

Rome and Christianity



California Standards

History–Social Science

6.7 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures during the development of Rome.

Analysis Skills

HI 3 Explain the sources of historical continuity and how the combination of ideas and events explains the emergence of new patterns.

English–Language Arts

Writing 6.1.2a Engage the interest of the reader and state a clear purpose.

Reading 6.2.0 Read and understand grade-level-appropriate material.

FOCUS ON WRITING



Magazine Article You're a freelance writer who has been assigned to write a short magazine article about religion and early Christianity in the Roman Empire. As you read this chapter, identify main ideas and interesting details that you can use in your article.



CHAPTER EVENTS

c. 30
Jesus is crucified.



BC 1 AD

WORLD EVENTS

43 London is built as a Roman city.

▶ **video series**

Watch the video to understand the impact of ancient Rome on the world today.

**What You Will Learn...**

In this chapter you will learn about the beginnings of Christianity in the Roman Empire. In this photo, members of one Christian church, the Roman Catholic Church, gather in Vatican City in Rome.

**100s–200s**

From time to time, Christians are persecuted in Rome.

100

c. 65 According to tradition, Buddhism is introduced into China.

**200**

c. 250
The Maya Classical Age begins in Mexico.

309

Emperor Constantine ends the persecution of Christians.

300**381**

Emperor Theodosius bans all non-Christian religions in Rome.

400**320**

The Gupta dynasty takes charge in India.

Reading Social Studies

by Kylene Beers

Economics

Geography

Politics

Religion

Society and
Culture

Science and
Technology

Focus on Themes In this chapter, you will learn about the early beginnings of Christianity. You will read about the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and about the Apostles who spread Jesus's teachings after his death. Later in the chapter, you

will see how Christianity spread through the Roman Empire and became its official religion. Throughout the chapter, you will see how the Christian **religion** has shaped the **society and culture** of many people throughout history.

Questioning

Focus on Reading If you don't understand something your teacher says in class, how do you get an explanation? You ask a question. You can use the same method to improve your understanding while reading.

The W Questions The most basic questions you can ask about a historical text are who, what, when, and where—the W questions. Answering these questions will help you get to the very basics of what you need to learn from a passage.

Additional
reading support
can be found in the

Interactive

Reader and
Study Guide

Who?

Augustine of Hippo, a Christian writer

What?

read works of classical philosophers

Growth of Territory

As Christianity spread through the Roman world, Christian writers read the works of classical philosophers. One such writer was Augustine of Hippo. He lived in Hippo, a town in northern Africa, in the late 300s and early 400s.

Where?

Hippo, a town in northern Africa

When?

the late 300s and early 400s



You Try It!

Read the following passage, and then answer the questions below.

Christianity Spreads Quickly in Rome

*From
Chapter 13,
Pages
392–393*

Early Christians like Paul wanted to share their message about Jesus with the world. Because of their efforts, Christianity spread quickly in many Roman communities. But as it grew more popular, Christianity began to concern some Roman leaders. They looked for ways to put an end to this new religion.

Early Growth

The first Christians worked to spread Jesus's teachings only among Jews. But some early Christians, including Paul, wanted to introduce Christianity to non-Jews as well. As a result, Christianity began to spread in the Roman Empire. Within a hundred years after Jesus's death, historians estimate that thousands of Christians lived in the Roman Empire.

Answer the following questions about the passage above.

1. Who is this passage about?
2. What did they do?
3. When did they live?
4. Where did they live and work?
5. How can knowing the answers to these questions help you better understand what you've read?

Key Terms and People

Chapter 13

Section 1

Christianity (p. 382)
Jesus of Nazareth (p. 382)
Messiah (p. 383)
John the Baptist (p. 383)

Section 2

Bible (p. 384)
crucifixion (p. 385)
Resurrection (p. 385)
disciples (p. 385)
Apostles (p. 387)
Paul (p. 387)
saint (p. 388)

Section 3

martyrs (p. 393)
persecution (p. 393)
bishops (p. 393)
Eucharist (p. 393)
pope (p. 394)
Augustine of Hippo (p. 394)
Constantine (p. 395)

Academic Vocabulary

Success in school is related to knowing academic vocabulary—the words that are frequently used in school assignments and discussions. In this chapter, you will learn the following academic words:

ideals (p. 388)
classical (p. 394)

As you read Chapter 13, use the W questions as guides to help you clarify your understanding of the text.

Religion in the Roman Empire

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. The Romans allowed many religions to be practiced in their empire.
2. Jews and Romans clashed over religious and political ideas.
3. The roots of Christianity had appeared in Judea by the end of the first century BC.

The Big Idea

The Roman Empire accepted many religions, but it came into conflict with Judaism.

Key Terms and People

Christianity, p. 382

Jesus of Nazareth, p. 382

Messiah, p. 383

John the Baptist, p. 383



HSS 6.7.5 Trace the migration of Jews around the Mediterranean region and the effects of their conflict with the Romans, including the Romans' restrictions on their right to live in Jerusalem.

If YOU were there...

You are a Roman soldier stationed in one of the empire's many provinces. You are proud that you've helped bring Roman culture to this place far from the city of Rome. But one group of local people refuses to take part in official Roman holidays and rituals, saying it is against their beliefs. Other than that, they seem peaceful. Some soldiers think that this group is dangerous.

What will you do about this group?

BUILDING BACKGROUND As the Roman Empire expanded, it came to include people who spoke many different languages and followed many different religions. While Roman officials were generally tolerant of local religions and cultures, they did not allow anything—like the religion noted above—that might threaten their authority.

Romans Allow Many Religions

The Romans were a very religious people. To celebrate their religious beliefs, the Romans held many festivals in honor of their gods. Because of the empire's huge size and diverse population, the nature of these festivals varied widely from place to place.

As you have read, the Romans were a very practical people. This practicality also extended into their religious lives. The Romans didn't think that they could be sure which gods did or did not exist. To avoid offending any gods who did exist, the Romans prayed to a wide range of gods and goddesses. Many of the most popular gods in the Roman Empire were adopted from people the Romans had conquered.

Because of their ideas about religion, the Romans allowed people they conquered to keep their beliefs. In many cases these beliefs also spread among nearby Romans. As time passed the Romans built temples to the gods of these new religions, and knowledge of them spread throughout the empire.

For example, many Romans worshipped the Olympian gods of Greece. When the Romans conquered Greece they learned about Greek mythology. Before long, the Greek gods became the main gods of Rome as well. In the same way, many Romans also adopted gods from the Egyptians, Gauls, or Persians.

The only time the Romans banned a religion was when the rulers of Rome considered it a political problem. In these cases, government officials took steps to prevent problems. Sometimes they placed restrictions on when and where members of a religion could meet. One religion that some Roman leaders came to consider a political problem was Judaism.

READING CHECK **Finding Main Ideas** Why did the Romans forbid certain religions?

Jews and Romans Clash

Roman leaders considered Judaism to be a potential problem for two reasons. One reason was religious, the other political. Both reasons led to conflict between the Romans and the Jews of the empire.

