Chapter 9, Section 2

The Fall of Rome

* The Severans were emperors who stayed in power by paying the army well.
* Rome's gov't became very weak when the last Severan died; army leaders fought for control.
* The fall of Rome began with poor leadership, invaders, and a declining economy.
* Plague -- a disease that spreads quickly and kills many
* Inflation -- rapidly increasing prices caused by a decline in the value of money
* Rome's coins lost value and people began to barter (exchange goods without money).
* A general Diocletian took power and introduced reforms (political changes to make things better).
* Then General Constantine took control and moved the capital from Rome to Constantinople (city named for him).
* Finally Theodosius took control and ended the fighting -- he decided to divide the Roman Empire after his death.
* Eastern Roman Empire -- thrived and became the Byzantine Empire
* Western Roman Empire -- fell to a Germanic general named Odoacer
* Invading Germanic tribes -- Ostrogoth, Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Angles, Saxons -- Rome fell when these tribes invaded.
* Historians date the fall of Rome when Odoacer took control.
* Alaric -- the Visigoth leader who captured the city of Rome
* Christianity began in the Roman Empire.
* Roman ideals of gov't, as first written in the Twelve Tables, are still with us today.
* Rome passed on many achievements in government, law, language, the arts and religion (Christianity).