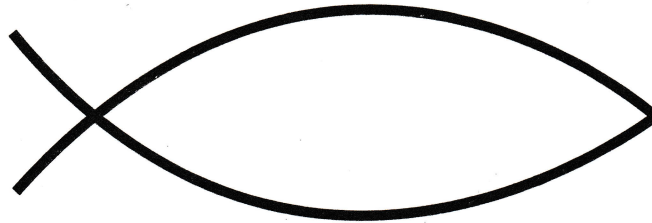


A Time of Persecution

An Early Christian Symbol of the Faith



ΙΧΘΥΣ

Letter	Greek word	English word
Ι (I)	<i>Iesous</i>	Jesus
Χ (ch)	<i>Christos</i>	Christ
Θ (th)	<i>theou</i>	God's
Υ (u)	<i>huios</i>	Son
Σ (s)	<i>soter</i>	Savior

Examine carefully this ancient symbol of the faith and the meaning that the Greek word for "fish" was able to summarize. Answer these questions:

How is this ancient symbol for the Greek word "fish" a summary of the part of the Apostles' Creed about Christ?

What does it include?

What does it omit?

Would you be willing to die for your faith in Jesus?

Design a small poster or a name tag that includes this symbol.

Name _____

Edict of Toleration

Issued by Galerius, but also bearing the names of Constantine and Licinius, this document appeared in A.D. 311.

Among our other regulations to promote the lasting good of the community, we have hitherto endeavored to restore a universal conformity to the ancient institutions and public order of the Romans; and in particular it has been our aim to bring back to a right disposition the Christians who had abandoned the religion of their fathers. After the publication of our edict ordering the Christians to conform to the ancient institutions, many of them were brought to order through fear, while many were exposed to danger. Nevertheless, since many still persist in their opinions, and since we have observed that they now neither show due reverence to the gods nor worship their own God, we therefore, with our wonted clemency in extending pardon to all, are pleased to grant indulgence to these men, allowing Christians the right to exist again and to set up their places of worship; provided always that they do not offend against public order. In return for this indulgence of ours, it will be the duty of Christians to pray to God for our recovery, for the public weal [well-being] and for their own; that the state may be preserved from danger on every side, and that they themselves may dwell safely in their homes.

Name _____