

CHAPTER

5

Ancient Rome and the Rise of Christianity

509 B.C.—A.D. 476



The Glory That Would Be Rome

Of the many accomplished artists and writers who lived in ancient Rome, the poet Virgil may be most beloved. His epic poem, the *Aeneid*, describes the history of Rome from the city's founding through the establishment of one of the world's great empires.



Roman dictator
Julius Caesar

“Come, I shall tell of the glory to come . . .
My son, noble Rome shall equal her power with
earth,

Her might with Olympus [home of the Greek gods],
. . . Now turn your eyes this way to see . . . This man,
This is he whom again and again you have heard
in the promise

Of prophecy, Caesar Augustus [first Roman
emperor], son of a god.

He shall found once again an era of gold in the land
Of Latium [the land surrounding Rome] . . .”

Listen to the Witness History audio to hear
more of the *Aeneid*.

◀ Roman artists are famous for colorful
wall paintings like this one that features
the lives of everyday Romans.



Roman chariot racers



Content Standards

Chapter Focus Question How did Rome grow
from a single city to a huge, diverse empire?

Section 1 The Roman World Takes Shape

I.1.HS.3, II.1.HS.1, II.1.HS.2,
II.4.HS.4

Section 2 From Republic to Empire

II.4.HS.4, II.5.HS.2, IV.5.HS.2

Section 3 The Roman Achievement

II.1.HS.1, II.4.HS.1, II.4.HS.4

Section 4 The Rise of Christianity

I.2.HS.2, I.2.HS.3, II.1.HS.1

Section 5 The Long Decline

II.3.HS.1, II.5.HS.2



Roman emperor
Constantine

Note Taking Study Guide Online

For: Note Taking and Concept Connector worksheets
Web Code: nad-0501

SECTION
1



Roman father and son

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

A Proud Son Speaks of His Father

“If my character is flawed by a few minor faults, but is otherwise decent and moral, if you can point out only a few scattered blemishes on an otherwise immaculate surface, . . . if I live a virtuous life, . . . my father deserves all the credit. For although he was a poor man, with only an infertile plot of land, he was not content to send me to [the school in his home town]. . . . My father had the courage to take his boy to Rome, to have him taught the same skills which any equestrian [rider of horses] or senator would have his sons taught. . . . I could never be ashamed of such a father, nor do I feel any need, as many people do, to apologize for being a freedman’s [former slave’s] son.”

—Horace, Roman poet

Focus Question What values formed the basis of Roman society and government?

The Roman World Takes Shape



Content Standards

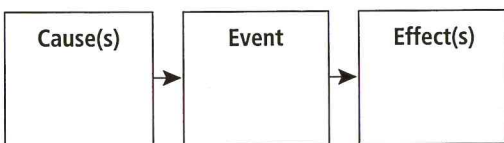
- **I.1.HS.3** Identify and describe major eras in world history
- **II.1.HS.1** Describe effect of world issues/events
- **II.1.HS.2** Effect of culture on men’s and women’s perceptions
- **II.4.HS.4** Patterns of economic development, political systems

Terms, People, and Places

Etruscans	plebeian
republic	tribune
patrician	veto
consul	legion
dictator	

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Causes and Effects For each red heading, fill in a cause-and-effect chart like the one below to identify the cause(s) and the effect(s) of an important event that you read about.



Rome began as a small city in Italy and became a ruler of the Mediterranean and beyond. The story of the Romans and how they built a world empire begins with the land in which they lived.

Roman Civilization Arises in Italy

The Italian peninsula is centrally located in the Mediterranean Sea, and the city of Rome sits toward the center of Italy. This location would benefit the Romans as they expanded—first within Italy and then into the lands bordering the Mediterranean.

Unifying the Lands of Italy Because of its geography, Italy proved much easier to unify than Greece. Unlike Greece, Italy is not broken up into small, isolated valleys. In addition, the Apennine Mountains, which run down the length of the Italian peninsula, are less rugged than the mountains of Greece. Finally, Italy has broad, fertile plains in the north and the west. These plains supported the growing population.

Early Peoples Settle Italy By about 800 B.C., the ancestors of the Romans, called the Latins, migrated into Italy. The Latins settled along the Tiber River in small villages scattered over seven low-lying hills. There, they herded and farmed. Their villages would in time grow together into Rome, the city on seven hills. Legend held that twin brothers, Romulus and Remus, had founded the city. Romans regarded this tale highly because the twins were said to be sons of a Latin woman and the war god Mars, lending the Romans a divine origin.

Ancient Italy About 500 B.C.



Map Skills At the time the state of Rome was founded, the Romans' many neighbors on the Italian peninsula included other speakers of Italic languages such as Latin.

1. **Locate** (a) Rome (b) Apennine Mountains (c) Mediterranean Sea (d) Carthage (e) Tiber River
2. **Region** Based on this map, which group would you think most influenced the Romans? Explain.
3. **Make Generalizations** What do you think are some advantages and disadvantages of living near a variety of different peoples?



The Roman god Jupiter, whose traits resembled those of Tinia, an important Etruscan god

The Romans shared the Italian peninsula with other peoples. Among them were Greek colonists whose city-states dotted southern Italy and the **Etruscans**, who lived mostly north of Rome. The origins of the Etruscan civilization are uncertain. One theory says they migrated from Asia Minor, while another suggests they came from the Alps. What is certain is that, for a time, the Etruscans ruled much of central Italy, including Rome itself.

The Romans learned much from Etruscan civilization. They adapted the alphabet that the Etruscans had earlier acquired from the Greeks. The Romans also learned from the Etruscans to use the arch in construction, and they adapted Etruscan engineering techniques to drain the marshy lands along the Tiber. As well, the Romans adopted some Etruscan gods and goddesses and merged them with Roman deities.

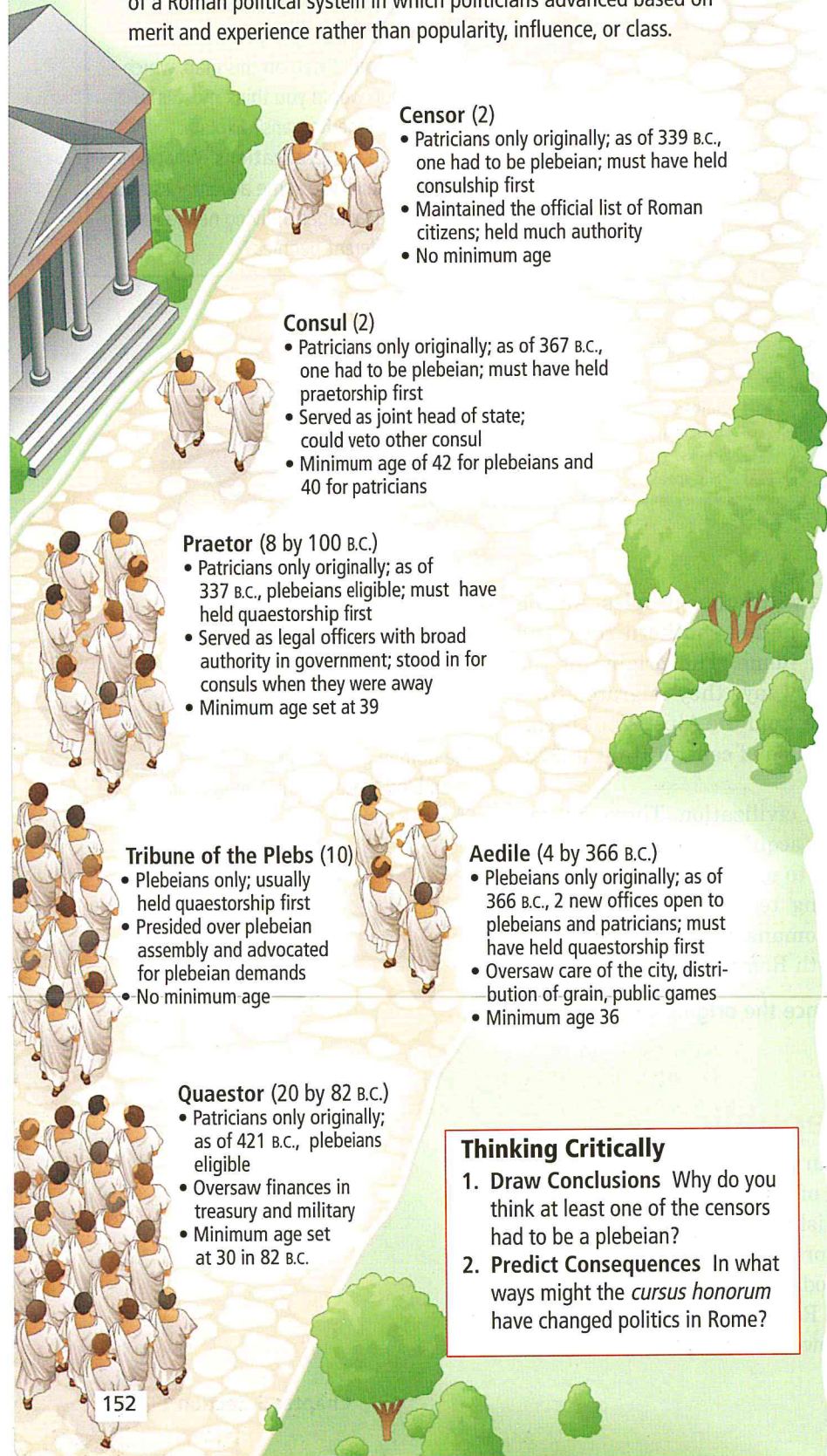
Checkpoint How did geography influence the origins and expansion of Rome?

The Romans Establish a Republic

The Romans drove out their Etruscan ruler in 509 B.C. This date is traditionally considered to mark the founding of the Roman state, which would last for 500 years. The Romans established their state with a form of government called in Latin a *res publica*, or “that which belongs to the people.” In this form of government, which today we call a **republic**, the people chose some of the officials. A republic, Romans thought, would prevent any individual from gaining too much power.

THE ROMAN *CURSUS HONORUM*

In 180 B.C., the Romans enacted a law that formalized the career path of Roman officials. Called the *cursum honorum*, this path dictated that men hold particular offices in a certain order and assigned age requirements to these offices. Previously, Roman men could fill the offices in any order and do so at any age, as long as they had already completed a period of military service. The *cursum honorum* became the foundation of a Roman political system in which politicians advanced based on merit and experience rather than popularity, influence, or class.



Censor (2)

- Patricians only originally; as of 339 B.C., one had to be plebeian; must have held consulship first
- Maintained the official list of Roman citizens; held much authority
- No minimum age

Consul (2)

- Patricians only originally; as of 367 B.C., one had to be plebeian; must have held praetorship first
- Served as joint head of state; could veto other consul
- Minimum age of 42 for plebeians and 40 for patricians

Praetor (8 by 100 B.C.)

- Patricians only originally; as of 337 B.C., plebeians eligible; must have held quaestorship first
- Served as legal officers with broad authority in government; stood in for consuls when they were away
- Minimum age set at 39

Tribune of the Plebs (10)

- Plebeians only; usually held quaestorship first
- Presided over plebeian assembly and advocated for plebeian demands
- No minimum age

Aedile (4 by 366 B.C.)

- Plebeians only originally; as of 366 B.C., 2 new offices open to plebeians and patricians; must have held quaestorship first
- Oversaw care of the city, distribution of grain, public games
- Minimum age 36

Quaestor (20 by 82 B.C.)

- Patricians only originally; as of 421 B.C., plebeians eligible
- Oversaw finances in treasury and military
- Minimum age set at 30 in 82 B.C.

Thinking Critically

1. **Draw Conclusions** Why do you think at least one of the censors had to be a plebeian?
2. **Predict Consequences** In what ways might the *cursum honorum* have changed politics in Rome?

Structuring the Republic In the early republic, the most powerful governing body was the senate. Originally, its 300 members were all **patricians**, or members of the landholding upper class. Senators, who served for life, strongly influenced the republic's laws.

Each year, the senators nominated two **consuls** from the patrician class. Their job was to supervise the business of government and command the armies. Consuls, however, could serve only one term. They were also expected to approve each other's decisions. By limiting their time in office and making them responsible to each other, Rome had a system of checks on the power of government.

In the event of war, the senate might choose a **dictator**, or ruler who has complete control over a government. Each Roman dictator was granted power to rule for six months. After that time, he had to give up power. Romans particularly admired Cincinnatus as a model dictator. Cincinnatus organized an army, led the Romans to victory over the attacking enemy, attended victory celebrations, and returned to his farmlands—all within 15 days.

