

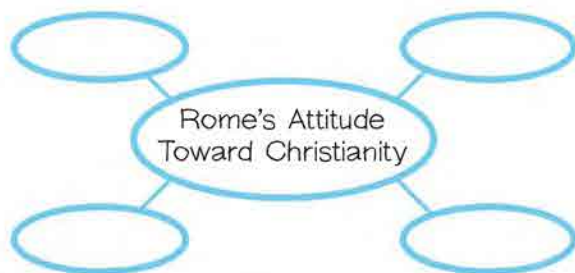
MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Government** Rome became hostile to Jews and Christians because both groups challenged Roman authority.
- 2 **Government** The Roman emperor Constantine accepted Christianity and ended persecutions.
- 3 **Government** The church developed into a complex institution with many levels of authority.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Finding Main Ideas

Finding the main idea—the most important point—of a passage will increase your understanding. This lesson discusses ways in which Rome’s attitude toward Christianity changed. Record details about this main idea in a web diagram.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R2



▲ **Bronze Statue** The Roman emperor Valentinian holds aloft a Christian cross, showing the conversion of the Roman Empire to Christianity.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

alien of or coming from another country; foreign (page 483)

*Some Roman leaders believed that **alien** religious beliefs might weaken their authority.*

waging conducting or carrying on (page 484)

*Constantine was **waging** a war for control of the Roman Empire.*

edict a statement by a ruler that has the force of law (page 484)

*The Roman emperor issued an **edict** that legalized Christianity.*

communion a ritual in which Christians remember Jesus by eating bread and drinking wine (page 486)

*Christians have different beliefs about the meaning and significance of **communion**.*

Rome and Christianity

TERMS & NAMES

bishop
pope
catholic
creed
Trinity

Build on What You Know In Chapter 13, you learned that the Roman religion included elements drawn from the religions of other peoples. An important issue facing the ancient world was how Rome would react to the new religion of Christianity.

Rome's Policy Toward Other Religions

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why was Rome hostile to Christians and Jews?

Rome tolerated the alien religious practices of the people it conquered. It exempted Jews from the requirement to worship Roman gods, including the emperor. However, Rome would not let the religions of subject peoples inspire rebellion. When a Jewish revolt began in Jerusalem, the Romans destroyed the Temple.

A Christian Threat As more Gentiles joined the Christian movement, the Romans became alarmed. Some Gentiles claimed that they should not have to worship the emperor. The appeal of Christianity to slaves and women also caused alarm. Finally, Christian talk about a Lord who would establish a kingdom seemed to imply an end to the Roman Empire.

Connect to Today

Rome This view shows the Sant'Angelo Bridge over the Tiber River at dusk, with St. Peter's Basilica in the background. ▼

INTERACTIVE



The Roman Persecutions Roman doubts about Christianity soon led to active hostility. Nero blamed the Christians for a fire that leveled much of Rome in A.D. 64. Many Christians were tortured and killed because of their religion. Yet the conversions continued. During the Roman persecutions, catacombs—underground cemeteries with secret passages—provided a hiding place for Christians. However, a key event would bring the persecutions to an end.

REVIEW Why did the Romans feel threatened by Christianity?

