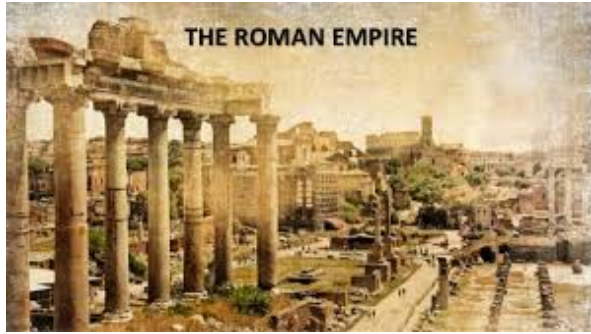




WELCOME TO ROME!



First, the **RISE** of the Roman Empire....[Watch me: BrainPop!](#)

Did you notice the font for this document is Times New ROMAN? Ha! Do you think Ancient Rome is boring, or an era that *you* do not need to know about? Humbug! As Gaius Julius Caesar once said, *Vendi, Vidi, Vici!* -- meaning “*I came, I saw, I conquered*”. Sounds familiar, no? Are we in the month of August? If so, you can thank the Romans for giving us a 12 month calendar with the months of July & August, named after Julius Caesar & Caesar Augustus. Rome even had a postal service! A *postal* service, seriously!

Ok. Where is Rome? Rome is in Italy. Rome was quite the great city. The rise and fall of the Roman Empire is an excellent place to start a “European/World” history class of modern times. Historians generally think of the world before the Fall of the Roman Empire as “ancient” and life in the world *after* the fall of the Roman Empire as “modern” history. Rome has a deep history. Sorry, we’re not covering all of it. But we do need to understand that it was once the greatest **republic** and empire on earth. What is a republic? A **republic is a government where officials are elected by the people to represent them.**

As legend has it, Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus, twin sons of Mars, the god of war. Left to drown in a basket on a river by a king, they were rescued by a she-wolf. If you believe this story so far, I got nothing. The twins lived to defeat that king and founded their own city on the river’s banks in 753 B.C. Sounds like an interesting story so far? It’s not done... Romulus killed Remus and eventually became the first king of Rome, which is named for him. From that point on, there was a line of hereditary succession...Sounds like a crazy story? Well, this is all we have for you in terms of that story. The story of the founding of Rome is not the important part. The important part is how Rome rose and then completely collapsed...

OK...On the board, we're going to make a MASSIVE T-Chart about the things that *united & divided* the Roman Empire!

Before the rise of Rome, Italy was inhabited by many different cultural groups. Geography/topography and locations of water sources generally separated these groups. One of these groups was a Latin-speaking people who settled in villages, including Rome about 1000 BCE.

For 500 years, from about 27 BCE to 476 CE, the city of Rome was the capital of the GREATEST EMPIRE the world had ever seen. For years, there were many different emperors such as Gaius, Octavian, and Julius Caesar. Caesar was not so much an emperor than he was a dictator. Caesar took complete control over the military and political power while in power, and he had his political enemies “eliminated” as some texts say. Though Caesar was a great military leader and added a lot of territory to the Roman Empire, there were many who felt Caesar needed to go. He would eventually be assassinated by the senators, stabbed 23 times, and died. Back to the Roman Empire...The Roman Empire was made up of almost 50 million people from three different continents. **Those people were connected by law, language, customs, and military might.** Roman towns also pretty much all looked the same, so if you were in one Roman city, you felt like you were in *all* of Rome. From Palestine to Britain to Rome itself, they *all* looked the same.

After looking at our geography lesson let's think about some things:

1. Rome expanded its territory across **three** continents..HUGE!
2. Rome attempted to **unify** these three continents with the same language & via roads/trade routes..HARD task!
3. Rome was able to **spread** its culture because it was military strong and culturally dominant
4. Economic Activity: They controlled **trade** and the production of goods within these three continents
5. Their **urban centers** were centers of culture & \$\$\$\$



At the height of the empire, people believed that there was **NO** way a collapse could ever happen. Spoiler alert...Rome fell. However, the empire did leave a *lasting* legacy. We, the United States, are a republic. Many other nations in the world are republics. The Netherlands, South Africa, the Congo, Chile, Venezuela, France, and Brazil are other nations who are also republics...

The fall of the Roman Empire is one of the most significant moments in world history, but it did not fall for just one reason..



"All Roads Lead to Rome..."

Didn't you know that? I-85, GA 400, even Roswell Rd all lead to Rome!...Sorta. Why do you think that phrase is so popular? For 500 years, Rome was **THE** biggest and grandest city of the Roman Empire and one of the most illustrious in the world. How do you keep an empire that spans across three continents connected? **ROADS!**



True story...Seriously...This is a true story!

