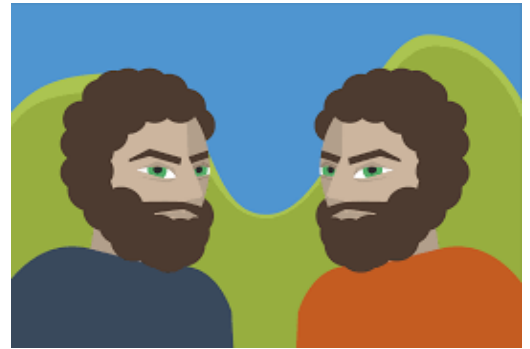


Year 7 Term 1 Knowledge Organiser

Who were the Romans and in what ways did they change the British

According to the legendary story, Rome was founded by Romulus, after whom the city took its name. It is believed that he was the son of a human woman called Rhea Silvia and the Roman God of War, Mars. He and his brother, Remus, are believed to have been abandoned and raised by wolves.



In their later lives, they are said to have quarrelled about where the city of Rome should be established and ultimately, Romulus killed Remus so that he could choose where the city should be situated. The story of Romulus and Remus is still told to this day to inspire Romans to take pride in their heritage



Roman citizens were not just those that lived in the city of Rome, but those that were a part of the vast empire that the Romans developed that incorporated parts of Europe, Asia and Africa.



As a result, Roman citizens were incredibly diverse; they did not have a typical appearance or language. Whilst some Roman citizens were free, others were not, having been forced into a life of slavery as the empire grew.

Isles?

Rome was governed differently at stages of its history. These different methods are summarised in the table below:

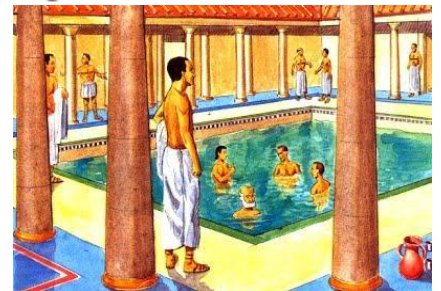
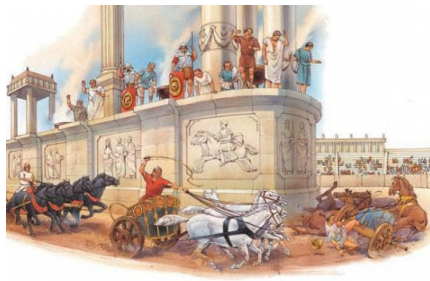


As Rome developed, it became a large city packed with many different features. Arguably the most well-known was the **Colosseum**, a vast amphitheatre where Roman citizens would go to watch brutal sports, including gladiatorial fights. The **Circus Maximus** offered Roman citizens the opportunity to watch notorious chariot racers compete against each other.

Most Roman citizens lived in apartment complexes called **insulae**. However, the wealthiest Roman citizens lived in larger, more luxurious houses called **domus**. They would be able to visit the **forum**, a large marketplace, to buy goods and worship in one of the many **temples** that were dedicated to honouring one of the Roman gods. **Public baths** and toilets enabled Roman citizens to keep themselves clean and prevent ill health. **Aqueducts** were developed to provide a reliable water supply to the growing city.

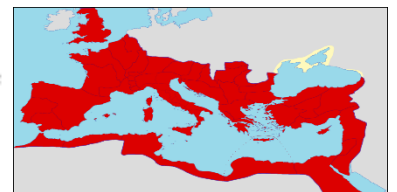


The Romans enjoyed their leisure time in a great many ways. Watching high-octane chariot racing in hippodromes such as the Circus Maximus was popular amongst many Romans, as was watching gladiatorial fighting in amphitheatres such as the Colosseum. Furthermore, visiting the local baths was an opportunity to socialise with friends, as well as staying clean.



Theatre was another popular pastime across Rome. Plays were performed during religious ceremonies to honour the Gods. Since Rome had over 200 religious days every year, it was possible to see a play on almost any day. In the home, throwing dinner parties was popular, particularly amongst the richer Romans, as it presented the opportunity to showcase their wealth. Dice games such as *Tesserae* were often played. Three dice were rolled by each player in turn to see who achieved the highest score.

By around 150 AD the Roman Empire spanned 2 million square miles. Roughly 60 million people were incorporated into the empire. Initially, the Romans had no real design on developing such a vast empire.



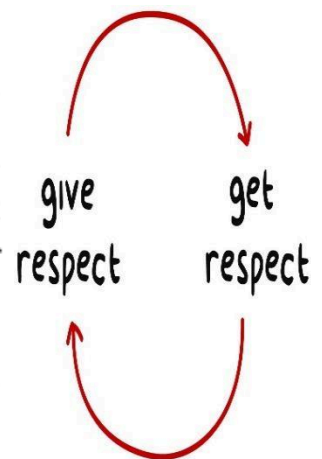
However, in around 200 BC, Rome came into contact with more foreign countries as Roman merchants began to sell more goods in countries with a coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. This caused conflict with neighbouring cities such as Carthage. Success in the ensuing Punic Wars thanks largely to the strength of the Roman forces, meant that Roman territory could be expanded around the Mediterranean Sea.

The development of the empire may have begun for economic reasons, but it arguably continued due to a desire for Roman supremacy. Writing in the 1st century BC, the Roman writer, Livy, remarked, '*The Gods want the city of Rome to be the capital of all the countries of the world.*' It was at this time that Julius Caesar expanded the Roman Empire's territories into Gaul.

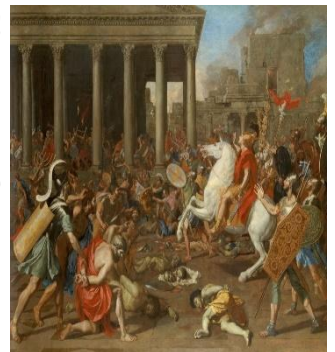
By the 1st century AD, the Romans had begun to recognise the potential benefits of controlling lands further afield in Asia and North Africa. Such lands offered the promise of arable farmland and opportunities to trade goods such as grain, olive oil, textiles and even wild animals.

Each province in the vast Roman Empire was overseen by a governor, a Roman responsible for ensuring that the Romans remained in control of the land.

A variety of methods were used to enable the Romans to successfully control the provinces in their empire for as long as possible. One such method involved encouraging support from conquered peoples by treating them with respect. Local customs, laws and religions were often kept in place in lands that were conquered. The offer of citizenship was sometimes extended to people that were willing to accept Roman rule. The Romans also brought entertainment, technology and trade to these provinces.



In instances where conquered peoples did not accept Roman rule, force was often used. In 66 AD, when the people of Judea revolted against Roman rule after the taxes were increased, the Roman army was sent by Emperor Nero to systematically crush it. Led by the general, Vespasian, the army killed around 10,000 Jews and sold others into slavery.



People's experiences of life under Roman rule differed greatly across the Roman Empire. There is evidence that some North Africans that served as legionaries in the Roman army were treated with great respect, even being offered Roman citizenship after 25 years of service.



Even though Roman society was patriarchal, there is evidence to show that some women were well-respected and even honoured. Images of women, including the siblings of Emperor Caligula, Agrippina, Drusilla and Livilla, appeared on Roman coinage.



However, not all people's experiences of life under Roman rule were similarly positive. For instance, in the 1st century AD, a revolt in the Roman province of Judea was triggered when urine was thrown over the synagogue there; a clear sign of disrespect. Additionally, Christians were persecuted for their faith because they did not honour the Roman Gods. They were crucified or fed to the lions in amphitheatres for the entertainment of others.

