

The Byzantine Empire
(The Eastern Roman Empire or “New Rome”)

Byzantine Empire

- Barbarian tribes overran Italy as western Roman Empire was weakened from interior problems
- Emperor Constantine moves Rome to Byzantium (re-named Constantinople)
- Excellent location for trade between Asia and Europe

Politics in Constantinople

- Emperor had absolute power
- Emperor is head of both church and state
- Emperor Justinian tried to rebuild Roman glory
 - Code of Laws—created by scholars to summarize Roman laws
 - Hagia Sophia—rebuilt beautiful church
 - Women’s rights supported by Justinian’s wife, Empress Theodora

Religion in Constantinople

- Very important
- Church connected to government
 - The Church Splits in 1054
 - Difference develop between Eastern and Western Church
 - West = Rome = Pope = icons = Roman Catholic Church
 - East = Constantinople = Patriarch = no icons = Eastern Orthodox Church

Key Terms and People:

Eastern Roman Empire – the empire based on the Roman culture that was based in Constantinople

Western Roman Empire – the empire based in Rome

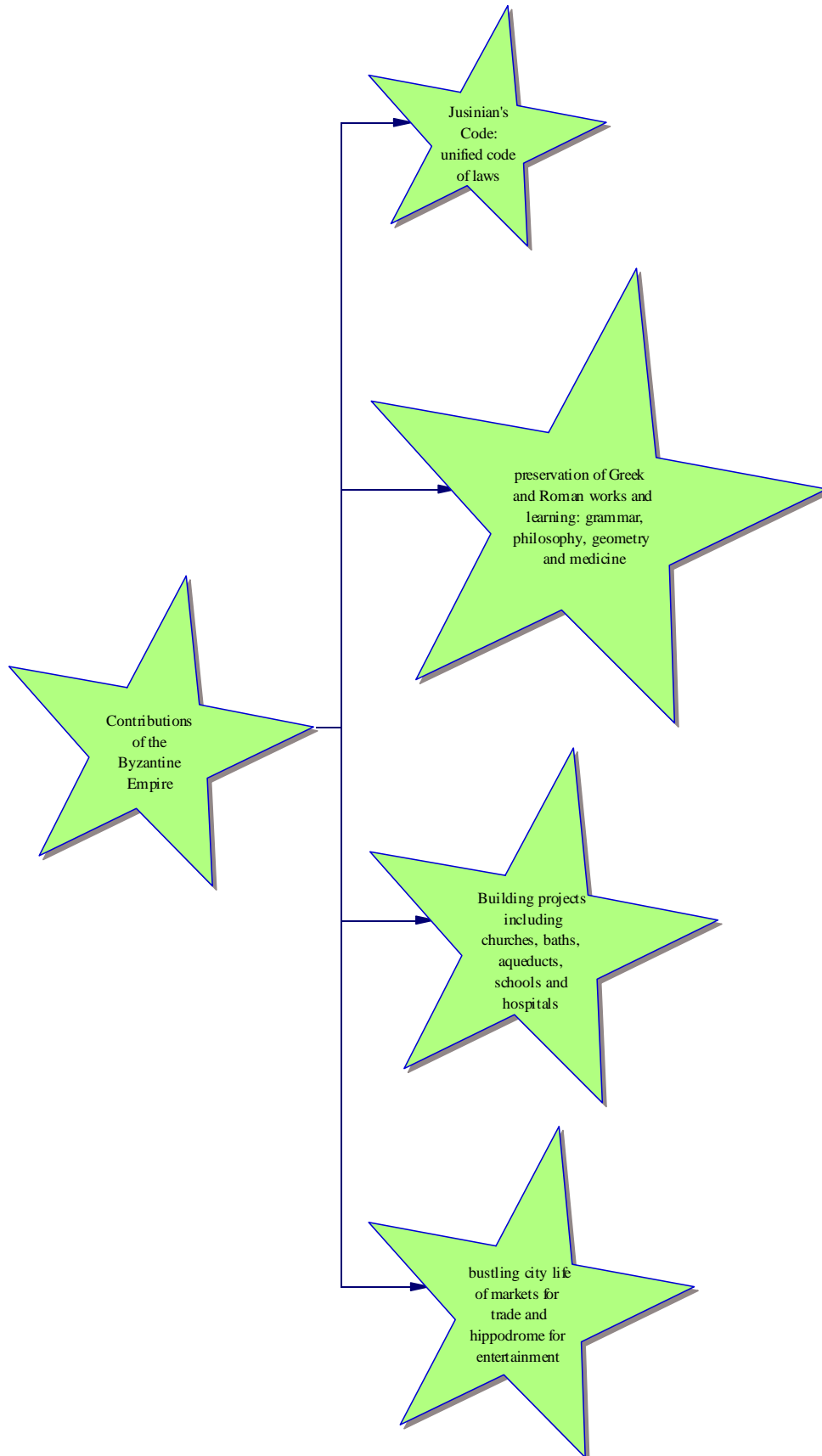
Justinian – emperor of the Eastern Roman Empire who developed Justinian’s Code of Laws

Theodora- Justinian’s wife who played an important role in his government and worked to improve women’s rights.

Icon – a small piece of religious art

Iconoclast – a person who opposes the use of or belief in icons

Hagia Sophia – spectacular church in Constantinople that combines architectural elements of both the east and the west



Islamic Religion and Contributions of Islamic Empire

Religion	When / Where it began	Who started it	Major Texts	Basic Principles	Gods?
<p>Islam – means surrender to God</p> <p>People are called Muslims</p>	<p>Around 613 A.D.</p> <p>The city of Mecca in Arabia.</p>	<p>Muhammad, the “last” of the prophets.</p> <p>Muhammad had knowledge of both the Hebrew and Christian religions but believed he was the chosen messenger of God’s word. He went to meditate on the mountain Hira, outside the city. There the angel Gabriel spoke to him. He traveled preaching the message of monotheism. Fleeing persecution, he traveled to the city of Medina in a journey known as the Hegira.</p>	<p>The Quran (also spelled Koran)</p>	<p>Muslims must complete five formal acts of worship called The Five Pillars</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Faith 2. Prayer 3. Alms 4. Fasting 5. Pilgrimage 	<p>Monotheistic: same God as worshipped by Jews and Christians but called Allah</p> <p>Muhammad is his prophet.</p>

Split of Islam:

1. Shi’ites: minority group, believe that all Muslim rulers should be descended from Muhammad
2. Sunni: majority group, follow Mohammad’s example or sunna

Spread of Islam:

- through jihad, trade and empire expansion

Contributions of Islam:

- Translated Greek books into Arabic
- First chemical laboratories
- Treatment of disease (diagnosed smallpox and wrote an encyclopedia of medicine)
- Created algebra
- Arabic numerals
- Wrote the *Arabian Nights*