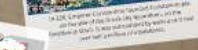




## BYZANTIUM, THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE EAST

From the 12 century, Byzantium's prosperity started to decline, and the Empire slowly fell apart as a result of the constant attacks by the Turks, who finally conquered Constantinople in 1453.



Map of Constantinople showing its location and the city walls.

Remember that the Roman Empire was divided into the Western and Eastern Roman Empires. At the height of its power in the 1st century AD, the Roman Empire was divided by Emperor Diocletian (284-305) into the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire. The constant threat of barbarian invasions that have been led by a half Germanic, half Roman people, he also created the **Byzantine Empire**, a half Roman, half Greek state that might be called the **Eastern Roman Empire**.



## THE CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE

The **Carolingian Empire** was a major power in Western Europe during the 8th and 9th centuries. It was founded by Charlemagne, who was crowned Emperor of the Romans in 800. The empire reached its greatest extent under Charlemagne, covering most of Western Europe.

The **Carolingian Renaissance** was a period of cultural and intellectual revival in the Carolingian Empire. It was initiated by Charlemagne, who encouraged the study of Latin and the arts. This period saw the development of the Carolingian minuscule, a clear and uniform script used for writing Latin.

# Conclusion

## A GERMANIC KINGDOM: THE VISIGOTHS IN HISPANIA

**How did they organize their kingdom?**  
The Visigoths were a minority in Spain (only 150,000 of a population of six million), but held most of the land, forming an aristocratic and privileged social group.

- Their kingdom was based on:
- A **strong monarchy**, sometimes elected but more often hereditary. The monarch relied on institutions such as the **Aula Regia** (advisory body of nobles and clergy) and the **Councils of Toledo** (where laws were made).
  - **Control of the entire peninsula**: they conquered Byzantine territories in the south of the country and stopped the advance of the Franks in the north.
  - **The legal and religious unification**: **Caesarius** repealed the law banning mixed marriages. **Reccaredo** achieved religious unity by converting to Catholicism and **Reccasimo** established a single law for the kingdom, the **Liber Iudiciorum**.



**THE VISIGOTHS IN HISPANIA**  
The Visigoths were a Germanic people who settled in Hispania in the 5th century. They established a kingdom that lasted until the 8th century. They were known for their strong monarchy and their efforts to unify the peninsula.



## A GERMANIC KINGDOM: THE VISIGOTHS IN HISPANIA

When in 409, a group of Germanic people (Goths, Vandals and Alans) invaded the peninsula, the Visigoths came to Spain as allies of Rome to expel the invaders (they were mercenaries). So once they pushed the Vandals and Alans to North Africa and the Suebi into present-day Galicia, they settled in southern Gaul, where they founded the Kingdom of Tolosa.



## HOW DID THE FRAGMENTATION START?

Throughout the 4th century, the Germanic kingdoms destroyed the already weak Roman Empire, which had been divided in 395 A.C. by the emperor **Theodosius** into two parts shared between his children:

- The **WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE**, with Rome as its capital.
- The **EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE**, with Constantinople as its most important city.



Years later, when the last emperor, **Romulus Augustus**, was deposed (476), the Roman Empire finally fell and it marked the end of the Ancient History and the beginning of the Middle Ages.

**THE ROMAN EMPIRE**  
The Roman Empire was a vast empire that spanned across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. It was founded by the Roman Republic and reached its greatest extent under Emperor Trajan in 106 AD. The empire was known for its strong military, infrastructure, and culture.