Around 20 BCE, a young messenger named Marcus was given a very important task. He worked for the Roman government, and today, he had to carry a message from the city of Rome all the way to Capua, over 130 miles away. The message was urgent—it came from Emperor Augustus himself. There had been rumors of a rebellion in the southern provinces, and the local governor needed to know what to do. If the message didn't arrive in time, lives could be lost, and Rome's control could weaken...The empire could crack

Marcus didn't have much time. But luckily, he had something that no other civilization before had: the Roman roads! Paved with stones, straight as an arrow, and stretching for thousands of miles, these roads connected the farthest corners of the empire—from the forests of Gaul to the deserts of Egypt.

Marcus's journey took him down the Via Appia, known as "The Queen of Roads." This road was built over 300 years before Marcus was even born, and it was so well made that parts of it still exist today. Crazy, right?



He rode his horse day and night, stopping at "mutationes" (horse-changing stations) every 10 miles and "mansiones" (rest stops) for food and sleep. (Mr. Barry needed to look those terms up...but, neat, huh?) The roads had markers that informed travelers of their distance traveled from the closest city to the next Roman civilization. In just two days, Marcus delivered the scroll to the governor, who read the emperor's instructions, acted quickly, and the small rebellion was stopped before it could begin.

Marcus became a hero—not because he fought in a battle, but because he used the power of Rome's roads to deliver a message that saved the day. See? Roads *are* a big deal!

So...Let's look at the Marcus story in the big picture:

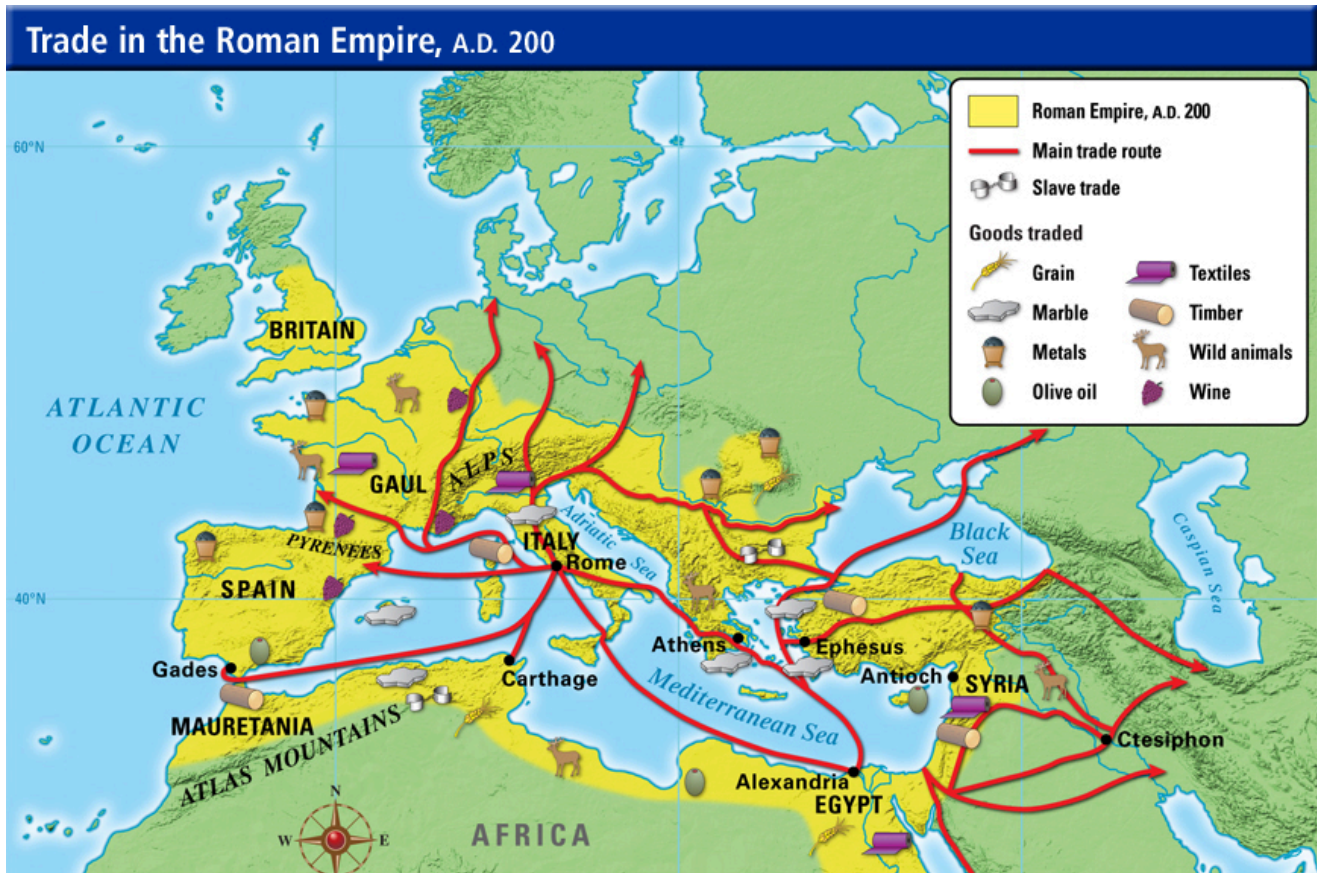
The Roman Empire needed to be able to trade goods, ship armies, and transport information from town to town within its mighty empire. In order to keep the empire connected they built a series of vast roads. Typically made of stone slabs laid over rubble, these roads served as the arteries of the empire with Rome itself as the heart. This empire of 60 million had roads, canals, bridges, an official language (Latin), trade, a good government, the works! Now, these roads were great because they linked the entire empire but they also created smaller trade routes between towns. Goods from one town did not *need* nor did they necessarily make it to Rome, but they circulated among smaller areas. This local trade slowly divided the great empire into smaller areas/towns where trade circulated locally rather than throughout the great empire. Even though the Roman roads were awesome, it was hard for the different cities and regions to communicate quickly because they were simply too large of an empire!

