

ABC
DE VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 9-2

The Fall of Rome: Words to Know

Directions: Fill in each blank below with the term or name from the box that best completes the sentence. Words may be used more than once.

Alaric barter Constantine Constantinople Diocletian
inflation Odoacer plague reform Theodosius

During the A.D. 200s, Rome's economy began to fall apart. A disease called a (1) _____ killed one out of every ten people in the empire. Because less tax money was coming in, the Roman government began putting less gold in its coins, which led to (2) _____, or rapidly increasing prices. People stopped using money and began to (3) _____, or exchange goods without using money.

In A.D. 284 a general named (4) _____ became emperor and introduced (5) _____, or political changes, to try to make things better.

Another general named (6) _____ became emperor in A.D. 312. He moved the capital from Rome to Byzantium, which became known as (7) _____. After Constantine died, fighting broke out, but a new emperor named (8) _____ gained control and ended the fighting. After his death, the Roman Empire was divided into two empires. The Western Roman Empire had its capital at Rome, and the Eastern Roman Empire had its capital at (9) _____. In A.D. 410, the Visigoths under (10) _____ captured Rome. Finally, in A.D. 476, a Germanic general, (11) _____, overthrew the western emperor, Romulus Augustus.

Building Academic Vocabulary

Directions: Read the text above and then circle the letter of the word(s) that has the closest meaning to the boldfaced word in the following sentence.

12. During the A.D. 200s, Rome's economy began to **decline**.
- A. improve B. worsen C. hold steady D. fail

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