***Good or Bad?***

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| **Vespasian**(reigned 69-79 AD)http://www.mcah.columbia.edu/roman/images/syllabus/large/kampen_l13_76l.jpg**GOOD****GOOD**In his reign, Vespasian is best known for successfully restoring order to Rome after the chaotic reign of Nero and the civil war following Nero’s death (in which 4 emperors died). He put down a revolt in Judea, was able to stabilize Rome’s finances, and began rebuilding the city of Rome, including construction of the Coliseum. | **Trajan**(reigned 98-117 AD)https://encrypted-tbn3.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRrxPWMN18Q89La8jDGHoO3xE6E99Ez2eUCzaG3C7v9pCmyRmgDTrajan spent most of his life as a soldier on military campaigns and expanded the empire to its greatest size during his reign. He oversaw large building programs and spent lots of money to help the po or and decrease poverty in Rome. He was second in the succession of the Five Good Emperors and his legacy survives today as one of peace and prosperity. |
| **Antonius Pius**(reigned 138-161 AD)**GOOD**http://www.laits.utexas.edu/moore/sites/laits.utexas.edu.moore/files/images/0209280525_1024_0.preview.jpg **GOOD**Antonius was the fourth of the Five Good Emperors. He spared many of the senators condemned by his father, Hadrian, while funding large building projects and promoting learning and the arts throughout Rome. He is known for giving rights to the accused in the Roman legal system, and is notable for never going on a military campaign his entire time in office. | **Marcus Aurelius**(161-180 AD)http://www.calgodot.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Marcus-Aurelius.jpgMarcus Aurelius co-ruled with his brother Verus after the death of Antonius Pius. He successfully preserved the empire against attacks, spending much of his reign fighting in Syria and Germany. Unfortunately his troops returned with diseases that would ultimately kill nearly 5 million people. He was known as a philosopher and the last of the Five Good Emperors. |

***Good or Bad?***

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| **Caligula**(reigned 37-41 AD)http://farm9.staticflickr.com/8020/7587554678_0447d1a87b_z.jpg**BAD****BAD**Nicknamed “Little Boots” because he had traveled with the Legions while he was young, Calig ula was initially very popular after taking power but this soon changed. He insisted he be worshiped as a god, turned the palace into a brothel, committed incest, killed those who criticized him, and planned on making his horse a consul (he made him a priest instead and requiring Senators to have lunch with him). He was assassinated by his own guards.  | **Nero**(reigned 54-68 AD)http://www.biography.com/imported/images/Biography/Images/Profiles/N/Nero-9421713-2-402.jpgKnown as one of the worst Roman emperors in history, Nero believed he was a great artist (but really was not). He heavily taxed Rome to pay for his lavish lifestyle, killed his mother and wife, and executed numerous officials who he didn’t like. During the Great Fire of Rome in 64 it is rumored that Nero watched and composed songs, then afterward blamed Christians for causing it—he had thousands persecuted and killed. He committed suicide when the discontented Senate voted Nero an enemy of Rome. |
| **Commodus**(reigned 180-192 AD)http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3625/3357331914_42979550e2.jpg**BAD****BAD**Commodus took power at 18 and believed he was the reincarnation of Hercules and later Romulus. He bankrupted Rome by spending money lavishly and particularly loved gladiatorial games. He enjoyed participating as a gladiator, often killing hundreds of animals in a day in the Coliseum and personally killing hundreds of innocent people he had chained in the arena. He renamed Rome after himself and was assassinated in the bath by his wrestling partner. |  **Elagabalus**(reigned 218-222 AD)http://conferences.telecom-bretagne.eu/ictta/ICTTA04/pix/Heliogabalus.pngSince becoming emperor at age 14, Elagabalus created controversy and chaos in Rome. He made Romans worship a sun god of his choosing, tried to appoint his charioteer lover co-emperor, devalued Rome’s currency, and is said to have prostituted himself out in taverns around Rome. He also executed those he disliked. His eccentric behavior and religious offense caused his guards to assassinate him. His family and followers were then executed and Rome undid all his changes, including physically erasing Elagabalus’ name from their records and monuments. |

***Good or Bad?***

**Your Task:**
*Read the short profiles of four “good” and four “bad” emperors. Using the Internet, find one more example of a “good” and a “bad” emperor of Ancient Rome.*

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| **“Good” Emperor****Name:****Years of Reign:****Reason #1 why he was good:****Reason #2 why he was good:** |

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| **“Bad” Emperor****Name:****Years of Reign:****Reason #1 why he was bad:****Reason #2 why he was bad:** |

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| **Narrative Prompt** |

Construct a paragraph to answer the following prompt:

***Who was the best/worst (choose 1) emperor in Rome’s history?***

Outline your evidence below to help you write your paragraph.

