

Name _____

The Fall of Rome and the Birth of the Middle Ages

Short Answer Key

1. Corruption and mismanagement led to economic instability, excessive taxation, and the devaluation of Roman currency, contributing to the decline of the Roman Empire.
2. The Visigoths' sack of Rome in 410 CE severely damaged Roman prestige and exposed the vulnerability of the empire to external threats.
3. Odoacer was a Germanic chieftain who deposed the last Roman emperor, Romulus Augustulus, in 476 CE, marking the fall of the Western Roman Empire.
4. Feudalism was a system where lords granted land (fiefs) to vassals (knights) in exchange for loyalty and military service, providing some stability in post-Roman Europe.
5. Christianity gained prominence through the Roman Empire and became the dominant religion in Europe during the Middle Ages due to conversions, the Church's influence, and support from rulers.