Plebeians Fight for Their Rights At first, all government officials were patricians. **Plebeians** (plih BEE unz), the farmers, merchants, artisans, and traders who made up the bulk of the population, had little influence. The efforts of the plebeians to gain power shaped politics in the early republic.

In time, the plebeians gained the right to elect their own officials, called **tribunes**, to protect their interests. The tribunes could **veto**, or block, those laws that they felt were harmful to plebeians. Little by little, plebeians forced the senate to choose plebeians as consuls, appoint plebeians to other high offices, and finally to open the senate itself to plebeians.

Another breakthrough for the plebeians came in 450 B.C., when the government oversaw the inscription of the laws of Rome on 12 tablets, which were set up in the Forum, Rome's marketplace. Plebeians had protested that citizens could not know what the laws were because

they were not written down. The Laws of the Twelve Tables made it possible for the first time for plebeians to appeal a judgment handed down by a patrician judge.

Romans Leave a Lasting Legacy Although the senate still dominated the government, the common people had gained access to power and won safeguards for their rights without having to resort to war or revolution. More than 2,000 years later, the framers of the United States Constitution would adapt such Roman ideas as the senate, the veto, and checks on political power.

 **Checkpoint** How did the membership of the senate change over time?

Vocabulary Builder

dominated—(DAHM uh nayt id) *vt.* had authority over

Characterizing Roman Society

The family was the basic unit of Roman society. Under Roman law, the male head of the household—usually the father—had absolute power in the family. He enforced strict discipline and demanded total respect for his authority. His wife was subject to his authority and was not allowed to administer her own affairs. The ideal Roman woman was loving, dutiful, dignified, and strong.

The Role of Women Changes Over Time Roman women played a larger role in society than did Greek women. They could own property, and, in later Roman times, women from all classes ran a variety of businesses, from small shops to major shipyards. Those who made their fortunes earned respect by supporting the arts or paying for public festivals. However, most women worked at home, raising their families, spinning, and weaving.

Over the centuries, Roman women gained greater freedom and influence. Patrician women went to the public baths, dined out, and attended the theater or other forms of public entertainment with their husbands. Some women, such as Livia and Agrippina the Younger, had highly visible public roles and exercised significant political influence.

Romans Educate all Children Both girls and boys from the upper and lower classes learned to read and write. By the later years of the republic, many wealthy Romans would hire private tutors, often Greeks, to supervise the education of their children. Under their guidance, children memorized major events and developments in Roman history. Rhetoric was an important subject for boys who wanted to pursue political careers.

Roman Religious Practices The Romans believed in numerous gods and goddesses, many of whom they adapted from Greek religion. Like the Greek god Zeus, the Roman god Jupiter ruled over the sky and the other gods. His wife Juno, like the Greek goddess Hera, protected marriage. Romans also prayed to Neptune, god of the sea, whose powers were the same as those of the Greek god Poseidon. On the battlefield, they turned to Mars, the god of war.

The Roman calendar was full of feasts and other celebrations to honor the gods and goddesses and to ensure divine favor for the city. As loyal citizens, most Romans joined in these festivals, which inspired a sense of community. Throughout Rome, dozens of temples housed statues of the gods. In front of these temples, Romans took part in ritual activities such as worshipping the gods and asking for divine assistance.

 **Checkpoint** What social rights did Roman women have?



During the time of the late republic, praetorians (above), or bodyguards, began protecting army generals. Later, they would become an elite guard for Roman emperors.

The Roman Republic Grows

As Rome's political and social systems evolved at home, its armies expanded Roman power across Italy. Roman armies conquered first the Etruscans and then the Greek city-states in the south. By about 270 B.C., Rome controlled most of the Italian peninsula.

Citizen-Soldiers Make Up the Roman Army Rome's success was due to skillful diplomacy and to its loyal, well-trained army. The basic military unit was the **legion**, each of which included about 5,000 men. As in Greece, Roman armies consisted of citizen-soldiers who originally fought without being paid and had to supply their own weapons. Eventually, they received a small stipend, or payment, but their main compensation was always a share of the spoils of victory. Roman citizens often made good soldiers because they were brought up to value loyalty, courage, and respect for authority.

To ensure success, Roman commanders mixed rewards with harsh punishment. Young soldiers who showed courage in action won praise and gifts. If a unit fled from battle, however, one out of every ten men from the disgraced unit was put to death.

Rome Is Just With Conquered Lands Rome generally treated its defeated enemies with justice. Conquered peoples had to acknowledge Roman leadership, pay taxes, and supply soldiers for the Roman army. In return, Rome let them keep their own customs, money, and local government.

To a few privileged groups among the conquered people, Rome gave the highly prized right of full citizenship. Others became partial citizens, who were allowed to marry Romans and carry on trade in Rome. As a result of such generous policies, most conquered lands remained loyal to Rome even in troubled times.

Maintaining the State To protect its conquests, Rome posted soldiers throughout the land. It also built a network of all-weather military roads to link distant territories to Rome. As trade and travel increased, local peoples incorporated Latin into their languages and adopted many Roman customs and beliefs. Slowly, Italy began to unite under Roman rule.

 **Checkpoint** How did the Romans treat the people they conquered?

SECTION

1

Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

1. What do many of the key terms listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Identify Causes and Effects** Use your completed cause-and-effect chart to answer the Focus Question: What values formed the basis of Roman society and government?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Summarize** Describe the cultural setting in which Rome developed.
4. **Identify Central Issues** In both Roman politics and Roman society, equality was prized. Describe an example of Romans achieving political or social equality.
5. **Recognize Cause and Effect** What were two reasons for Rome's success in expanding its power across Italy?

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0511

Writing About History

Quick Write: Take Notes for Comparison

Take notes on the government of the Roman republic, including details about its structure and functions. Then make a list of other governments in history to which you could compare the Roman republic.



Roman laborers hard at work crushing grapes

Golden bracelet of a wealthy Roman



WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

A Plea for Reform

While the republic grew in size, everyone did not benefit from the new wealth. Addressing a group of plebeians, the Roman tribune Tiberius Gracchus described an injustice he saw in Roman society:

“The wild beasts that roam over Italy . . . have every one of them a cave or lair to lurk in; but the men who fight and die for Italy enjoy the common air and light, indeed, but nothing else; . . . they fight and die to support others in wealth and luxury, and though they are styled [referred to as] masters of the world, they have not a single clod of earth that is their own.”

—*Plutarch's Lives*

Focus Question What factors led to the decline of the Roman republic and the rise of the Roman empire?

From Republic to Empire



Content Standards

- **II.4.HS.4** Patterns of economic development, political systems
- **II.5.HS.2** Causes of global issues and their impact
- **IV.5.HS.2** History of international trading

Terms, People, and Places

imperialism	Julius Caesar
latifundia	Augustus
Tiberius Gracchus	census
Gaius Gracchus	Hadrian

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes As you read, fill in a chart like the one below with factors that led to the decline of the Roman republic and the rise of the Roman empire.

Factor	Factor	Factor
↓	↓	↓
Decline of the republic / Rise of the empire		

After gaining control of the Italian peninsula, Rome began to build an empire around the Mediterranean Sea. This expansion created conflicts in Roman society that weakened and finally crushed the republic. Out of the rubble, however, rose the Roman empire and a new chapter in Rome's long history.

Rome Grows Through Conquest

Rome's conquest of the Italian peninsula brought it into contact with Carthage, a city-state on the northern coast of Africa. Settled by North Africans and Phoenician traders, Carthage ruled over an empire that stretched across North Africa and the western Mediterranean, including parts of Spain.)As Rome expanded westward, conflict between these two powers became inevitable.

Rome Fights Carthage in the Punic Wars Between 264 B.C. and 146 B.C., Rome fought three wars against Carthage. They are called the Punic Wars, from *Punicus*, the Latin word for Phoenician. In the First Punic War, Rome defeated Carthage and won the islands of Sicily, Corsica, and Sardinia.

The Carthaginians sought revenge in the Second Punic War. In 218 B.C., the Carthaginian general Hannibal led his army, including dozens of war elephants, on an epic march across the Pyrenees, through France, and over the Alps into Italy. The trek cost Hannibal one third of his army. But with it he surprised the Romans, who had expected an invasion from the south. For 15 years, Hannibal and his army moved across Italy, winning battle after battle.

Growth of Roman Power to 44 B.C.



Map Skills Although Hannibal (below) posed a challenge, the Roman republic gradually gained control of lands around the Mediterranean Sea through conquest and diplomacy.

1. **Locate** (a) Spain (b) Gaul (c) Asia Minor (d) Macedonia (e) Pyrenees Mountains
2. **Region** During what period did Asia Minor come under Roman control?

3. **Synthesize Information** What does this map tell you about the outcome of the Punic Wars with Carthage, which lasted from 264 B.C. to 146 B.C.?



The Carthaginians failed to capture Rome itself, however. In the end, the Romans outflanked Hannibal by sending an army to attack Carthage. Hannibal returned to defend his homeland, where the Romans defeated him at last. Carthage gave up all its lands outside of Africa. Nevertheless, many Romans still saw Carthage as a rival and wanted revenge for the terrible destruction that Hannibal's army had brought to Italy. For years, the senator Cato ended every speech he made with the words "Carthage must be destroyed."

Finally, in the Third Punic War, Rome completely destroyed Carthage. Survivors were killed or sold into slavery. The Romans poured salt over the earth so that nothing would grow there again. The Romans were now masters of the western Mediterranean.

Ruling the Mediterranean "The Carthaginians fought for their own preservation and the sovereignty of Africa," observed a Greek witness to the fall of Carthage; "the Romans, for supremacy and world domination." The Romans were committed to a policy of **imperialism**, or establishing control over foreign lands and peoples. While Rome fought Carthage in the west, it was also expanding into the eastern Mediterranean. There, Romans confronted the Hellenistic rulers who had divided up the empire of Alexander the Great.

Sometimes to defend Roman interests, sometimes simply for plunder, Rome launched a series of wars in the area. One by one, Macedonia, Greece, and parts of Asia Minor surrendered and became Roman provinces. Other regions, such as Egypt, allied with Rome. By 133 B.C., Roman power extended from Spain to Egypt. Truly, the Romans were justified in calling the Mediterranean *Mare Nostrum*, or “Our Sea.”

The Impact at Home Conquests and control of busy trade routes brought incredible riches into Rome. Generals, officials, and traders amassed fortunes from loot, taxes, and commerce. A new class of wealthy Romans emerged. They built lavish mansions and filled them with luxuries imported from the east. Wealthy families bought up huge estates, called **latifundia**. As the Romans conquered more and more lands, they forced people captured in war to work as slaves on the latifundia.

The widespread use of slave labor hurt small farmers, who were unable to produce food as cheaply as the latifundia could. The farmers’ problems were compounded when huge quantities of grain pouring in from the conquered lands drove down grain prices. Many farmers fell into debt and had to sell their land.

In despair, landless farmers flocked to Rome and other cities looking for jobs. There, they joined an already restless class of unemployed people. As the gap between rich and poor widened, angry mobs began to riot. In addition, the new wealth led to increased corruption. Greed and self-interest replaced virtues such as simplicity, hard work, and devotion to duty, which had been so prized in the time of the early republic.

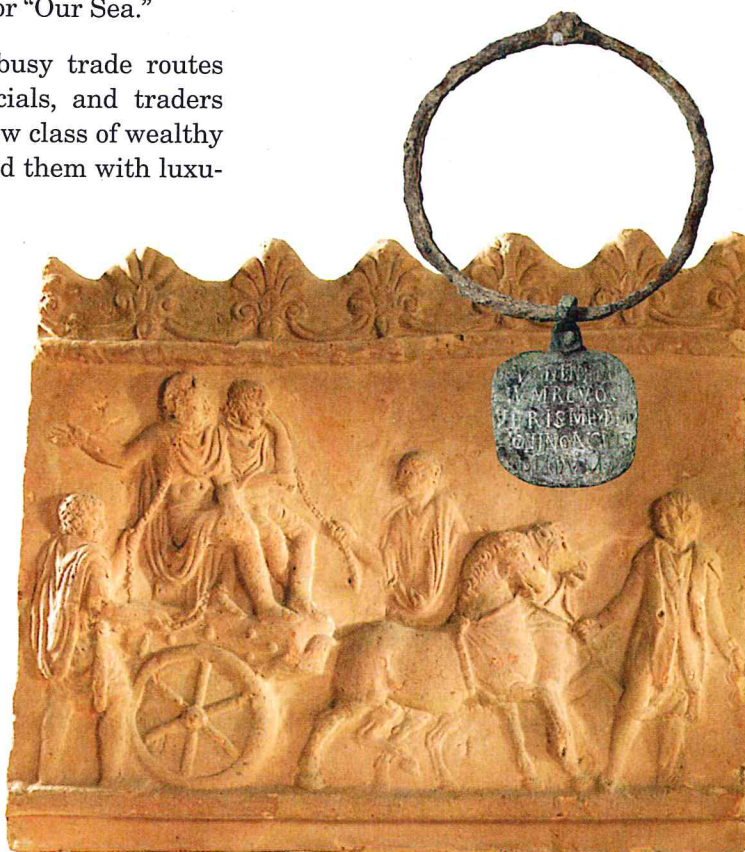
Making Attempts at Reforms Two young plebeians, brothers named **Tiberius** and **Gaius Gracchus** (GAY us GRAK us), were among the first to attempt reform. Tiberius, elected a tribune in 133 B.C., called on the state to distribute land to poor farmers. Gaius, elected a tribune ten years later, sought a wider range of reforms, including the use of public funds to buy grain to feed the poor. The reforms of the Gracchus brothers angered the senate, which saw them as a threat to its power. The brothers and thousands of their followers were killed in waves of street violence set off by senators and their hired thugs.

