



AIM: WHAT CAUSED THE FALL OF ROME

Do Now: What were some of the different characteristics of Pax Romana?

WHY DO EMPIRES FALL?

THINK OF REASONS FROM OTHER CIVILIZATIONS WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT.

- Natural disasters
- Drought/ Food shortage
- War
- Empire was too big
- Civil War
- Harsh Rule
- Bad leaders
- Economic Problems
- New belief system or religion

State if it is a political, economic, or social factor?



1) ECONOMIC TURMOIL

Relied on conquering territories for slave labor and resources – without conquering new land Rome was unable to replenish the slaves they had. Without conquering new land Rome was unable to take resources from conquered places including silver to make coins. Started minting coins that contained less and less silver this led to inflation.

Inflation - a drastic drop in the value of money coupled with a rise in prices.

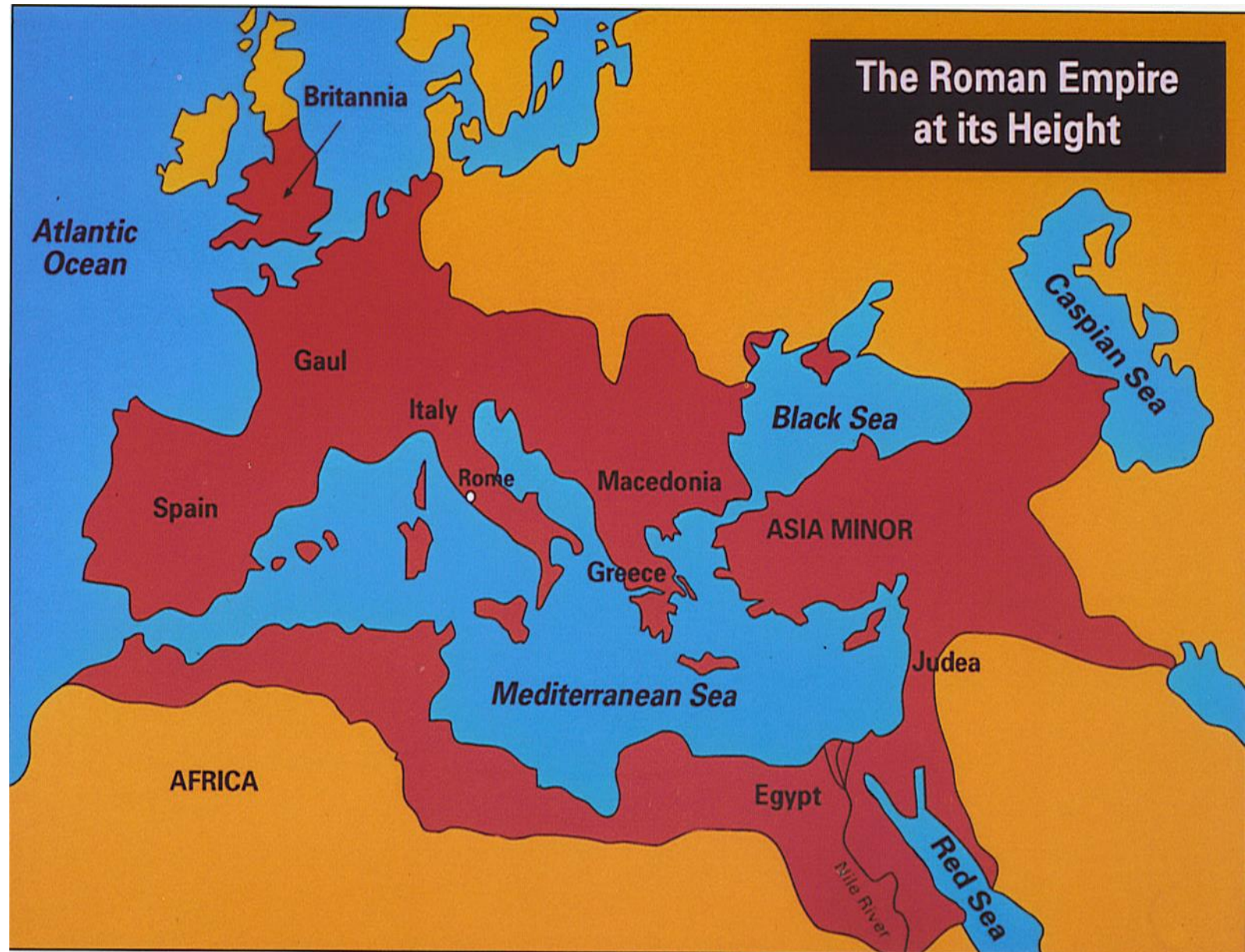
Famine – people were starving, drought lead to lack of crops



