



The Byzantine Civilization

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BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION

- Main Idea (Objective):



- The Byzantines developed a rich culture based on Roman, Greek and Christian ideas.

BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION

- Lecture Focus (Essential Question):



- Do you think a multicultural population adds to a country's interest and success?

BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION



- Think about the United States and even just North Plainfield...how many cultures live in this country?

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BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION

- The Byzantine Empire lasted approximately 1,000 years.



- For much of that time, **Constantinople**, the capitol, was the largest and richest city in Europe.

BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION



BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION



BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION

- The Byzantine people became highly educated and creative.

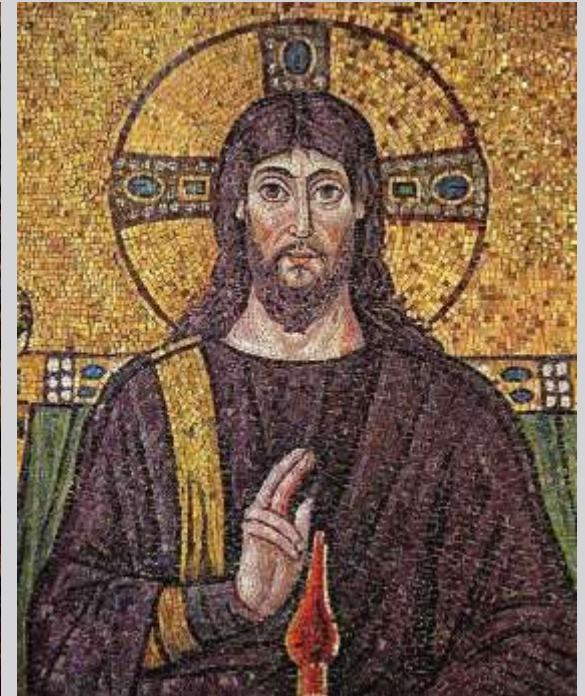
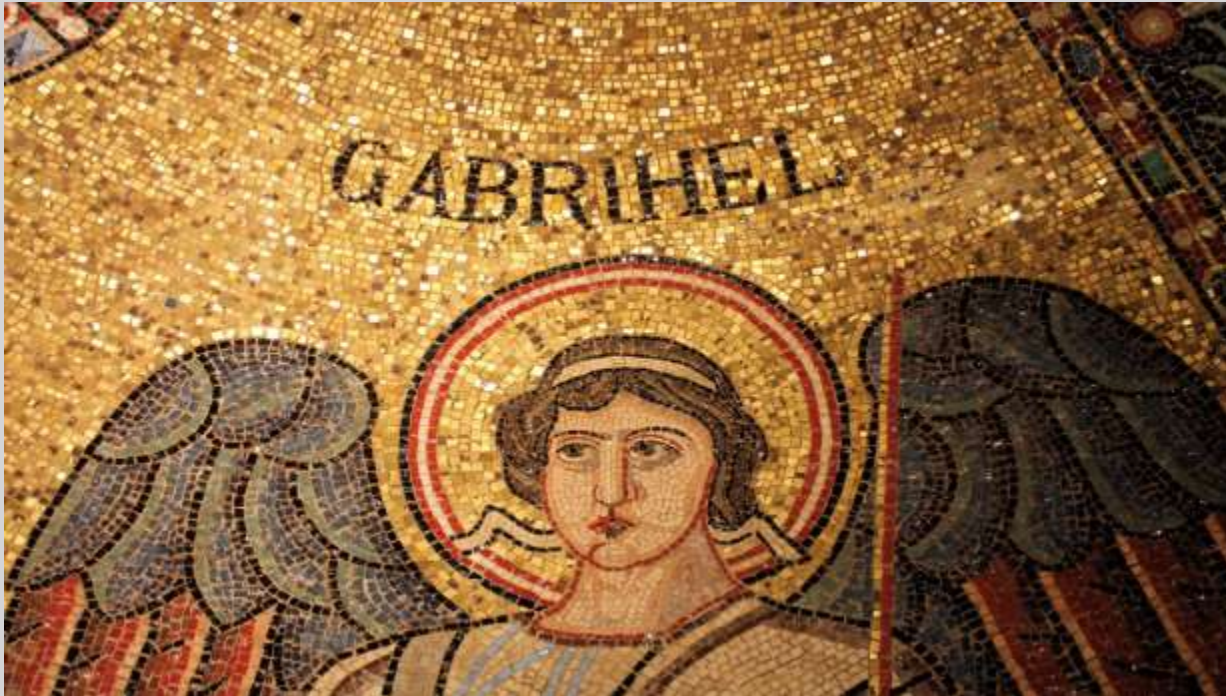


- They preserved and passed on the Greek culture and Roman law to new generations of scholars.

