

Constantine the Great



Gaius Flavius Valerius Constantinus was born between 272 and 285 AD. As a youth, he spent time at the imperial court where his father was a military leader and the western ruler of the Roman empire. Constantine was an energetic man. He first fought the Scottish Picts with his father in 306 AD. After his father died, he won the army's respect by proving that he was trustworthy and developed a reputation for making swift decisions. He united various factions in the Roman empire by defeating his rivals in battle.

Constantine ruled the western Roman empire from 306 until his death in 337 AD. He began his career by conducting military campaigns against the Persians and barbarians in the eastern provinces. He moved the capital from Rome to Constantinople because it was on a main trade route. It was also surrounded by water and therefore easier to defend.

Constantine Converts to Christianity

Constantine became a Christian after seeing a cross of light in the sun and the words 'in this conquer' in the sky. He dreamed that Christ told him to mark his soldiers' shields with the cross, following which they won an important battle. On the strength of this, Constantine became a Christian. Then after uniting the Roman empire and becoming emperor, he issued the Edict of Milan. This decree legalized Christianity, halted Christian persecution, and allowed Christianity to spread rapidly.

Fill in key details about the Roman emperor Constantine

Born: _____

Died: _____

Years he reigned: _____

Accomplishments: _____

Religion: _____