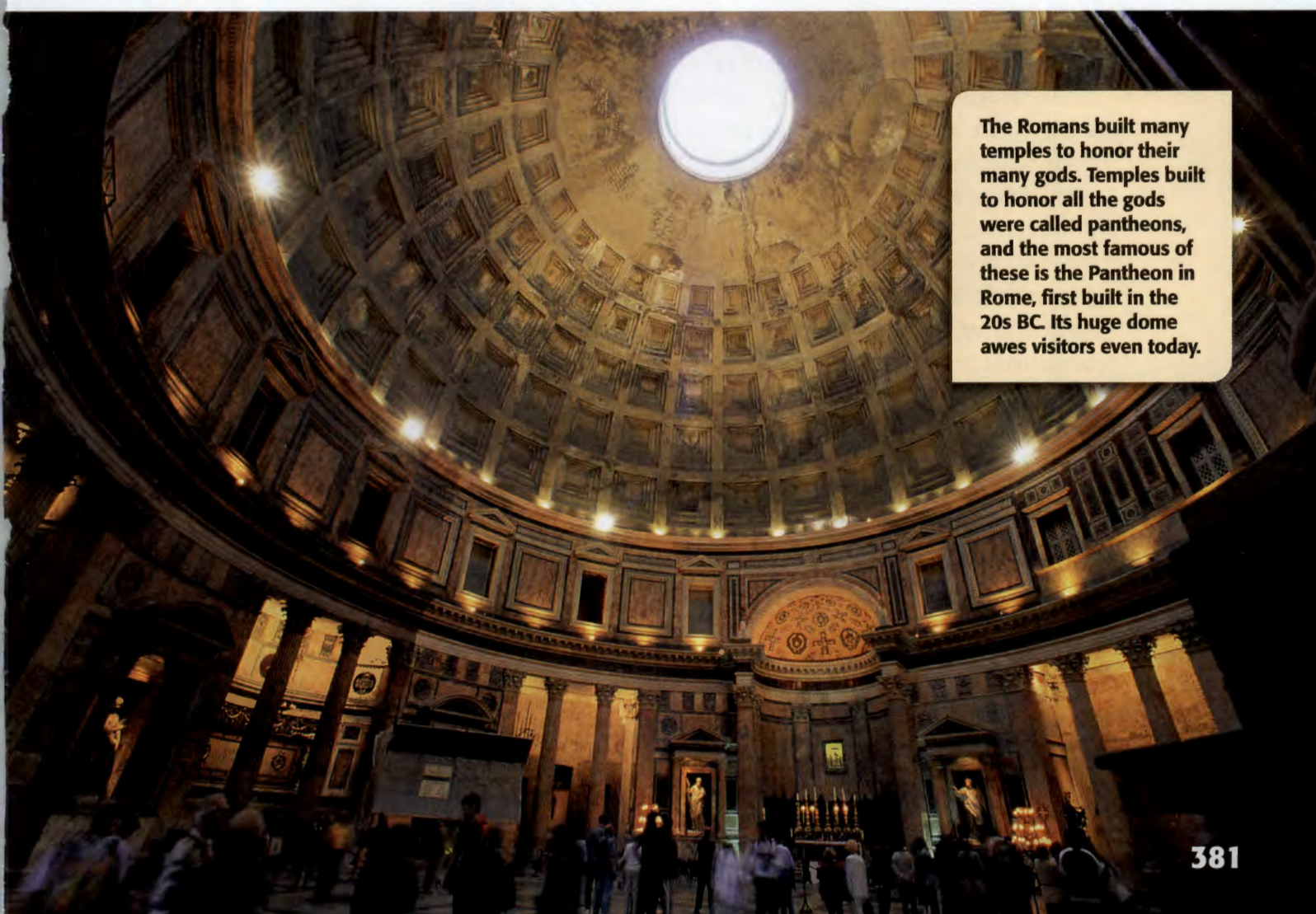
Religious Conflict

Unlike the Romans, the Jews did not worship many gods. They believed that their God was the only god. Some Romans, though, thought the Jews were insulting Rome's gods by not praying to them.

Still, the Romans did not attempt to ban Judaism in the empire. They allowed the Jews to keep their religion and practice it as they pleased. It was not until later when political conflict arose with the Jews that the Romans decided to take action.

FOCUS ON READING

Before you read this discussion, look at the heads and subheads. Who is this paragraph about? What did they do?



The Romans built many temples to honor their many gods. Temples built to honor all the gods were called pantheons, and the most famous of these is the Pantheon in Rome, first built in the 20s BC. Its huge dome awes visitors even today.

Resistance to Rome

Unhappy with Roman rule, many Jews rebelled in the AD 60s but were defeated. Refusing to accept defeat, about 1,000 Jews locked themselves in a mountain fortress called Masada and held off the Romans for four years. In the end, these rebels killed themselves to avoid surrendering to the Romans.



The Roman general Titus captured Jerusalem in AD 70. To celebrate this victory, the Romans built this arch that shows Roman soldiers carrying a stolen menorah from Jerusalem's holy Second Temple.



Political Conflict

Political conflict arose because the Jews rebelled against Roman rule. Judea, the territory in which most Jews lived, had been conquered by Rome in 63 BC. Since then, many Jews had been unhappy with Roman rule. They wanted to be ruled only by Jews, not by outsiders. As a result, the Jews rebelled in the AD 60s. The rebellion was defeated, however, and the Jews were punished for their actions.

In the early 100s the Jews rebelled once more against the Romans. Tired of putting down Jewish revolts, the emperor Hadrian banned the practice of certain Jewish rituals. He thought this ban would cause people to give up Judaism and end their desire for independence.

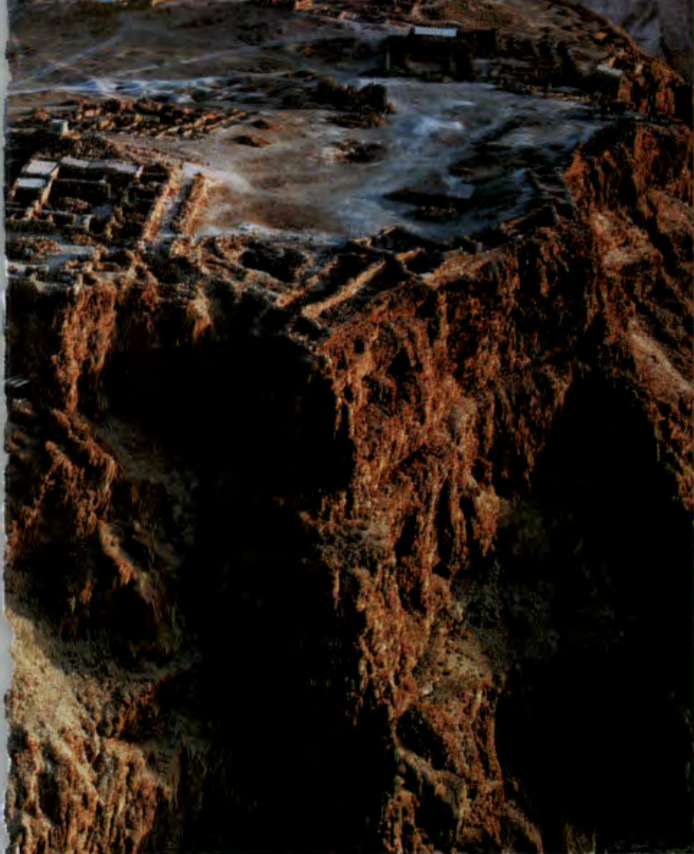
Hadrian was wrong. His actions made the Jews even more upset with Roman rule. Once again they rebelled. This time Hadrian decided to end the rebellions in Jerusalem once and for all.

The Roman army crushed the Jews' revolt, destroyed the Jewish capital of Jerusalem, and forced all Jews to leave the city. Then the Romans built a new city on the ruins of Jerusalem and brought settlers from other parts of the empire to live there. Jews were forbidden to enter this new city more than once a year. Forced out of their ancient city, many Jews moved into other parts of the Roman world.