1. Name of best/worst (circle one):
2. Reason #1
3. Reason #2
4. Reason #3

**In Rome’s Basement**
This selection is adapted from an article in *National Geographic Magazine* titled “In Rome’s Basement,” by Paul Bennett (©2006 by National Geographic Society).

1 Luca pushes his head into the sewer, inhales, and grins. "It doesn't smell so bad in the cloaca today," he says, dropping himself feetfirst into a dark hole in the middle of the Forum of Nerva. Despite his optimism, the blackness emits sickening aroma: a **mélange** of urine, diesel, mud, and rotting rat carcasses. In short, it smells just as you'd expect a 2,500-year-old continuously used sewer to smell. Below in the dark, tuff-vaulted cavern itself, things aren't much better. As Luca wades through water the color of army fatigues, stepping over garments of temples and discarded travertine washed down over the ages, a diorama of modern life floats past: cigarette butts, plastic bags, plastic lighters, a baby pacifier, and a disturbingly large about of stringy, gray stuff that looks like toilet paper, although raw sewage isn't supposed to be flowing through here. At one turn, Luca points out a broken amphora, perhaps 2,000 years old, lying in the mud next to a broken Peroni beer bottle, perhaps a week old. Together they provide a striking testament to how long people have been throwing their garbage into the gutter of this city.

2 Luca Antognoli, 49, works for the city to explore Rome's **subterranean** spaces—an amazing array of temples, roads, houses, and aqueducts buried by history since the fall of the Roman Empire. According to tradition, the Cloaca Maxima ("great drain"), which runs beneath the Roman Forum, was built in the sixth century BC, making it one of the city's oldest—if not the oldest—surviving structures. So it is surprising to learn, as Luca winds his way through the sludge-filled passage under Via Cavour, that the cloaca has never been fully explored and mapped.

3 In real life Luca Antognoli is a surgeon, and he has warned us to be careful not to expose our skin to the water, a potent mix of street runoff and raw sewage. He has taken the danger seriously, covering every inch of his body with gloves, boots, hooded wind suit, and mask—all sealed with duct tape. He motions sharply at a **conduit** disgorging a surge of ocher liquid into the cavern that aerosolizes into a mist, sending members of the group into a frenzy fitting masks over their faces.

4 He points out other conduits, some dumping clean water into the sewer from underground springs, some releasing dirty water. At one point, we pass through a sloping section down which brown sludge purls. Beyond this dangerous obstacle lies a deep hole where, sometime during the past 2,000 years, the floor has washed out, forcing everyone to inch along an unseen precipice in chest-high, scum-covered water. A joker in the group observes that it looks like the cocoa-like foam on Italian espresso.

5 At a pile of rubble—bones, pottery shards, and caked mud that nearly fill the entire space of the cloaca—the adventure comes to a halt. The sewer's barrel vault clearly reaches into the darkness beyond—one wonders how far.

6 A remote-controlled robot will someday probe beyond the barrier; Luca expects to confirm that the great drain reaches the Baths of Diocletian, nearly a mile (1.6 kilometers) northeast. Who knows what treasures lie along the way, he says, noting that archaeologists had recently pulled a colossal head of Emperor Constantine from a sewer just like this. Spaces like the Cloaca Maxima offer clues about how this city grew to rule an empire from the edge of Scotland to Baghdad, leaving its imprint indelibly on Western history.

7 A rivulet coming from the darkness flows down the rubble. Someone asks if it's dirty or clean. "It's very dirty," Luca says, eyeing the opening beyond, "but very important."

8 The cloaca, originally an open drain, was intentionally buried during the time of the Roman Republic, but most of what underlies Rome is there accidentally, buried by two millennia of sedimentation and urban growth.