Checkpoint What challenges did Rome face while building an empire around the Mediterranean Sea?

The Roman Republic Declines

Unable to resolve its problems peacefully, Rome plunged into a series of civil wars. At issue was who should hold power—the senate, which wanted to govern as it had in the past, or popular political leaders, who wanted to weaken the senate and enact reforms.

The turmoil sparked slave uprisings at home and revolts among Rome’s allies. Meanwhile, the old legions of Roman citizen-soldiers became professional armies whose first loyalty was to their commanders. This often



Slavery in Ancient Rome

Rome relied heavily on the labor of slaves, especially for public works projects and agriculture. Many people, like the two here wearing chains (above), were enslaved after being taken captive in combat. For identification, slaves often had to wear a collar (inset) with the master’s name and address inscribed on it.

BIOGRAPHY



Julius Caesar

The bold rise to power of Julius Caesar (100 B.C. [?]-44 B.C.) echoed his boldness on the battlefield (at left). His brilliant conquest of Gaul made him enormously popular. Romans were thrilled by reports of his many victories, which added great riches and huge territories to the empire. In nine years of campaigning, Caesar lost only two battles. His tactics in Gaul are still studied at military academies today.

When Caesar, in defiance of Pompey's orders, crossed the Rubicon River from Gaul back into Italy, he said, "iacta alea est," or "the die is cast," meaning there was no turning back. Today, people use the phrase "crossing the Rubicon" to mean making a decision from which there is no turning back. Painters and writers such as William Shakespeare have also immortalized Caesar in their works. **In what different ways did Caesar leave a lasting impact on the world?**

happened because commanders provided them with more benefits—such as parcels of captured land—than the state did. Once rival commanders had their own armies, they could march into Rome to advance their ambitions.

Julius Caesar the Dictator Out of this chaos emerged **Julius Caesar**, an ambitious military commander. For a time, Caesar and another brilliant general, Pompey, dominated Roman politics.

In 58 B.C., Caesar set out with his army to make new conquests. After nine years of fighting, he completed the conquest of Gaul—the area that is now France and Belgium. Fearful of Caesar's rising fame, Pompey persuaded the senate to order Caesar to disband his army and return to Rome. Caesar defied the order. Swiftly and secretly, he led his army across the Rubicon River into northern Italy and headed toward Rome. Once again, civil war erupted across the Roman world.

Caesar crushed Pompey and his supporters. He then swept around the Mediterranean, suppressing rebellions. "Veni, vidi, vici"—"I came, I saw, I conquered"—he announced after one victory. Later, returning to Rome, he forced the senate to make him dictator. Although he maintained the senate and other features of the republic, he was in fact the absolute ruler of Rome.

Caesar Makes Reforms Between 48 B.C. and 44 B.C., Caesar pushed through a number of reforms intended to deal with Rome's many problems. He launched a program of public works to employ the jobless and gave public land to the poor. He also reorganized the government of the provinces and granted Roman citizenship to more people. Caesar's most lasting reform was the introduction of a new calendar based on that of the Egyptians. The Roman calendar, later named the Julian calendar, was used in western Europe for more than 1,600 years. With minor changes, it is still our calendar today.

Caesar Killed, War Follows Caesar's enemies worried that he planned to make himself king of Rome. To save the republic, they plotted against him. In March of 44 B.C., as Caesar arrived in the senate, his enemies stabbed him to death.

The death of Julius Caesar plunged Rome into a new round of civil wars. Mark Antony, Caesar's chief general, and Octavian, Caesar's grandnephew,

Vocabulary Builder

suppressing—(suh PRES ing) *vt.* using force to put an end to something

joined forces to hunt down the murderers. The two men soon quarreled, however, setting off a bitter struggle for power. In 31 B.C., Octavian finally defeated Antony and his powerful ally, Queen Cleopatra of Egypt.

✓ Checkpoint What central issue sparked the warfare that eventually led to the decline of Rome?

The Age of the Roman Empire Dawns

The senate gave the triumphant Octavian the title of **Augustus**, or Exalted One, and declared him princeps, or first citizen. Although he was careful not to call himself king, a title that Romans had hated since Etruscan times, Augustus exercised absolute power and named his successor, just as a king would do.

Under Augustus, who ruled until A.D. 14, the 500-year-old republic came to an end. Romans did not know it at the time, but a new age had dawned—the age of the Roman empire.

Augustus Builds a Stable Government Through firm but moderate policies, Augustus laid the foundation for a stable government. He left the senate in place and created an efficient, well-trained civil service to enforce its laws. High-level jobs were open to men of talent, regardless of their class. In addition, he cemented the allegiance of cities and provinces to Rome by allowing them a large amount of self-government.

Augustus also undertook economic reforms. To make the tax system more fair, he ordered a **census**, or population count, of the empire so there would be records of all who should be taxed. He set up a postal service and issued new coins to make trade easier. He put the jobless to work building roads and temples and sent others to farm the land.

The government that Augustus organized functioned well for 200 years. Still, a serious problem kept arising: Who would rule after an emperor died? Romans did not accept the idea of power passing automatically from father to son. As a result, the death of an emperor often led to intrigue and violence.

Emperors Vary Not all Augustus' successors were great rulers. Some were weak and incompetent. Two early emperors, Caligula and Nero, were considered evil and perhaps insane. Caligula, for example, appointed his favorite horse as consul. Nero viciously persecuted Christians and was even blamed for setting a great fire that destroyed much of Rome.

Between A.D. 96 and A.D. 180, the empire benefited from the rule of a series of "good emperors." **Hadrian**, for example, codified Roman law, making it the same for all provinces. He also had soldiers build a wall across Britain to hold back attackers from the non-Roman north.

Marcus Aurelius, who read philosophy while leading wars, was close to being Plato's ideal of a philosopher-king. His *Meditations* show his commitment to duty: "Hour by hour resolve firmly . . . to do what comes to hand with correct and natural dignity."

Comparing Structures of Government	
Roman Republic	Roman Empire
Highest Official(s)	
Two consuls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annually elected • held equal power Dictator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appointed in times of emergency • held office for 6 months only 	Emperor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inherited power • served for life • if served well, was worshipped as a god after death
Governing Bodies	
Senate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issued advisory decrees to magistrates and people • in practice, held enormous power • had about 300 members Popular Assemblies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two assemblies: centuriate (military), tribal (nonmilitary) • elected magistrates, held legislative power, made key decisions 	Senate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issued binding decrees, acted as a high court, elected magistrates • in practice, held little power as compared to the emperor • had about 600 members
Chart Skills Given the differences in these two structures of government, why do you think the senate held less power in the empire than it did in the republic?	

WITNESS HISTORY VIDEO

Watch *Rome: The Rise of Empire* on the Witness History Discovery School™ video program to learn more about the growth of Rome and the Pax Romana.



This Roman mosaic shows charioteers ready to race at the Circus Maximus.

The Pax Romana Brings Prosperity The 200-year span that began with Augustus and ended with Marcus Aurelius is known as the period of the *Pax Romana*, or “Roman Peace.” During that time, Roman rule brought peace, order, unity, and prosperity to lands stretching from the Euphrates River in the east to Britain in the west, an area roughly equal in size to the continental United States.

During the Pax Romana, Roman legions maintained and protected the roads, and Roman fleets chased pirates from the seas. Trade flowed freely to and from distant lands. Egyptian farmers supplied Romans with grain. From other parts of Africa came ivory and gold, as well as lions and other wild animals to be used for public entertainment. From India came spices, cotton, and precious stones. Trade caravans traveled along the great Silk Road, bringing silk and other goods from China. People, too, moved easily within the Roman empire, spreading ideas and knowledge, especially the advances of the Hellenistic east.

The Distraction of Entertainment Throughout the empire, rich and poor alike loved spectacular forms of entertainment. At the Circus Maximus, Rome’s largest racecourse, chariots thundered around an oval course, making dangerously tight turns at either end. Fans bet feverishly on their favorite teams—the Reds, Greens, Blues, or Whites—and successful charioteers were hailed as heroes.

Gladiator contests were even more popular. Many gladiators were slaves who had been trained to fight. In the arena, they battled one another, either singly or in groups. Crowds cheered a skilled gladiator, and a good fighter might even win his freedom. But if a gladiator made a poor showing, sometimes the crowd turned thumbs down, a signal that he should be killed.

During the Pax Romana, the general prosperity hid underlying social and economic problems. To the emperors who paid for them with taxes they collected from the empire, these amusements were a way to pacify the city’s restless mobs. In much the same spirit, the government provided free grain to feed the poor. Critics warned against this policy of “bread and circuses,” but few listened.

 **Checkpoint** How did Augustus lay the foundation for stable government in the Roman empire?

SECTION

2 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0521

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes** Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: What factors led to the decline of the Roman republic and the rise of the Roman empire?

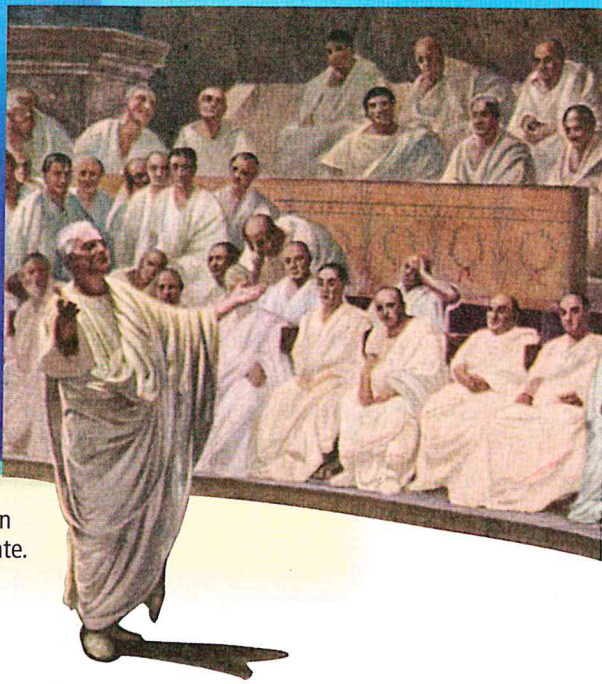
Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Make Comparisons** Compare the positive and negative results of conquest for Rome. Which do you think had the most impact?
4. **Predict Consequences** Do you think the reforms Caesar enacted would have been enough to maintain the Roman republic, had he not been killed?
5. **Analyze Information** How do you think the founders of the Roman republic would have viewed the government of the Roman empire?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Make a Venn Diagram Use what you have read in this section and the previous one to make a Venn diagram comparing the Roman republic and the Roman empire. Consider different aspects of their structures such as who held the most power and who could take part in government.

SECTION
3



Cicero launches an attack in the Senate.

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Safety Under the Law

Marcus Tullius Cicero was a philosopher, politician, and passionate defender of law. As the republic declined, he often attacked ambitious men such as Julius Caesar. When Caesar came to power by force, one might have expected Cicero to be in danger. But Caesar forgave Cicero, noting that it was “more glorious to have enlarged the limits of the Roman mind than the boundaries of Roman rule.”

Focus Question How did advances in arts, learning, and the law show the Romans’ high regard for cultural and political achievements?