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BYZANTINE CIVILIZATION

- They gave the world new methods in the realm of the arts and creativity.



- As we will discuss, they also embraced Christianity and spread the religion to the people of Eastern Europe.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

- From the 500's C.E. to the 1100's C.E., the Byzantine Empire was the center of trade between Europe and Asia.



- Trade goods from present day Russia in the north, Mediterranean lands in the south, Latin Europe in the west and Persia and China in the east passed through the Empire.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

- From Asia, ships and caravans brought luxury goods such as, spices, gems, metals and silk to Constantinople.



- For these items, Byzantine merchants traded farm goods as well as furs, honey and enslaved people from Northern Europe.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

- This enormous business in trading made the Byzantine Empire very rich.



- However most Byzantines were not merchants...instead they were farmers, herders, laborers and artisans.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

- One of the major Byzantine industries was weaving silk, which developed around 550 C.E.



- At that time, Byzantine travelers smuggled silkworm eggs out of China so they could create their own silk.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

- These eggs were brought to Constantinople, where they hatched and fed on mulberry leaves, while producing beautiful silk threads.



- Weavers then used the silk threads to make silk cloth that brought even more wealth to the empire.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

- **Questions:**
- 1) How did the Byzantine Empire make most of its wealth?
- 2) What countries or areas of the world were they trading with?
- 3) What items were The Byzantines trading for?
- 4) What were some of the items the Byzantines were trading themselves?
- 5) How did the Byzantine merchants get Silk Worms?

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRADE

- 1) How did the Byzantine Empire make most of its wealth?
 - Trade
- 2) What countries or areas of the world were they trading with?
 - Russia, Mediterranean lands, Latin Europe, Persia and China
- 3) What items were The Byzantines trading for?
 - Spice, gems, metals and silk
- 4) What were some of the items the Byzantines were trading themselves?
 - Furs, honey and slaves
- 5) How did the Byzantine merchants get Silk Worms?
 - Smuggled silk eggs out of China

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BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Justinian and other Byzantine Emperors supported artist and architects.



- They ordered the building of churches, forts and public buildings throughout the Empire.

BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Constantinople was known for its hundreds of churches and incredible palaces.



- One of Justinian's greatest achievements was building an extremely large church called **Hagia Sophia** or "Holy Wisdom".

BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- It was completed in 537 C.E. and became the religious center of the Byzantine Empire.



- Today Hagia Sophia still stands as an incredible human achievement.

BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE



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BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Inside Hagia Sophia, worshipers could see walls of beautiful marble and mosaics.



- **Mosaics** – are pictures made from many bits of colored glass and stone.

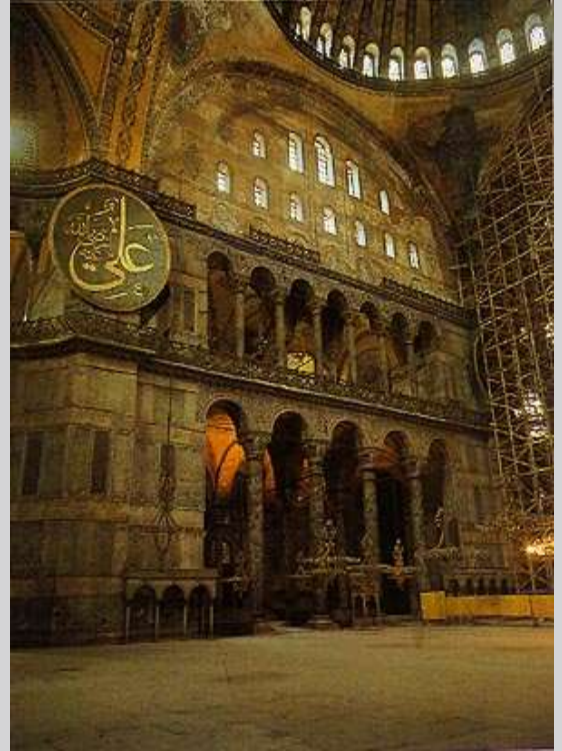
BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Mosaics were an important type of art in the Byzantine Empire.