2) OVEREXPANSION

Rome had gotten too big for its own good

Even with their excellent road systems, the Romans were unable to communicate quickly or effectively enough to manage their holdings. Rome struggled to marshal enough troops and resources to defend its frontiers from local rebellions and outside attacks



3) MILITARY

Roman soldiers in general had become less disciplined and loyal. They were paid soldiers and with Rome's economic problems, some were not being paid.

Mercenaries - foreign soldiers who fought for money. would accept lower pay than Romans, but they felt little sense of loyalty to the empire

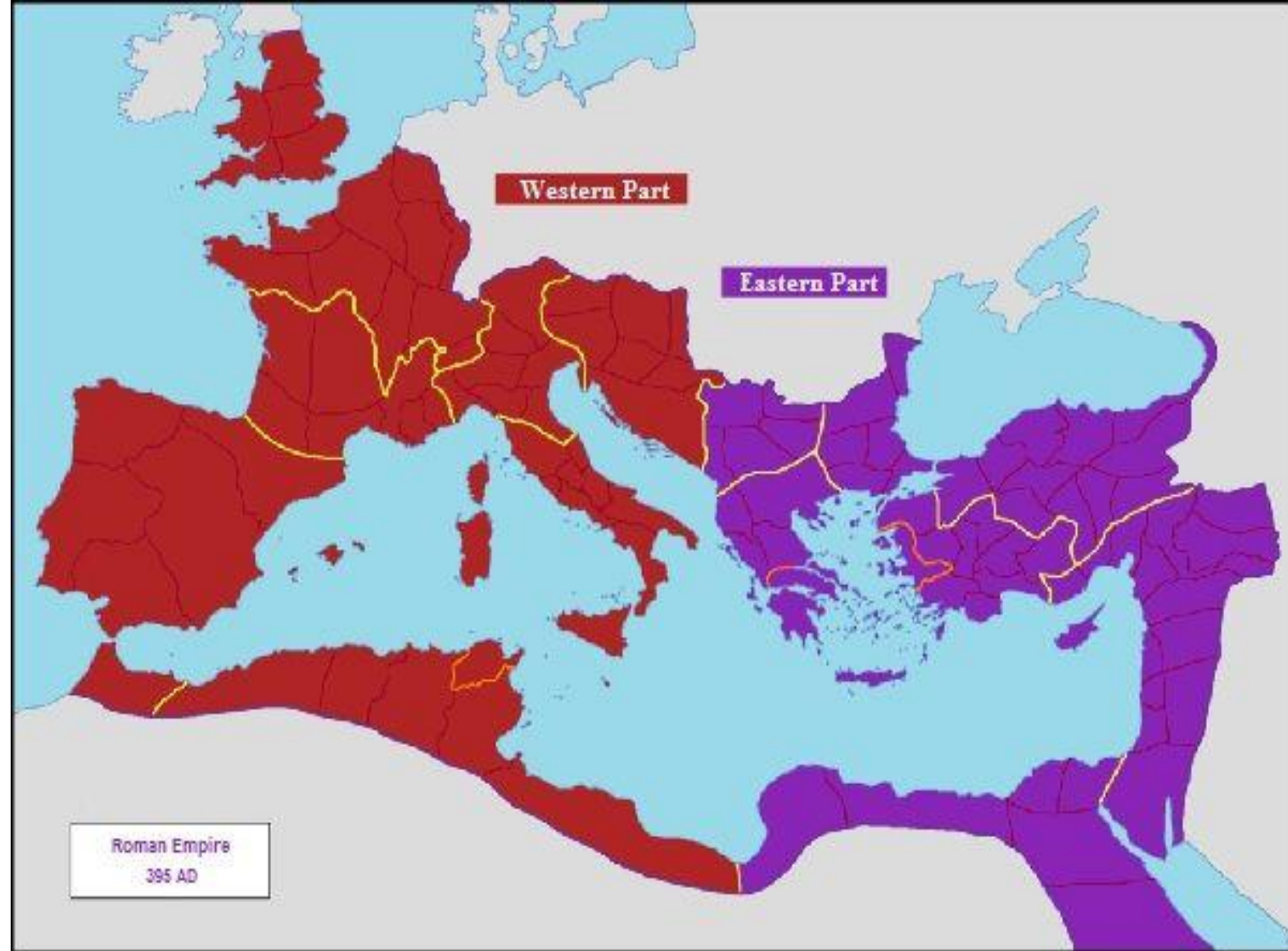
Roman Emperors would be lucky to last more than 1 year in office as their own military would execute them.