Roman trade routes were also slowly intercepted by foreign tribes/warriors and goods did not always make it to other towns/cities across the empire. This also led to sending more soldiers to guard the roads/trade routes and the army grew thin...



This article about the Roman Roads is kinda cool...[Click on me & check it out!](#)

Trade...Trade...TRADE!



Again, with 50,000 miles of roads, yes, you read that right, 50,000 miles, and hundreds of miles of aqueducts, it is no wonder that Rome grew so large. The roads *obviously* connect the Roman towns, villages, farms, and enable the spread of goods. Silk, pepper, salt, gems, cloth, and precious metals were some of the goods traded within the empire, likely one of the largest markets in the world at the time.

These roads and aqueducts enabled a tremendous amount of trade and expansion of **knowledge** across the empire. Roads unify towns and help share information between areas so that the civilians are informed. Think about the map above and how Romans could keep the empire united. But also think about how this empire could have been divided...

1. What goods are the Romans trading?
2. Are they trading for what they have or need?
3. Do you think there are particular goods (traded above) that had more impact than others?
4. Where are the Romans trading their goods?
5. What are the possible **problems** with trade? (especially in this time period)
6. Do you notice where most of the cities are located? Why is this?

How cool was Rome though?



The Romans had newspapers, public restrooms, bathes and waterhouses, built aqueducts & roads out of concrete and even invented socks! I know! Socks!!! Yet, by 500 CE, the empire had collapsed. According to historians, the fall of Rome was the official end of the ancient world and the beginning of the Middle Ages. One historian stated, “*Rome perished, yet it lived on.*” What do you think that means?

Government:

Before Rome became a republic, it was ruled by seven kings before the last one was overthrown in 509 BCE. Roman aristocrats staged a coup and overthrew the monarchy, and they installed a republic. The early Roman republic had two consuls who were elected annually. They also created an elected Senate to prevent revolution and to prevent one group of people from dominating law and stealing power from the republic. The image to the right shows the political and social hierarchy of the empire.

What was one reason that made Rome an amazing place? **Law & Order.** The Romans divided their law into *jus scriptum* (written law) and *jus non scriptum* (unwritten law). By “unwritten law” they meant custom; by “written law” they meant not only the laws derived from legislation but, literally, laws based on any written source.

The Romans always believed in the idea that people should live under a **common law**. In the days of the republic, the Senate and the assemblies were important. But it was the emperor who made the ultimate decisions. One Roman judge said, “*Whatever pleases the emperor is the law.*”

Roman laws were **strict** too. Could you blame them? The empire continued to grow, and one of the hardest things to do is to rule over a vast area. As Rome spread across three continents the empire slowly cracked and fell apart. Crime was common in Rome and within the empire. The most frequent being theft, assault, and murder. The Romans had their own police force that patrolled the streets and Senators had bodyguards!



Ok, back to ROADS....Roads...Where we're going we don't need roads. (Ok, we do)