READING CHECK Summarizing Why did the Romans come to consider Judaism a threat?

The Roots of Christianity

Early in the first century AD, before the Jews' first rebellion against the Romans, what would become a new religion appeared in Judea. This religion began as one of the many Jewish sects, and later developed into **Christianity**. It was based on the life and teachings of the Jew **Jesus of Nazareth**. Christianity was rooted in Jewish ideas and traditions.



When the Romans took over Judea in 63 BC, many Jews thought the Messiah would soon appear. Prophets wandered throughout Judea, announcing that the Messiah was coming. The most famous of these prophets was **John the Baptist**. Inspired by the prophets' teachings, many Jews anxiously awaited the Messiah.

READING CHECK Summarizing Why were Jews waiting for the Messiah to arrive?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW You just read about Jewish prophecies that foretold the coming of a Messiah. In the next section you'll learn what happened when a man many people believed to be that Messiah—Jesus—was born.

At the time that Jesus was born, there were several groups of Jews in Judea. The largest of these groups was very strict in how it practiced Judaism. Members of this group were particularly strict in obeying the laws of Moses. Jews believed that Moses had given them these laws to follow.

Many Jews followed the laws closely because Jewish prophets had said that a new leader would appear among the Jews. Many people thought this leader was more likely to appear if they were strict in their religious behavior.

According to the prophecies, the Jews' new leader would be a descendent of King David. When he came, he would restore the greatness of David's ancient kingdom, Israel. The prophets called this leader the **Messiah** (muh-SY-uh), which means "anointed" in Hebrew. In other words, the Jews believed that the Messiah would be chosen by God to lead them. However, no one knew when the Messiah would come.

Section 1 Assessment

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Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP13

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People HSS 6.7.5

1. a. **Describe** What was the Roman attitude toward religion?
b. **Explain** Why did the Romans ban some religions?
2. a. **Recall** What was a major religious difference between the Romans and the Jews?
b. **Analyze** Why did the Romans destroy Jerusalem?
c. **Elaborate** How do you think the spreading of Jews through the Roman world affected Jewish culture?
3. a. **Define** Who did Jews believe the **Messiah** was?
b. **Make Inferences** How did the anticipation of the Messiah's arrival lead many Jews to follow laws strictly?

Critical Thinking

4. **Categorizing** Draw a graphic organizer like the one here. Use it to identify reasons the Romans might accept or forbid a religion.



FOCUS ON WRITING

5. **Taking Notes** Create a chart with columns labeled Main Ideas and Supporting Details. Then write two main ideas in your chart: "Romans allowed many religions" and "Jews and Romans differed over religion." Take notes about these ideas in the Supporting Details column.

Origins of Christianity

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. In Christian belief, Jesus was the Messiah and the son of God.
2. Jesus taught about salvation, love for God, and kindness.
3. Jesus's followers, especially Paul, spread his teachings after his death.

The Big Idea

Christianity, based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, spread quickly after his death.

Key Terms and People

Bible, p. 384

crucifixion, p. 385

Resurrection, p. 385

disciples, p. 385

Apostles, p. 387

Paul, p. 387

saint, p. 388



HSS 6.7.6 Note the origins of Christianity in the Jewish Messianic prophecies, the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as described in the New Testament, and the contributions of St. Paul the Apostle to the definition and spread of Christian beliefs (e.g., belief in the Trinity, resurrection, salvation).

If YOU were there...

You are a fisher in Judea, bringing in the day's catch. As you reach the shore, you see a large crowd. They are listening to a man tell stories. A man in the crowd whispers to you that the speaker is a teacher with some new ideas about religion. You are eager to get your fish to the market, but you are also curious.

What might convince you to stay to listen?

BUILDING BACKGROUND In the first century AD, Judea was a province of the Roman Empire. Roman soldiers occupied the country, but the Jews living there held firmly to their own beliefs and customs. During that time, religious teachers could attract large followings among the people of Judea. One such teacher was Jesus of Nazareth.

The Life and Death of Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus of Nazareth, the man whom many people believe was the Jewish Messiah, lived at the beginning of the first century AD. Although Jesus was one of the most influential figures in world history, we know relatively little about his life. Most of what we know about Jesus is contained in the New Testament of the Christian **Bible**, the holy book of Christianity.

The Christian Bible is made up of two parts. The first part, the Old Testament, is largely the same as the Hebrew Bible. It tells the history and ideas of the Hebrew people. The second part, the New Testament, is an account of the life and teachings of Jesus and of the early history of Christianity.

The Birth of Jesus

According to the Bible, Jesus was born in a small town called Bethlehem (BETH-li-hem) at the end of the first century BC. In fact, in our dating system his birth marks the shift from BC to AD. Jesus's mother, Mary, was married to a carpenter named Joseph. But Christians believe God, not Joseph, was Jesus's father.

As a young man Jesus lived in the town of Nazareth and probably studied with Joseph to become a carpenter. Like many young Jewish men of the time, he also studied the laws and teachings of Judaism. By the time he was about 30, Jesus had begun to travel and teach. Stories of his teachings and actions from this time make up the beginning of the New Testament.

The Crucifixion

As a teacher, Jesus drew many followers with his ideas. But at the same time, his teachings challenged the authority of political and religious leaders. According to the Christian Bible, Roman authorities arrested Jesus while he was in Jerusalem in or around AD 30.

Shortly after his arrest, Jesus was tried and executed. He was killed by **crucifixion** (kroo-suh-FIK-shuhn), a type of execution in which a person was nailed to a cross. In fact, the word *crucifixion* comes from the Latin word for “cross.” After he died Jesus’s followers buried him.

The Resurrection

According to Christian beliefs, Jesus rose from the dead and vanished from his tomb three days after he was crucified. Christians refer to **Jesus’s rise from the dead as the Resurrection** (re-suh-REK-shuhn).

Christians further believe that after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to several groups of his **disciples** (di-sy-puhls), or **followers**. Jesus stayed with these disciples for the next 40 days, teaching them and giving them instructions about how to pass on his teachings. Then Jesus rose up into heaven.

Early Christians believed that the Resurrection was a sign that Jesus was the Messiah and the son of God. Some people began to call him Jesus Christ, from the Greek word for Messiah, *Christos*. It is from this word that the words *Christian* and *Christianity* eventually developed.

READING CHECK Summarizing What do Christians believe happened after Jesus died?

THE IMPACT TODAY

Because Jesus was crucified, the cross is an important symbol of Christianity today.

Jesus of Nazareth

The Bible says that Jesus was born in Bethlehem but grew up in Nazareth. This painting from about 1300 shows Jesus with his followers.



Christian Holidays

For centuries, Christians have honored key events in Jesus's life. Some of these events inspired holidays that Christians celebrate today.

The most sacred holiday for Christians is Easter, which is celebrated each spring. The exact date changes from year to year. Easter is a celebration of the Resurrection. Christians usually celebrate Easter by attending church services. Many people also celebrate by dyeing eggs because eggs are seen as a symbol of new life.

Another major Christian holiday is Christmas. It honors Jesus's birth and is celebrated every December 25. Although no one knows on what date Jesus was actually born, Christians have placed Christmas in December since the 200s. Today, people celebrate with church services and the exchange of gifts. Some, like people in this picture, reenact scenes of Jesus's birth.



ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING INFORMATION

Why do you think people celebrate events in Jesus's life?

Acts and Teachings

During his lifetime, Jesus traveled from village to village spreading his message among the Jewish people. As he traveled, he attracted many followers. These early followers later became the first Christians.

