

Key Learning

In the first century CE, in the Roman province of Judea, the followers of Jesus Christ began to spread Christianity. Christian stories about Jesus soon spread out of Judea and through the lands of the Roman Empire. Yet being a Christian in the Roman empire was not easy. During Nero's reign, Christians were persecuted. There were many reasons why Christians were persecuted.

In the year 306, a man named Constantine became the emperor of Rome. Constantine had grown up worshipping Roman gods and goddesses. But at some point, he changed. He became known as the first Christian Emperor and Christianity became the official religion of Rome.

The Emperor Constantine divided his empire into two halves: an Eastern half and a Western half. Constantine chose an ancient Greek town called Byzantium to become an imperial city in the East. The Eastern half of the Roman empire was later called the Byzantine Empire. After Constantine died, the Roman Empire became more and more difficult to rule. The surrounding tribes attacked the empire's frontiers. Finally, in the year 476, the western Roman empire came to an end. As Rome grew weaker, Constantinople grew stronger. Justinian was a Byzantine emperor and reigned for forty years. Justinian took all the laws of the Romans and organised them into ten books of law.

The ancient kingdom of Aksum had bustling ports, rich trade and early coins. Aksum was also the first Christian state in the world. The people of Aksum made their own Christian customs. Their buildings, art and traditions still exist today. Aksum later became known as Ethiopia and hundreds of rock-hewn churches still exist today.

There is much evidence from different sources that show the spread of Christianity through the Aksum empire.

Christianity in three empires



Vocabulary

borders	the line between two countries, states, or towns.
caravan	a long chain of camels.
converted	having changed to a new religion, belief, or opinion.
court	the noblemen and noblewomen who surround and serve a king, queen, empress or emperor.
empress	the wife or widow of an emperor.
halo	a circle of light shown around or above the head of a saint or holy person to represent their holiness.
hewn	make or shape (something) by cutting or chopping a material such as wood or stone.
hippodrome	a stadium for chariot or horse races.
innocent	not guilty of a crime or offence.
memorial	a statue or structure established to remind people of a person or event.
miracles	an extraordinary and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws
patriarch	a high ranking bishop.
perilous	Full of danger or risk.
persecution	the act of continually treating others in a cruel way.
pope	the Bishop of Rome as head of the Roman Catholic Church.
preserve	maintain (something) in its original or existing state.
rivals	a person or thing competing with another for the same objective
sacked	to destroy and remove valuable things.
saint	one who is honoured as being holy in a religion other than Christianity.
shipwreck	the destruction of a ship at sea by sinking or breaking up.
sins	an act of not obeying religious law.
stela	a tall piece of stone (monument).

Christianity in three empires timeline

AD 1

The followers of Jesus Christ began to spread Christianity.

54-68 AD

Nero was the Roman emperor.

306-337 AD

Constantine was the Roman emperor.

410 AD

Alaric the Goth led an attack on the city of Rome.

455 AD

The Vandals sacked Rome.

476 AD

The western Roman empire came to an end.

527-565 AD

Justinian ruled the Byzantine Empire.

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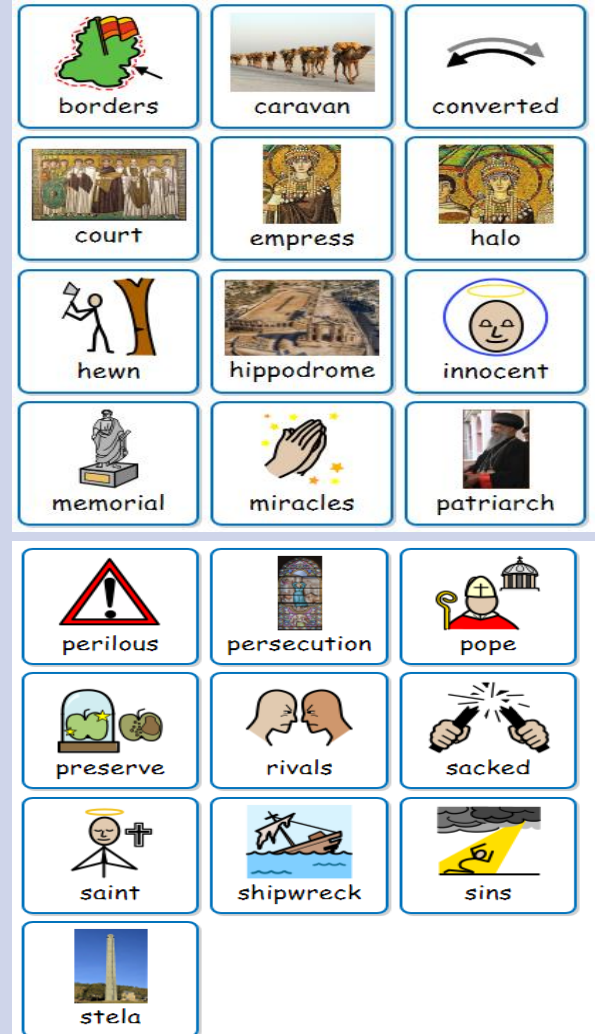
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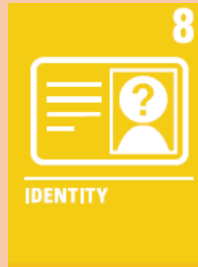
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Rights and Global Goals

Rights



Global goals

10- Reduced Inequalities
16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

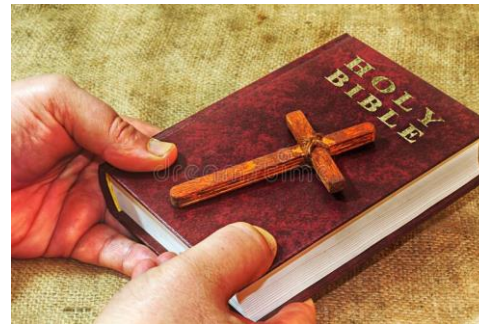
Prior Learning

Y4 Roman Republic-The creation of the Roman Republic and its growing empire.

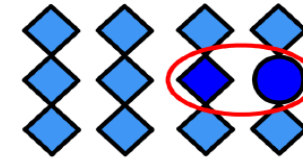
Y4 Roman Empire- expansion of the Roman empire.

Y4 RE- Family of Jesus

Y4 RE- Birth of Jesus



Big Ideas



Similarity
and
Difference

National Treasures

