A Divided Church

Trace a separation and its effects across two regions

SS24.8.2a "Identify factors leading to the separation of Eastern Orthodoxy and Western Christianity and explain how the Orthodox Church influenced society and culture in Eastern Europe and Central Asia."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons the eastern and western churches grew apart. Circle one Orthodox influence in Eastern Europe and one in Central Asia, then write 1 beside the Eastern European example and 2 beside the Central Asian example.

From Constantinople to Central Asia

1. After the western Roman Empire fell, Christians around the Mediterranean still shared a faith, but their communities grew farther apart. In the west, Rome's church used Latin; in the eastern Roman Empire, centered on Constantinople, many church leaders used Greek. Messages and ideas could change as they crossed that language gap. Different rulers also backed the churches in each region. The eastern emperor often took an active role in church affairs, while western leaders looked to the bishop of Rome, called the pope.

2. Arguments over leadership turned distance into conflict. Popes claimed authority over the whole Church, but eastern patriarchs, including the patriarch of Constantinople, rejected the pope's right to rule them. Leaders also disputed a phrase added in the west to the Nicene Creed, a statement of belief about the Holy Spirit. In 1054, representatives of the pope and the patriarch of Constantinople condemned one another. The split developed over centuries rather than on a single day. In 1204, western crusaders sacked Constantinople, making trust even harder to rebuild.

3. The Orthodox Church shaped daily life after the separation. In parts of Eastern Europe, churches and monasteries taught Christian beliefs, preserved books, and sponsored painted icons used in worship. Orthodox religious texts helped spread Cyrillic writing among some Slavic peoples; its development began before the final break. Centuries later, Russian expansion carried Orthodox communities into Central Asia, where settlers built churches and some church groups ran schools. Many local people followed Islam or other traditions, so Orthodox influence there was uneven, not the story of every community.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the use of Latin in the west and Greek in the east help drive the churches apart?

2. What disagreement about leadership divided the churches, and what later event made rebuilding trust harder?

3. How did Orthodox churches and religious texts influence culture in parts of Eastern Europe?

4. How did Orthodox influence reach Central Asia, and why was its effect uneven?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label for two imagined objects: a letter between church leaders in Rome and Constantinople, and an Orthodox prayer book used in Central Asia. Explain two causes of the separation and two effects of the Orthodox Church, including one in Central Asia.

ANSWER KEY

A Divided Church

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.2a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons the eastern and western churches grew apart. Circle one Orthodox influence in Eastern Europe and one in Central Asia, then write 1 beside the Eastern European example and 2 beside the Central Asian example. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the use of Latin in the west and Greek in the east help drive the churches apart?	**The language gap made it harder for church leaders to share messages and ideas without changes or misunderstandings.**
2	What disagreement about leadership divided the churches, and what later event made rebuilding trust harder?	**Popes claimed authority over the whole Church, but eastern patriarchs rejected that claim. Western crusaders sacked Constantinople in 1204.**
3	How did Orthodox churches and religious texts influence culture in parts of Eastern Europe?	**Churches and monasteries preserved books and sponsored icons, while religious texts helped spread Cyrillic writing among some Slavic peoples.**
4	How did Orthodox influence reach Central Asia, and why was its effect uneven?	**Russian expansion brought Orthodox settlers, churches, and some church-run schools. Many local people followed Islam or other traditions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The imagined letter recalls how Latin and Greek made communication between church leaders harder. It also points to a dispute over authority: popes claimed the right to lead the whole Church, while eastern patriarchs rejected that claim. In parts of Eastern Europe, Orthodox religious texts helped spread Cyrillic writing among some Slavic peoples. The prayer book represents Orthodox communities that reached Central Asia as Russia expanded, where settlers built churches and some church groups ran schools. This influence was uneven because many local people followed Islam or other traditions.

Accept other passage-supported causes, including different rulers' roles and the dispute over the Nicene Creed. For cultural effects, accept icons, preserved books, teaching, Cyrillic writing, churches, or church-run schools when matched to the correct region.