- Many mosaics showed figures, stories of emperors and saints, which are Christian holy people.

BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE



BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- Again thinking back to our Lecture focus on **Multiculturalism**...



- How do you think all of these cultures coming together in the Byzantine Empire, were able to work together to create such a wealth of culture?

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BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- **Questions:**
- 6) What types of buildings were Byzantine Architects building?
- 7) What holy building was one of Justinian's greatest achievements?
- 8) What does the term Mosaic mean?
- 9) What types of people did many mosaics show?

BYZANTINE ART AND ARCHITECTURE

- **Questions:**
- 6) What types of buildings were Byzantine Architects building?
 - Churches, forts and public buildings
- 7) What holy building was one of Justinian's greatest achievements?
 - Hagia Sophia
- 8) What does the term Mosaic mean?
 - Pictures made from many bits of colored glass and stone
- 9) What types of people did many mosaics show?
 - Emperors and Saints (religious figures)

FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE

- Imagine taking bits of glass and turning them into beautiful master pieces!



- Byzantine artists did just that starting around 330 C.E.

FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE



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FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE

- Roman mosaics were made out of natural colored marble pieces and decorated villas and building throughout Rome.



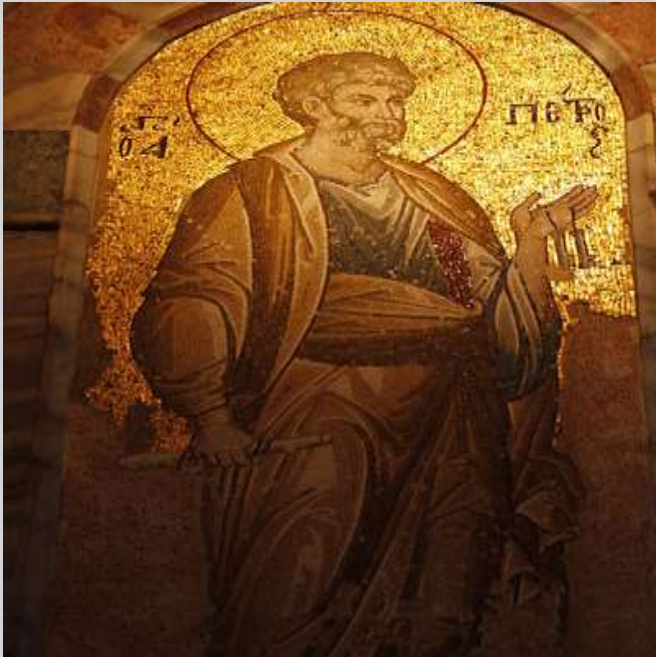
- Byzantine mosaics were very different!

FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE



FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE

- They were made of richly colored, irregular pieces of glass and decorated the ceilings, domes and floors of Byzantine Churches.



- Many were created to honor religious or political leaders.

