

Roman Life

- for **free male citizens**, life was good
- vast markets sold many goods from all over the known world
- wealth was plentiful – many Romans had lots of money, art, and gold
- architecture, art, and literature reached a peak
 - great writers (Virgil, Aeschylus, etc.)!
 - great art (statues, frescos, pottery, etc.)!
 - great architecture (Coliseum, aqueducts, etc.)!
- good roads for communication and travel

- for **slaves**, life was not so nice
- often they were spoils of war or crime
 - many different nationalities and races
- estimated that 40-50% of Rome's population was slaves
- had very little rights, and often owners beat them/abused them as they saw fit
- some slaves could buy their freedom (gladiators, workers) but it would take a lifetime

- for **women**, life was also not so nice
- wives were largely “owned” by their husbands in a legal sense
- most were not treated better than slaves
- their jobs:
 - have and raise kids, keep the house, and cook
- many slave women worked as prostitutes
- did not have equal rights to men ☹️