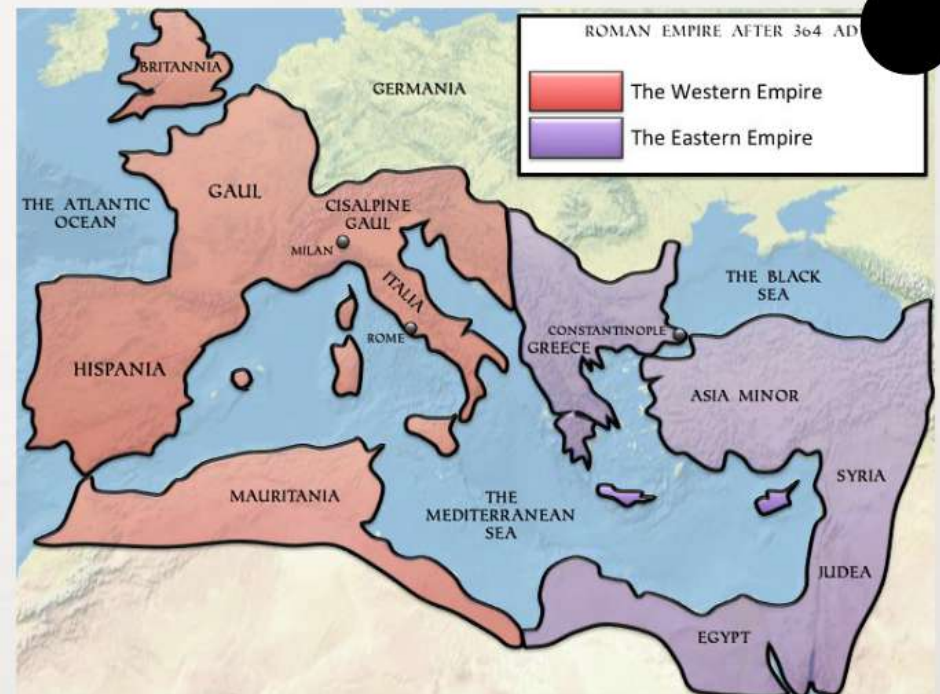
# Unit 1: The fragmentation of the Ancient World



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# THE GERMANIC KINGDOMS

The centralized government of the Western Roman Empire was replaced by smaller kingdoms called **Germanic tribes** and known as "barbarians" by the Romans.

These tribes arrived to the roman's boundaries fleeing from the **Huns**, a nomadic Asian people who invaded Eastern Europe led by their ruler, **Attila**.

With this situation, various Germanic Kingdoms began to form from the end of the V century:

- The **Ostrogoths**: they occupied Italy and Dalmatia.
- The **Visigoths**: they expanded from the south of the Gaul to Hispania.
- The **Franks**: they established themselves in Gaul, conquering territories of other kingdoms.
- The **Angles and Saxons**: they invaded Britain.


**THE LIFE OF THE GERMANIC KINGDOMS**

Their way of life was very different from the Roman. The Germanic people had no formal writing, laws or state structure. For that reason, in some places, they spoke Latin and became Christians. They worked the land and raised livestock. They lived in family tribes and their military leader also acted as king, turning this into hereditary. This "king" surrounded themselves with Roman counsellors, using even the Roman currency. In general, cities and trade declined due to the insecurity of the boundaries.



**THE INVASION OF THE ISLAND**

From the VI century, the Eastern Roman Empire, also called Byzantium (the Greek name for this capital, Constantinople) was developed. But just one century later, many of the territories formerly governed by Eastern Romans, were taken over by followers of a new religion from Arabia, the ISLAM. This monotheistic religion invited its believers to fight a holy war to expand the new faith. So, through military conquests, Islam expanded into the former Roman Empire.





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## A GERMANIC KINGDOM: THE VISIGOTHS IN HISPANIA

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So once they pushed the Vandals and Alans to North Africa and the Suebi into present-day Galicia, they settled in **southern Gaul**, where they founded the **Kingdom of Tolosa**.

However, one century later, the **Franks** from the north of Gaul, defeated the Visigoths (Battle of Vouillé) and drove them into **Hispania**. Here they survived as a **kingdom** for over two hundred years with its capital in **Toledo**.



## A GERMANIC KINGDOM: THE VISIGOTHS IN HISPANIA

### How did they organized their kingdom?

The Visigoths were a **minority** in Spain (only 150.000 of a population of six million), but held most of the land, forming an **aristocratic and privileged** social group.

Their kingdom was based on:

- A **strong monarchy**: sometimes elected but more often hereditary. The monarch relied on institutions such as the **Aula Regia** (advisory body of nobles and clergy) and the **Councils of Toledo** (where laws were made).
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- The **legal and religious unification**: *Leovigildo* repealed the law banning mixed marriages, *Recaredo* achieved religious unity by converting to Catholicism and *Recesvinto* established a single law for the kingdom, the **Liber Iudiciorum**.

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## THE VISIGOTHS IN MADRID

The Visigoths controlled a large part of the **Meseta Central**, a strategic territory through which several roads converged and offered possibilities for **agricultural development**.

As Roman people did before, the Visigoths settled in the confluence of the Henares and the Jarama rivers. Those who preferred **livestock** activities, settled in lands with a certain altitude, like **Navalvillar** (Colmenar Viejo).



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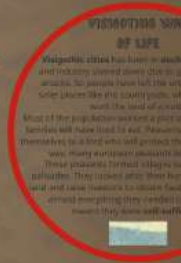
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# VISIGOTHIC WAY OF LIFE

**Visigothic cities** has been in **decline** since trade and industry slowed down due to germanic tribes' attacks. So people have left the urban centres for safer places like the countryside, where they could work the land of a noble.