Miracles

According to the New Testament, many people became Jesus's followers after they saw him perform miracles. A miracle is an event that cannot normally be performed by a human. For example, the books of the New Testament tell how Jesus healed people who were sick or injured. One passage also describes how Jesus once fed an entire crowd with just a few loaves of bread and a few fish. Although there should not have been enough food for everyone, people ate their fill and had food to spare.

Parables

The Bible says that miracles drew followers to Jesus and convinced them that he was the son of God. Once Jesus had attracted followers, he began to teach them. One way he taught was through parables, stories that teach lessons about how to live. Parables are similar to fables, but they usually teach religious lessons. The New Testament includes many of Jesus's parables.

Through his parables, Jesus linked his teachings to people's everyday lives. The parables explained complicated ideas in ways that people could understand. For example, Jesus compared people who lived sinfully to a son who had left his home and family. Just as the son's father would joyfully welcome him home, Jesus said, God would forgive sinners who turned away from sin.

Jesus's Message

Much of Jesus's message was rooted in older Jewish traditions. For example, he emphasized two rules that were also in the Torah: love God and love other people.

Jesus expected his followers to love all people, not just friends or family. He encouraged his followers to be generous to the poor and the sick. He told people that they should even love their enemies. The way people treated others, Jesus said, showed how much they loved God.

Another important theme in Jesus's teachings was salvation, or the rescue of people from sin. Jesus taught that people who were saved from sin would enter the Kingdom of God when they died. Many of his teachings dealt with how people could reach the kingdom.

Over the many centuries since Jesus lived, people have interpreted his teachings in different ways. As a result, many different denominations of Christians have been developed. A denomination is a group of people who hold the same beliefs. Still, despite their differences, Christians around the world share some basic beliefs about Jesus and his importance to the world.

READING CHECK Summarizing Why did Jesus tell parables?

Jesus's Followers

Shortly after the Resurrection, the Bible says, Jesus's followers traveled throughout the Roman world telling about Jesus and his teachings. Among the people to pass on Jesus's teachings were **12 chosen disciples called Apostles** (uh-PAHS-uhls), the writers of the Gospels (GAHS-puhlz), and a man named **Paul**.

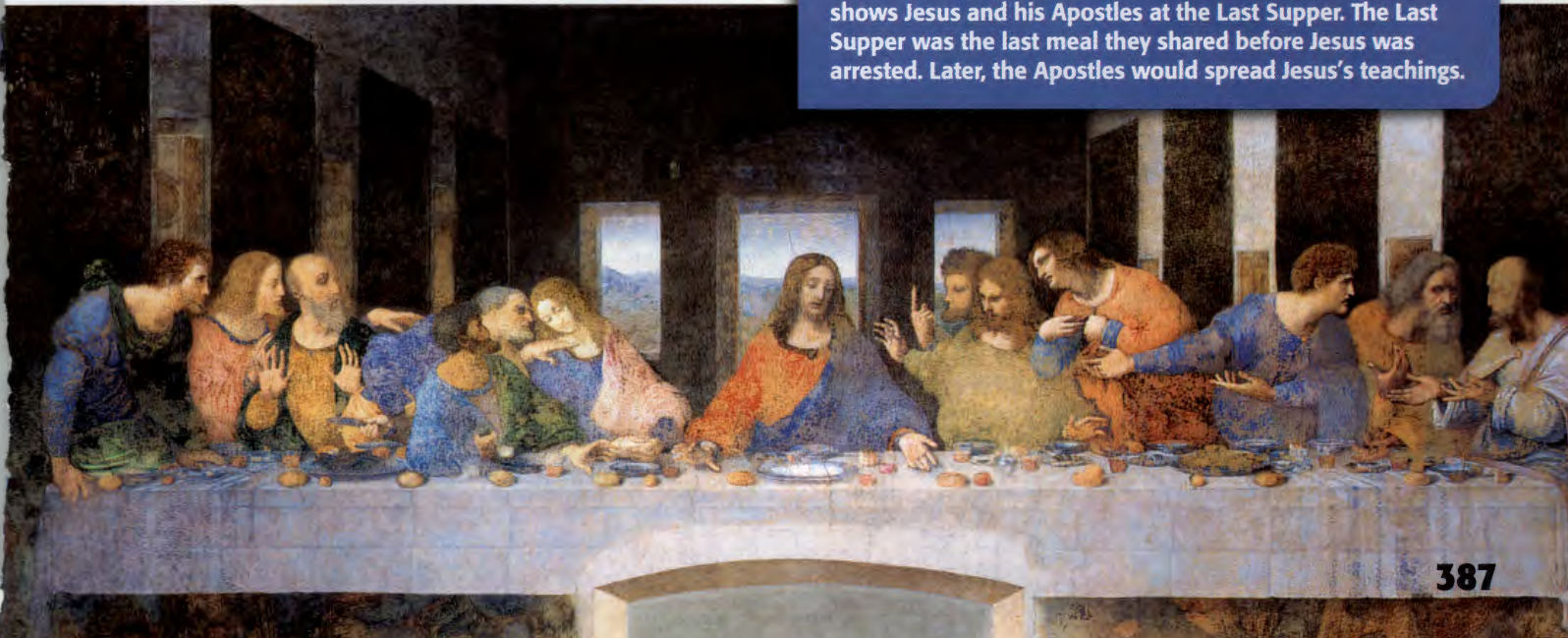
The Apostles

The Apostles were 12 men whom Jesus chose to receive special teaching. During Jesus's lifetime they were among his closest followers and knew him very well. Jesus frequently sent the Apostles to spread his teachings. After the Resurrection, the Apostles continued this task.

