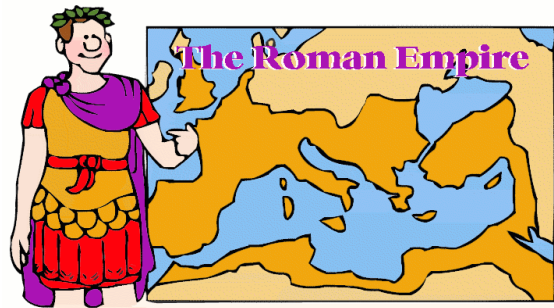


Introduction to Ancient Rome

Around 1000 B.C.E., a civilization began on the Italian peninsula which extends out into the Mediterranean Sea, just west of the Baltic peninsula of Ancient Greece. It would eventually become one of the largest empires in human history.



Roman Geography

The early Romans lived on a plain south of the **Tiber River**. The land was flat and fertile. The climate was warm and had plenty of rainfall, the perfect conditions for an agrarian civilization. Rome itself sat among seven hills the hills made it hard for invaders to approach because the hilltops served as lookouts for the people of the city. Its location on the Tiber meant easy access to the sea and the trade of the Mediterranean.

In the beginning, as Rome was growing, it was protected by natural barriers. The northern mountain range called the Alps protected it from the north, the Apennines Mountains protected it from the east and the Mediterranean Sea protected it from the west and the south. These natural boundaries would enable the Romans to grow until they were strong enough to expand around the Mediterranean and into central Europe.

Although Rome started off just as a city-state, at its peak, it would eventually grow to control an Empire that covered the modern day countries of England, Spain, France, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece Israel, Egypt and part of Northern Africa and Western Asia. In all, the Roman would rule over 60 million people, or 20% of the entire population of the earth.

Learning from Others

The Romans learned to learn from others. The Romans took and adapted knowledge from Greeks as well as other civilizations. They took this knowledge and traditions and made them their own, much the same way Canadians adapt and take the advantages from many cultures and make them their own creating a "multi-cultural" society.

To the north of Rome were the Etruscans, a wealthy group of people who the Romans despised. They did however admire the Etruscans ability to design and build large-scale buildings and infrastructure. **Infrastructure** is the term used to describe the building of all the basic necessities needed for a city or town to survive and thrive. Modern day infrastructure would include access to clean water, access to power and access to roads and communication. The Romans became famous for their ability to provide infrastructure. Their roads would cover all of Europe, and like their **Aqueducts** (which would bring fresh water from the hills to the cities), many still exist today.

Tiber River - The river that Rome was built on

Infrastructure - All the basic necessities needed for a city to grow, such as roads, water, public markets, etc..

Aqueducts - Marvels of Roman engineering which were man made canals that brought fresh water into the city.

Although the Romans learned from the Etruscans, they were influenced more by the ancient Greeks. They learned the importance of education and adapted a form of democracy or rule of government from the Greeks. They also shared similar religious beliefs from the Greeks and as a result shared the same belief or adapted Greek beliefs in polytheism or many gods, but by the end of the Roman Empire, Rome would become a Christian nation, with the belief in a single god (monotheism).

