**Key Terms #6 Roman Empire and its Achievements**

1. **Twelve Tables**-the system of Roman laws; it has greatly influenced the legal systems in the West.
2. **Aqueducts**-a Roman invention for providing plumbing and clean water to the people of Rome.
3. **Latin**-the language of the Romans; it is now considered a “dead” language because it is no longer used.
4. **Paganism**- word for Roman and Greek religions with their multiple gods.
5. **Paul of Tarsus**-spread Christianity to the non-Jews (Gentiles) around the Roman Empire.
6. **Martyr**-someone who dies for a cause. Many early Christians are considered martyrs because they were killed for their beliefs by the Romans.
7. **Catholic Church**-the first organized Christian church. It eventually becomes very powerful in the West.
8. **Constantine**-the Roman Emperor who converts to Christianity and legalizes it.
9. **Denomination**-a group of Christians with similar practices.
10. **List of Germanic and other tribes that attacked Rome**- Visigoths, Ostrogoths, Huns, Vandals
11. **Constantinople**- a city in Turkey where the capital of the Roman Empire was moved. Modern-day Istanbul.
12. **Inflation**-when money loses its value. Rome watered down their metal currency, causing inflation.
13. **Dark Ages**-a time period in Western Europe when most people are illiterate and much of the learning of the classical civilizations is lost.
14. **Byzantine Empire**-the eastern part of the Roman Empire; it stays very powerful even after the fall of Rome.