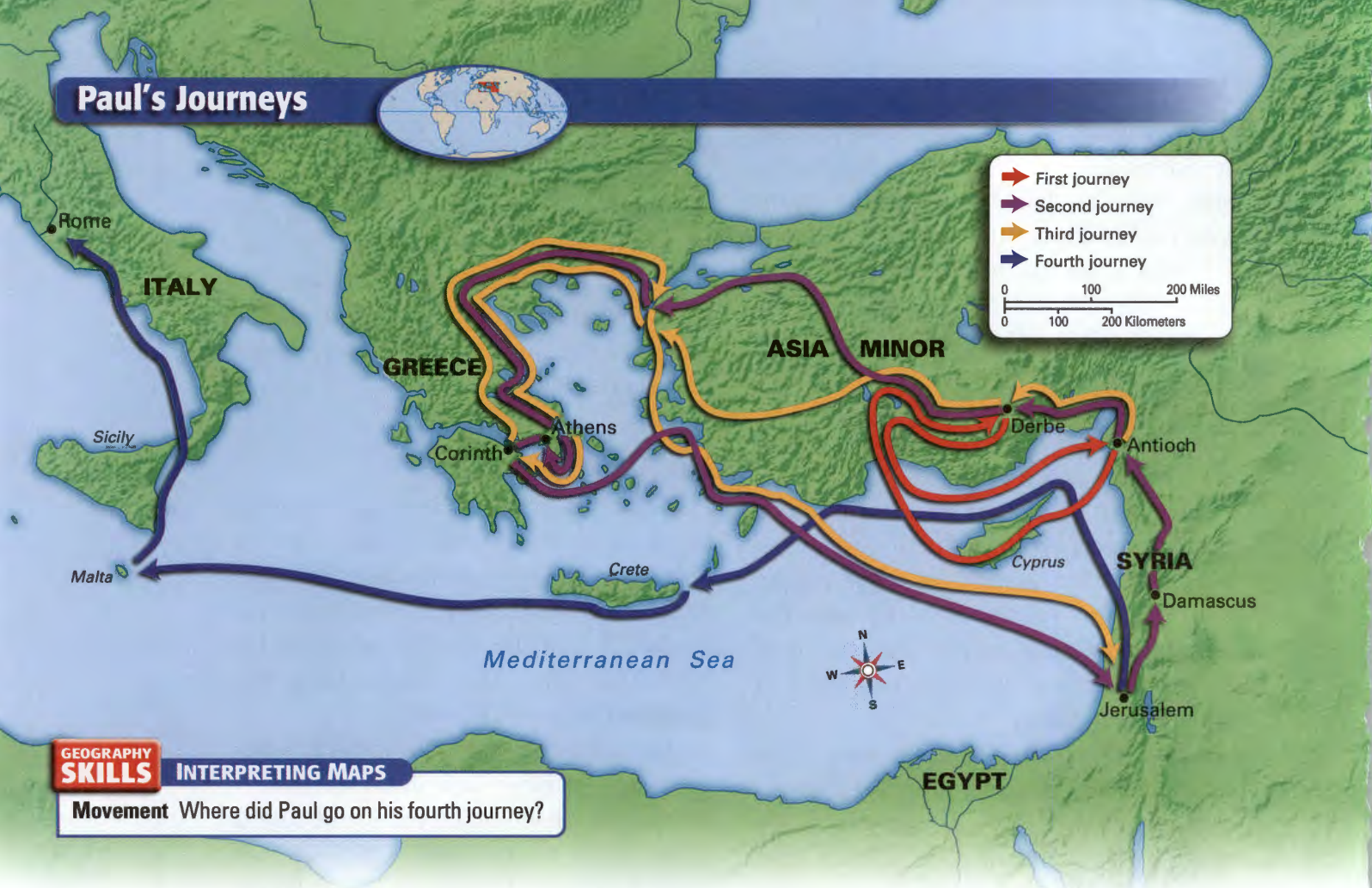
One of the Apostles, Peter, became the leader of the group after Jesus died. Peter traveled to a few Roman cities and taught about Jesus in the Jewish communities there. Eventually he went to live in Rome, where he had much authority among Jesus's followers. In later years after the Christian Church was more organized, many people looked back to Peter as its first leader.

The Last Supper

This famous painting by Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci shows Jesus and his Apostles at the Last Supper. The Last Supper was the last meal they shared before Jesus was arrested. Later, the Apostles would spread Jesus's teachings.



Paul's Journeys



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Movement Where did Paul go on his fourth journey?

The Gospels

Some of Jesus's disciples wrote accounts of his life and teachings. These accounts are called the Gospels. Four Gospels are found in the New Testament of the Bible. They were written by men known as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Both historians and religious scholars depend on the Gospels for information about Jesus's life.

Paul

Probably the most important figure in the spread of Christianity after Jesus's death was named Paul of Tarsus. He had never met Jesus, but Paul did more to spread Christian **ideals** than anyone else did. He was so influential that many people consider him an additional Apostle. After he died, Paul was named a **saint**, a person known and admired for his or her holiness.

Like most of Jesus's early followers, Paul was born Jewish. At first he didn't like Jesus's ideas, which he considered a threat to Judaism. For a time, Paul even worked to prevent the followers of Jesus from spreading their message.

According to the Bible, though, one day while Paul was traveling to Damascus he saw a blinding light and heard the voice of Jesus calling out to him. Soon afterward, Paul became a Christian.

After his conversion Paul traveled widely, spreading Christian teachings. As you can see on the map, he visited many of the major cities along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean on his journeys. In addition, he wrote long letters that he sent to communities throughout the Roman world. These letters helped explain and elaborate on Jesus's teachings.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

ideals ideas or goals that people try to live up to

Primary Source

LETTER

Paul's Letter to the Romans

In the late AD 50s Paul traveled to Corinth, a city in Greece. While there he wrote a letter to the people of Rome. In this letter he told the Romans that he planned to come to their city to deliver God's message. In the meantime, he told them, they should learn to live together peacefully.



“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent [strong] in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

—Romans 12:9–18 NRSV

ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

How did Paul's letter express Jesus's teachings?

In his letters Paul wrote at length about the Resurrection and about salvation. He also mentioned ideas of the Trinity. The Trinity is a central Christian belief that God is made up of three persons—God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. But even though there are three persons, there is still only one God.

Both Jews and non-Jews were attracted to Christianity by Paul's teachings. In time, this helped the Christian Church break away from its Jewish roots.

READING CHECK Drawing Conclusions Why was Paul important to early Christianity?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW By AD 100, Christianity had spread beyond Judea into many parts of the Roman world. As you will learn, the Christian Church would come to have a huge influence on Roman society.

Section 2 Assessment

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Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP13

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People HSS 6.7.6

- a. Define** In Christian teachings, what was the Resurrection?

b. Elaborate Why do you think Christians use the cross as a symbol of their religion?
- a. Identify** What did Jesus mean by salvation?

b. Explain How have differing interpretations of Jesus's teachings affected Christianity?
- a. Recall** Who were the Apostles?

b. Summarize How did Saint Paul influence early Christianity?

Critical Thinking

- Finding the Main Idea**

Draw a graphic organizer like the one shown here. Use it to identify and describe some of Jesus's acts and teachings.

Acts and Teachings of Jesus of Nazareth

Miracles	Parables	Message

FOCUS ON WRITING

- Adding to Your Notes** Add two main ideas about the origins of Christianity to your notebook. What details support these main ideas?

from The Bible

GUIDED READING

WORD HELP

meek enduring hardships without complaining

righteousness good living

persecute to punish someone for their beliefs

revile hate

trampled stepped on

1 The poor in spirit are those people who give up material goods out of love for God.

2 Here Jesus is saying that people who are punished or killed for their beliefs will be honored in heaven.

3 Jesus compares his ideals with light.

What do you think Jesus means when he says “let your light shine before others”?



ELA Reading 6.1.2 Identify and interpret figurative language and words with multiple meanings.

The Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5:1–16 New Revised Standard Version

About the Reading *The Bible says that Jesus attracted many followers. One day he led his followers onto a mountainside to preach a sermon, or religious speech, called the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus taught that people who love God will be blessed when they die. The sayings that Jesus used to express this message are called the Beatitudes (bee-A-tuh-toodz), because in Latin they all begin with the word beati, or blessed.*

AS YOU READ Note who Jesus says are blessed.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **1**

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **2**

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” **3**

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:29–37 New Revised Standard Version

About the Reading *In his teaching, Jesus used many parables, or stories intended to teach lessons about how people should live. One of his most famous parables is the story of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritans were a minority group living in what is now northern Israel. The parable of the Good Samaritan is Jesus's response to someone who asks what Jesus means when he says to love your neighbor.*

AS YOU READ Think about the lesson Jesus is trying to teach.

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. ❶ Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." ❷

The Samaritans lived in the northern part of what is now Israel.

GUIDED READING

WORD HELP

Levite (LEE-vyt) a member of the Hebrew priest class
denarii (di-NAR-ee-eye) Roman coins

❶ Oil and wine were used to clean cuts and wounds.

What does the Samaritan do after he cleans the traveler's wounds?

❷ Which person did the man say was the traveler's neighbor?

CONNECTING SACRED TEXTS TO HISTORY

1. **Analyzing** Jesus taught that people who loved God and lived good lives would achieve salvation. How do the Beatitudes support this teaching?

2. **Supporting a Point of View** Jesus also told people that they should be kind to everyone, even their enemies. How is the parable of the Good Samaritan an example of this?

