

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# The Byzantine Empire

"Gettin' Byzzzy with It"

America's hot dogs, baseball, and Barney,  
Bad health care, but a strong army.  
The Romans felt the same way we feel today,  
Like Frosted Flakes: We're great.  
We're No. 1, like the top of the charts,  
But then the Roman Empire split apart.  
The land in the west cut up into fiefs,  
But the Empire in the east stayed tight.  
It's the Byzantine Empire, surely,  
We're rocking Asia Minor, now it's Turkey?  
The capital was Constantinople,  
Now it's Istanbul, not Constantinople.  
"Ding." Justinian steps into the ring,  
Conquering lands like it was his thing.  
He fell in love with this girl, Theodora,  
The actress doing backflips knew tactics.  
She changed the laws, she's keeping it wise,  
'Cause now men can't just be beating their wives.  
When a rebellion rose, Justin wanted to go,  
But Theodora said, "Nah, we can't go,  
We need to stay and fight." And that day she's right,  
Because Justinian defeated them that night.  
Pit foe against foe, your foes will be weak,  
That's the Byzantine trick just for keeping the peace.

We get busy with it, y'all get dizzy with it.

Don't question, we're the best, where the East meets West.

We get busy with it, y'all get dizzy with it.

Byzantine stay busy, we rock, rock the city, what!

Now it seems we Byzantines practice Christianity

Seven days a week, at least.

We pray to icons, little pictures of Mary, Jesus,

And some of the saints.

But some leaders said, "Uh-uh, you can't,

'Cause the second commandment says don't pray to paint."

If you score three goals, that's a hat trick,

But this controversy was iconoclastic.

When Leo III said "no" to icons,

We still had 'em, so now we have to hide 'em.

The Pope in Rome said icons were just fine,

And it's heresy if you say otherwise.

Said, "If you do I'll hate you, I'll excommunicate you,

Kick you out the Church, and send you back to grade school."

In 1054, the Church split in two parts:

Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox.

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We rock, rock the city, what!