

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Fall of Rome and the Birth of the Middle Ages

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The division of the Roman Empire into the Eastern and Western Empires marked the divergence of their destinies. While the Eastern Empire (Byzantine Empire) continued to thrive for centuries, the Western Empire faced decline, leading to its eventual fall in 476 CE.
2. As a serf in the Middle Ages, my daily life would involve working the land, tending to animals, and living in a small cottage on a lord's manor. I would owe labor and loyalty to the lord in exchange for protection and land to farm.
3. The collapse of the Western Roman Empire had a profound impact on Europe during the Middle Ages, leading to the emergence of feudalism, the spread of Christianity, and the fragmentation of political power.
4. The Church played a significant role in both religious and political affairs during the Middle Ages. It provided spiritual guidance, education, and charity, and it also held sway over political decisions and monarchs through its influence and authority.