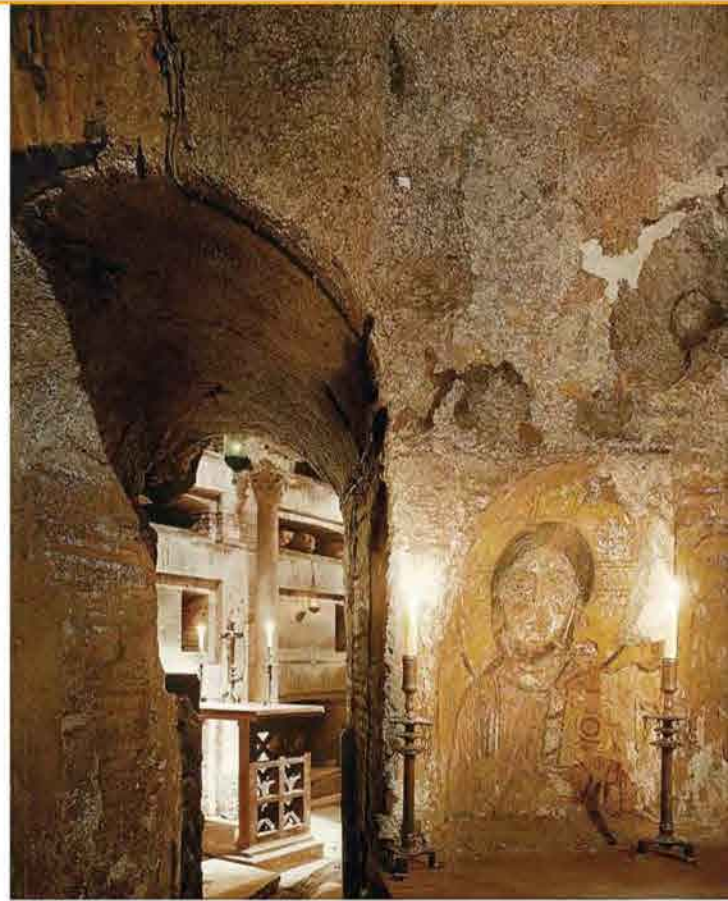
The Conversion of Constantine

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was Constantine's policy toward Christianity?

In A.D. 306, Constantine (KAHN•stuhn•TEEN) became the Roman emperor. Like those before him, he had allowed the persecution of Christians. In 312, however, he was waging a battle for leadership of Rome.

The Cross as Sign In the midst of the fighting, Constantine prayed for help. Later he reported seeing a Christian cross in the sky along with these words: "In this sign you will conquer." He ordered his soldiers to put the symbol of the cross on their shields and battle flags. Constantine and his troops were victorious.

The Legalization of Christianity The victorious Constantine immediately ended the persecution of Christians. Then, in the Edict of Milan, he made Christianity one of the empire's legal religions and returned property that had been seized during the persecutions. Constantine also built churches, used Christian symbols on coins, and made Sunday a holy day of rest and worship. But Rome's first Christian emperor delayed his own baptism, or formal conversion, until the end of his life.



▲ Catacomb This picture of a catacomb in Rome shows burial niches and a painting of Jesus.

Constantine

Constantine was a fierce and successful warrior. He was also a serious student of his new religion. The emperor wrote a special prayer for his troops, and he even traveled with a movable chapel in a tent. Constantine decreed the building of many Christian churches in the Roman Empire.

Constantine established Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey) as a new capital. It was a center of Christianity for the next thousand years. He was buried in Constantinople's Church of the Apostles in A.D. 337. Memorials to the 12 apostles surrounded Constantine's tomb. The first Christian emperor considered himself to be Jesus' 13th apostle.



Christianity Changes Rome In 380, Emperor Theodosius decreed Christianity Rome's official religion. Eleven years later, Theodosius closed down all the pagan temples. "All the peoples we rule," he said, "shall practice that religion that Peter the Apostle transmitted to the Romans."

REVIEW What did the Edict of Milan decree?

Beginnings of the Roman Catholic Church

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What were some of the beliefs of the early church?

The practice of Christianity in Roman cities took on a common structure. Priests and deacons obeyed **bishops**, or local church leaders. Roman Catholic tradition says that Rome's first bishop was the apostle Peter. Much later, Rome's bishop gradually became the most important bishop, or **pope**. This was the beginning of the Roman Catholic Church. **Catholic** means "universal."

Beliefs and Practices Some early Christian writers, called church fathers, developed a **creed**, or statement of beliefs. This creed featured a belief in the **Trinity**, or union of three divine persons—Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit—in one God. A church father from North Africa, Augustine, wrote about a God who was present everywhere. The church also developed sacraments—religious rites—such as baptism and communion, based on events in the life of Jesus.

To live the ideal Christian life and to celebrate these sacraments together, Christian men and women formed communities called monasteries. As the church grew, men entered the higher orders of the church, becoming bishops, priests, and deacons. Christianity changed from a small sect to a powerful, wealthy religion.

