

Bio 3

## Christmas

12-6-12

- > Roman Empire
  - became Christian  $\frac{1}{2}$  way through
  - spread out, expanded empire
- > Prob w/ conquest
  - expensive
  - weakens further conquest
  - the conquered not happy
- > Solution
  - make the conquered part of empire
    - more soldiers, food, supplies
  - Keep their culture but make them Roman too
    - christianize celebrations
    - assign religious meaning (e.g. St Patrick's & Valentine's days)
- > Universal holidays: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas
- > Easter: planting season
  - Plant too early/late = crops freeze
  - originally spring break = time to work on crops
- > Thanksgiving: celebration of harvest; incentive for peasants
  - Royalty depends on peasants;
    - peasants become disgruntled
    - peasants revolt
  - celebrate bountiful harvest by rewarding peasants

- > Dec 21: shortest day / longest night; often a celebration of light
  - God = angry
  - Light = life
- > Roman-Christian integration too successful
  - end of year => running out of Saints
  - St. Nicolas (real Saint)
    - protected children, dairies, gave gifts
- > Pawnbrokers symbol of 3 golden spheres represent 3 sacks of gold given to peasant by St. Nicolas
- > Laplanders; lived on tundra (people: Sami)
  - dependent on caribou
  - they followed caribou as the herd moved thru land
  - later caribou were tied together and used to pull sled and continue moving with caribou
  - sometimes caribou would leave overnight
- > Laplander Shaman (Noaide): spiritual advisor (not medicine man)
  - Shaman goes "magical" using mushrooms
  - Shaman looks for caribou & finds them on the moon
  - Shaman says the reindeer (domesticated caribou) will return soon from their vacation on moon
    - buying some time