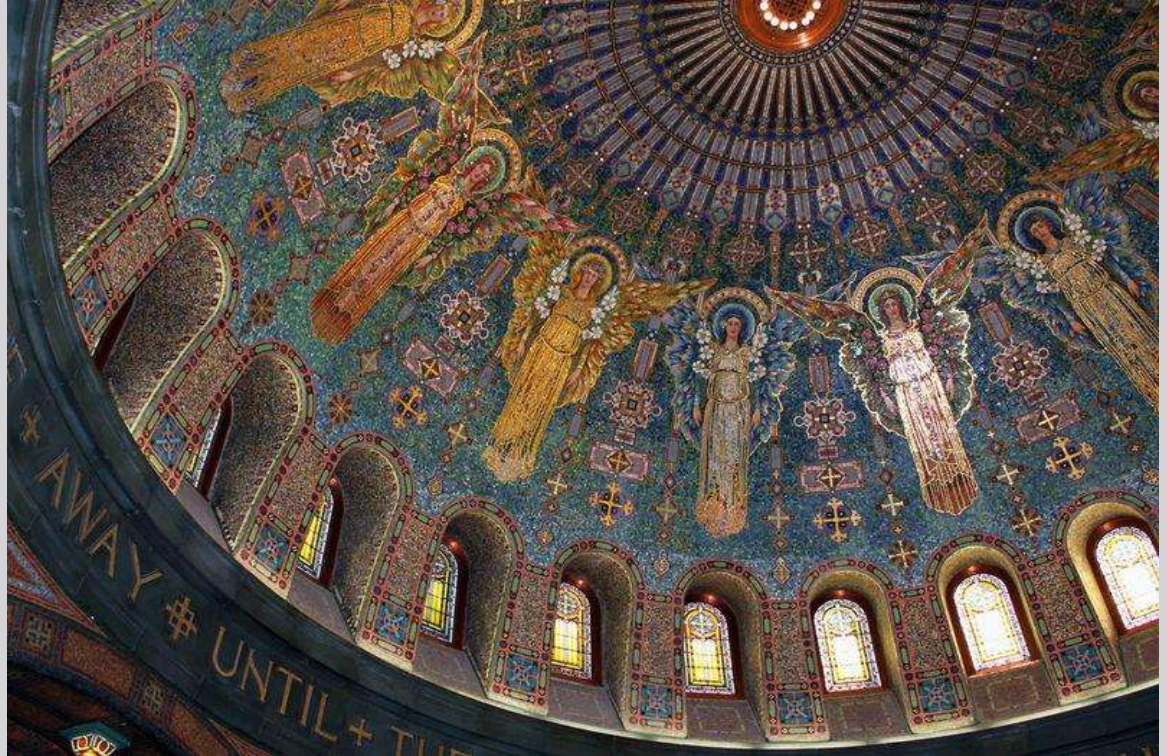
FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE



- The centers of Domes were the highest points of the churches and were always reserved for images of Jesus Christ.

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FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE



FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE

- Mosaics were extremely expensive



- Many times mosaics were ordered and paid for by emperors, state officials or church leaders.

FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE



- Many mosaics can be seen today inside churches, monasteries and museums.

FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE

- **Connecting the Past:**

- Why do you think the name of the person who paid for the Mosaic, rather than the name of the person who made the mosaic was inscribed on the art?

- What types of art do present day artists make with glass?

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HISTORY MYSTERY TIME!!



- History Mystery: Modern Mosaics

FOCUS ON EVERYDAY LIFE



- How do you think we use glass or mosaics today?

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BYZANTINE WOMEN

- The family was the center of social life for most Byzantines.



- Religion and the government stressed the importance of marriage and family life...divorces were rare and difficult to get.

BYZANTINE WOMEN

- Byzantine women were not encouraged to lead independent lives.



- They were expected to stay home and take care of their families.

BYZANTINE WOMEN

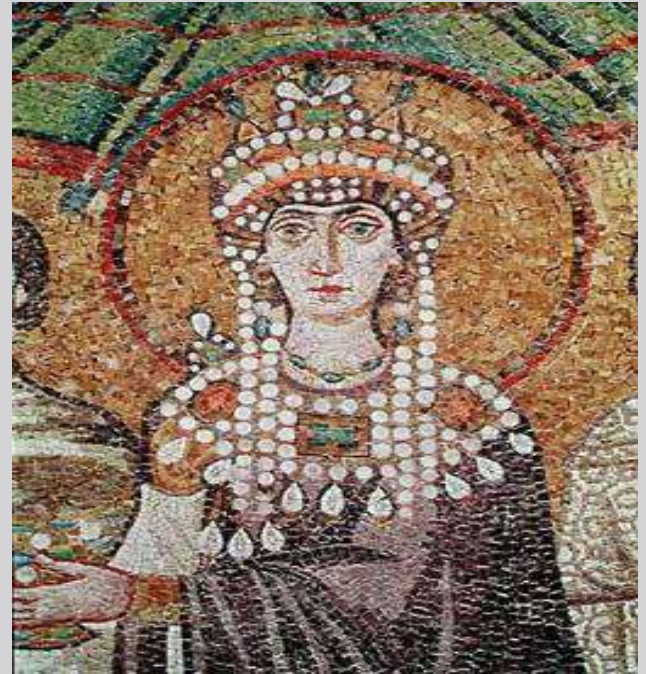
- However, women did gain some important rights, thanks to **Empress Theodora**.



