

Byzantine Empire Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Byzantine Empire trivia explores the long-lived eastern continuation of the Roman Empire, centered on Constantinople and shaped by war, faith, diplomacy, and art. From emperors and invasions to Orthodox Christianity and the fall of the city in 1453, it offers a concise way to revisit one of history's most influential civilizations.

HARD BYZANTINE EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. In what year did Diocletian formally divide Roman imperial rule into eastern and western halves, laying groundwork for the later Byzantine world?

Answer: 286

2. Which decree in 380 established Nicene Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire?

Answer: The Edict of Thessalonica

3. Name the council that met near Constantinople in 451 and became one of the defining doctrinal gatherings of the Christian world.?

Answer: The Council of Chalcedon

4. What was the name of the document issued by Emperor Zeno in 482 in an effort to address religious divisions?

Answer: The Henotikon

5. Which emperor is credited with abolishing the chrysargyron tax in 498?

Answer: Anastasius I

6. Which major Constantinopolitan cistern, dating to Justinian's reign, is the one later famous for its vast underground forest of columns?

Answer: The Basilica Cistern

7. What administrative creation was used to govern Byzantine Italy from Ravenna?

Answer: The Exarchate of Ravenna

8. Which council met in Constantinople in 692 and is often identified by a name meaning "fifth-sixth"?

Answer: The Quinisext Council

9. At which battle in 811 was Emperor Nikephoros I killed?

Answer: The Battle of Pliska

10. Which ruler's accession in 867 marks the start of the Macedonian dynasty?

Answer: Basil I

11. What is the title of the ceremonial handbook associated with Constantine VII?

Answer: De Ceremoniis

12. In Byzantine administration, what was the title of an important official post often rendered as a senior fiscal or bureaucratic office?

Answer: logothete

13. Which Byzantine title was used for a provincial military governor?

Answer: strategos

14. What was the Byzantine system called that granted revenue rights in exchange for service?

Answer: pronoia

FUNNY BYZANTINE EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. If you wanted your sports loyalty to sound like a paint swatch in Constantinople, which major chariot faction would you join: the Blues or the Beige?

Answer: The Blues

2. In Constantinople's chariot-racing scene, which major faction sounded less like a team and more like a salad ingredient?

Answer: The Greens

3. When a Byzantine crowd shouted "Nika!" they were basically yelling what in Greek?

Answer: "Conquer" or "win"

4. Who had the unenviable job of leading the Byzantine army at Manzikert in 1071?

Answer: Romanos IV Diogenes

5. The Battle of Manzikert took place in which year, in case your medieval calendar is somehow overbooked?

Answer: 1071

6. Which emperor kicked off the Komnenian dynasty by becoming emperor in 1081?

Answer: Alexios I Komnenos

7. In what year did the Fourth Crusade pull off the least neighborly visit imaginable and capture Constantinople?

Answer: 1204

8. After 1204, what state was established in Constantinople by the new rulers?

Answer: The Latin Empire

9. Who recaptured Constantinople for the Byzantines in 1261, proving the city had serious custody issues?

Answer: Michael VIII Palaiologos

10. Which dynasty had the awkward honor of being Byzantium's last ruling dynasty?

Answer: The Palaiologos dynasty

11. Which emperor is tied to the first phase of Iconoclasm, in one of history's fiercer

art-policy debates?

Answer: Leo III

12. Which council in 787 restored the veneration of icons, effectively saying the pictures could come back?

Answer: The Second Council of Nicaea

13. The Triumph of Orthodoxy is commemorated in Eastern Christianity in what year?

Answer: 843

FUN BYZANTINE EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. Which Byzantine princess put on her historian hat and wrote the work known as the Alexiad?

Answer: Anna Komnene

2. What is the title of the historical work written by Anna Komnene?

Answer: The Alexiad

3. Which famous Byzantine figure was both a princess and a historian?

Answer: Anna Komnene

4. Who was the 11th-century Byzantine scholar and courtier with a name that sounds ready for a palace debate?

Answer: Michael Psellos

5. Which historian wrote a major account covering the 12th and early 13th centuries?

Answer: Niketas Choniates

6. De Administrando Imperio is attributed to which Byzantine ruler?

Answer: Constantine VII

7. Which late Byzantine teacher is linked with Platonic philosophy?

Answer: Gemistos Plethon

8. In Byzantine Greek, what title meant "emperor"?

Answer: Basileus

9. True or false: In Byzantium, "Caesar" could be used as a high imperial court title.?

Answer: True

10. Who were the Byzantine borderlands' tough-on-the-frontier defenders?

Answer: Akritai

11. Which legendary hero strides out of Byzantine literature as a famous warrior figure?

Answer: Digenes Akritas

12. If a Byzantine church wall wanted to sparkle, what hallmark decoration was it probably wearing?

Answer: Mosaics

13. Which color was especially tied to imperial status in Byzantium?

Answer: Purple

BYZANTINE EMPIRE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which bird symbol is famously linked with Byzantium, with one head looking each way?

Answer: The double-headed eagle

2. What is the common name for Justinian's great collection of laws?

Answer: The Corpus Juris Civilis

3. Who was the leading general serving under Emperor Justinian I?

Answer: Belisarius

4. Which commander helped Justinian reconquer parts of Italy?

Answer: Narses

5. In Byzantine Italy, which city was a major center of imperial power?

Answer: Ravenna

6. Under Justinian, the empire briefly recovered lands in which region?

Answer: North Africa

7. Justinian's armies battled which group in Italy?

Answer: The Ostrogoths

8. Which year is associated with a key milestone for Byzantine Empire?

Answer: Heraclius

9. What was the name of the famous Byzantine weapon known for burning fiercely?

Answer: Greek fire

10. What do historians call the Byzantine dispute over the use of religious images?

Answer: Iconoclasm

11. Which empress ruled in her own name from 797 to 802?

Answer: Empress Irene

12. Which emperor is known for helping the Byzantine Empire reach another high point?

Answer: Basil II

EASY BYZANTINE EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. Who refounded Byzantium as Constantinople in 330?

Answer: Constantine the Great

2. In what year was Byzantium refounded as Constantinople?

Answer: 330

3. Constantinople stood on which strait?

Answer: The Bosphorus

4. The Byzantine Empire was the continuation of which empire in the east?

Answer: The Roman Empire

5. What became the main language of the Byzantine Empire?

Answer: Greek

6. Which emperor ruled from 527 to 565?

Answer: Justinian I

7. The Nika Riot erupted in Constantinople in what year?

Answer: 532

8. Who was the wife of Emperor Justinian I?

Answer: Theodora

9. What was the center of chariot racing in Constantinople called?

Answer: The Hippodrome of Constantinople

10. The Byzantine Empire fell when which city was captured in 1453?

Answer: Constantinople

11. Which Ottoman ruler captured Constantinople?

Answer: Mehmed II

12. Who was the last Byzantine emperor?

Answer: Constantine XI Palaiologos

13. Byzantine Christianity belonged mainly to which part of the Christian world?

Answer: The Christian East

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/byzantine-empire>