Most of the population worked a plot of land, so that their families will have food to eat. Peasants agreed to entrust themselves to a lord who will protect them in return. In this way, many european peasants became **serfs**.

These peasants formed villages surrounded by palisades. They looked after their homes, worked the land and raise livestock to obtain food. They produced almost everything they needed to live, which means they were **self-sufficient**.



They were self-su



# VISIGOTHIC ART AND CULTURE

- **The importance of the church**

In a rural world, the **clergy** were the greatest conserves of the Roman culture. They knew how to read and write and worked as advisers to the Visigothic monarchs. At first they were **Arians**, so they believed that even Jesus was the son of God, he was a simple mortal. However, they converted to the **Catholicism** in the VI century and accepted the cultural and spiritual direction of the Roman Church.

**Toledo** became the main religious centre on the Iberian Peninsula. There, Visigoths monarchs and the clergy used to celebrate **Councils**, where they discussed civil and religious issues.

- **Language**

**Latin** was the language of the well-educated inhabitants of the Visigothic Kingdom.

- **Art and metalworkers**

The artworks that have survived to this day show the **importance of the church** and the fusion of **Roman with Germanic influences**.



Capitel San Pedro de la Nave



San Juan de Boños



Tesoro de Guarrazar



Relieve Quintanilla de las Viñas



**Capitel San Pedro de la Nave**



**San Juan de Baños**



**Tesoro de Guarrazar**



**Relieve Quintanilla de las Viñas**

# HOMework

- Go to page 15 and complete the following charter the characteristics of the metalwork and the architecture of the Visigoths.

METALWORK	ARCHITECTURE



# BYZANTIUM, THE ROMAN EMPIRE IN THE EAST

Remember that the Western Roman Empire ceased to exist in 476, but Roman heritage survived in the east under the Byzantine Empire.

## • The age of Justiniano

At the height of its golden age, the Byzantine Empire was ruled by **Justiniano I** (527-565), who aimed to restore the Roman Empire. He conquered some of the western provinces that have been lost and held political, military and religious power. He also wrote the **Justinian Code**, a collection of Roman laws that might be followed by Byzantine people.

## • The easternisation of the Empire

Between the VII and VIII centuries, Byzantium lost a large part of Justiniano's conquests, retreating to its eastern zone. The Empire was **Hellenised** and Greek became the official language.

Two centuries later the economy strengthened, the emperor enjoyed absolute power (consider the head of the Roman world and the Christianity, even over the Pope). This period is known as the **second golden age of Byzantium**.

From the XI century, Byzantium's prosperity started to decline, and the Empire slowly fell apart as a result of the constant attacks by the Turks, who finally conquered Constantinople in 1453.



In 330, Emperor Constantino founded Constantinople on the site of the Greek city Byzantium, on the Bosphorus Strait. It was surrounded by walls and it had over half a million of inhabitants.

555 AD



## BYZANTINE ART

It included characteristics of Greco-Roman, eastern art. In **architecture**, it employed classical features such as columns and domes, materials like brick, stone and marble. Richly-coloured **mosaics** (tessellae) were used to decorate the walls of these buildings.



**Icons** were religious images made from an original prototype. They were painted on wooden panels and were brightly coloured.

