Rome splits into eastern and western halves.

The eastern half centers in Constantinople and becomes what we call the Byzantine Empire.

The Byzantine Empire is Roman in origin, Greek in culture, and Christian in religion.

The Empire goes through cycles of growth and decline, battling Islamic kingdoms, Persians, and even the Christian west, before it too falls.
Big Idea Card

Big Ideas of Lesson 1, Unit 6

- With the split of the Roman Empire, the eastern part shifted its capital to Constantinople (formerly Byzantium) and became what we now call the Byzantine Empire. The Byzantine Empire shared many similar characteristics with Rome, although its people looked more to Greece culturally.

- The east/west split of Rome and the development of the Byzantine Empire also divided the Christian world of the time into two major groups.

- The Byzantine Empire was shaped in many ways by geography. Situated between the Black and Aegean Seas (hence Europe and Asia), it was at a key economic and political crossroads.

- The Byzantine Empire faced a wide range of both internal and external threats and went through periods of territorial growth, as well as loss, until it eventually was taken over by another empire.
Word Cards

1 adaptation
the process of changing in response to new conditions in order to function better

Example: People living in flooded areas learned to adapt by building houses on stilts.

(SS070601)

2 internal
when something is, or comes from, inside of something else

Example: Your internal organs are organs that are inside your body, like your liver or your heart.

(SS070601)

3 external
when something is, or comes from, outside of something else

Example: An external hard drive saves information to a place outside of your computer to keep it safe.

(SS070601)

4 strait
a narrow passage of water connecting two seas or other large bodies of water

Example: The Bering Strait connects the Arctic Ocean to the Bering Sea.

(SS070601)

5 patriarch
a man who controls a family, clan, or government, or even a religious group

Example: Christian orthodox religions, like the Eastern Orthodox church, have patriarchs that are in charge of the overall religion and provide rules and guidance.

(SS070601)