4. ROMAN EMPIRE SPLITS INTO EAST AND WEST EMPIRES

Constantinople - or the city of Constantine becomes the capital of the Eastern Empire known as Byzantine

After a while Romans became more united with the side they were from, either East or West, than to the entire empire.



Constantine Moves the Capital

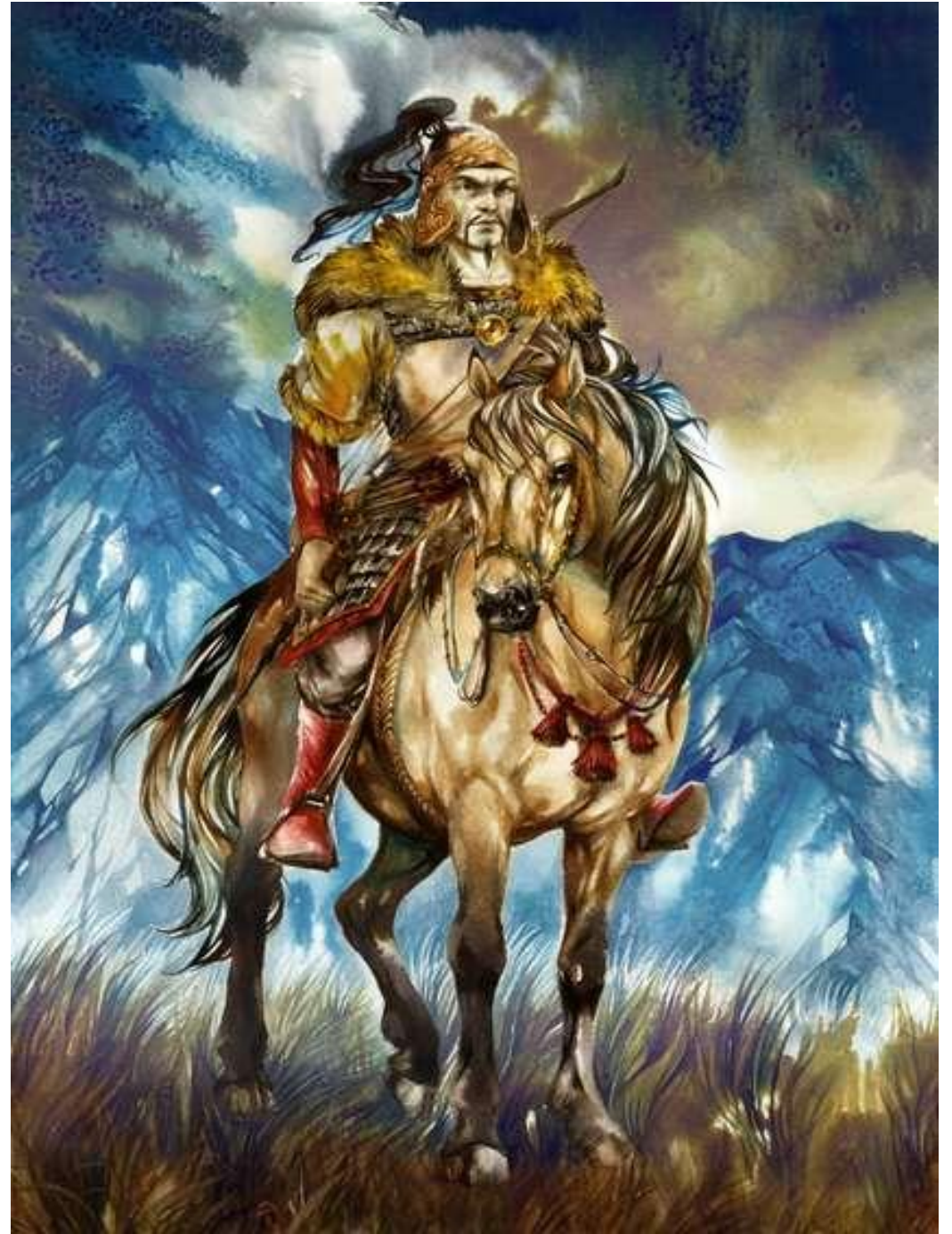
A. In 330, Constantine moved the capital of the Roman Empire to a new city in the eastern part of the empire: **BYZANTIUM**.