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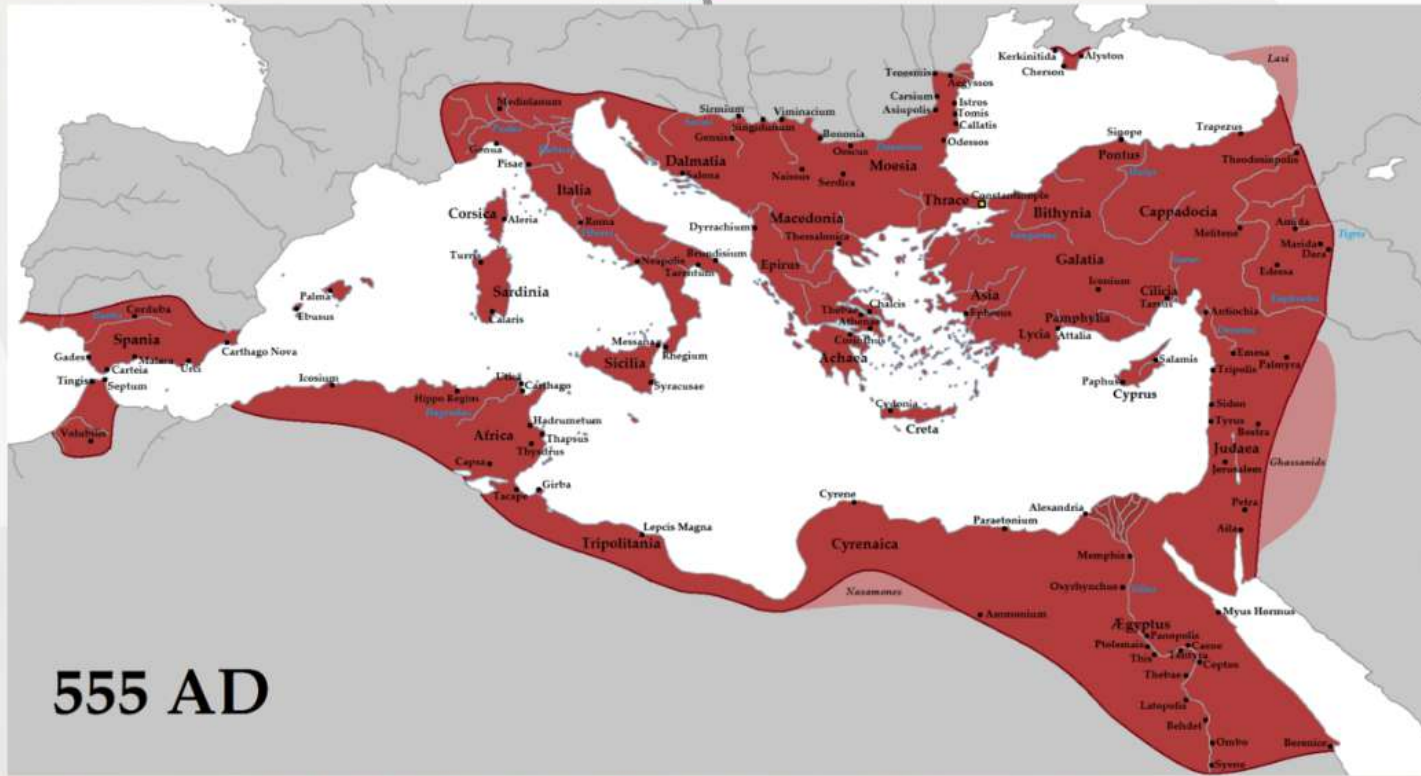
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# THE CAROLINGIAN EMPIRE

## The Frankish Kingdom

The **Frankish Kingdom** was very large, it covered present-day France and territories in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and Holland.

In the early VII century, a Frankish nobleman called **Charles Martel** successfully stopped muslims from Al-Andalus from invading France, defeated them near **Poitiers in 732**.

His son, **Pepin the Younger** became king of the Franks and founded the Carolingian dynasty. Later, Pepin's son and successor **Charles the Great (Charlemagne)** reunited most of the Western Roman Empire.



## Charlemagne, the emperor

Charlemagne conquered a large part of western Europe, stopped the advance of Islam and secured borders in the entire territory. He made everyone convert to **Christianity** and strengthened the **union between political and religious power**.

In **800**, Charlemagne was crowned **emperor** of the Romans by Pope Leo III, he set up his court in Aachen (Germany) and supported the Carolingian Renaissance. He divided the territory into around **250 counties** with a count at the head of each one (a trust person or friend). To defend the border areas, he established the *marcas*, led by a military commander, a **marquis**. He also founded a corps of royal commissioners, *missi dominici*, to enforce the laws and control the counts and marquises.



**The Carolingian Renaissance**  
 Charlemagne revived the culture of the Roman Empire in the 8th and 9th centuries. He encouraged the study of Latin and the arts, and supported the work of scholars and artists. This led to a renaissance of learning and culture in the Carolingian Empire.

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### The Carolingian Renaissance

Charlemagne ordered the construction of a **palace** to be his official residence in Aachen (Aquisgran), which became the **centre of imperial power**. To restore the splendour of the Roman Empire, he decided to start a **cultural revival** with the establishment of schools, bringing back the teaching of Latin and with monks copying the works of Greco-Latin writers.

When Charlemagne died, the crown passed to his son, **Louis the Pious** (814-840, IX century). Once Louis was dead, his territories were shared between his three sons (Lothar, Louis and Charles). Lothar, as the first-born, also received the title of Emperor and tried to impose his authority.

His brothers rebelled against him, who was defeated and forced to sign the **Treaty of Verdun** (843), after which independent kingdoms began to form.