The Roman Achievement



Content Standards

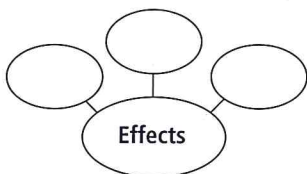
- **II.1.HS.1** Describe effect of world issues/events
- **II.4.HS.1** Effect of world processes on world regions
- **II.4.HS.4** Patterns of economic development, political systems

Terms, People, and Places

Virgil	engineering
satirize	aqueduct
mosaic	Ptolemy

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Understand Effects The Romans prized cultural and political achievement. As you read, use a concept web like the one below to list developments that show the effects of achievements like these.



Through war and conquest, Roman generals carried the achievements of Roman civilization to distant lands. Yet the civilization that developed was not simply Roman. Rather, it blended Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman achievements.

Romans Write Literature, History, and Philosophy

In its early days, Rome absorbed ideas from Greek colonists in southern Italy, and it continued to borrow heavily from Greek culture after it conquered Greece. To the Romans, Greek art, literature, philosophy, and scientific genius represented the height of cultural achievement. Their admiration never wavered, leading the Roman poet Horace to note, “Greece has conquered her rude conqueror.”

The Romans adapted Greek and Hellenistic achievements, just as the Greeks had once absorbed ideas from Egypt and the Fertile Crescent. The blending of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman traditions produced what is known as Greco-Roman civilization. Trade and travel during the Pax Romana helped spread this vital new civilization.

Poets Write With Respect and Humor In the field of literature, the Romans owed a great debt to the Greeks. Many Romans spoke Greek and imitated Greek styles in prose and poetry. Still, the greatest Roman writers used Latin to create their own literature.

In his epic poem the *Aeneid*, **Virgil** tried to show that Rome’s past was as heroic as that of Greece. He linked his epic to Homer’s work by telling how Aeneas escaped from Troy to found Rome. Virgil wrote the *Aeneid* soon after Augustus came to power. He hoped it would arouse patriotism and help unite Rome after years of civil wars.

In this passage, Livy (shown below) comments on the importance of studying history. In what ways does he say we can learn from history?

Primary Source

“... in history you have a record of the infinite variety of human experience plainly set out for all to see; and in that record you can find for yourself and your country both examples and warnings: fine things to take as models, base

things, rotten through and through, to avoid.”

—Livy, *The History of Rome*



Other poets used verse to **satirize**, or make fun of, Roman society. Horace's satires were gentle, using playful wit to attack human folly. Those of Juvenal and Martial were more biting. Martial's poems, for example, were so harsh that he had to use fictitious names to protect himself from retribution.

Historians Tell the Story of Rome Roman historians pursued their own theme—the rise and fall of Roman power. Like the poet Virgil, the historian Livy sought to arouse patriotic feeling and restore traditional Roman virtues by recalling images of Rome's heroic past. In his history of Rome, Livy recounted tales of great heroes such as Horatius and Cincinnatus.

Another historian, Tacitus, wrote bitterly about Augustus and his successors, who, he felt, had destroyed Roman liberty. He admired the simple culture of the Germans who lived on Rome's northern frontier and would later invade the empire.

Romans Adapt Greek Philosophy Romans borrowed much of their philosophy from the Greeks. The Hellenistic philosophy of Stoicism impressed Roman thinkers such as the emperor Marcus Aurelius. Stoics stressed the importance of duty and acceptance of one's fate. They also showed concern for the well-being of all people, an idea that would be reflected in the Christian teachings you will read about in Section 4.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did Roman writers promote patriotism?

Roman Art and Architecture Develops

To a large degree, Roman art and architecture were based on Greek and Etruscan models. However, as with literature, the Romans made adaptations to develop their own style.

Creating Expressive Art Like the Greeks before them, Roman sculptors stressed realism, portraying their subjects with every wart and vein in place. The Romans also broke new ground by focusing on revealing an individual's character. A statue of a soldier, a writer, or an emperor might capture an expression of smugness, discontent, or haughty pride.

Some Roman sculpture, however, was idealistic. For example, sculptors transformed Augustus, who was neither handsome nor imposing, into a symbol of power and leadership.

Romans used works of art to beautify their homes. Examples of these works were preserved in Pompeii, a city buried by the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Artists depicted scenes from Roman literature and daily life in splendid frescoes and mosaics. A **mosaic** is a picture made from chips of colored stone or glass.

Advancing Architecture While the Greeks aimed for simple elegance in architecture, the Romans emphasized grandeur. Immense palaces, temples, and stadiums stood as mighty monuments to Roman power and dignity.

The Romans also improved on existing structural devices such as columns and arches. **Utilizing** concrete as a building material, they developed the rounded dome as a roof for large spaces. The most famous domed structure is the Pantheon, a temple that honors the many Roman gods. It still stands in Rome today.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did Roman architecture differ from Greek architecture?

Vocabulary Builder

utilizing—(YOOT ul yz ing) *vt.* making use of something

REMNANTS OF ROMAN DAILY LIFE

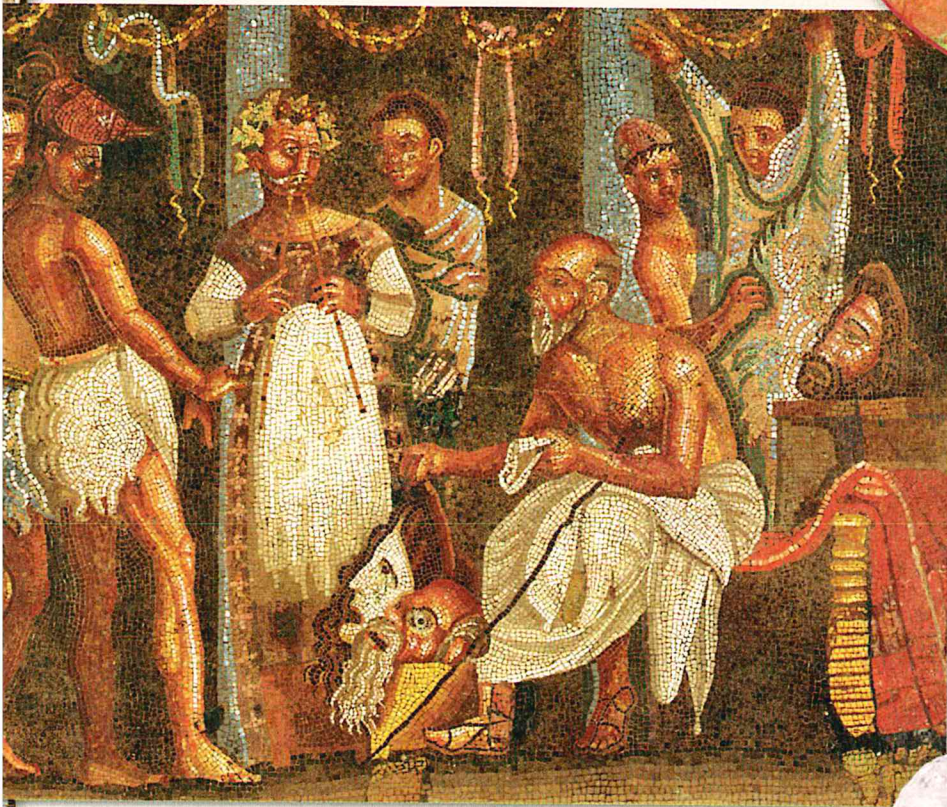
Many Romans played music at home. This fresco shows a woman playing the cithara, or lyre. ▼

When trying to learn about everyday people in ancient times, scholars often face two challenges. First, time has worn away at the remnants of the past, leaving investigators much less to study than once existed. Second, usually those most able to commission texts or art were the political and social elite; often little remains to shed light on the lives of other classes. In ancient Rome, however, a traumatic event—the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79—perfectly preserved many artifacts. In the ash and mud that buried cities such as Herculaneum and Pompeii, archaeologists have found records of all aspects of Roman daily life.



◀ Theater was popular in ancient Rome. In this mosaic, actors begin to don costumes and masks before a play.

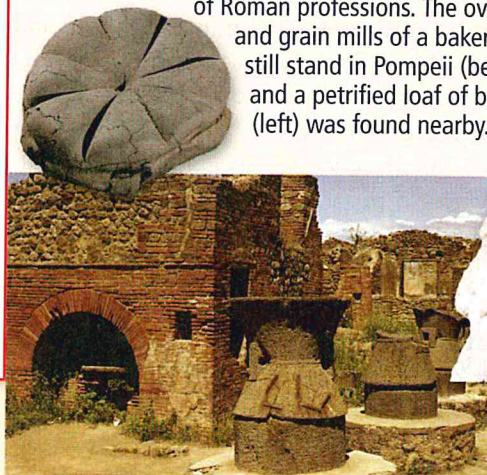
As Mount Vesuvius erupted, some 18 feet of volcanic debris fell on Pompeii. Many people died trying to escape. In the mid-1800s, archaeologist Guiseppe Fiorelli poured plaster into cavities in the ash that were left behind once bodies decayed. Like this one, the plaster casts he created show vividly the desperate struggle to flee the eruption. ▼




Thinking Critically

- Synthesize Information** What are some aspects of Roman daily life that these artifacts reveal to us?
- Determine Relevance** Why do you think Fiorelli thought it important to create plaster casts of the victims?

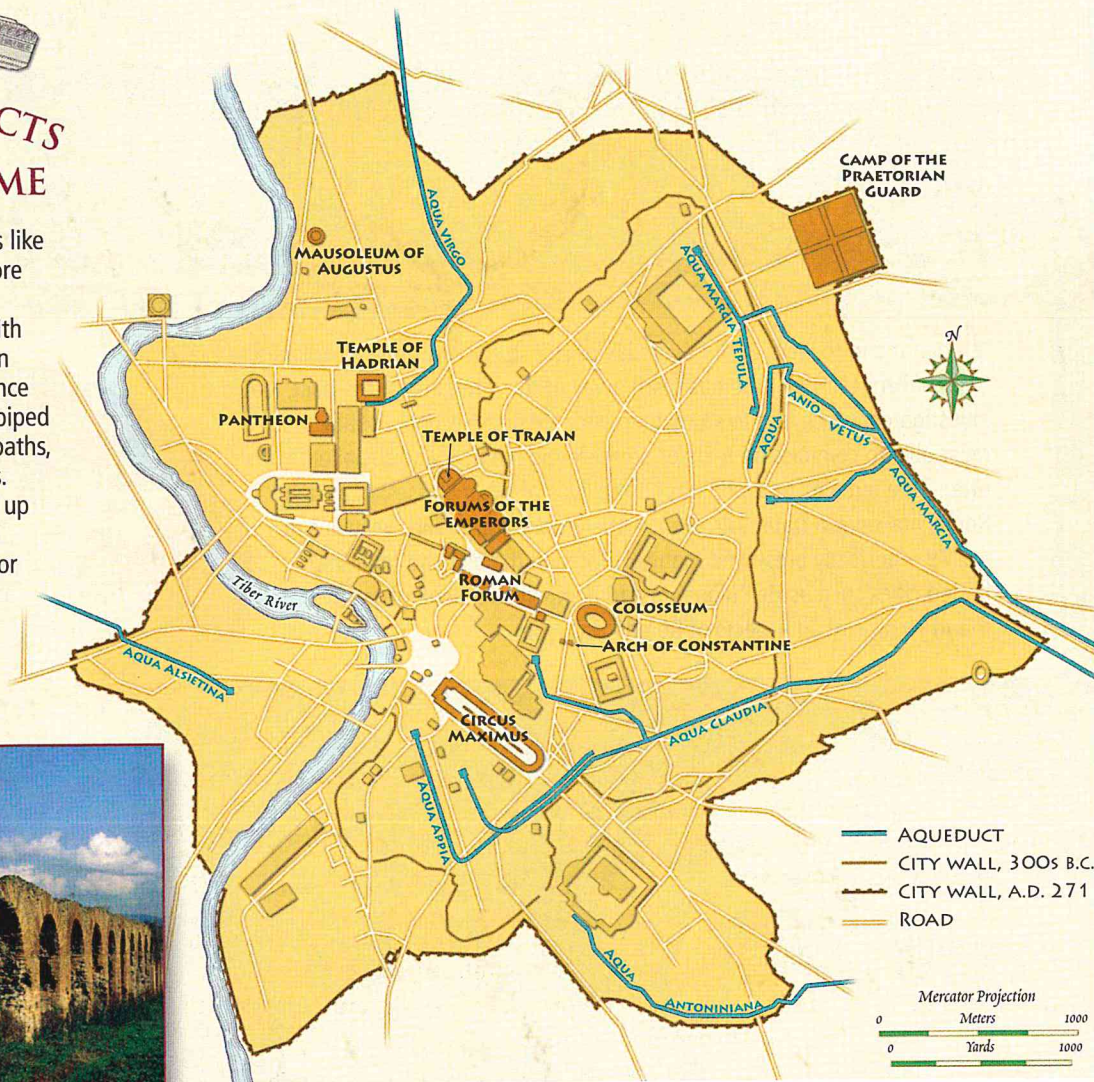
▼ Pompeii's remains tell us about a variety of Roman professions. The oven and grain mills of a bakery still stand in Pompeii (below), and a petrified loaf of bread (left) was found nearby.