C. City was eventually called **CONSTANTINOPLE**

5) THE ARRIVAL OF THE HUNS

The Huns were a nomadic group from the steppes of central Asia who in 444 united for under a powerful chieftain named Attila (AT•uhl•uh). With his 100,000 soldiers, Attila terrorized both halves of the empire. In the East, his armies attacked and plundered 70 cities. The Huns then swept into the West. Although unable to conquer Rome they had significantly weakened it.



6) GERMANIC INVASIONS

In an effort to flee from the Huns, the various Germanic people pushed into Roman lands. (Romans called all invaders “barbarians,” a term that they used to refer to non-Romans.) Different groups would conquer different areas of Western Europe. It helped develop the different areas of today.



Rome Falls – 476 CE

- A. By the 450s, the Roman Empire was falling apart: Spain and North Africa had been conquered, France was being overrun, and Britain was being invaded.
- B. The last Roman emperor (only 16), lost his throne to a barbarian general named **Odoacer** (Oh-doe-a-cer), who exiled the emperor. Roman power simply disappeared.
- C. But the Eastern part of the empire would live on for another 1,000 years.
- D. Rome's cultural influence would live on, and Rome would be headquarters of the church.

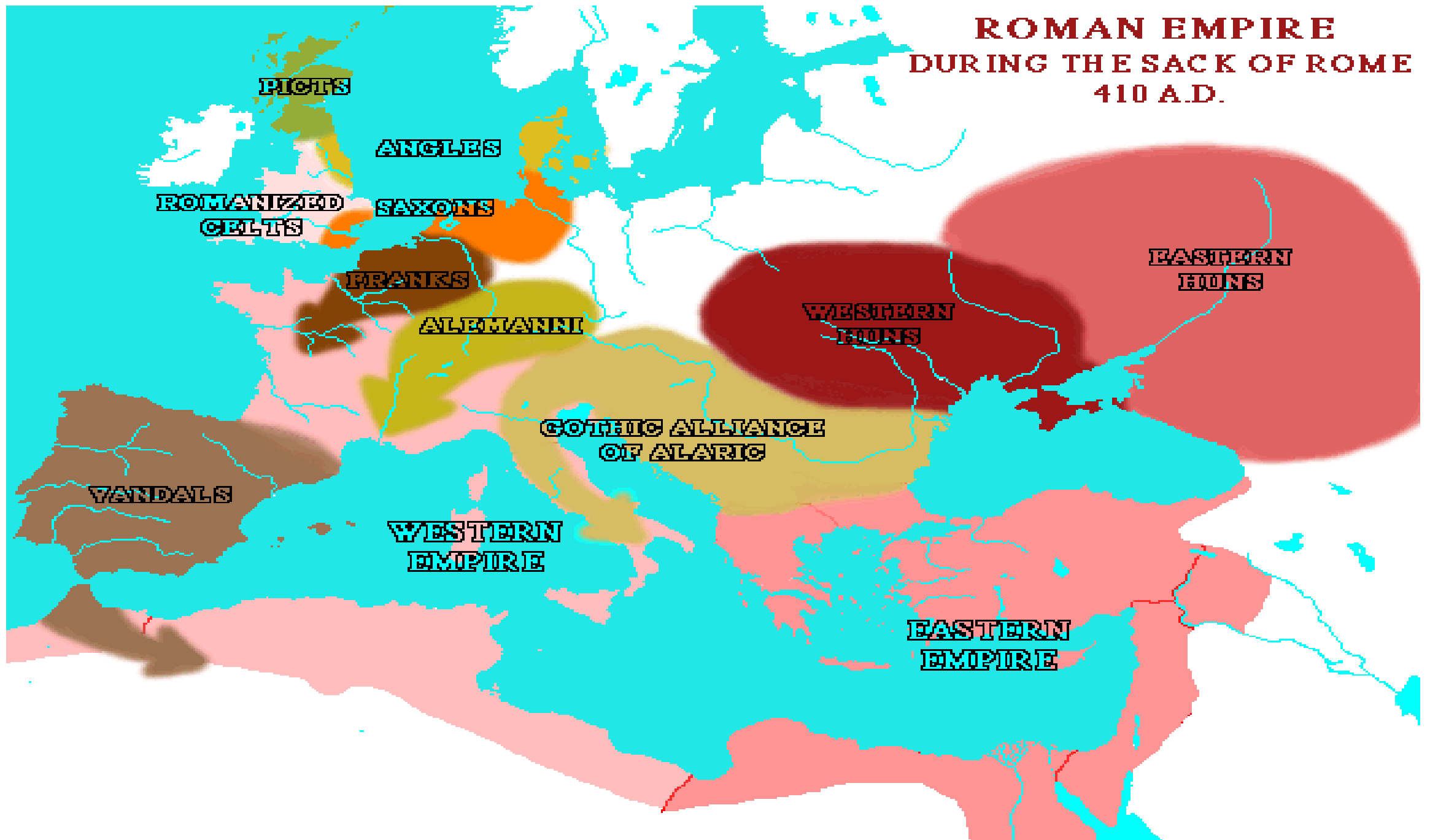
VIDEO — FALL OF ROME



Questions:

- 1) Where had the vandals acquired their education?
- 2) Why did the vandal chief, Gaiseric, want the empress, Eudoxia?
