The Byzantines: Engineering an Empire

1. The Byzantines called themselves “Romanos” or those who continued the ________________ of the __________ Empire.

2. The Byzantine Empire was the dominant force in the ________________.

3. Hi, I’m Peter Weller. Byzantium was an ancient Greek __________ founded around 600 BC named after its king Byzantas.

4. November 8, 324 AD, after two decades of bloody civil war, the emperor _______________ finally seized sole control of the entire Roman Empire.

5. What did Constantine achieve (list several)?

6. What is the name of Constantine’s city today, population 12 million?
   - New Rome
   - Constantinople
   - Istanbul
   - Zimmerman

7. How long were the great aqueducts that were built to supply water to Constantine’s city?

8. What modern day country does Istanbul lie in today?

9. 410 AD, Rome has fallen to ________________ called Visigoths. Romans fled eastward to the safe haven of Constantinople. Who was the threat in the east?

10. Describe the walls built to keep out the Huns:

11. Attila got some help from mother nature in his attempt to take Constantinople. What happened?
   - Earthquake
   - Typhoon
   - Volcanic Eruption
   - Fire

12. True or False The Huns never breached (broke through) the city walls.

13. What was the giant chain used for?

14. Constantinople was the ________________ city in the world.

16. Throughout the 5th century, the ____________ Roman Empire had been steadily disintegrating under the iron fist of barbaric tribes. In 476, the last Roman emperor _______________ (left) the throne. To many, the Roman Empire had finally ________________.

17. Justinian I ruled during the Byzantine Empire’s golden age. He was born a peasant. He married _______________. He promoted her to ________________. Together they would rule the empire as ________________.

18. True or False Justinian was wildly popular.
19. Describe the Hippodrome:

20. After the riot, why didn’t Justinian pack his bags and leave?

21. How many rebels are killed in the Hippodrome?

22. Justinian leaves us with a great architectural legacy: he rebuilt the city’s main cathedral called the __________ _____________. Today we call it the Hagia Sophia.

23. Describe the Hagia Sophia:

24. By the end of Justinian’s reign, the Byzantine Empire had grown to its greatest size encompassing ______ and Palestine, Asia Minor, Italy, __________ and southward through North Africa and ______________.

25. True or False After Justinian, the economy and the people of Byzantium are better off than they were before.

**Could Stop Here 36:00, roughly 1000 AD**

26. The man at the helm of the Byzantine’s comeback is ___________. A man of the people, Basil II was the most brilliant military mind the Byzantines would ever produce.

27. What is a trebuchet?

28. What did Basil do to Samuel’s army?

29. In ______ AD, when Basil died, the Byzantines were at the pinnacle of their power, but the empire was left rudderless and vulnerable to ________________________.

30. What did the Ottomans use against the Byzantine walls? Were they successful?

After 1100 years the walls were finally breached by the Ottomans. Constantinople was now Istanbul. The Byzantine Empire had ended, but its innovation and engineering feats stand today as a testament to the magnificent civilization, one that borrowed from Rome’s chapter in the book of great empires and then added its own.