

Ricimer, the Puppet Master



Instructions: Use the word bank to label the map. Read the Did you know? box. Number the 4 events in order, tick True or False, match each word to its meaning, then write short answers.

Word bank (places): Cape Bon Carthage Catalaunian Plains Constantinople Ravenna Rome

1. Label the map



1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____
5 _____ 6 _____

Did you know?

- Ricimer was a general who chose and removed emperors.
- The Vandals captured Carthage and built a strong navy.
- At Cape Bon the Vandals used burning ships against a Roman fleet.



Feeding Rome

About this story

By the mid-400s the West had lost much land. Vandals led by Gaiseric took Carthage and North Africa in 439, Rome's richest grain lands. Attila the Hun invaded Gaul and Italy in 451-452 before dying in 453. The great general Aetius was killed by Emperor Valentinian III in 454, who was himself killed in 455.

2. Put the events in order

Write 1 to 4 in the boxes (1 = first).

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Attila invades Gaul | ☐ Vandals take Carthage |
| ☐ Fleet destroyed at Cape Bon | ☐ Vandals sack Rome |

3. True or false?

Ricimer was a powerful general.	☐ True	☐ False
The Vandals sacked Rome in 455 AD.	☐ True	☐ False
The Roman fleet won easily at Cape Bon.	☐ True	☐ False
Ricimer controlled several emperors.	☐ True	☐ False

4. Match up

Write the letter of the right meaning in the box.

Magister militum	A. Someone who decides who rules.
Puppet emperor	B. Master of soldiers: top army commander.
Kingmaker	C. Germanic people who took North Africa.
Vandals	D. A ruler controlled by someone else.

5. Short answers

- What do we call a ruler controlled by someone else?

- Which people took Carthage?

- Name one emperor Ricimer chose or removed.

- Explain in your own words: In your own words, explain why Ricimer could not be emperor himself.

- Stretch: Why was losing North Africa so serious?

