

Chapter 1.1. From Rome to New Rome

1. What measures did Constantine I take to restore the Roman Empire?
 1. He founded a new administrative center in the East, Constantinople.
 2. He recognized the right to practice the Christian religion.
 3. He established the distinction of political from military power in the administration.
 4. He cut and put into circulation a very stable gold coin.
2. Why is the year 324 AD decisive for Constantine I's path to power?
 1. He defeats Licinius, who was Augustus of the Eastern Roman Empire.
 2. He becomes sole emperor.
 3. He decides to found a new administrative center (= capital).
3. Where did Constantine I found the new administrative center and why was this location geographically distinct?
 1. It was founded on the site of ancient Byzantium.
 2. It has a unique geopolitical location (crossroads between Asia and Europe, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean).
 3. It has great commercial importance.
4. For what reasons was the capital of the Roman Empire moved to this new location?
 1. The East, in contrast to the West, had a thriving population and economy.
 2. The Christians, on whom Constantine I politically relied, were more numerous in the East.
 3. The major cities of the East suffered from religious conflicts.
 4. From Byzantium he could more easily repel the Goths (on the Danube) and the Persians (on the Euphrates).
5. How was Constantinople built and when were its inaugurations? It was built according to the Roman street plan. Thus, he built in the city:
 - new walls, impressive avenues, the forum (square) of Constantine,
 - he decorated it with splendid works of art:
 - the Holy Palace and the building of the Senate
 - he also built other public buildings: churches, baths, cisterns 330 -> Inauguration of Constantinople
6. What elements demonstrate that Constantine I showed a favorable policy towards Christianity and what purpose did this policy serve?
 1. He moved the monogram of Christ (Christogram), an important Christian symbol, from the military flag (labarum) to the coins
 2. he issued laws favorable to Christians
 3. Edict of Milan (313):

- It was based on an agreement between Constantine and Licinius
 - It recognized the freedom of Christians to practice their worship
 - thus it equalized their rights with those of the other religions of the Roman Empire.
4. the persecutions against Christians cease.
 5. with the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea (325) the heresies are condemned.
- ⇒ Purpose: to restore peace in the Church and the Empire.

Questions

1. In what chronological order did the following events take place? Add them to the timeline along with their dates that you will find in your school book:

- Edict of Milan
- Death of Constantine I
- Inauguration of Constantinople
- First Ecumenical Council
- Constantine I becomes sole emperor

Year:	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Event:					

2. Let's match the elements of column A with the elements of column B:

Column A	Column B
1. Licinius	a. Euphrates
2. Christogram	b. Constantinople
3. Goths	c. religious tolerance
4. New Rome	d. Augustus
5. Persians	e. Danube
6. Edict of Milan	f. Christian symbol

3. Let's characterize the following sentences as correct (C) or wrong (W):

- * The persecutions against Christians ceased completely after the Edict of Milan.
- * The council of Nicaea was called Ecumenical, because representatives from all over the world took part in it.
- * Constantinople was built with a street plan that reminds one of Rome.