As a result, the system of government was transformed, the counts became practically independent and this is considered the **beginning of the feudalism** in Europe.





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Palacio de Audiencias

Sala del Tesoro

Alojamientos del Emperador y de su Familia

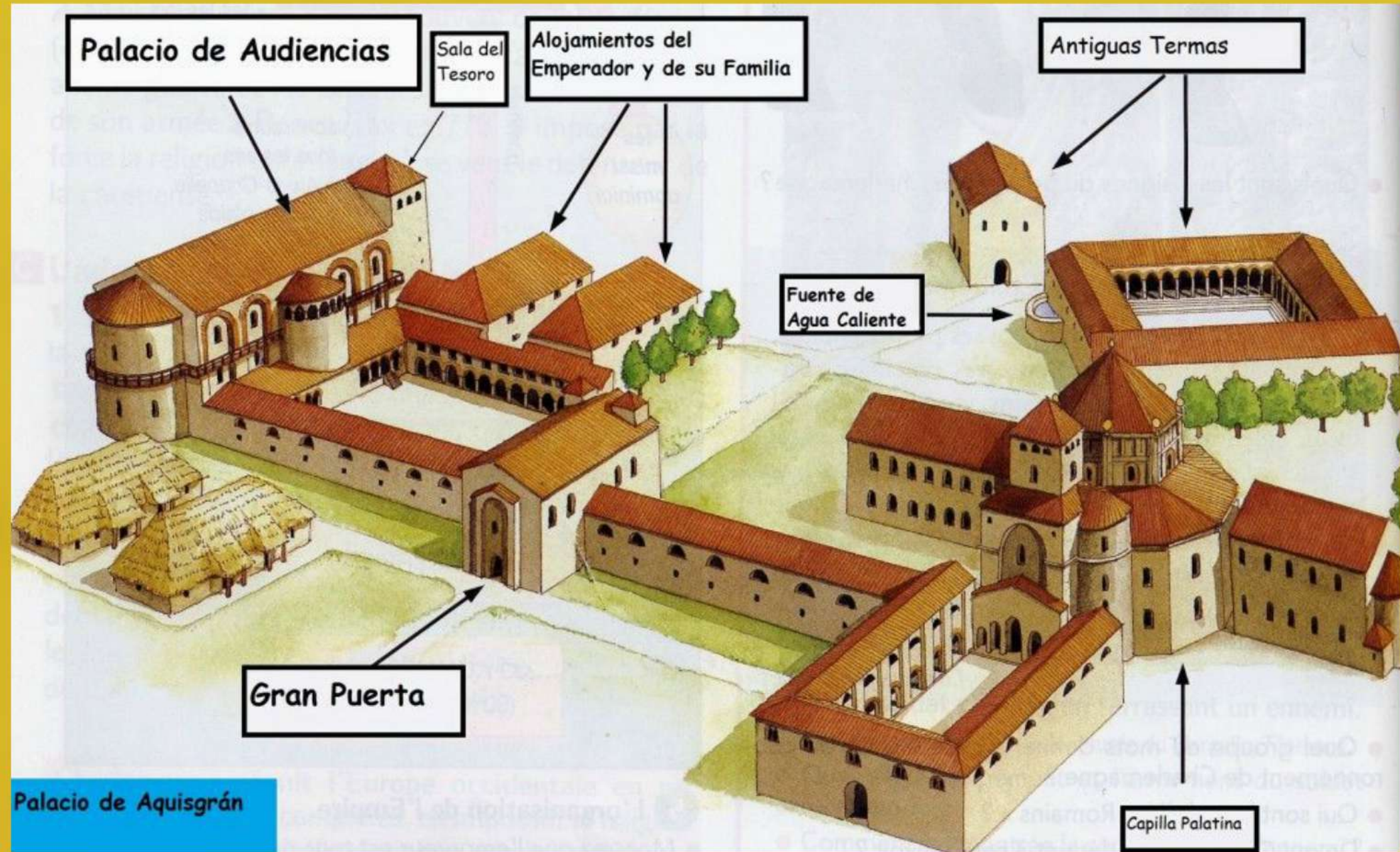
Antiguas Termas

Fuente de Agua Caliente

Gran Puerta

Capilla Palatina

Palacio de Aquisgrán



# Conclusion

**ROMANS**  
Western Roman  
kingdoms called  
"barbarians" by the  
Romans. Barbarians fleeing  
the north who invaded  
the Roman Empire.  
Kingdoms began  
in the north and Dalmatia,  
the south of the  
Roman Empire.  
Romans themselves in Gaul,  
the Roman Empire.  
led Britain.