- Like Theodora herself, some Byzantine women became well educated and were involved in politics.

BYZANTINE WOMEN

- Several royal women actually served as Regents.



- Regent – is a person who stands in for a ruler who is too young or too ill to rule.

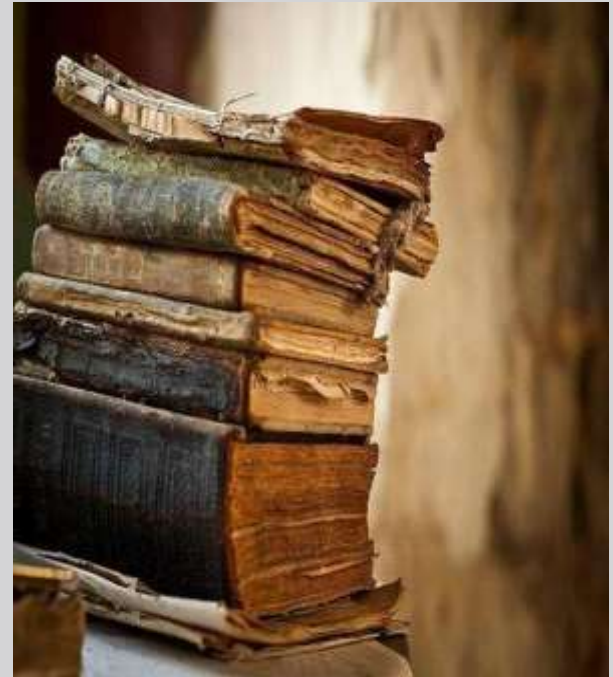
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BYZANTINE EDUCATION

- What do you think Byzantine Education was like??

BYZANTINE EDUCATION

- In Byzantine schools, boys studied religion, medicine, law, arithmetic, grammar and other subjects.



- Wealthy Byzantines some times hired tutors to teach their children.

BYZANTINE EDUCATION



- Girls usually did not attend schools and were taught at home.

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BYZANTINE EDUCATION

- Most Byzantine authors wrote about religion.



- They stressed the need to obey God and all manners of religious ideals.

BYZANTINE EDUCATION

- To strengthen faith, they wrote about the lives of saints.



- Byzantine writers gave an important gift to the world, they copied and passed on the writings of Ancient Greeks and Romans.

BYZANTINE EDUCATION



- Without Byzantine copies, of important works from the ancient worlds would have disappeared forever.

BYZANTINE EDUCATION

- **Questions:**

- 1) What is a mosaic and where were many mosaics found in the Byzantine Empire?
- 2) What did Byzantine Government and Religion stress the importance of?
- 3) What was expected of Byzantine women?
- 4) What Byzantine Empress helped change a woman's roll in society?
- 5) What was the important gift that the Byzantines gave to the world?

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BYZANTINE EDUCATION

- 1) What is a mosaic and where were many mosaics found in the Byzantine Empire?
 - Art made of richly colored, irregular pieces of glass that was found on ceilings and domes
- 2) What did Byzantine Government and Religion stress the importance of?
 - Marriage and family
- 3) What was expected of Byzantine women?
 - Remain home and take care of their families
- 4) What Byzantine Empress helped change a woman's roll in society?
 - Jocasta, woman became educated and got involved with politics
- 5) What was the important gift that the Byzantines gave to the world?
 - They copied writings from Ancient Greece and Roman

BYZANTINE EDUCATION

■ Lets here from you!!!

■ 1) What is a mosaic and where were many mosaics found in the Byzantine Empire?

■ They were made out of glass and stone...and could be found in most Churches

■ 2) How did silk weaving develop in the Byzantine Empire?

■ They traded with China for silk products...then eventually they began to steal silk worms from China

BYZANTINE EDUCATION

- **Persuasive Writing:**

- Answer the following with a 2-3 sentence well thought out personal response.
- Which civilization do you think was more advanced, that of the **Greeks**, the **Romans**, or the **Byzantines**.