9 "Rome has been rising for 3,000 years," says Darius Arya, an archaeologist and director of the American Institute for Roman Culture. Much of Rome is situated in a floodplain, including the modern city center, at a bend of the Tiber River. Although the Romans put up **levees**, the city still flooded periodically, so they built upward, laying new structures and streets on earlier ones. "It was cost-effective, and it worked," Arya says. "We see the Romans jacking their city up two meters [6.5 feet] at a time, raising themselves above the water but also burying their past."

10 Today the city sits on layers of history 45 feet (14 meters) deep in places. But ironically, while you can dig a hole anywhere within the 12-mile (19-kilometer) ring of walls that once enclosed the ancient city and find something of interest, comparatively little of this buried city has been excavated. "I don't imagine more than 10 percent has been documented," Robert Coates-Stevens says. During the 1800s, the Roman Forum was dug out—work that continues—but most ancient structures are still trapped under the traffic-clogged streets and office buildings of the contemporary city.

11 In the 1920s and '30s Benito Mussolini **razed** sections of Rome's historic center, where medieval and Renaissance houses stood, to reveal the ancient layers below—specifically anything dating back to the time of Emperor Augustus. (Mussolini liked to compare himself to Augustus and equated fascism with Pax Romana, the time of peace ushered in by Augustus). Archaeologists now favor exploring ancient spaces from below, leaving the surface undisturbed.

12 Until three years ago only a quarter of the conduits—the driest and most easily accessible—below the Colosseum had been explored. These simple drains, designed to whisk away storm water, date from the late first century, when the Flavian emperors were building the Colosseum. Some ancient writers claimed the building was deliberately flooded for mock naval battles. But there was no evidence of the large waterworks needed to bring in the water.

13 Then, in October 2003, a startling discovery was made. Below the simple drains (and predating the Colosseum) were large conduits constructed by Emperor Nero to charge an artificial lake in his gardens. The conduits had obviously been reused by the architects of the Colosseum, most likely to pipe quantities of water in and out. For the first few years of its history, at least, the Colosseum, like many other theaters, was capable of being flooded.

14 In the course of going about business in Rome, someone somewhere bumps up against an artifact that hasn't seen the light of day for hundreds—or thousands—of years.

15 "Rome is the biggest open-air museum in the world," says Darius Arya of the American Institute for Roman Culture." There's so much to explore. I find it funny that people talk about diving to the bottom of the sea or climbing faraway peaks. Here's Rome, where we still don't know what's underneath."

 **Key Words**
**Mélange:** (*noun*) a mixture
**Subterranean**: (*adjective*) existing below the surface, underground
**Conduit**: (*noun*) a pipe, tube, or channel
**Levee**: (*noun*) an embankment built to prevent flooding
**Razed:** (*verb*) tore down

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
	1. Luca Antognoli is famous for exploring the sewers of Rome.
	2. Waste water runoff in Rome is destroying treasures underground.
	3. The sewer is the most important part of the city of Rome.
	4. Roman sewers today reveal much about the life and times of Ancient Romans.
2. According to the passage, what caused the Romans to build their city upward?
	1. Periodic flooding of the Tiber River
	2. Too much waste runoff in the sewer
	3. They ran out of room to expand
	4. Augustus demanded the Colosseum be constructed
3. The passage indicates that:
	1. Surgeons advise against exploring the sewers
	2. The Colosseum flooding was a myth
	3. Mussolini destroyed many parts of Ancient Rome
	4. There are still many discoveries to be made under Rome
4. Which of the following events was the first to occur, according to the passage?
	1. Mussolini destroyed medieval and Renaissance buildings.
	2. Drains were discovered in the Colosseum
	3. The Roman Forum was dug out to reveal the structures underneath.
	4. A large statue head of Constantine was discovered in a sewer similar to the Cloaca Maxima
5. As used in paragraph 7, *rivulet* most likely means:
	1. An obnoxious noise
	2. An ancient construction technique
	3. A small stream
	4. A tour guide
6. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that:
	1. Rome will continue to reveal treasures and clues to its past
	2. We have learned all there is to know about Ancient Roman culture.
	3. The author does not approve of exploring the sewers any further
	4. Rome will stop all further construction projects after exploring the sewer

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| **Nero Adapted from text by Vickie Chao** |    |  |

1     Looking back in history, every country has had its fair share of bad rulers. In the case of ancient Rome, one emperor by the name of Nero really stood out from the pack. His notorious behavior not only made his subjects miserable, but also nearly brought the great kingdom to its knees!