THE AQUEDUCTS OF IMPERIAL ROME

Eleven separate aqueducts like the one below covered more than 260 miles of land to supply the city of Rome with clean water from mountain springs outside the city. Once in the city, the water was piped into public buildings and baths, some houses, and gardens. Much of the water ended up in public fountains, where many people gathered it for cooking and drinking.




Romans Apply Science and Mathematics for Practical Use

The Romans excelled in **engineering**, which is the application of science and mathematics to develop useful structures and machines. Roman engineers built roads, bridges, and harbors throughout the empire. Roman roads were so solidly built that many of them were still used long after the fall of the empire. Roman engineers also built many immense **aqueducts**, or bridgelike stone structures that carried water from the hills into Roman cities. The wealthy had water piped in, and almost every city boasted public baths. Here, people gathered not only to wash themselves but also to hear the latest news and exchange gossip.

The Romans generally left scientific research to the Greeks, who were by that time citizens of the empire. In Alexandria, Egypt, Hellenistic scientists exchanged ideas freely. It was there that astronomer-mathematician **Ptolemy** (TAHL uh mee) proposed his theory that the Earth was the center of the universe, a mistaken idea that was accepted in the Western world for nearly 1,500 years.

The Greek doctor Galen advanced the frontiers of medical science by insisting on experiments to prove a conclusion. Galen compiled a medical encyclopedia summarizing what was known in the field at the time. It remained a standard text for more than 1,000 years.

Although the Romans did little original research, they did put science to practical use. They applied geography to make maps and medical knowledge to help doctors improve public health. Like Galen, they collected knowledge into encyclopedias. Pliny the Elder, a Roman scientist, compiled volumes on geography, zoology, botany, and other topics, all based on other people's works.

 **Checkpoint** Who in the Roman empire engaged in scientific research? Who put science to practical use?

New Law Codes Protect the Empire

“Let justice be done,” proclaimed a Roman saying, “though the heavens fall!” Probably the greatest legacy of Rome was its commitment to the rule of law and to justice. During the Roman empire, the rule of law fostered unity and stability. Many centuries later, the principles of Roman law would become the basis for legal systems throughout the world, including that of the United States.

Two Codes Become One During the republic, Rome developed a system of law, known as the civil law, that applied to its citizens. As Rome expanded, however, it ruled many foreigners who were not covered under the civil law. Gradually, a second system of law, known as the law of nations, emerged. It applied to all people under Roman rule, both citizens and non-citizens. Later, when Rome extended citizenship across the empire, the two systems merged.

Leaving a Legal Legacy As Roman law developed, certain basic principles evolved. Many of these principles are familiar to Americans today. An accused person was presumed innocent until proven guilty. The accused was allowed to face the accuser and offer a defense against the charge. Guilt had to be established “clearer than daylight,” using solid evidence. Judges were allowed to interpret the laws and were expected to make fair decisions. Penalties, however, varied according to social class, and lower-class defendants could be treated more harshly.

 **Checkpoint** What were the basic principles of Roman law?

SECTION 3 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0531

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Understand Effects**
Use your completed concept web to answer the Focus Question: How did advances in arts, learning, and the law show the Romans' high regard for cultural and political achievements?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Make Generalizations** How did Greek culture influence the development of Roman civilization?
4. **Synthesize Information** How did Romans use science and mathematics to improve life in the empire?
5. **Determine Relevance** Give two examples of how Roman principles of law affect life in the United States today.

Writing About History

Quick Write: Write an Introduction

Prepare for a compare-and-contrast essay about Roman writers and artists by writing an introductory paragraph. Include brief mention of the different types of writing and arts the Romans practiced as well as the overall focus of each type.

Renaissance painter Raphael depicted the cross appearing above Constantine (right); the fish and the cross (far right) were early Christian symbols.

WITNESS HISTORY  AUDIO

Roman Emperor Accepts Christianity

The Roman empire was tolerant of different religions, but it was almost 300 years before a Roman emperor fully supported the new religion of Christianity. Legend has it that the emperor Constantine—just before battle—saw a cross in the sky along with the words “By this you shall conquer.” He had his troops mark their shields with a Christian symbol. After winning the battle, he fully embraced Christianity.

Focus Question How did Christianity emerge and then spread to become the official religion of the Roman empire?

The Rise of Christianity



Content Standards

- **I.2.HS.2** Identify character and virtue in historical figures
- **I.2.HS.3** Global impact of events/individuals on modern world
- **II.1.HS.1** Describe effect of world issues/events

Terms, People, and Places

messiah	bishop
apostle	patriarch
Paul	pope
martyr	heresy
Constantine	Augustine
clergy	

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Understand Effects As you read, fill in a chart like the one below with factors that allowed the rise of Christianity and its establishment as the official religion of the Roman empire.

Causes	Effects
•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise of Christianity • Establishment of Christianity as empire's official religion
•	
•	

Early in the Pax Romana, a new religion, Christianity, arose in a distant corner of the Roman empire. At first, Christianity was one of many religions practiced in the empire. But the new faith grew rapidly, and throughout the A.D. 380s and 390s it was gradually made the official religion of the Roman empire. As it gained strength and spread through the empire, Christianity reshaped Roman beliefs. When the Roman empire fell, the Christian Church took over much of its role, becoming the central institution of Western civilization for nearly 1,000 years.

Early Empire Includes Diverse Religions

Within the culturally diverse Roman empire, various religious beliefs coexisted. Jupiter, Mars, Juno, and other traditional Roman gods remained important. However, a growing number of people looked elsewhere for spiritual fulfillment.

Rome Tolerates Diversity Some people turned to the so-called mystery religions, which emphasized secret rituals and promised special rewards. One of the most popular of these was the cult of Isis, which started in Egypt and offered women equal status with men. Roman soldiers favored the cult of the Persian god Mithras, who championed good over evil and offered life after death.

Generally, Rome tolerated the varied religious traditions of its subjects. As long as citizens showed loyalty by honoring Roman gods and acknowledging the divine spirit of the emperor, the government allowed them to worship other gods as they pleased. Because most people were polytheistic, they were content to worship the Roman gods along with their own.



Divisions Arise in Judea By 63 B.C., the Romans had conquered Judea, the southern part of Palestine where most Jews of the time lived. To avoid violating the Jewish belief in one god, the Romans excused Jews from worshiping Roman gods. Among the Jewish people themselves, however, religious ferment was creating deep divisions. During the Hellenistic age, many Jews absorbed Greek customs and ideas. Concerned about the weakening of their religion, Jewish conservatives rejected these influences and called for strict obedience to Jewish laws and traditions.

While most Jews were reluctantly willing to live under Roman rule, others, called Zealots, were not. They called on Jews to revolt against Rome and reestablish an independent state. Some Jews believed that a **messiah**, or anointed king sent by God, would soon appear to lead their people to freedom.

A Jewish Rebellion Is Defeated In A.D. 66, discontent flared into rebellion. Four years later, Roman forces crushed the rebels, captured Jerusalem, and destroyed the Jewish temple. When revolts broke out again in the next century, Roman armies leveled Jerusalem. Thousands of Jews were killed in the fighting, and many others were enslaved and transported to various parts of the empire. Faced with the destruction that resulted from the rebellions, growing numbers of Jews decided to leave Judea.

Although the Jewish people were defeated in their efforts to regain political independence, they survived in scattered communities around the Mediterranean. Over the centuries, Jewish religious teachers called rabbis extended and preserved the Jewish law, and Judaism survived.

✓ Checkpoint What was Rome's policy toward most of the religions in the empire?

Jesus Proclaims His Teachings

As turmoil engulfed the Jews in Palestine, a new religion, Christianity, arose among them. It began among the followers of a Jew named Jesus. Almost all the information we have about the life of Jesus comes from the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Early Christians attributed the writing of these accounts to four followers of Jesus—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.



The Limits of Toleration

The Romans' destruction of Jerusalem's temple in A.D. 70 (above left) was a massive assault against revolt. Three years later, rebellion against Rome ended with the siege of Masada (above right), a mountaintop fortress at which nearly 1,000 Jews may have taken their own lives to avoid being killed by Romans. *Why would a government only believe in toleration to a certain point?*

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus (below) summarized his ethical message, which echoed Jewish ideas of mercy and sympathy for the poor and helpless. What does he say is the reward for being merciful?

Primary Source

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”

—Matthew 5:5–9



Jesus Begins Preaching Jesus was born about 4 B.C. in Bethlehem, near Jerusalem. According to the Gospels, he was a descendant of King David of Israel. The Gospels say an angel told Jesus’ mother, Mary, that she would give birth to the messiah. “He will be great,” said the angel, “and will be called the Son of the Most High God.”

Growing up in the small town of Nazareth, Jesus worshiped God and followed Jewish law. As a young man, he may have worked as a carpenter. At the age of 30, the Gospels relate, he began preaching to villagers near the Sea of Galilee. Large crowds gathered to hear his teachings, especially when word spread that he had performed miracles of healing. Jesus often used parables, or short stories with simple moral lessons, to communicate his ideas. He recruited 12 of his disciples, or close followers, to help him in his mission. He called these 12 the **apostles**, a name that in Greek means “a person sent forth.” After three years, Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem to spread his message there.

Jesus Teaches New Beliefs Jesus’ teachings were firmly rooted in Jewish tradition. Jesus believed in one God and accepted the Ten Commandments. He preached obedience to the laws of Moses and defended the teachings of the Jewish prophets. However, Jesus also preached new beliefs. According to his followers, he called himself the Son of God. Many people believed he was the long-anticipated messiah. Jesus proclaimed that his mission was to bring spiritual salvation and eternal life to anyone who believed in him.

Echoing the teachings of Judaism, Jesus emphasized God’s love and taught the need for justice, morality, and service to others. According to Jesus, a person’s major duties were to observe the Jewish command to “love the Lord your God with all your heart” and to “love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus also emphasized the importance of forgiveness.

Condemned to Death According to the Gospels, Jesus traveled to Jerusalem near the time of the Jewish festival of Passover, a celebration of the exodus from Egypt. To the Roman authorities, Jesus was a threat because his speeches could inflame those eager to end Roman rule.

The Gospels state that Jesus was betrayed by one of his disciples. He was then arrested by the Romans, tried, and condemned to death by crucifixion. In this method of execution, which the Romans often used, a person was nailed or bound to a cross and left to die. Jesus’ crucifixion threw his disciples into confusion. But then rumors spread through Jerusalem that Jesus was not dead at all. The Gospels report that his disciples saw and talked with Jesus, who had risen from death. The Gospels go on to say that Jesus, after commanding his disciples to spread his teachings to all people, ascended into heaven.

Checkpoint What aspects of Jesus’ message were unique?

The Message of Christianity Spreads

After Jesus’ death, the apostles and other disciples did spread his message. At first, they preached only among the Jews of Judea. Some Jews accepted the teaching that Jesus was the messiah, or the Christ, from the Greek word for “anointed one.” Soon, they were called Christians.

Spread of Christianity to A.D. 476



Gradually, these disciples went to preach in Jewish communities throughout the Roman world. According to tradition, the apostle Peter established Christianity in the city of Rome itself. But **Paul**, a Jew from Asia Minor, played the most influential role in spreading Christianity.

Paul Spreads Christianity Paul had never met Jesus. In fact, he had been among those who persecuted Jesus' followers. But one day Paul had a vision of Jesus speaking to him. He immediately joined the Christians and decided to spread Jesus' teachings to gentiles, or non-Jews.

Until this time, Christianity had remained a sect within Judaism. The work of missionaries like Paul set Christianity on the road to becoming a world religion. A tireless traveler, Paul journeyed around the Mediterranean and set up churches in Asia Minor and Greece. In letters to the Christian communities, he explained difficult doctrines, judged disputes, and expanded Christian teachings, emphasizing that Jesus had sacrificed his life out of love for humankind. Paul asserted that those who believed Jesus was the son of God and complied with his teachings would achieve salvation, or eternal life. His letters became part of the New Testament.

