Essential Understandings	 Christianity was founded and slowly developed a popular following, spreading within the Roman Empire between the First and Fifth Centuries C.E., due to various factors. The Roman emperor Constantine played an important role in Christianity's acceptance and organization. The Church had a hierarchy of leadership and organization. Issue concerning "orthodox" beliefs and practices developed, and the Church developed mechanism to deal with these issues. Early writings helped to formalize Church doctrine. After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Church took on a larger civic role, and became more powerful during the Middle Ages, and played a prominent role in the lives of people.
Essential Questions	 Why did Christianity come to be a separate group from Judaism? Why did Christianity become so popular and widespread? What role might Christianity have had on the decline of the Roman Empire? How did the role of Christian leadership and organization take on an expanded role during the Middle Ages?
Essential Knowledge	 Jesus Christ's philosophy was basic and appealing. Christianity came to be widespread. Understanding the meaning behind certain basic vocabulary can help clarify the hierarchical organization of the church. The Christian Church played a prominent role in society during the Middle Ages.
Vocabulary	 Terms: Jesus Christ, messiah, disciple, martyrdom, bishop, priests, clegy, laity, parish, diocese, archbishop, patriarch, pope, orthodox, Constantine, excommunication, heresy, doctrine, Theodosius, Saints Ambrose, Jerome, Augustine, Arianism, predestination, sacraments, Canon Law, Age of Faith, monasteries, monasticism, monks, convents, nuns, reforms, pilgrimages, The Crusades
Essential Skills	 Demonstrate understanding of cause and effect. Apply and develop chronology skills. Demonstrate understanding of relationships and recognize patterns. Organize, classify, and associate people and concepts. Identify key concepts and vocabulary.

Related Maine Learning Results	 E. History E1.Historical Knowledge, Concepts, Themes, and Patterns Students understand major eras, major enduring themes, and historic influences in United States and world history, including the roots of democratic philosophy, ideals, and institutions in the world. a. Explain that history includes the study of the past based on the examination of a variety of primary and secondary sources and how history can help one better understand and make informed decisions about the present and future. b. Analyze and critique major historical eras, major enduring themes, turning points, events, consequences, and people in the history of the United States and world and the implications for the present and future. c. Trace and critique the roots and evolution of democratic ideals and constitutional principles in the history of the United States and the world using historical sources. d. Analyze and critique varying interpretations of historic people, issues, or events, and explain now evidence is used to support different interpretations. E2.Individual, Cultural, International, and Global Connections in History Students understand historical aspects of unity and diversity in the United States and the world, including Native American communities. a. Identify and critique issues characterized by unity and diversity in the history of the United States and other nations, and describe their effects.
	diversity in the history of the United States and other
Sample Lessons And	 Recognize and list factors that contribute to an idea becoming popular and in the spreading of an idea Vocabulary game (i.e., Jeopardy) Discussion of philosophical issues, and how divisions in the Church
Activities	were created over time and their impact

Sample Classroom Assessment Methods	 Unit quizzes Student participation in class discussions and activities
Sample Resources	 Publications: Ancient & Medieval Worlds, - Howe and Howe World History: The Human Experience (The Early Ages) – Glencoe Videos: Ancient Rome, Part 4 – History Channel