2     Nero was born Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus in Antium (today's Anzio), Italy, on December 15, 37 A.D. Both of his parents came from very prominent families. On his father's side, he was the great great-grandson of Mark Antony. On his mother's side, he was the nephew of Emperor Caligula (also known as Emperor Gaius) as well as the great great-grandson of Augustus.

3     When Lucius was about two years old, his mother, Agrippina, was at the center of a scandal. According to the rumor, after her younger sister, Drusilla, died, Agrippina and her youngest sister (Livilla) had an affair with Drusilla's husband (Lepidus.) The three conspired a plot to overthrow Caligula. Unfortunately, word got out beforehand, and the plan folded. Furious by the betrayal, Caligula promptly had Lepidus executed and sent his sisters to exile. Just when it seemed things could not get worse for Lucius, his father who suddenly fell ill and died. At the age of three, Lucius had no parent to care for him. He had to live with his uncle, Caligula, whose behavior was growing more erratic and deranged day by day.

4     On January 24, 41 A.D., a group of officers murdered Caligula. They hailed Claudius, Caligula's uncle, as the new emperor. Upon ascending the throne, Claudius recalled his nieces from exile. After her return to Rome, Agrippina married a wealthy nobleman. Several years later, she allegedly poisoned him and became a rich woman overnight.

5     Now with her newfound fortune in hand, Agrippina decided to up her influence even further. She wanted to marry again. This time, she wanted to marry a man who could make her an empress and her son a future king. Among all the possible suitors, Emperor Claudius was, without a doubt, in the best position to fulfill her dream. Using her charm, she quickly won the heart of Claudius who married her on January 1, 49 A.D. Agrippina became Claudius' fourth wife. She was 34 years old at the time, he 59. The following year, Claudius officially adopted Lucius who now took the name Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus. This unexpected turn of events made Nero a prince. His only rivalry to the crown would be his stepbrother, Britannicus.

6     Claudius, by all accounts, treated Nero very well. From early on, he took the young boy under his wing and gave him ample opportunities to show his talents. He involved him in managing the state affairs. He appointed him to senior government posts. And he even let him marry Octavia, Claudius' own daughter from a prior marriage. From the surface, it appeared that Nero would definitely be made the heir apparent to the throne. Besides the obvious affection showered upon him by Claudius, Nero had another advantage over Claudius' own son, Britannicus -- age. As the oldest of the two, Nero was the most likely candidate for kingship. But when the ailing emperor began contemplating a successor, he favored Britannicus. Of course, as ambitious as Agrippina was, she would never allow this to happen. Therefore, she resorted to using her old trick, poison. On October 13, 54 A.D., she prepared a dish of mushrooms laden with toxin. The lethal meal killed Claudius. On the same day, Nero became the fifth and the last king of the Julio-Claudian dynasty (27 B.C. - 68 A.D.).

7     Agrippina clearly had hoped to rule the Roman Empire through Nero. But she quickly saw her dream crushed. Nero, as it turned out, listened more attentively to his advisors, Seneca and Burrus, than to her. When he began to distance himself from her, she decided to befriend Britannicus and support him instead. That approach turned out to be fruitless, too. Nero considered Britannicus a big threat. To ensure that his absolute power remained intact, he poisoned his stepbrother at dinner. The venom was so powerful that it killed him instantly for all the guests to see! Nero then exiled his mother from Rome.

8     Though horrifying, this crime marked just the beginning of Nero's atrocities for the years to come.

9     Nero had little interest in politics. As far as the state affairs were concerned, he trusted the judgment of Seneca and Burrus. The two advisors were competent, wise men. Together, they helped Nero manage the vast kingdom effectively. The first five years of Nero's reign became an example of fine administration. Sadly, there was only so much Seneca and Burrus could do. In 58 A.D., Nero met a beautiful woman named Poppaea Sabina. He fell deeply in love with her, even though he was married to Octavia. The following year he decided to have his mother murdered. He is said to have tried three times to poison her, then designed a self-sinking boat for her to ride in. Agrippina survived the sinking, so Nero eventually sent assassins to finally kill her.