Christians Are Oppressed Rome's tolerant attitude toward religion was not extended to Christianity. Roman officials found the Christians disloyal to Rome because they refused to honor the emperor with sacrifices or ask the traditional gods to protect the Roman state. When Christians met in secret to avoid persecution, rumors spread that they were engaged in evil practices.

Map Skills Aided by the work of Paul and other missionaries, Christianity gradually spread across the Roman empire.

- 1. Locate** (a) Jerusalem (b) Ephesus (c) Antioch (d) Constantinople (e) Alexandria
- 2. Movement** In what areas did Paul travel on his first journey?
- 3. Analyze Information** How did the extent of Christianity in A.D. 325 compare to that in A.D. 476? Was there a significant difference?

Vocabulary Builder

complied—(kum PLYD) *vi.* obeyed or conformed to something

BIOGRAPHY

Peter

As the chief apostle, Peter (d. A.D. 64[?]) devoted his life to spreading the teachings of Jesus. He had been born with the name Simon, but according to the New Testament Jesus changed his name, saying, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."

Peter became a missionary and is said to have later become the first bishop of both Antioch and Rome. However, his devotion to Jesus and Christianity cost him his life. Tradition tells of Peter's persecution under the Roman emperor Nero. In one account, when Peter learns he is to be crucified, he insists on being turned upside down, saying he is not worthy of dying in the same way that Jesus had. **What does Peter's behavior indicate about his devotion to his faith?**



In times of trouble, persecution increased. Some Roman rulers, such as Nero, used Christians as scapegoats, blaming them for social or economic ills. Over the centuries, those Christians who were killed in periods of persecution became known as **martyrs**, or people who suffer or die for their beliefs. According to tradition, both Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome during the reign of Nero.

The Message Appeals to Many Despite the attacks, Christianity continued to spread throughout the Roman world. Jesus had welcomed all people, especially the lowly, the poor, and the oppressed. These people found comfort in his message of love, as well as in his teachings of equality, dignity, and the promise of a better life beyond the grave.

As they did their work, Christian missionaries like Paul used ideas from Plato, the Stoics, and other Greek thinkers to explain Jesus' message. A religion that incorporated the discipline and moderation of Greek philosophy appealed in particular to educated Romans. The unity of the Roman empire also eased the work of missionaries. Christians traveled along Roman roads

and across the Mediterranean Sea, which was protected by Roman fleets. Early Christian documents were usually written in Greek or Latin, languages that many people across the empire understood.

Even persecution brought new converts. Observing the willingness of Christians to die for their religion, people were impressed by the strength of Christians' belief. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the [Christian] Church," noted one Roman.

Rome Accepts Christianity The persecution of Christians finally ended in A.D. 313, when the emperor **Constantine** issued the Edict of Milan. It granted freedom of worship to all citizens of the Roman empire. By the end of century, the emperor Theodosius (thee uh DOH shus) had made Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire and repressed the practice of other faiths.

✓ Checkpoint What factors enabled Christianity to spread throughout the Roman empire?

The Early Christian Church Develops

Early Christian communities shared a common faith in the teachings of Jesus and a common way of worship. Only gradually, however, did these scattered communities come together as a structured Church.

Joining the Church To join the Christian community, a person had to be baptized, or blessed with holy water. Christians believed that through the rite of baptism their sins were forgiven by the grace of God. Members of the community were considered equals, and they addressed each other as "brother" or "sister." Each Sunday, Christians gathered for a ceremony of thanksgiving to God. The baptized ate bread and drank wine in a sacred rite called the Eucharist. They did this in memory of Jesus, whose last supper was described in the Gospels.

Many women welcomed Christianity's promise that in the Church "there is neither Jew nor Greek . . . neither slave nor free . . . neither male nor female." In early Christian communities, women served as

teachers and administrators. Later, women were barred from any official role in the Church. Like men, however, they continued to work as missionaries sent out by the Church to convert people to Christianity both within the Roman empire and beyond.

Structuring the Clergy Only men were eligible to become members of the Christian **clergy**, or the group of people who conduct Christian services. Each Christian community and its clergy were grouped together as a diocese. Every diocese had its own priest. Over the priest presided a **bishop**, a high Church official responsible for everyone in his diocese. Bishops traced their spiritual authority to the apostles, and through the apostles, to Jesus himself. In the early Christian Church, all bishops were considered equal successors of the apostles.

Gradually, the bishops of the most important cities in the Roman empire—Rome, Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Constantinople—gained greater authority. These bishops took on the honorary title of **patriarch** and exercised authority over other bishops in their area. The Christian Church thus developed into a hierarchy, or organization in which officials are arranged according to rank.

Differences Arise Within the Church As the rituals and structure of the Church became more defined, rivalry among the patriarchs developed. In the Latin-speaking west, bishops of Rome, who came to be called **popes**, began to claim authority over all other bishops. In the Greek-speaking east, where the other four patriarchs lived, the patriarchs felt that the five should share spiritual authority as equals.

The emergence of **heresies**, or beliefs said to be contrary to official Church teachings, also caused division. To end disputes over questions of faith, councils of Church leaders met to decide official Christian teachings.

Scholars Further Define Christianity Early Christians produced an abundance of works defining Christian theology. The word *theology* is Greek and means “talk or discourse about God.” Two leading scholars of the early Church were Clement and Origen. Both worked as teachers in Egypt, in Alexandria, a major center of learning in the Roman world. Perhaps the greatest of the early Church scholars was **Augustine**, bishop of Hippo in North Africa. He combined Christian doctrine with Greco-Roman learning, especially the philosophy of Plato.

 **Checkpoint** How was the early Christian clergy organized?

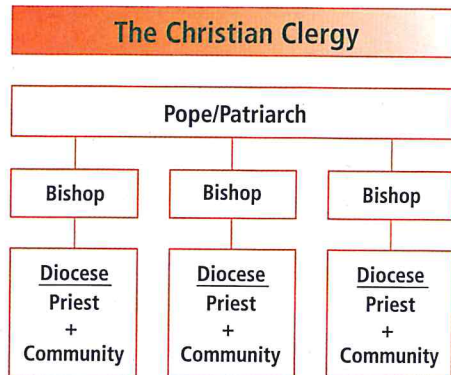


Chart Skills Over time the structure of the Christian church developed into a hierarchy. *What are some positive and negative elements that may arise from this type of organizational structure?*

SECTION 4 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0541

Terms, People, and Places

1. What do each of the key people listed at the beginning of the section have in common? Explain.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Understand Effects**
Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: How did Christianity emerge and then spread to become the official religion of the Roman empire?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Identify Central Issues** Why were many Jews unhappy under Roman rule even though the Romans were tolerant of their religion?
4. **Synthesize Information** What were three basic teachings of Jesus?
5. **Summarize** What practices and organizational structures helped establish the early Christian Church?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Make an Outline To prepare for an essay comparing the experiences of Jews and of Christians in the Roman empire, make an outline identifying key points of comparison. Include details under each key point.



Paul writing one of his epistles, or letters

First Letter to the Corinthians

Around A.D. 51, Paul founded a Christian community in the thriving commercial city of Corinth. After his departure, he wrote two letters to the newly converted Christians to encourage and guide them in their faith. In this excerpt from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul declares that, for a Christian, love is more important than any other quality.

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic¹ powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have no love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

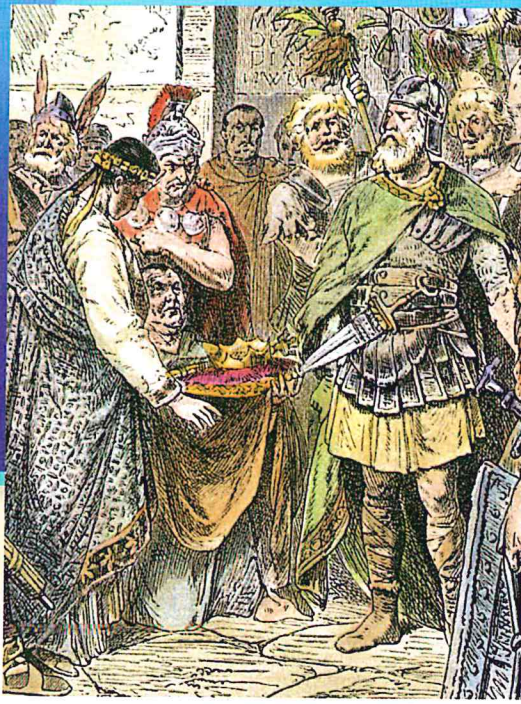
Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Thinking Critically

- Analyze Literature** Paul uses repetition of words and phrases throughout this letter. What purpose does this serve?
- Draw Conclusions** What does Paul mean when he says that love "endures all things"?

1. prophetic (pruh FET ik) *adj.* able to predict events

The western Roman empire came to an end in 476, when the emperor gave up his crown.



A plaque from an invader's shield



WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

The Exhausted Empire

After 300 years of empire, Rome was weakening due to various causes. The oppressive government and corrupt upper class generated hostility among those who suffered in the weak economy. When invaders came from the north and east, the empire's days were numbered. The Roman writer Salvian noted the mood of the Roman people:

“In the districts taken over by the barbarians, there is one desire among all the Romans, that they should never again find it necessary to pass under Roman jurisdiction [authority].”

—Salvian, *On the Governance of God*

Focus Question How did military, political, social, and economic factors combine to cause the fall of the western Roman empire?

The Long Decline



Content Standards

- **II.3.HS.1** Economic activity: world patterns
- **II.5.HS.2** Causes of global issues and their impact

Terms, People, and Places

Diocletian
inflation
Constantinople
Huns
mercenary

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes As you read, complete a chart like the one below by filling in the causes of the fall of the western Roman empire.

Causes of the Fall of the Western Roman Empire			
Military:	Social:	Political:	Economic:
•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•

After ruling the Mediterranean for hundreds of years, the Roman empire faced threats from inside and outside. Economic problems, foreign invasions, and a decline in traditional values were undermining stability and security.

The Roman Empire Divides

After the death of the emperor Marcus Aurelius in 180, the golden age of the Pax Romana ended. For the next 100 years, political and economic turmoil rocked the Roman empire.

Political Violence Becomes Common During this period, a disruptive political pattern emerged. Again and again, emperors were overthrown by political intriguers or ambitious generals who seized power with the support of their troops. Those who rose to the imperial throne in this way ruled for just a few months or years until they, too, were overthrown or assassinated. In one 50-year period, at least 26 emperors reigned. Only one died of natural causes. Political violence and instability had become the rule.

Social and Economic Problems Arise At the same time, the empire was shaken by disturbing social and economic trends. High taxes to support the army and the bureaucracy placed heavy burdens on business people and small farmers. Farmland that had been over-cultivated for too long lost its productivity.

Many poor farmers left their land and sought protection from wealthy landowners. Living on large estates, they worked for the landowners and farmed small plots for themselves. Although technically free, they were not allowed to leave the land.

Emperor Diocletian Shares Power In 284, the emperor **Diocletian** (dy uh KLEE shun) set out to restore order. To better handle the challenge of governing the huge empire, he divided it into two parts. He kept control of the wealthier eastern part for himself and appointed a co-emperor, Maximian, to rule the western provinces.

Diocletian also took steps to end the empire's economic decay. To slow **inflation**, or the rapid rise of prices, he fixed the prices of many goods and services. Other laws forced farmers to remain on the land. In cities, sons were required to follow their fathers' occupations. These rules were meant to ensure steady production of food and other goods.

Emperor Constantine Makes Further Reforms In 312, the talented general Constantine gained the throne. As emperor, Constantine continued Diocletian's reforms. In addition, he took two steps that changed the course of European history. First, as you have read, Constantine granted toleration to Christians. Second, he established a new capital at the centuries-old city of Byzantium, which he renamed **Constantinople**. With this "New Rome," Constantine made the eastern empire the center of power.

