

## The Roman Empire about 400 A.D.

Map is found on pages 18-19 in the atlas.

### Introduction to the Map

Throughout its existence, defending boundaries, especially on the east, had been a major and continuing challenge for the Roman Empire. By 400 A.D. the empire had been reorganized into hundreds of provinces, which were grouped into dioceses (shown on the map). Dioceses, in turn, were parts of prefectures, of which there were four: Gaul, Italy, Illyricum, and the East. Each province was ruled by a governor, each diocese by a vicar, and each prefecture by a praetorian prefect. Over the empire as a whole were two senior and two junior emperors, although this plan was not completely followed after the rule of Diocletian. There were, however, two capitals: Rome in the West and Constantinople in the East. The Romans regarded as barbarians any group that lived outside the empire. These included the Sassanids (successors to the Parthians; see the map on page 8), the Picts and Scots in the northwest, and the Germanic tribal and agricultural groups stretching from Denmark to the north coast of the Black Sea. Under pressure from the Huns to their east beginning in the fourth century, the Germanic peoples began invading, raiding, and settling in the empire.

### Cross-curricular Connections

The Extension activity involves the study of languages. Students who are studying foreign languages can provide examples of vocabulary words and grammar structures that vary between Romance (Latin-based) and Germanic languages. Since both are within the Indo-European language family, there will also be similarities. English is based on both sources, although because of its Anglo-Saxon origins and bases, it is classed as a Germanic language.

### Extension

Hundreds of years after the fall of the Roman Empire, its impact remains on the European cultural landscape. Have students use the map on page 104 to list as many ways as they can that the distribution of languages in Europe follows the boundaries of the Roman Empire.

### Assessment

Have students prepare a table listing the four prefectures, the dioceses contained in each, and the Barbarian groups that invaded it.

### Geography Standards

1. How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information.
3. How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on Earth's surface.
4. The physical and human characteristics of places.
10. The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
12. The process, patterns, and functions of human settlement.
13. How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of Earth's surface.
17. How to apply geography to interpret the past.

### Critical Thinking Skills

Analyzing, predicting and checking, comparing and contrasting, seeing similarities and differences, synthesizing, drawing conclusions

### Student Products

Answers to questions, table

### Answers

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. prefecture                                     | 6. France                            |
| 2. The Vandals                                    | 7. Around 486-507                    |
| 3. The Anglo-Saxons                               | 8. The Rhine                         |
| 4. The Huns                                       | 9. The Danube                        |
| 5. It suffered far fewer invasions by barbarians. | 10. The Visigoths and the Ostrogoths |

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## ACTIVITY 11

Use the map on pages 18-19 in the atlas to answer these questions.

1. By 400 A.D., the Roman Empire was organized into dioceses.  
What was the term for a region that was made up of several dioceses? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Barbarian invasions helped to bring about the fall of the Roman Empire in the late 400s A.D.  
What group of barbarians invaded Italy by sea? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What group of barbarians invaded Britain? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What group of barbarians came from the east and crossed the Volga River? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Eastern Roman Empire, which included the Prefecture of Illyricum and the Prefecture of the East, survived long after the fall of Rome. Use clues from the map and the map legend to explain why.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Using the map on pages 108-109, give the modern name of the country the Franks invaded. \_\_\_\_\_
7. When did the Franks finally occupy the western part of the Diocese of Gaul? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What river marked the eastern boundary of the Diocese of Gaul? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What river marked the northern boundary of the diocese of Italy, Dacia, and Thrace? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What two groups of barbarians came from Scandia? \_\_\_\_\_

For Sample Only- Duplication for Classroom Use Only