10     With Poppaea by his side, Nero spent his time in acting, joining public games, and racing chariots. All those new hobbies were costly and, most importantly, deemed undignified for people of high social status. Seneca and Burrus' gentle words fell on deaf ears. As Nero plunged the nation's wealth into advancing his own personal pleasure, the public eyed him disapprovingly.

11     In 62 A.D., Burrus was dead, and Seneca wanted to retire. Nero was now finally surrounded by people who would never voice any objection. Coincidentally, during the same year, Poppaea was pregnant. The news elated Nero. To please his favorite mistress, he vowed to divorce Octavia. He first tried to accuse his wife of adultery. When that did not work out, he accused her of infertility instead. On that ground, he succeeded. Shortly after the annulment, Nero ordered Octavia’s murder.

12     In July of 64 A.D., the "Great Fire of Rome" broke out. The blaze lasted several days. When it was finally put out, much of Rome was destroyed. Right away, rumors began to spread that Nero was the one who set the fire because he wanted to build a new city. They further suggested that he celebrated the destruction by singing and playing a lyre. To his defense, Nero was reportedly on vacation in his birthplace, Antium, at the time. Thus, he could not be the one who actually burned down Rome -- at least not in the sense of committing the crime himself anyway. Determined to clear his name, Nero pointed the finger at Christians, then a minor and unpopular religious sect. By accusing them of starting the fire, he was free to torture and crucify many believers, including quite possibly apostles Saint John and Saint Peter.

13     Though we may never find out the real culprit responsible for the disaster, we know for sure that Nero did have every intention to rebuild the city. On top of his urban plan was the construction of a grand palace, *Domus Aurea* (the Golden House.) This magnificent structure was adorned with all the luxuries. It had hundreds of rooms, a huge park, fancy baths, beautiful fountains, and lovely pavilions. The Golden House's sheer size and extravagance was once again a vivid reminder of what little regard Nero had for the citizens of Rome, many of whom became homeless after the fire. As the discontent continued to grow, people began to contemplate a plot to overthrow Nero. The conspiracy came to light in 65 A.D. To his dismay, Nero found his former advisor, Seneca, among the accomplices. He forced them to commit suicide. Shortly after the scheme flopped, Poppaea died (allegedly in the hands of Nero) and Nero left for a tour around Greece. He was gone for nearly two years.

14     Upon his return to Rome in 68 A.D., Nero found himself in dire circumstances. Over the years, he had made so many enemies. Now, all those people were ready to pounce on him. Even the Praetorian Guard, whose sole responsibility was to protect the emperor, began to show signs of contempt and disloyalty. In the end, the senate declared Nero a public enemy. This order was the nail in his coffin. On June 9, 68 A.D., Nero killed himself. It is said that before he took his own life, he exclaimed, "What an artist the world is losing by my death!" However highly he regarded himself, the public did not share this view. After he was deposed, the Golden House became a sore sight. It was a painful reminder to the Romans of those dark, miserable days. When Emperor Vespasian founded the Flavian dynasty in 68 A.D., he announced that he would convert part of the land where the Golden House stood and use it to build a public arena. This "superdome" could seat 50,000 spectators. The work took several years to complete, stretching across the reign of three emperors (Vespasian and his sons, Titus and Domitian). When it was finally done, the Romans called the facility the Flavian Amphitheater. That official name, however, was eventually forgotten. Today, the structure still stands proudly in the center of Rome. Everybody calls it the Colosseum!

**Nero**

1. Which of the following about Nero is correct?
	1. He was the natural son of Claudius.
	2. His passion for acting and racing chariots was considered inappropriate for people of distinctive backgrounds.
	3. He was the fourth and last emperor of the Julio-Claudian dynasty.
	4. He was caught red-handed burning down Rome.
2. Which of the following events took place first?
	1. Nero divorced Octavia.
	2. Nero became the emperor.
	3. Nero built the Golden House.
	4. Nero murdered his stepbrother.
3. For how many years did Nero rule the Roman Empire?
	1. 20 years
	2. 59 years
	3. 14 years
	4. 38 years
4. Why did Caligula send Nero's mother, Agrippina, to exile?
	1. Because she conspired to overthrow him
	2. Because she refused to pay taxes
	3. Because she killed her second husband
	4. Because she burned down Rome