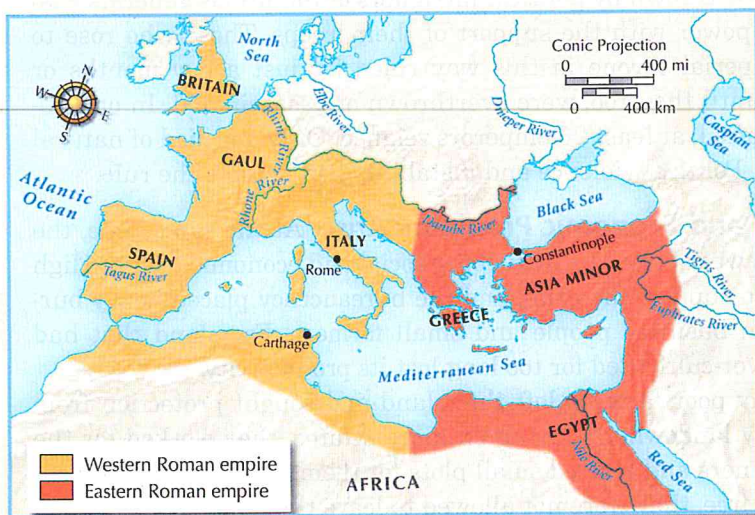
Improvements Prove Temporary The reforms of Diocletian and Constantine had mixed results. They revived the economy, and by increasing the power of government, they helped hold the empire together for another century. Still, the reforms failed to stop the long-term decline. In the end, internal problems combined with attacks from outside to bring the empire down.

✓ **Checkpoint** How do you think Rome's unstable government affected the economy?

● INFOGRAPHIC

Redefining the Empire

By the 200s, the days of the empire were numbered. Diocletian and Constantine undertook numerous reforms to help keep it alive. Although they could not stop the decline, Diocletian and Constantine redefined the empire both politically and religiously. The effects of their changes would last well beyond the official "fall of Rome." While the western empire would face failure, the eastern empire would maintain power for another thousand years as the Byzantine empire.



◀ Diocletian and Maximian, the co-emperors

Political Reforms

Diocletian's division of the empire into eastern and western halves (at left) made the huge territory more manageable to oversee. When Constantine later moved the capital from Rome to Constantinople (background image), he set the eastern empire on a path to long-lasting power. Previously called Byzantium, Constantinople would thrive as the capital of the Byzantine empire until 1453.

Invaders Threaten the Roman Empire

For centuries, Rome had faced attacks from the Germanic peoples who lived east of the Rhine and north of the Danube rivers. When Rome was powerful, the legions on the frontiers were successful in holding back the invaders. Some of the Germanic peoples who lived along the borders learned Roman ways and became allies of the Romans.

Migrating Nomads Attack As early as 200, wars in East Asia set off a chain of events that would eventually overwhelm Rome, thousands of miles to the west. Those wars sent a nomadic people, the **Huns**, migrating from central Asia toward eastern Europe, which they reached by 370. These skilled riders fought fierce battles to dislodge the Germanic peoples in their path. The Visigoths, Ostrogoths, and other Germanic peoples crossed into Roman territory seeking safety.

With the empire in decline, Roman legions were hard pressed to halt the invaders. Under pressure from attacks, the Roman empire surrendered first Britain, then France and Spain. It was only a matter of time before foreign invaders marched into Italy and took over Rome itself.

Rome Is Sacked In 378, when a Roman army tried to turn back the Visigoths at Adrianople, it suffered a stunning defeat. Roman power was fading. New waves of invaders were soon hammering at Rome's borders, especially in the west. In 410, the Visigoth general Alaric overran Italy and plundered the city of Rome. Meanwhile, a Germanic people called the Vandals moved through Gaul and Spain into North Africa. Gradually, Germanic groups occupied more and more of the western Roman empire.



Growth of Christianity in the Roman Empire

Year	Number of Christians*
0	0
50	1,400
100	7,530
150	40,496
200	217,795
250	1,171,356
300	6,299,832
350	33,882,008

*Numbers are estimates.
SOURCE: Rodney Stark, *The Rise of Christianity*

Whether Constantine (above) fueled Christianity's growth or its growth fueled his acceptance is not known. What is clear is that in the 300s, Christianity was thriving in the empire. It would underlie social and cultural developments for centuries onward.

Religious Reforms

Before Constantine came to power, many Roman emperors had persecuted Christians, arresting or executing them. Diocletian had been among the most brutal persecutors. This painting shows the Christian martyr Lucy being burned under his reign (an ordeal she is said to have survived).



Thinking Critically

1. **Make Comparisons** Compare the short-term and long-term effects of Diocletian's division of the empire.
2. **Synthesize Information** How do you think the acceptance of Christianity changed life in the empire?

■ COMPARING VIEWPOINTS

What Kind of Downfall?

Historians have long held that the “fall of Rome” was an important historical event, but they argue over many details. **Critical Thinking** *What about Rome’s end most surprises Gibbons? How does Brown differ with him on this point?*



Argument for an Enduring Rome

The Roman empire lasted a lot longer than its supposed date of collapse... Things don’t change overnight in a big, lazy empire. The life of the cities remained much more vigorous than was thought; the classics continued to be taught with great intensity and a real feeling that they were still relevant. Even after the official end of the empire, as late as 476 A.D., many of the social structures we associate with the empire endured.

—Historian Peter Brown

Argument for a Ruined Rome

[T]he decline of Rome was the natural and inevitable effect of immoderate [excessive] greatness. Prosperity ripened the ... decay; the causes of destruction multiplied with the extent of conquest; and as soon as time or accident had removed the artificial supports, the stupendous fabric yielded to the pressure of its own weight. The story of its ruin is simple and obvious; and instead of inquiring *why* the Roman empire was destroyed, we should rather be surprised that it had subsisted so long.

—Historian Edward Gibbons

For Rome, the worst was yet to come. Starting in 434, the Hun leader Attila embarked on a savage campaign of conquest across much of Europe. Christians called Attila the “scourge of God” because they believed his attacks were a punishment for the sins of humankind. The Hun invasion sent still more Germanic peoples fleeing into the lands of Roman empire.

Finally, in 476, Odoacer (oh doh AY sur), a Germanic leader, ousted the emperor in Rome. Later, historians referred to that event as the “fall” of Rome. By then, however, the Roman empire had already lost many of its territories, and Roman power in the west had ended.

✓ **Checkpoint** How did the Hun invasion weaken the Roman empire?

Many Problems Cause Rome to Fall

The passing of Rome’s power and greatness was a major turning point in the history of Western civilization. Why did Rome “fall”? Modern historians identify a number of interrelated causes.

Military Attacks Perhaps the most obvious cause of Rome’s fall was the invasions. Still, these attacks were successful partly because Roman legions of the late empire lacked the discipline and training from which earlier Roman armies had benefited. To meet its need for soldiers, Rome hired **mercenaries**, or foreign soldiers serving for pay, to defend its borders. Many were Germanic warriors who, according to some historians, felt little loyalty to Rome.

Political Turmoil Political problems also contributed to Rome’s decline. First, as the government became more oppressive and authoritarian, it lost the support of the people. Growing numbers of corrupt officials undermined loyalty, too. So did frequent civil wars over succession to the imperial throne. Again and again, rival armies battled to have their commanders

chosen as emperor. Perhaps most important, dividing the empire at a time when it was under attack may have weakened it beyond repair. The richer eastern Roman empire did little to help the west.

Economic Weakness Economic problems were widespread in the empire. Heavier and heavier taxes were required to support the vast government bureaucracy and huge military establishment. At the same time, reliance on slave labor discouraged Romans from exploring new technology. The wealth of the empire dwindled as farmers abandoned their land and the middle classes sank into poverty. Some scholars have suggested that climate change was yet another reason for reduced agricultural productivity. In addition, the population itself declined as war and epidemic diseases swept the empire.

Social Decay For centuries, worried Romans pointed to the decline in values such as patriotism, discipline, and devotion to duty on which the empire was built. The need to replace citizen-soldiers with mercenaries testified to the decline of patriotism. The upper class, which had once provided leaders, devoted itself to luxury and prestige. Besides being costly, providing “bread and circuses” may have undermined the self-reliance of the masses.

Did Rome Fall? Although we talk of the “fall” of Rome, the Roman empire did not disappear from the map in 476. An emperor still ruled the eastern Roman empire, which continued to exist for another 1,000 years under the name of the Byzantine empire.

The phrase “the fall of Rome” is, in fact, shorthand for a long, slow change from one way of life to another. Roman civilization survived the events of 476. In Italy, people continued to live much as they had before, though under new rulers. Many still spoke Latin and obeyed Roman laws.

Over the following centuries, however, Germanic customs and languages replaced much of Roman culture. Old Roman cities crumbled, and Roman roads disappeared. Still, the Christian Church preserved elements of Roman civilization. In later chapters, you will read how Roman and Christian traditions gave rise to medieval civilization in western Europe.

 **Checkpoint** What social problems contributed to the decline of the Roman empire?

Vocabulary Builder

prestige—(pres TEEZH) *n.* the power to impress or influence because of success or wealth

SECTION 5 Assessment

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0551

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes** Use your completed chart to answer the Focus Question: How did military, political, social, and economic factors combine to cause the fall of the western Roman empire?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Summarize** Describe the crisis that afflicted the Roman empire after the Pax Romana ended. How did Diocletian try to resolve the crisis?
4. **Express Problems Clearly** How did the successes of invaders such as the Huns reveal the fading power of the Roman empire?
5. **Identify Central Issues** What features of the western Roman empire survived after the year 476?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Write a Conclusion

Compare the various factors that led to the “fall” of Rome. Write a conclusion paragraph for an essay explaining which factors you think played the greatest role.

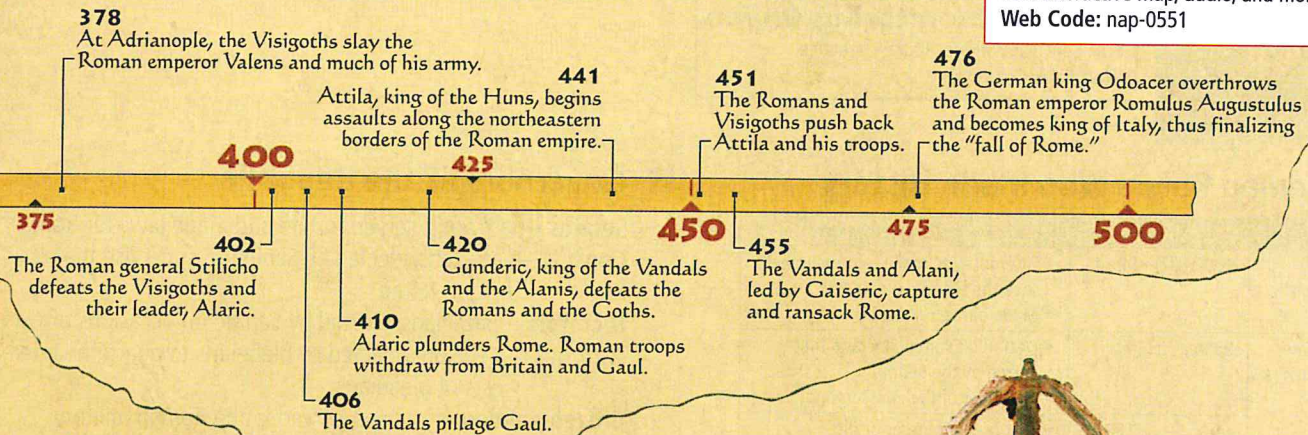
THE FALL OF ROME

Many factors contributed to the fall of Rome, but perhaps none is as vivid and dramatic as the military plundering of the capital and its surrounding territory by invading groups. Although the Roman armies fought hard to defend their lands, aggressive leaders and fierce warriors wreaked havoc on all regions of the western Roman empire and parts of the east.



History Interactive

For: Interactive map, audio, and more
Web Code: nap-0551



Ostrogothic helmet ▶



Of all the invaders, the Huns may have most terrified the Romans. Roman scholar Jerome wrote of them as follows: "They filled the whole earth with slaughter and panic as they flitted here and there on their swift horses. . . . They were at hand everywhere before they were expected: by their speed they outstripped rumour, and they took pity on neither religion nor rank nor age nor wailing childhood."

Thinking Critically

- Map Skills** Through which parts of the Roman empire did the invaders spread? Which parts did they not enter?
- Timeline Skills** At what point did the Romans begin to pull out of the western territory of the empire?
- Synthesize Information** In what ways does the information above suggest that the eastern empire would fare better than the western empire over time?