The Early Christian World

What You Will Learn...

Main Ideas

1. Christianity spread quickly in Rome, but its growing strength worried some emperors.
2. As the church grew, new leaders and ideas appeared and Christianity's status in the empire changed.

The Big Idea

Within three centuries after Jesus's death, Christianity had spread through the empire and become Rome's official religion.

Key Terms and People

martyrs, p. 393

persecution, p. 393

bishops, p. 393

Eucharist, p. 393

pope, p. 394

Augustine of Hippo, p. 394

Constantine, p. 395

If YOU were there...

You live in a town in Greece in the first century AD. Near your town are two places dedicated to the ancient Greek gods—a grove of sacred trees and a temple to the god Apollo. One day, two Christians come to your town talking about their religion. They urge people to give up their old gods and follow Christian ways. Some townspeople listen eagerly. Others, however, get angry.

What do you think the townspeople will do?

BUILDING BACKGROUND From its origins in Judea, Christianity began to spread quickly. Apostles such as Peter and Paul traveled throughout the eastern Mediterranean world, preaching and writing letters to local churches. They were welcomed in some places but met anger and hostility in others.

Christianity Spreads Quickly in Rome

Early Christians like Paul wanted to share their message about Jesus with the world. Because of their efforts, Christianity spread quickly in many Roman communities. But as it grew more popular, Christianity began to concern some Roman leaders. They looked for ways to put an end to this new religion.

Time Line

Early Christianity

BC 1 AD

c. 30

Jesus is crucified.



HSS 6.7.7 Describe the circumstances that led to the spread of Christianity in Europe and other Roman territories.



Early Growth

The first Christians worked to spread Jesus's teachings only among Jews. But some early Christians, including Paul, wanted to introduce Christianity to non-Jews as well. As a result, Christianity began to spread in the Roman Empire. Within a hundred years after Jesus's death, historians estimate that thousands of Christians lived in the Roman Empire.

As Christianity spread, Christians began to write down parts of Jesus's message, including the Gospels. They distributed copies of the Gospels and other writings to strengthen people's faith.

Persecution

From time to time, Christians trying to spread their beliefs faced challenges from local officials. Some of these officials even arrested and killed Christians who refused to worship Rome's gods. We call such **people who suffer death for their religious beliefs** **martyrs** (MAHR-tuhrz). Many leaders of the early Christians—including Peter and Paul—were killed for spreading Christian teachings. Even today, Christians honor them as martyrs and saints.

Most of Rome's emperors let Christians worship as they pleased. A few emperors in the 200s and 300s, though, feared that the Christians could cause unrest in the empire. To prevent such unrest, these emperors banned Christianity. This

ban led to several periods of persecution (puhr-si-KYOO-shuhn) against Christians.

Persecution means punishing a group because of its beliefs or differences.

Because their religion had been banned, Christians were often forced to meet in secret. To arrange their meetings, they used secret symbols to identify people who shared their beliefs. One of the most common symbols they used was a fish. The fish became a Christian symbol because the Greek word for fish begins with the same letters as the Greek words for *Jesus* and *Christ*.

THE IMPACT TODAY

The fish is still commonly used as a symbol of Christianity.

READING CHECK Identifying Cause and Effect

Why did the Romans begin persecuting Christians?

The Church Grows

Because the early church largely had to meet in secret, it didn't have any single leader to govern it. Instead, **bishops, or local Christian leaders**, led each Christian community. Most bishops lived in cities. They helped people understand and live by Christian teachings.

One of the bishops' most important duties was leading Christians in celebrating the Eucharist (YOO-kuh-ruhst). **The Eucharist was the central ceremony of the Christian Church.** It was created to honor the last supper Jesus shared with his Apostles. During the Eucharist, Christians ate bread and drank wine in memory of Jesus's death.

c. 250 Widespread persecution of Christians begins.



381 Roman emperor Theodosius I bans the practice of all religions except Christianity in the empire.

200

300

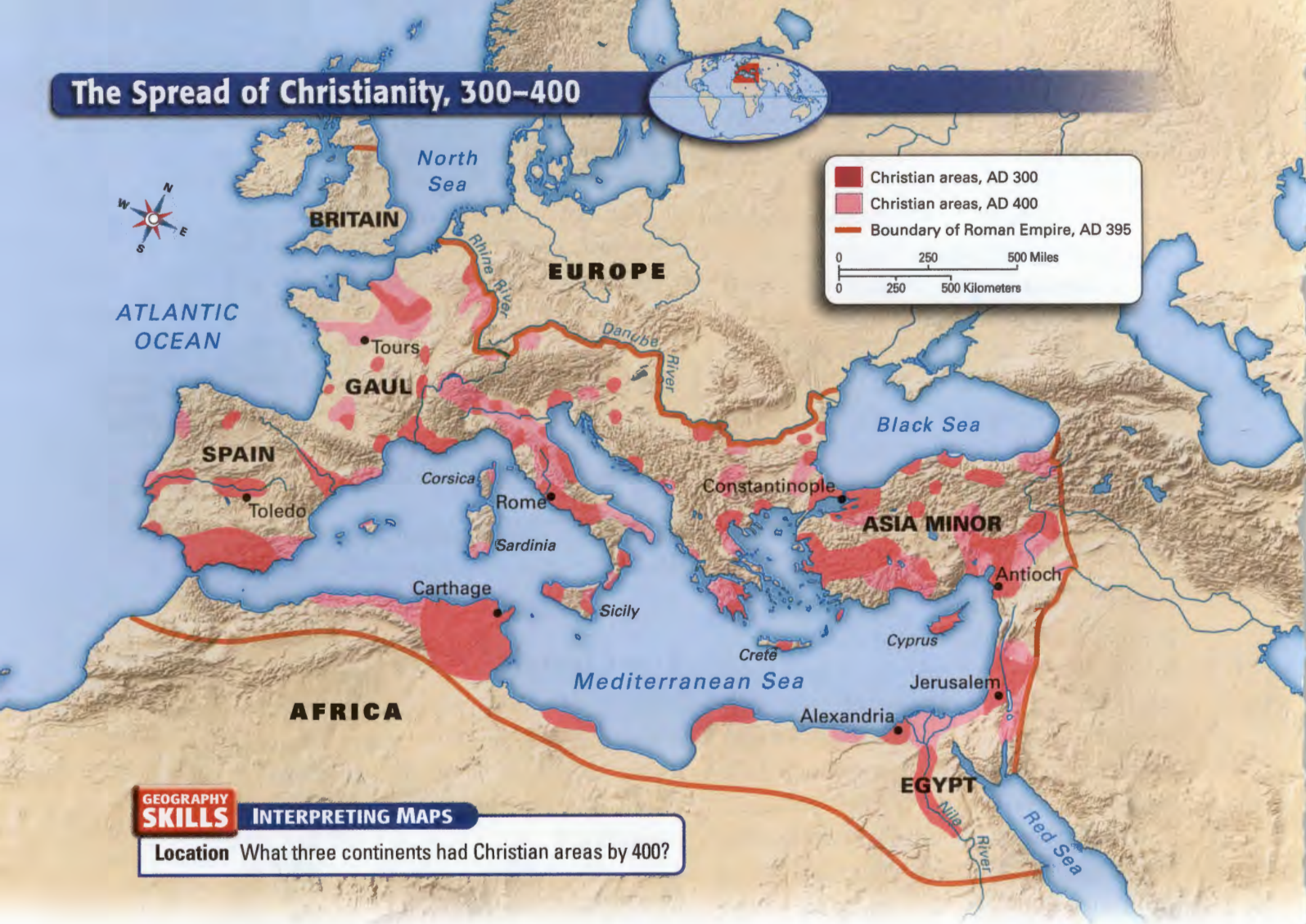
400

ANALYSIS SKILL

READING TIME LINES

About how many years after Christianity began were other religions banned in Rome?

