

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## EARLY CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS

Early Christians used letters and symbols to show that they were Christian. Sometimes these symbols were a secret language because Christians were persecuted by those who were not Christian. Symbols could be found on houses, tombs and armor as well as places of worship. Below are a few examples of these symbols. Research the symbols and provide a brief explanation.



**TAU RHO**

*This symbol is composed of the Greek letters Tau (T) and Rho (P) and is one of the earliest known symbols for Christ on the cross.*



**FLEUR DE LIS**

*Represents a lily or iris which is a symbol of purity. The three distinct petals are a symbol of the Trinity, three distinct persons in one divine nature. Also a symbol of the Virgin Mary because of her purity.*



**ICXC NIKΑ**

*IC are the first and last letters in the Greek word for "Jesus" and XC are the first and last letters for the Greek word "Christ". NIKΑ means "victory" so this symbol is a sign of Christ's victory over sin and death.*



**ICHTHUS**

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**CHI RHO**

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**ALPHA OMEGA**

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**ANCHOR**

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**PEACOCK**

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**SHEPHERD**

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