REVIEW What is Rome's bishop called?

Lesson Summary

- Rome saw the new religion of Christianity as a threat.
- Constantine embraced Christianity in A.D. 312.
- The Roman Catholic Church traces its roots to the apostle Peter.

Why It Matters Now . . .

One-third of the people in the world today are Christian.

3 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of

bishop	catholic	Trinity
pope	creed	

Using Your Notes

Finding Main Ideas Use your completed diagram to answer the following question:

2. What decision made by Theodosius had a big impact on Roman religion?



Main Ideas

3. How did the Romans view Christianity at first?
4. What effect did the Edict of Milan have?
5. What three persons are said to make up the Trinity?

Critical Thinking

6. **Understanding Cause and Effect** What effect did Emperor Constantine have on the spread of Christianity?
7. **Making Inferences** Why do you think the bishop of Rome became the most important of all the bishops?

Activity

Making a Time Line Chart the important events in the early history of the church on a time line. Be sure to include the sources for your dates.

Make a World-Religions Pie Graph

Goal: To understand the sizes of the major religions of the world

Prepare

- 1 Gather resources, such as world almanacs, encyclopedias, and books from the library.
- 2 Make a list of religions you find in these resources.

Do the Activity

- 1 Use the resources you've identified to find out the numbers of members of the major religions of the world. Major religions you might research include the following: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. You might also have categories "Other" (for members of all the many other religions in the world) and "Nonreligious" (for residents of officially atheistic countries, such as China).
- 2 Construct a pie graph showing the size of each religion. The bigger the percentage of believers, the bigger the slice of the graph.
- 3 Choose a color for each religion or category, and color in each slice of the graph.

Follow-Up

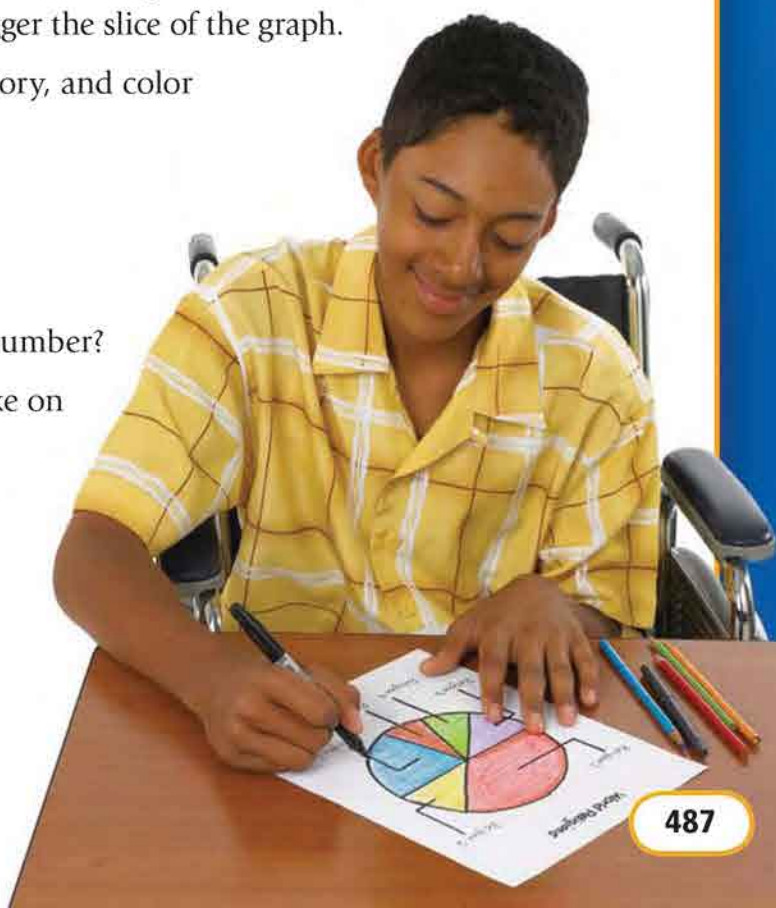
- 1 Which religion has the most members?
- 2 Which religion has the second greatest number?
- 3 What other generalizations can you make on the basis of the graph?

