

**City of Constantine** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prd: \_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_ /10 pts.

**Directions:** Evidenzi la risposta nel testo a sinistra.

Some Roman emperors tried very hard to make their empire stronger. One of them was **Constantine**. Constantine became a Christian & gave Christians the right to worship freely. He is best remembered in modern times for the **Edict of Milan** in 313, which *for the first time* in history fully legalized Christianity in the Empire. He was an important emperor in other ways, too. Because of a decision he made, part of the Roman Empire *lasted* for almost 1000 years after Rome was captured by Germanic tribes.

Emperor Constantine was in trouble. The people of Rome wanted to know if he worshipped *their* gods because a Roman emperor was expected to.

Constantine was *not* liked in Rome. He was an outsider. He came from an area of the empire known today as Yugoslavia. Constantine chose to rule the empire from cities in the East. And so the people of Rome said that he had turned his back on them.

Constantine had made the Romans angry in other ways, too. Most of them still believed in the old Roman deities. But Constantine had become a Christian. He had given Christians the right to worship freely. Now, he was giving money to build great churches in Rome. He had even chosen a Christian governor for the city, & the *Roman Senate & the people did not like it at all!*

In 326 A.D., Constantine was visiting Rome having returned to celebrate an important event. It had been 20 years since he had become emperor. On this day, the soldiers were lined up for a parade. They were going to march with their emperor to the great temple of **Jupiter** ~ the great chief god of Rome! But Constantine refused to march in a **pagan** parade!

The people & the senators began to curse Constantine. A riot almost broke out, but the soldiers kept order. They were still loyal to their emperor.

**Statue of Constantine in his city of Constantinople ↓**



**Constantine's most important legacy/ies is/are:**

- legalizing Christianity
- becoming a Christian
- capturing Germanic tribes
- all the above
- a & b only

**Another word for god is (deity / hero / pagan ← circle 1).**

**Romans disliked Constantine because he was \_\_\_\_.**

- an emperor
- a deity
- an outsider
- a Christian
- both c & d

**T or F: (Circle 1) Constantine still believed in the old, pagan deities of Rome.**



**Making analogies & applying past knowledge:**

**Rome: Jupiter :: Greece : \_\_\_\_\_**

**BONUS: A synonym for **pagan** is \_\_\_\_\_.**

(Clue: Be resourceful! Use a thesaurus!)

Constantine had never liked Rome. Now, he liked it even less! He began to think about building a new capital for the empire. He wanted this city to be in the East, close to Asia Minor...& he had several reasons for it.

First, the towns & farms of the East were rich. The East had not suffered as much damage as the West from the attacks of the Germanic tribes. Secondly, the best soldiers in the empire now came from the East. Some of these soldiers, like Constantine, had become Roman emperors. A city in the East would be good for the defense of the empire. And finally, the East had many more Christians than the West. Christianity had started in the eastern part of the empire, & Constantine knew that the Christians here would support him.

Constantine eventually chose an old Greek city called **Byzantium**. Only a very narrow piece of water separated it from Asia Minor. He began to rebuild the city & workers came from all over the empire to do the job. Constantine wanted his new capital to be as great as Rome! *And he did not care how much it would cost!* New taxes would take care of that!!

The new capital soon began to look much like Rome. The Great Palace of Constantine was built next to a big racetrack. Constantine would watch the races, then, from his palace windows. The forum was paved with marble. A golden statue of Constantine, himself, stood on a high column in the center. The sidewalks of the main avenue were decorated with hundreds of bronze statues. Most of them were stolen by Constantine's agents from cities in Greece. The public baths were in a big building with walls of marble. Constantine also built a fine church in his new capital city.

Constantine named his new capital after himself, calling it **Constantinople** ~ the city of Constantine! The city was ready on May 11 of 330 A.D. There were parades, feasts, & games for the next 40 days! Both Christian & pagan priests prayed for Constantine. To many people, he was a god ~ like emperors *used* to be.



**Why** would Constantine **choose to move** his city to the **East**?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

(There are more than 3 answers; your choice!)

**BONUS:** Byzantium is now the present day city of Istanbul in the *country of* \_\_\_\_\_.



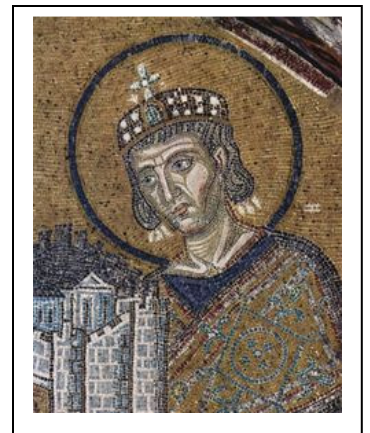
**List** Constantine's grand additions to his new city:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

(There are more than 5...)

**Mosaic of Constantine in Constantinople** →

- Constantinople** celebrated its new status as capital **by** \_.
- a. pagan & Christian priests praying for Constantine
  - b. parades & games
  - c. feasts "fit for a king"
  - d. all the above



At the racetrack, soldiers had a parade in his honor. They wore their best uniforms & held white candles in their hands. Some guarded a golden statue of Constantine that was carried in a wagon. People bowed down to the statue & praised the emperor. When the statue came to Constantine, he saluted it! *Then* he ordered the same parade to be held on each birthday of the birthday of the city.

What made Constantinople so important? After Constantine died, the Roman Empire split in two. The western half was ruled by one emperor in Rome. The eastern half was ruled by another emperor in Constantinople. Tribes soon overran the western empire, but the eastern empire held them off.

It lasted more than 1000 years. The laws, arts, & sciences of Rome & Greece lived on in the eastern Roman Empire!

### Medieval Constantinople ↓



Drawing conclusions: **WHY** would the **eastern empire survive longer than** the western side?

\_\_\_\_\_

What legacies of Rome & Greece lived on in Constantinople? 1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_, 3) \_\_\_\_\_

