

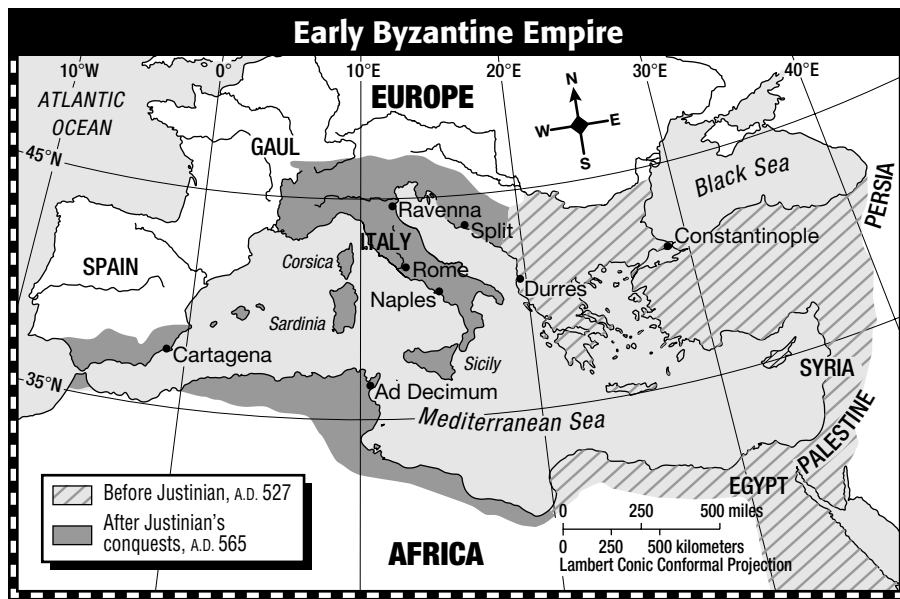
Mapping History Activity 9



Justinian's Conquests

After the Western Roman Empire fell following several waves of invasions, Constantinople became the new power center for the empire. Byzantine emperor Justinian wanted to recover the lands lost to the invaders and reconstitute the Roman Empire. In the end, Justinian was able to take back much, but not all, of the territory that had once belonged to Rome.

DIRECTIONS: The map below shows Justinian's empire. Use the map to answer the questions and complete the activity that follow. Use a separate sheet of paper.



1. Constantinople is about how many miles from Rome?
2. Constantinople sits at the crossroads of which two bodies of water?
3. Read the following historical description of Justinian's campaigns to take back the lost territories. Using the information provided, draw arrows on the map to show the routes that were taken.

In A.D. 533, the first expedition left Constantinople and was directed toward Africa. The Byzantine forces led by Belisarius landed in what is today the country of Tunisia. There they defeated the Vandals in a battle at Ad Decimum and at the nearby city of Tricamarum. From there, the Byzantines sailed to Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica and took back those islands. In A.D. 535, the second expedition was launched. This time, the plan was to recapture the Italian Peninsula. Belisarius, who occupied the

island of Sicily, landed at Naples, fought his way to Rome, and pushed north to Ravenna. At the same time, Mundus, operating on the Balkan Peninsula, launched an invasion from Durrës to Split. A third expedition was led by Liberius in A.D. 554. He landed at Cartagena and fought the Visigoths to take back Spain. Despite these successes, Justinian's expanded empire failed to include the interior of Gaul (now called France) or Spain.