CHAPTER 5

Quick Study Guide

MI II.4.HS.4, II.5.HS.1, II.5.HS.2

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-0561

Roman Rulers Who Made History

Ruler	Dates	Key Accomplishments
Julius Caesar	100 B.C.(?)–44 B.C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempted to make reforms to help save the ailing republic Made himself absolute ruler
Octavian/Augustus	63 B.C.–A.D. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declared Exalted One and first citizen by the Senate First ruler of the Pax Romana
Marcus Aurelius	A.D. 121–A.D. 180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last great emperor of the Pax Romana
Diocletian	A.D. 245–A.D. 316	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divided the empire into two parts, eastern and western
Constantine	A.D. 280(?)–A.D. 337	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved Roman power eastward by building a new capital at Constantinople Granted toleration to Christians through the Edict of Milan

Key Roles in Early Christianity

Individual/Function	Role
Jesus	Jesus taught a new faith, which came to be called Christianity. He recruited followers and spread his message widely.
Apostles	These 12 men were close followers of Jesus. They spread Christianity after his death.
Paul	Through his teachings and writings, Paul spread Christianity throughout the Roman empire.
Missionaries	These religious teachers traveled with the sole purpose of spreading Christianity.
Priests	These leaders of Christian communities formed the majority of the church clergy.
Bishops	These church officials ranked over the priests. Each served an area called a diocese. They were considered the successors of the apostles.
Patriarchs	These men were bishops of major cities and exercised authority over other bishops in their area.

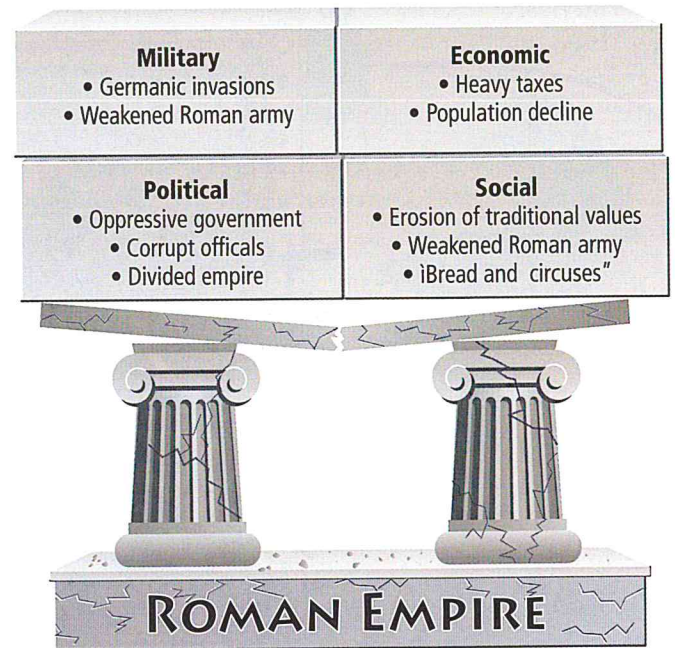
Governors of the Republic

Senate—patricians, served for life and made laws for Rome
Consuls—patricians, elected by Senate to supervise the running of Rome

Dictators—patricians, elected by Senate on occasions of war
Tribunes—plebeians, elected by plebeians to guard the interests of plebeians

Citizen-soldiers—citizens, served in the Roman military

Pressures Leading to Decline



The Rise of Rome

509 B.C.
The Romans establish a republic.

218 B.C.
The Carthaginian general Hannibal invades Italy during the Punic Wars.



Chapter Events World Events

500 B.C.

460 B.C.
The Age of Pericles begins in Athens.



321 B.C.
The Maurya dynasty begins in India.

250 B.C.

221 B.C.
Shi Huangdi unites China.

Concept Connector

Cumulative Review

Record the answers to the questions below on your Concept Connector worksheets. In addition, record information from this chapter about the following concepts:

- Cultural Diffusion: Spread of Roman culture
- Belief Systems: Christianity
- Democracy: Roman citizenship

1. **Empire** The Roman empire and the Han dynasty in China each exerted control over a wide area and a variety of people. Compare the ways the two empires maintained control over such large areas. Provide specific examples of the methods of control. Think about the following:

- use of military force
- methods of communication
- structure of government
- sharing of culture

2. **Conflict** Roman settlements spread throughout the Mediterranean just as Greek city-states did around the Aegean. Both groups came into conflict with powers on the other side of the sea. What did the Roman conflict in the Punic Wars and the Greek conflict in the Persian Wars have in common? Think about these areas of comparison:

- overseas trade
- Greek and Roman culture

3. **Cultural Diffusion** The spread of religions depends on a variety of factors, including the religion's message and its acceptance by the government. Compare the spread of Christianity and of Buddhism. Think about the following:

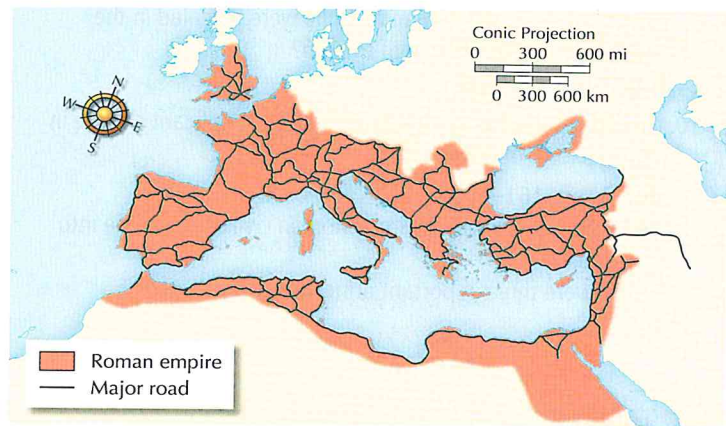
- pre-existing religions
- missionaries
- the popularity or appeal of the founder

4. **Political Systems** Political systems vary widely in their power structures. Compare the Roman republic to the oligarchies of ancient Greece. Consider how people relate to their government in each system. Think about the following:

- democracy versus aristocracy
- the rights of citizens

Connections to Today

1. **Dictatorship** During the Roman republic, the Senate was given the power to establish a dictator who could rule for just six months at a time. The need for such absolute leadership was seen as a solution to the problem of war or internal crisis—that is, it was seen as a temporary solution to a dire situation. Through the course of history, however, dictators have often seized power, rather than been given it, and many of them have ruled their countries for years or even decades on end. In the past few decades, dictators have controlled countries such as North Korea, Chile, and Iraq. Conduct research on a recent dictator of a country anywhere in the world and write a summary of how and why he or she took power.
2. **Advances in Technology: Communication** The sprawling system of Roman roads (see below) was crucial in unifying the Roman empire. New technologies often shape communication and, therefore, society. Today, communication is being revolutionized by the Internet. How are the effects of the Internet similar to those of Rome's well-built system of roads? How might the Internet and Roman roads be similar in their impact on culture and trade?



A.D. 27
The Roman republic ends. Augustus founds the Roman empire.



A.D. 286
Diocletian divides the Roman empire into two parts.

A.D. 330
The capital of the Roman empire moves eastward to Constantinople.

A.D. 380
Christianity becomes the official Roman religion.

A.D. 476
Odoacer, a Germanic leader, unseats the last Roman emperor.

A.D. 1

A.D. 250

A.D. 500



A.D. 300
The Maya golden age begins in Mexico and Central America.

A.D. 320
The Gupta empire begins a golden age in India.

A.D. 350s
Axum; located in Ethiopia, conquers Meroë.

History Interactive

For: Interactive timeline
Web Code: nap-0561

Chapter Assessment

Terms, People, and Places

Choose the italicized term in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

1. The application of science and mathematics to develop useful structures is called (*aqueducts/engineering*).
2. A person who dies or suffers for his or her beliefs is a (*martyr/apostle*).
3. The senate gave (*Octavian/Julius Caesar*) the title of Augustus, or "Exalted One."
4. Men elected by the senate to supervise the business of the government were called (*consuls/plebeians*).
5. (*Patricians/Mercenaries*) were foreign soldiers serving in the Roman army for pay.
6. A (*legion/mosaic*) is a picture made from chips of colored stone or glass.
7. Beliefs that were contrary to official Church teachings were called (*heresies/latifundia*).
8. The rapid rise of prices is called (*inflation/census*).

Main Ideas

Section 1 (pp. 150–154)

9. What values of the Roman republic were revealed in the establishment of the role of tribune?

Section 2 (pp. 155–160)

10. How did Augustus' rise to power mark a significant change in Rome's form of government?

Section 3 (pp. 161–165)

11. How did the concept of Greco-Roman civilization come into existence?
12. What were three important principles of Roman law?

Section 4 (pp. 166–171)

13. How did Christianity spread through the Roman empire?

Section 5 (pp. 173–177)

14. Describe three reasons for the fall of the Roman empire.

Chapter Focus Question

15. How did Rome grow from a single city to a huge, diverse empire?

Critical Thinking

16. **Geography and History** How did both Greece and Rome benefit from their location on the Mediterranean Sea?
17. **Identify Point of View** "History," said Cicero, "illuminates reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life, and brings us tidings of antiquity." How do you think the works of Roman historians like Livy and Tacitus illustrate Cicero's point of view?
18. **Draw Conclusions** What were some possible negative consequences of following the Roman policy of "bread and circuses"?
19. **Analyze Information** Give two examples of how the principles of law developed by Rome affect life in the United States today.
20. **Analyze Visuals** Look back at the photograph of a Roman aqueduct on page 164. Why do you think the construction of aqueducts can be called a major accomplishment of Roman civilization?
21. **Recognize Cause and Effect** What were the causes and effects of the division of the Roman empire into two parts?
22. **Draw Conclusions** Some emperors persecuted Christians for their refusal to make sacrifices to the emperor or to honor Roman gods. Why do you think emperors considered this refusal a threat to the empire?

● Writing About History

Writing a Compare-and-Contrast Essay The history of ancient Rome is rich with political and cultural subjects. Choose a civilization you have already studied and compare it politically or culturally to ancient Rome. First, organize as many differences and similarities between the two as you can think of. Then, write a short essay comparing and contrasting the two. Consult page SH10 of the Writing Handbook for additional help.

Prewriting

- Choose a civilization that you think will be interesting to compare to Rome. Consider your purpose as you make this decision—are there influences on or legacies left by the two

civilizations that make them particularly interesting to compare and contrast?

- Gather details of the similarities and differences between Rome and the other civilization. Create a graphic organizer to organize these details.

Drafting

- Write an attention-grabbing introduction that defines how and why you are comparing and contrasting the two civilizations.
- Give details about each point of comparison/contrast and use parallel structure to cover similar points for the two cases.

Revising

- Use the guidelines for revising your report on page SH12 of the Writing Handbook.





Test Preparation

II.3.HS.1, II.4.HS.1,
II.4.HS.4

Julius Caesar: Father of the Roman Empire

Julius Caesar has been called the father of the Roman empire and the most influential man in European history. After Caesar's assassination, his nephew Octavian declared him a god. The documents below are just a few of many impressions of him that writers, historians, and artists have left behind for centuries.

Document A

"There is a story that while he was crossing the Alps he came to a small village with hardly any inhabitants and altogether a miserable-looking place. His friends were laughing and joking about it, saying: 'No doubt here too one would find people trying hard to gain office, and here too there are struggles to get the first place [in government] and jealous rivalries among the great men.' Caesar then said to them in all seriousness: 'As far as I am concerned, I would rather be the first man here than the second in Rome.'"

—From *Life of Caesar* by Plutarch

Document B

"O mighty Caesar, dost thou lie so low?
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs, spoils,
Shrunk to this little measure? Fare thee well.
I know not, gentlemen, what you intend,
Who else must be let blood, who else is rank.
If I myself, there is no hour so fit
As Caesar's death's hour, nor no instrument
Of half that worth as those your swords, made rich
With the most noble blood of all this world."

—Mark Antony, upon discovering Caesar's murder;
From *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*
by William Shakespeare

Document C

"In eloquence and warlike achievements, he equaled at least, if he did not surpass, the greatest of men. . . . Cicero, in recounting to Brutus the famous orators, declares, 'that he does not see that Caesar was inferior to any one of them'; and says, 'that he had an elegant, splendid, noble, and magnificent vein of eloquence.'"

—From *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*
by Suetonius

Document D

Julius Caesar



Analyzing Documents

Directions: Read the documents above and use them with what you already know to answer the following questions.

- Which side of Caesar does Plutarch's anecdote reveal?
 - his drive to be the best
 - his desire to serve Rome
 - his wish to reach high spiritual levels
 - his interest in having many areas of achievement
- According to Shakespeare's Mark Antony, Caesar was
 - cunning, cruel, ambitious.
 - weak, foolish, condescending.
 - honorable, noble, great.
 - humble, kind, compassionate.
- What about Caesar did Cicero admire?
 - that he was a cunning strategist
 - that he was a practical and realistic leader
 - that he was a humble and kind man
 - that he was an engaging and talented speaker
- Writing Task** Julius Caesar was murdered more than 2,000 years ago. Why has he continued to be a figure of interest through modern times?