The Spread of Christianity, 300–400



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Location What three continents had Christian areas by 400?

Growth of the Papacy

By the late 100s Christians were looking to the bishops of large cities for guidance. These bishops had great influence, even over other bishops. The most honored of all the empire's bishops was the **bishop of Rome, or the pope**. The word *pope* comes from the Greek word for father. The pope was so honored in the Christian world largely because Peter, the leader of the Apostles and a key figure in the early church, had been the first bishop of Rome. Later popes were seen as his spiritual successors.

Gradually, the pope's influence grew and many people in the West came to see him as the head of the whole Christian Church. As the church grew, so did the influence of the papacy, the office of the pope.

New Teachings and Emperors

As Christianity spread through the Roman world, Christian writers read the works of **classical** philosophers. One such writer was **Augustine** (AW-guhs-teen) **of Hippo**. He lived in Hippo, a town in northern Africa, in the late 300s and early 400s. As a young man, Augustine studied the works of Plato. When he became a Christian, he applied Plato's ideas to Christian beliefs. Augustine taught that Christians should focus not on worldly goods but on God's plan for the world. His ideas helped shape Christian beliefs for hundreds of years.

At about the same time that Saint Augustine was writing, an event changed the standing of Christians in Rome. The emperor himself became a Christian.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

classical
referring to the cultures of ancient Greece or Rome

The emperor who became a Christian was **Constantine** (KAHN-stuhn-teen). He came to power in 306 after fighting and defeating many rivals. According to legend, Constantine was preparing for battle against one of these rivals when he saw a cross in the sky. He thought that this vision meant he would win the battle if he converted to Christianity. Constantine did convert, and he won the battle. As a result of his victory he became the emperor of Rome.

As emperor, Constantine removed bans against the practice of Christianity. He also called together a council of Christian leaders from around the empire to clarify Christian teaching.

Almost 60 years after Constantine died, another emperor, Theodosius I (thee-uh-DOH-shuhs), banned all non-Christian religious practices in the Empire. Like Constantine, Theodosius was a Christian. As emperor, he called together Christian leaders to clarify church teachings. He wanted to be sure that all Christians believed the same things he did.

READING CHECK **Sequencing** How did Constantine and Theodosius influence Christianity?

BIOGRAPHY

Constantine

c. 280–337

Constantine grew up in the court of the Roman emperor. As a young man he became a general and led his army in many successful campaigns. After he converted to Christianity, Constantine came to believe that he had been successful all his life because he had God's favor. He built several great churches in the empire, including one in Jerusalem at the spot where Jesus was believed to have been buried. Throughout history Christians have considered him one of Rome's greatest emperors.

Drawing Conclusions Why do you think Constantine was so popular with Christians?



SUMMARY AND PREVIEW By the late 300s Christianity had become one of the most influential forces in the Roman world. Its influence provided security and stability for many people when the once mighty Roman Empire began to fall apart in the 400s.

Section 3 Assessment

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Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP13

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People **HSS** 6.7.7

- a. Define** What is persecution?

b. Summarize How did Paul change the way people spread Christianity?

c. Elaborate Why do you think **martyrs** are admired?
- a. Identify** Who was Rome's first Christian emperor?

b. Contrast How did **Constantine's** policies toward Christianity differ from Theodosius's?
- a. Recall** What was the role of **bishops** in the early church?

b. Explain Why did the **pope** have influence over many other bishops?

Critical Thinking

- Sequencing** Draw a diagram like the one below. In each box identify one step in the relationship between Christianity and the Roman Empire.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Completing Your Chart** Finish your chart by adding two more main ideas and details that support them.



Analysis

Critical Thinking

Participation

Study

Continuity and Change in History

Understand the Skill

A well-known saying claims that “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” Nowhere does this observation apply more than to the study of history. Any look back over the past will show many changes—nations expanding or shrinking, empires rising and falling, changes in leadership, and people on the move, to name just a few.

The reasons for change have not changed, however. The same general forces have driven the actions of people and nations across time. These forces are the “threads” that run through history and give it continuity, or connectedness. They are the “sameness” in a world of constant change.

Learn the Skill

You can find the causes of all events of the past in one or more of these major forces or themes that run throughout history.

- 1 Cooperation and Conflict:** Throughout time, people and groups have worked together to achieve goals. They have also opposed others who stood in the way of their goals.
- 2 Cultural Invention and Interaction:** The values and ideas expressed in peoples’ art, literature, customs, and religion have enriched the world. But the spread of cultures and their contact with other cultures has also sometimes produced conflict.
- 3 Geography and Environment:** Physical environment and natural resources have shaped how people live. Efforts to gain or protect land and resources have been a major cause of cooperation and conflict in history.

- 4 Science and Technology:** Technology, or the development and use of tools, has helped people make better use of their environment. Science has always changed people’s lives also.
- 5 Economic Opportunity:** From hunting and gathering to farming, manufacturing, and trade, people have tried to make the most of their resources. Hope for a better life is a main reason people have moved from one place to another.
- 6 The Impact of Individuals:** Political, religious, military, business, and other leaders have been a major influence in history. The actions of many ordinary people have also shaped history.
- 7 Nationalism and Imperialism:** Nationalism is the desire of a people to have their own country. Imperialism is the wish to control other peoples. Both have existed through history.
- 8 Political and Social Systems:** People have always been part of groups—families, villages, nations, or religious groups, for example. The groups to which people belong affect how they relate to people around them. History is mostly the study of past interactions of people.

Practice and Apply the Skill

Check your understanding of the sources of continuity and change in history by answering the following questions.

- How did relations between the Romans and the Jews show cultural interaction and conflict in history?
- Identify three forces of history that are illustrated by the rise and spread of Christianity.

Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.



In the Roman Empire, people practiced many religions and worshipped many gods.



The teachings of Jesus of Nazareth inspired a new religion called Christianity.



QUICK FACTS

After Jesus died, his followers spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

Reviewing Vocabulary, Terms, and People

Match the "I" statement with the person or thing that might have made the statement.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Messiah | f. martyr |
| b. Constantine | g. pope |
| c. Apostle | h. Paul |
| d. Jesus of Nazareth | i. Augustine of Hippo |
| e. Bible | j. ideal |

- "I helped spread Christian teachings through the Mediterranean world through my journeys and letters."
- "I died for my religious beliefs."
- "My teachings became the foundations for Christianity."
- "I was the first Christian emperor of Rome."
- "I was a Christian writer who combined Plato's ideas with Christian teachings."

- "I am an idea or goal that people try to live up to."
- "I am the holy book of Christianity."
- "I was the bishop of Rome who became the head of the Christian Church."
- "I was a promised leader who was to appear among the Jews."
- "I was one of Jesus's 12 chosen followers."

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (Pages 380–383) HSS 6.7.5

- Identify** Who were Jesus of Nazareth and John the Baptist?
 - Contrast** How did the Romans' attitude toward religion differ from the Jews' attitude?
 - Evaluate** Why might a historian say that one ancient religion, Judaism, set the scene for a new religion, Christianity?

SECTION 2 (Pages 384–389) HSS 6.7.6

12. **a. Describe** According to the Bible, what were the crucifixion and Resurrection? What do Christians believe the Resurrection means?
- b. Analyze** Why do you think Jesus's teachings appealed to many people within the Roman Empire?
- c. Evaluate** Why is Saint Paul considered one of the most important people in the history of Christianity?