**Constantine & Christianity**

1     Since the beginning of time, the ancient Romans worshipped hundreds of gods and goddesses. Many of those deities came from foreign lands that the Romans had conquered. As different faiths sprang up across the ever-expanding empire, they were more or less tolerated. Such open attitude, however, was not the case for Judaism and Christianity. Both religions pointedly refused to honor Roman gods and to **idolize** Roman emperors. As a result, the Jews and Christians endured centuries of hardship. One good example would be Emperor Nero. In 64 A.D., a big fire engulfed Rome and destroyed much of the city. Emperor Nero pinned the blame on the Christians. Through relentless persecution, he also allegedly killed two Christian apostles -- Saint John and Saint Peter.

2     At the start of the 4th century, Constantine the Great (or Constantine I) ascended the throne. He held a different view toward Christianity and gave the religion a big break. In 306 A.D., Constantine the Great was engaged in a series of civil wars after the death of his father, Emperor Constantius. At last, he managed to crush all his opponents to become the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire.

3 It was often said that the night before his deciding battle, the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, he had a dream. In it, he received the instruction of painting the first two Greek letters of the word "Christ" -- Chi (X) and Rho (P) -- on all his soldiers' shields. When he woke up, he did just that and went on to win the war. Since then, he had become a committed Christian and continued to have his armies bearing this unique symbol of Christ, known as labarum.

4  In 313 A.D., he and Licinius (his brother-in-law and co-emperor in the east) issued the famous ***Edict*** *of Milan*. They declared that both the Eastern and Western Roman Empires would keep a neutral position on all faiths. Constantine the Great even commissioned the construction of several grand cathedrals. For the first time in ancient Rome, Christians could openly practice their religion without fear.

5     Though both Constantine and Licinius pledged to tolerate all faiths in their respective kingdom, Licinius later strayed from his commitment and began the practice of persecuting the Christians once again. Furious, Constantine the Great waged wars against Licinius. After several years of fighting, Constantine the Great finally defeated Licinius. In 324 A.D., he united both the Eastern and Western Roman Empires. From that point on to his death, he had the throne all to himself. He no longer needed to share his power with somebody else as he had done so previously.

6    Interestingly, though Constantine the Great did many things in favor of Christianity, he himself was not baptized until his final days. Shortly before he died on May 22, 337 A.D., he finally changed into a white robe so he could get baptized.

7     To the Christians, Constantine the Great was one of their biggest supporters. Through his efforts, Christianity was able to spread to all corners of the Roman Empire and eventually become the kingdom's only religion in 380 A.D.

**Dictionary:**

**Idolize** (*verb*): to worship as a god

**Edict** (*noun*): a decree or proclamation

1. Which of the following events took place last?
	1. Constantine the Great joined his father on a military campaign in Britain.
	2. Constantine the Great organized the Council of Nicaea.
	3. Constantine the Great crushed all opponents and became the sole ruler of the Western Roman Empire.
	4. Constantine issued the *Edict of Milan*.
2. What was the *Edict of Milan* about?
	1. To pick a day for celebrating Easter
	2. To determine whether Jesus was a divine or a created being
	3. To tolerate all religions
	4. To name Christianity the sole religion of the Roman Empire
3. For how many years did Constantine the Great rule the united Roman Empire?
	1. 13 years
	2. 63 years
	3. 49 years
	4. 31 years



What is the effect of the above cause?

1. Nero took the blame for a fire that Christians actually started
2. Jews and Christians endured centuries of hardship
3. Romans forced all Jews and Christians to convert
4. All of the above
5. Put the following in events in the correct order from earliest to most recent.
6. Constantine and Licinius issued the Edict of Milan
7. The new capital of Constantinople of unveiled
8. Constantine was baptized
9. Constantine was name Emperor of the Western Roman Empire
	1. I, II, III, IV
	2. IV, III, II, I
	3. IV, I, III, II
	4. IV, I, II, III
10. Which of the following statements *most accurately* summarizes the passage’s main idea?
	1. Constantine came from a long line of pro-Christian emperors.
	2. Christianity was the most popular religion during Ancient Rome.
	3. Constantine helped Christianity become popular during his reign as emperor.
	4. Constantine’s dreams inspired him to become baptized and support Christianity.