Extension

Making a Presentation Display your completed pie graph in the classroom.

Materials & Supplies

- blank sheet of paper
- markers or crayons of different colors
- a ruler to draw lines for sections of the pie graph
- research sources, such as world almanacs or encyclopedias



Chapter 14 Review

VISUAL SUMMARY

The Birth of Christianity

Belief Systems

- Christianity built upon Jewish beliefs.
- The disciples of Jesus believed that he was the Messiah.
- Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead and that this made an afterlife possible.
- Jesus' disciples and, later, other apostles like Paul spread the teachings of Jesus.



Geography

- Paul traveled around the eastern Roman Empire trying to convince Gentiles to believe in Jesus.



Government

- Jews and Christians challenged the authority of Rome.
- Constantine converted to Christianity and made it one of the official religions of the empire.
- The Christian church developed into a complex institution.



TERMS & NAMES

Explain why the words in each pair below are linked with each other.

1. **Gospel** and **disciple**
2. **Paul** and **missionary**
3. **bishop** and **pope**

MAIN IDEAS

The Origins of Christianity (pages 466–475)

4. What is one important message from the Sermon on the Mount?
5. What events do the Christian holidays of Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday commemorate?

The Early Christians (pages 476–481)

6. What religion did Jesus and his earliest disciples follow?
7. What early decision helped attract Gentile converts to Christianity and separate it from Judaism?

Rome and Christianity (pages 482–487)

8. What happened to the Temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70?
9. What are two examples of Christian sacraments?

CRITICAL THINKING

Big Ideas: Government

10. **MAKING INFERENCES** What beliefs did Jesus preach that might have brought him into conflict with Rome?
11. **DRAWING CONCLUSIONS** Why might Christians have been blamed by the Roman authorities for the fire that destroyed Rome in A.D. 64?
12. **SUMMARIZING** How did the emperor Constantine help spread Christianity?

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. WRITING ACTIVITY Imagine that you were a reporter present at the Sermon on the Mount or one of the other events described in this chapter. Explain to your readers what you have seen. Describe the people present, the words spoken, and the meaning of the event. Remember the questions of the newspaper reporter as you write up your account:

- Who? • When?
- What? • How?
- Where? • Why?

2. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY—

GEOGRAPHY Research how many miles Paul traveled on his various journeys. Describe the dangers he faced in various places. What dangers might a modern traveler face on the same routes? Using maps, make a brief oral report about your findings.

3. STARTING WITH A STORY

Review the poster you made about replacing Nero. Research what happened to Nero, and write the headline and first paragraph of a news story explaining his overthrow.

Technology Activity**4. CREATING A MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATION**

Use the Internet or library to research the sayings of Jesus and other religious leaders. Create a multimedia presentation in which you compare and contrast these sayings. Include

- sayings of Buddha and Confucius
- images of the religious leaders
- a comparison chart
- text for each slide
- documentation of your sources



Research Links
ClassZone.com

Reading Charts Latin was the language of the western Roman Empire and the Roman Catholic Church. Use the chart below to answer the questions.

The Influence of Latin

Latin Word	Meaning	Related Words in English
pontifex	high priest	pontiff
dominus	lord	domain, dominion
senatus	supreme council of state	senate, senator
provincia	governed territory	province
legio	body of soldiers	legion, legionnaire
Caesar	emperor, prince	kaiser, czar
episcopus	overseer	episcopal, bishop
cardinalis	principal, pivotal	cardinal
sedes	seat	Holy See
catholicus	universal	catholic

1. What two elements in the Roman world do the Latin words in the chart apply to?

- A. Temple in Jerusalem and Roman Forum
- B. Roman army and roads
- C. Roman government and the Roman Catholic Church
- D. capitals of Rome and Constantinople

2. What sorts of activities do the Latin words in the chart relate to?

- A. sports and athletic competition
- B. music and entertainment
- C. government and authority
- D. business and commerce



Test Practice
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Additional Test Practice, pp. 51–533