SECTION 3 (Pages 392–395) HSS 6.7.7

13. **a. Describe** What was the connection between the Apostle Peter and the papacy?
- b. Compare and Contrast** What did Roman emperors Constantine and Theodosius I have in common? How did their actions differ?
- c. Predict** Why do you think Christianity spread despite the fact that early Christians were often persecuted?

Reviewing Themes

14. **Society and Culture** How did early Christian leaders such as Paul help separate Christianity from Judaism?
15. **Religion** How do you think the early Christian Church would have been different if Paul had not converted to Christianity?

Social Studies Skills

16. **Understanding Historical Continuity** Christianity has been one of the forces that has most influenced the course of world history. Why has its influence been so great? Choose one of the following factors that help promote historical continuity. Then write a sentence explaining how that factor is related to Christianity's influence.

Cooperation and conflict	Economic opportunity
Cultural interaction	Impact of individuals
Geography and environment	Nationalism and imperialism
Science and technology	Political and social systems

Using the Internet

go.hrw.com
KEYWORD: SQ6 WH13

17. **Activity: Creating Maps** Within 400 years of Jesus's death, Christianity had grown from a small group of Jesus's disciples into the only religion practiced in the entire Roman Empire. Although 400 years sounds like a long time, to a historian it's practically the blink of an eye. What explains the rapid growth of Christianity? Enter the activity keyword. Then research the key figures, events, and factors in the spread of Christianity. Use what you learn to create an illustrated and annotated map of the spread of Christianity.

Reading Skills

Using Questions Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

“Women were among Jesus's earliest followers. From the beginning, Jewish women disciples, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna, had accompanied Jesus during his ministry and supported him out of their private means (Luke: 8:1–3). After the death of Jesus, women continued to play prominent roles in the early movement. Some scholars have even suggested that the majority of Christians in the first century may have been women.”

—Karen L. King, from *Women in Ancient Christianity: The New Discoveries*

18. Who is this passage about?
19. When did they live?
20. What did they do that made them important?

FOCUS ON WRITING

21. **Writing Your Article** Now that you've taken notes on the main ideas and supporting details about early Christianity in the Roman Empire, you have the information you'll need to write your two- to three-paragraph magazine article. Write the article in chronological order and include a catchy title that describes the article. You might begin the article with a question or an intriguing fact to get your audience's attention.

Standards Assessment

DIRECTIONS: Read each question, and write the letter of the best response.

1

The practice of any other religion but Christianity shall be against the law.

All temples to the ancient gods shall be closed and become property of the Roman government.

All festivals and other celebrations and gatherings in honor of the ancient gods shall be banned.

Which person would have been *most* likely to have issued a document like this one?

- A Jesus of Nazareth
- B Emperor Constantine
- C Emperor Theodosius I
- D Paul

2 Early Christianity grew out of the beliefs, practices, and values of which early people?

- A Jews
- B Greeks
- C Chinese
- D Egyptians

3 Which persons were *most* active in and responsible for spreading the Christian faith immediately after the death of Jesus?

- A Constantine and Theodosius I
- B Peter and Augustine
- C Paul and Constantine
- D Peter and Paul

4 Which statement about Jesus is *not* true?

- A Some people believed Jesus was the Messiah that Jewish prophets had predicted.
- B Some Roman leaders viewed Jesus as a threat to their power.
- C Jesus led a rebellion of the Jews against the Romans.
- D Jesus taught people to love God and to be kind to each other.

Connecting with Past Learnings

5 In Grade 5, you learned about religious leaders who explained Puritan beliefs through their writings, teaching, and preaching. All of the following made the same contribution to Christianity during Roman times *except*

- A Augustine.
- B Constantine.
- C the Gospel writers.
- D Paul.

6 The role of Jesus in Christianity is *most* like the role in earlier times of

- A Moses among the ancient Hebrews.
- B Hammurabi among the ancient Babylonians.
- C Pericles among the ancient Greeks.
- D Ramses among the ancient Egyptians.

Assignment

Write about a problem the Romans faced and what their solution was or what you think would be a better solution.

Historical Problem and Solution

History is the story of how individuals have solved political, economic, and social problems. Learning to write an effective problem-solution paper will be useful in school and in many other situations.

1. Prewrite

Identifying a Problem

Think of a problem the Romans faced. Look at the problem closely. What caused it? What were its effects? Here is an example.

Problem: The Gauls overran Rome.

Solution A: Pay the Gauls a huge ransom to leave Rome. [caused other cities to attack in the hope of getting similar ransoms]

Solution B: Attack other cities. [caused other cities to stop attacking Rome; let Rome gain power and wealth]

Finding a Solution and Proof

Compare the Roman solution to the problem to one they didn't try. Choose either the Roman solution or your own solution to write about. Your explanation should answer these questions.

- How does the solution address the cause of the problem?
- How does the solution fix the effects of the problem?

Use historical evidence to support what you say about the problem:

- facts, examples, or quotations
- comparisons with similar problems your readers know about



ELA Writing 6.2.2d Offer persuasive evidence to validate arguments and conclusions as needed.

2. Write

This framework can help you clearly explain the problem and its solution.

A Writer's Framework

Introduction

- Tell your reader what problem the Romans faced.
- Explain the causes and effects of the problem.
- State your purpose in presenting this problem and its solution.

Body

- Explain the solution.
- Connect the solution directly to the problem.
- Give supporting historical evidence and details that show how the solution deals with the problem.

Conclusion

- Summarize the problem and the solution.
- Discuss how well the solution deals with the problem.

3. Evaluate and Revise

Evaluating

Now you'll want to evaluate your draft to see where you can improve your paper. Try using the following questions to decide what to revise.

Evaluation Questions for a Historical Problem and Solution

- Does your introduction state the problem clearly and describe it fully?
- Does the introduction give causes and effects of the problem?
- Do you clearly explain how the solution relates to the problem?
- Do you give supporting historical evidence showing how the solution deals with the problem?
- Do you conclude by summarizing the problem and the solution?

Revising

Revise your draft to make what you say clear and convincing. You may need to

- Add historical facts, examples, quotations and other evidence to give your readers all the information they need to understand the problem and solution
- Reorganize paragraphs to present information in a clear, logical order
- Insert words like *thus*, *therefore*, and *as a result* to show how causes link to effects and how the solution deals with the problem

4. Proofread and Publish

Proofreading

To improve your paper before sharing it, check the following:

- spelling of all names, places, and other historical information, especially Latin words, because they can be tricky
- punctuation around linking words such as *so*, *thus*, and *in addition* that you use to connect causes with effects and solutions with problems

Publishing

Choose one or more of these ideas to share your report.

- Create a poster that Roman leaders might put up to announce how they will solve the problem.
- Hold a debate between teams of classmates who have chosen similar problems but different solutions. Have the rest of the class vote on whose solutions are best.

Practice and Apply

Use the steps and strategies outlined in this workshop to write a problem-solution paper.

TIP

Problem-Solution Clue

Words. It's not enough simply to tell your reader what the problem and solution are. You need to show how they are related. Here is a list of words and phrases that will help you do so.

as a result	therefore
consequently	this led to
nevertheless	thus

TIP

Seeing Your Paper as

Others See It. To you, your paper makes perfect sense. To others, it may not. Whenever possible, ask someone else to read your paper. Others can see flaws and errors that you never will see. Listen closely to questions and suggestions. Do your best to see the other person's point before defending what you have written.