THE KIEVAN RUS

Learning Target: How did the Byzantine Empire influence the development of the Kievan Rus?

Do-Now: Grab a handout and take out your essay!

Homework:
None- if you don’t finish classwork, you must finish it at home.
Directions: Below is a series of statements that you will identify as true or false before reading. As you read through the passages, adjust your answers (if needed) and make sure to support your answer with text evidence and to take notes.

- Emperor Diocletian founded the city of Constantinople.
- The Roman Empire showed no signs of weakness.
- The Eastern half of the Roman Empire became known as the Byzantine Empire with their capital at Constantinople.
- Emperor Justinian helped to advance the Byzantine Empire.
- The Great Schism marked the collapse of the Roman Empire.
- The Eastern Orthodox Church rejected the basic beliefs of Christianity.
THE BEGINNINGS OF KIEV

Directions: Use the map and reading to help you answer the questions below.

- Describe the historical context of the Kievan Rus’. (Historical context: the historical conditions surrounding an event, idea, or historical development.)
- Describe the religions present in the region of Kiev. Hypothesize how the Byzantine Empire might influence the religion of Kiev.
This document is from a Monk’s chronicle, describing King Vladimir’s conversion policy.

“Later, Vladimir was suffering from blindness; a Byzantine bishop baptized him and as the bishop laid his hand upon him, he straightway recovered his sight. Upon experiencing this miraculous cure, Vladimir glorified God, saying “I have now perceived the one true God.” When his followers beheld this miracle, many of them were also baptized. . . Thereafter Vladimir sent heralds throughout the whole city to proclaim that if any inhabitant, rich or poor, did not betake himself to the river for mass baptism, he would risk the Prince’s displeasure. When the people heard these words, they wept for joy and exclaimed in their enthusiasm, “If this were not good, the Prince and his nobles would not have accepted it”. . . There was joy in heaven and upon earth to behold so many souls saved. . . Vladimir ordered that wooden churches should be built and established where pagan idols previously stood. He founded the Church of Saint Basil on the hill. . . He assigned priests throughout the cities and towns, and brought people in for baptism from all towns and villages. He began to take the children of the best families and send them for instruction from books.”
The Cyrillic Alphabet was named for St. Cyril, although there is some dispute as to whether this is the alphabet he invented or not. Cyril was a Greek monk from the Byzantine Empire who brought written language to Christian converts in the mid-9th century in what is now Russia. The Cyrillic alphabet is closely based on the Greek alphabet, with about a dozen additional letters invented to represent Slavic sounds not found in Greek.
Designed to rival Hagia Sophia in Constantinople, Kiev’s Saint-Sophia Cathedral symbolizes the ‘new Constantinople’, capital of the Christian principality of Kiev, which was created in the 11th century in a region evangelized after the baptism of St Vladimir in 988. Inside contains icon painting of religious figures.
Kiev was the leading city of the Kievan Rus. It was a key trading center for the North-South trade between Scandinavia to the Middle East. At the base of the city was the Dnieper River which helped facilitate trade. The city contained eight markets. Travelers called the city a “charming gem”, and one German visitor compared it to Constantinople. Russian social and economic patterns took place as their culture developed. Russian peasants were fairly free farmers, although an aristocratic landlord class existed. Russian aristocrats, called **boyars**, had less political power than their counterparts in Western Europe, although the Kievan princes had to negotiate with them.
The Russkaya Pravda (The Russian Truth) was the first book of laws written for the Russian and Eastern Slavic peoples. It was written by Yaroslav the Wise, Grand Duke of Kiev, circa 1050 C.E.

**Article 1:** If a man kills a man: then a brother avenges a brother, or a son avenges a father, or a cousin, or a nephew; if no one will take revenge, then 80 grivnas for the murdered; if he be a knyaz’s man or knyaz’s official; but if he be a rusin, or a grid’ (a lower-ranking druzhinnik), or a merchant, or a boyar’s official, or a mechnik (swordsman), or an exile, or a slovenin (Novgorodian), then 40 grivnas for the murdered.

**Article 4:** a person strikes another with an unsheathed sword, or with the hilt of a sword, he pays twelve grivnas for the offence.

**Article 5:** a person hits [another’s] arm and the arm is severed or shrinks, he pays forty grivnas fine. And if he hits the leg [but does not sever it], and then he [the victim] becomes lame, let both [parties] reach an agreement.

**Article 6:** And if a finger is cut off, three grivnas for the offence.

**Article 7:** For the moustache twelve grivnas; and for the beard twelve grivnas.
LEARNING TARGET NOTEBOOKS

Learning Target Question:
How did the Byzantine Empire influence the development of the Kievan Rus?

Please neatly place your notebooks back in the bin, thank you!