UNIT 8- BYZANTINE EMPIRE GRAPES NOTES

G=GEOGRAPHY

* Extension of the Roman Empire
* When Rome started to fall, it divided into two parts at the Bosporus Strait which divided Europe and Asia.
* The Eastern part was the Byzantine Empire.
* Easily defended (peninsula)
* Crossroads of international trade (northeast was China, southeast was India)
* Constantinople- old name; known as Istanbul today (in the country of Turkey)

R=RELIGION

* Christianity- became the center of the Christian world
* The Byzantine Empire split from the Roman Catholic Church and formed the Eastern Orthodox Church
* Built elaborate churches
	+ Most famous is Hagia Sophia- the Church of Holy Wisdom
	+ Built in 5 months
* Relics and treasures were taken to the West when the empire fell to the Ottomans

A= ACHIEVEMENTS

* Enhanced Roman style of using natural marble for mosaics and colored glass
* Decorated Christian churches by combining architecture
	+ Roman arches, vaults, and domes
	+ Greek columns
	+ Life-like statues
	+ All Byzantine art was religious based
* Spread Greek philosophy and language

P=POLTICS

* Was a monarchy with many advisors
* **Justinian Code**
	+ Simplified Roman legal system
	+ Made the laws more accessible to average citizens
	+ Wrote new laws that protected women and slaves
	+ So well-written, became the basis for many countries around the world
	+ Compared to Hammurabi’s Code as it helped protect the people
* Educated scholars and government officials to better serve the people
* International university in Constantinople

E=ECONOMICS

* Traded pottery, marble, metalwork, silk, and spices
* Center of trade between China and the West
* Marco Polo comes as an explorer and trading merchant- helped to create the overland trade route to Europe (1271)
* Trade brought the plague
	+ At its height, 10,000 people died each day in Constantinople
	+ Plague stopped Italy and the West from helping against the Ottomans

S=SOCIAL STRUCTURE

* Kept Roman laws and culture
* Preserved Greek culture
* Ruled by Emperor and Christian values
* Classes of Society—
	+ Upper class– aristocracy, government officials, senior military officials, large landowners
	+ Middle class- merchants, industrialists, medium size landowners
	+ Lower class- wage earners and paupers (extremely poor people)
	+ Priests received special privileges but were in no special class
	+ Slaves were able to earn their freedom.