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| **Cause-EffectThe Break-up of the Roman Empire** By Vickie Chao |    |  |

1     The Roman Empire was once a superpower. Back in the days of the early 2nd century, Emperor Trajan stretched the kingdom's territory to its maximum. After that, securing the frontier had become an issue that all the future emperors had to address. Because few were as capable as Trajan, the Roman Empire was soon in trouble. By the 3rd century, the situation had grown so bad that this once formidable powerhouse was at the brink of self-destruction. During the period from 235 A.D. to 284 A.D. (often called the crisis of the third century, the military anarchy, or the imperial crisis), more than two-dozen emperors came and went. Out-of-control inflation brought the economy to its knees. And foreign tribes continued to harass the borders. Just as things could not get worse for the Roman Empire, relief finally arrived. In November of 284 A.D., Diocletian, a forceful Roman general, seized power and declared himself the new emperor. One of his earliest orders was to split the Roman Empire in two. He kept the eastern part and gave the western half to his colleague, Maximian.

2     Diocletian's decision was bold but practical. He figured that the Roman Empire had simply grown too big over the years to be managed effectively by a single person. In 285 A.D., he named his trusted military friend, Maximian, as a *Caesar*, or a junior emperor, while he himself was named an *Augustus*, or a senior emperor. The following year, Diocletian promoted Maximian to be his equal, so both men held the title of Augustus and ruled the split Roman Empire side-by-side. Diocletian chose the city of Nicomedia (modern day's Izmit, Turkey) to be the capital of his Eastern Roman Empire, whereas Maximian picked Milan to be the capital of his Western Roman Empire. With the kingdom broken into two, Diocletian and Maximian were each responsible for fighting the enemies in their respective territory. As it was no longer necessary to stretch the troops across the entire empire, it was much easier to put down the rebels. Diocletian's daring experiment paid off handsomely.

3     By 293 A.D., Diocletian decided to go a step further and resolve the issue of succession once and for all. That year, both of the senior emperors handpicked their own Caesar. Diocletian chose Galerius, and Maximian selected Constantius. Galerius and Constantius were like apprentices. They did not sit idly waiting for the two senior emperors to die or to retire. Instead, they were each given a sizable territory and had their own capital. Galerius resided at Sirmium (in today's Serbia), and Constantius camped at Trier (in today's Germany). Diocletian called this new power structure *tetrarchy* (pronounced "*te-TRAR-kee*") or "rule by four."

4     *Tetrarchy* lasted on and off for nearly a hundred years, but it eventually ceased to exist by the end of the 4th century. Shortly before its demise, Valentinian II was the ruler of the Western Roman Empire, and Theodosius I the Eastern Roman Empire. The two were brothers-in-law. On May 15, 392 A.D., Valentinian II was found dead in his palace. Theodosius suspected foul play and declared war to avenge his brother-in-law. During the deciding Battle of Frigidus in 394 A.D., Theodosius I won and became the sole ruler of the Roman Empire. This unification turned out to be short-lived, for Theodosius I suddenly fell ill and died in January of 395 A.D. Upon his death, his two sons, Honorius and Arcadius, took over. Honorius managed the west, and Arcadius controlled the east. The two halves would never unite again!

5     The Western Roman Empire, or simply the Roman Empire, collapsed in 476 A.D. A Germanic chieftain named Odoacer or Odovacar revolted that year. He overthrew Emperor Romulus Augustus and ended the Western Roman Empire for good. The Eastern Roman Empire, or the Byzantine Empire, lived on for nearly another thousand years. Upon the emergence of the Ottoman Turks, however, the Byzantine Empire began counting its final hours. Its last ruler, Constantine XI, did his best to fend off the Ottoman Turks' advances, but he failed. On May 29, 1453, the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople (the capital), killed Constantine XI, and closed the last chapter of the Byzantine Empire.

