern Roman Empire, known as the Byzantine Empire, lasted almost another 1,000 years.

Part A: List three reasons why the Roman Empire Fell.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Part B: Explain the causes for the fall of the Roman Empire

Part C: Which reason for the fall of Roman do you believe was the most important?

The most important reason was _____

I believe this because _____