One Civilization - Two Time Periods

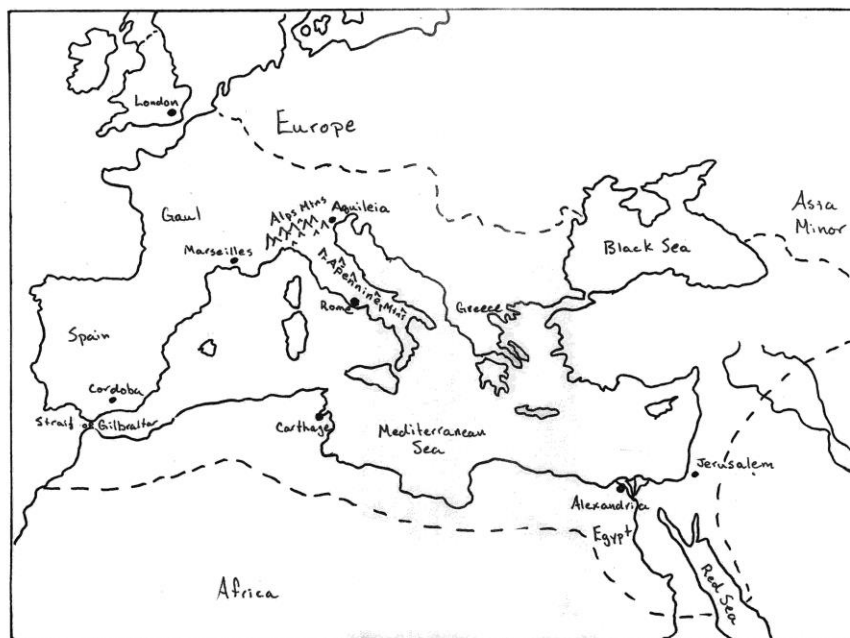
Ancient Roman History can be divided into two main time periods; the **Roman Republic** (509 B.C.E to 44 B.C.E.) and the **Roman Empire** (44 B.C.E. to 455 A.D.). During the Republic, the Romans set up a form of government where two consuls or leaders served a one-year term and were advised by members of a Senate that was a decision making body made up of wealthy family leaders of Rome. The word "senate" is derived from the latin word "senex" which means "old man" so the senate became an assembly or gathering of "elders". This idea that a group of people representing the political will of all citizens is an idea that has lived on past the end of the Roman Empire.

The Roman Republic would come to an end when Julius Caesar took control of the government and became **Emperor** of Rome. Julius became what is known today as a dictator, or a person with absolute control over the government. Julius allowed the people to keep their Senate and although "on paper" they were supposed to share power over the government, in practice all control rested with Caesar. Julius Caesar would eventually be murdered by those who wanted a republic back, but unfortunately all power went to Caesars grandnephew Octavian and Rome would continued to be ruled by a single Emperor.

Roman Republic - the time period of 509 BCE to 44 BCE where the Roman Empire was ruled by the Senate which represented the people of Rome

Roman Empire - the time period of 44 BCE to 455 AD where the Roman Empire was ruled and controlled by a single individual call the Emperor.

Emperor - the single, dictator of Rome



Introduction to Ancient Rome

Directions: READ the handout entitled; "Introduction to Ancient Rome" and then answer the following questions on a separate piece of lined paper;

1. Provide definitions for the following terms; (1 mark each)

Tiber River- The river that Rome was built on.

Infrastructure- All the basic necessities needed for a city to grow, such as roads, water, and or public markets.

Roman Empire- the time period of 44 BCE to 455 AD where the Roman Empire was ruled and controlled by a single individual call the Emperor.

Emperor- the single, dictator of Rome.

2. On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions using **COMPLETE SENTENCES**;

- a. In your own words, describe the geography of Ancient Rome and list some of the modern-day countries that it covered. (2 marks for quality of response and inclusion of details)
Hilly and Mountainous, plenty of farming lands, desert, bodies of water surrounding Ancient Rome.

- b. In your own words, describe the two groups of people that influenced the Romans the most in the beginning. Describe one thing in particular that they adapted from one of these groups. (2 marks for the quality of your response and evidence of thought and effort)

Greeks and Etruscans.

Ancient Romans admired the **Etruscans** ability to design and build large-scale buildings and infrastructure. **For example:** Building Roads.

- c. In your own words, describe the difference between the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. What Roman Emperor is credited with transforming the Republic? (2 marks for quality of response and evidence of insight)

The Republic- Ancient Romans set up a form of government where two consuls or leaders served a one-year term and were advised by members of a Senate. The idea that a group of people represented the political will of all its citizens.

Roman Empire- had a dictator, or a person with absolute control over the government.

Julius Caesar- is credited with transforming the Republic.

3. Using the map provided in your readings, colour and label the following blank map. Be sure to include all place names and water bodies and be

sure to shade in the entire extent of Ancient Rome a different colour than the rest of Europe, Asia Minor, and Africa

You will be marked out of 10 marks for quality of work and evidence of effort

Total: _____ /20

Ancient Rome