**After reading the passage, fill in the appropriate cause and effect boxes.**

**CAUSE EFFECT**

**Diocletion believed Rome had grown too large to defend all its borders.**

*He split the Roman empire into East and Western halves.*

**It was much easier to put down rebellions.**

**Rules in the East and West handpicked their own *Caesar.***

***Tetrarchy* (rule by four) lasted for nearly 100 years.**

**Valentinian II was found dead in his palace.**

**The Western Roman Empire ended for good.**

**The Ottoman Turks emerged to challenge the Byzantine Empire.**

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| **Barbarians Invade Rome! By Sharon Fabian** |    |  |

1     The Roman Empire, at its height, extended across much of Europe, but even then there were other groups of people who were not part of the Roman Empire living in Europe too. Many of these groups, called tribes, lived in the far north and parts of Europe not occupied by the Roman Empire.

2     The barbarian tribes, as many of them were known, didn't like the idea of settling down and farming. They preferred a roaming, warlike lifestyle. Due to climate changes and other factors, many of the tribes began to migrate closer to the Roman Empire and sometimes even settle within the borders of the empire. This eventually led to conflicts between the tribes and the Romans.

3     The Romans were used to being victorious in their clashes with various tribes, but this didn't happen every time. In the late 300's AD, one tribe, the Visigoths, was being threatened by another tribe, the Huns. The Huns pushed the Visigoths further into Roman territory. This brought the Visigoths into more conflicts with the Romans. Eventually, it led to a big battle at Adrianople. This battle, in 376 AD, showed that the invaders had the strength to defeat Roman soldiers.

4     In 395 AD, Visigoth troops, led by Alaric I, invaded Italy and Greece. By the year 410, they attacked the city of Rome itself. There they killed Roman citizens, laid waste to buildings, and robbed the city. By 412, they had attacked Spain and parts of present day France too.

5     Meanwhile, the Huns had defeated another tribe, the Ostrogoths, and were threatening Rome. The Huns were especially feared. They were masters at fighting on horseback. They could shoot down enemies with their bows and arrows while riding at top speed. Rumor had it that they sacrificed their captives to their own gods of war. The Huns crossed the Danube River and attacked

Rome. They attacked Greece and Italy too. The Romans fought back and forced the Huns to retreat.

6     But the power of Rome was weakening. By the late 400's, Rome was no longer the mighty power that it had once been. In 476, the Hun leader, Odoacer, seized power in the western half of Rome and declared himself King of Italy.

7     The eastern half of the Roman Empire tried to take power back in the west by sending troops, under the leadership of King Theodoric of the Ostrogoths, to fight Odoacer. The Ostrogoths killed Odoacer, and Theodoric became the new leader of Italy.

8     The Roman Empire in the east continued on, but Roman rule in the west had come to an end. Europe entered into an era of uncertainty. Rulers changed frequently, as one leader attacked and defeated another. Invasions, attacks, and feuds were commonplace. It was the beginning of the Middle Ages.

9     The Goths also achieved a bad reputation. Maybe it was their scary look too. Maybe it was that the Roman Empire was the good guy, and someone had to be the bad guy. However it happened, the word *gothic* developed bad connotations. That's why, later on, some of the scarier elements of the Middle Ages became known as gothic. Dark, spooky castles were called gothic. Stories set in dark, spooky castles, like *Dracula*, were called gothic too.

10     The early part of the Middle Ages is often portrayed as the time when the Roman Empire collapsed and barbarian attacks were an everyday event. It has also been called the Dark Ages.

1. Barbarian tribes included all of the following except \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
	1. Ostrogoths
	2. Visigoths
	3. Romans
	4. Huns
2. The Middle Ages began as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ended.
	1. Roman Empire
	2. Greek Civilization
	3. Dark Ages
	4. Eastern Empire
3. Which event happened first?
	1. Odoacer seized power in the western half of Rome and declared himself King of Italy.
	2. Visigoth troops, led by Alaric I, invaded Italy and Greece
	3. The battle at Adrianople
	4. The beginning of the Middle Ages
4. Feuds and fights were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Middle Ages.
	1. Frequent
	2. Unknown
	3. Rare
	4. Uncommon



According to the reading, what is a possible effect of the above cause?

1. The Visigoths and Huns fought many battles
2. The Visigoths battled and weakened the Romans
3. It became known as the start of the Middle Ages
4. The Goths had a bad reputation
5. Why is the term “Dark Ages” and appropriate name for the period after the Roman Empire?
	1. Europe entered into an era of uncertainty
	2. Rulers changed frequently, as one leader attacked and defeated another.
	3. Invasions, attacks, and feuds were commonplace.
	4. All of the above