- 3) What happened to Rome after it collapsed?

ROMAN EMPIRE DURING THE SACK OF ROME 410 A.D.



Western Europe and the Byzantine Empire, About 500 C.E.



Activity #1

1. Article: “Ten Theories on the Fall of Rome”.
2. Read the article. **Highlight and annotate** as you read the ten theories.

Multiple Causes: Fall of the Western Roman Empire

Contributing Factors

Political

- Political office seen as burden, not reward
- Military interference in politics
- Civil war and unrest
- Division of empire
- Moving of capital to Byzantium

Social

- Decline in interest in public affairs
- Low confidence in empire
- Disloyalty, lack of patriotism, corruption
- Contrast between rich and poor
- Decline in population due to disease and food shortage

Economic

- Poor harvests
- Disruption of trade
- No more war plunder
- Gold and silver drain
- Inflation
- Crushing tax burden
- Widening gap between rich and poor and increasingly impoverished Western Empire

Military

- Threat from northern European tribes
- Low funds for defense
- Problems recruiting Roman citizens; recruiting of non-Romans
- Decline of patriotism and loyalty among soldiers

Immediate Cause

Invasion by Germanic tribes and by Huns

FALL OF ROMAN EMPIRE

COMPLETE DOCUMENTS

Exit ticket

Identify one political, economic, or social factor that led to the fall of Roman Empire?

Describe how one factor affected Roman society

Explain how the factor contributed to the empire's decline