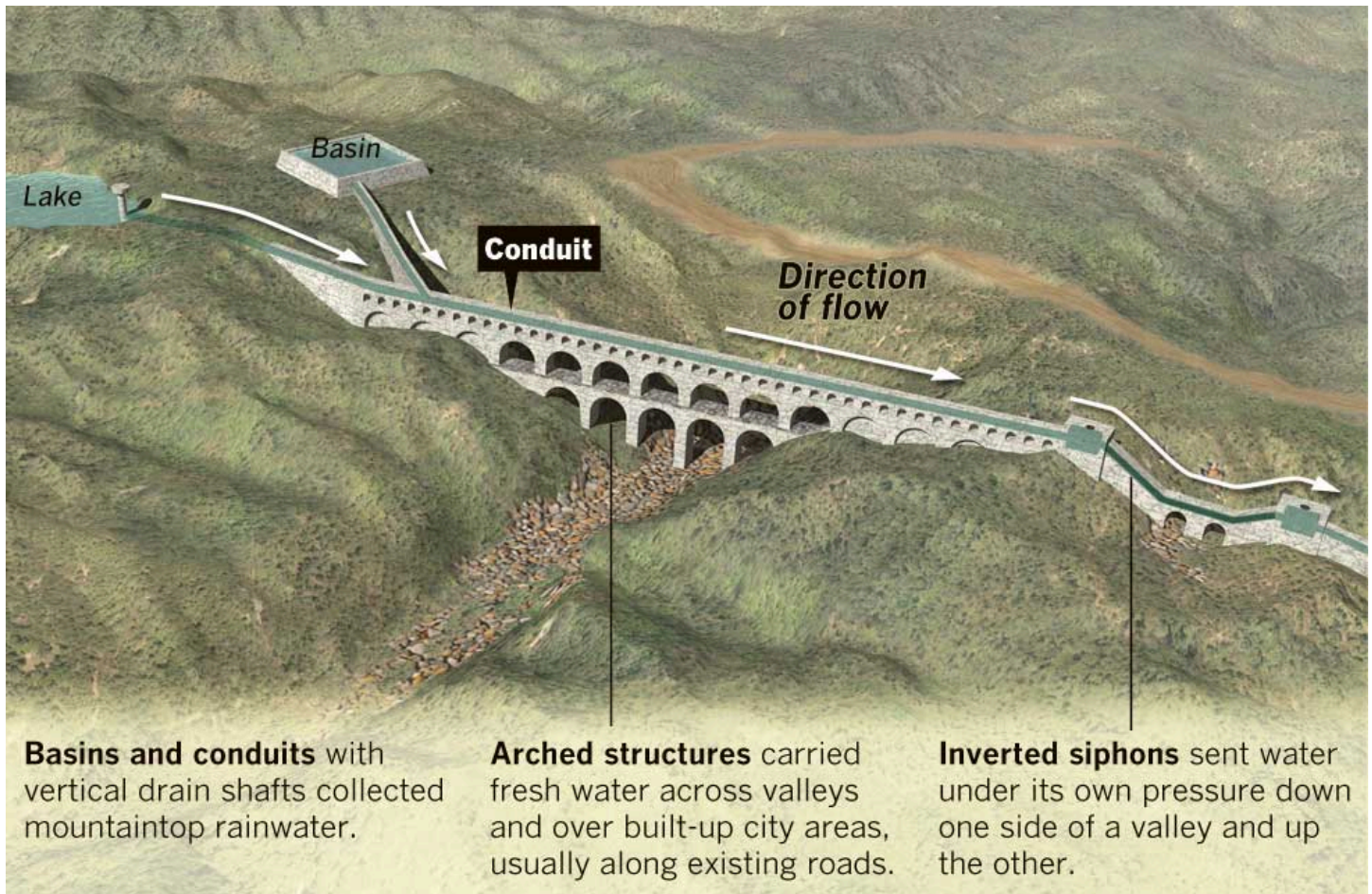


We take roads for granted. We do! Another incredible feat the Romans built was a network of roads that connected cities/towns/regions they conquered. Rome built over 400 roads that spanned over 250,000 miles by the end of the empire. As you can see above, some of the remains of these roads still exist! The Romans even had standards for how these roads should be built! Roman soldiers along with prisoners of war built the roads 8-12 feet wide with sand mixed with rocks and water to create concrete to fill in the gaps between the chiseled rocks. Heck post offices were created along some of these roads to share knowledge within the empire. But, as we can probably guess, spreading information was incredibly difficult. If something happened in Jerusalem or Iran, it was likely you never heard about it in present-day France because it would take *forever* for that news to get there, even though we got some great roads!



These roads *obviously* connected the Roman Empire, but one of the problems was maintaining these roads. Having a strong enough military to build these roads was another problem. Many of these roads made trade easier, but they also created opportunities for thieves to ransack traders and steal goods. The roads also made it easier for conquering forces to march directly into Roman towns/villages to ransack them! Finally, the roads needed maintenance at times, and getting to those roads was not an easy task...

The Roman Aqueducts (A flick)



The Roman Empire faced a serious dilemma – water. At first, people fetched water from the **Tiber River**, dug wells, or collected rain in jars. But as Rome expanded and millions of people crowded into the city, this wasn't enough. The river water wasn't very clean, and public baths, fountains, and toilets needed much more water than people could carry. The Romans had a solution: aqueducts.

Aqueducts were giant stone channels that carried water from mountains and springs, sometimes dozens of miles away, straight into the city. They used gravity to move the water, meaning the entire system had to be carefully planned with a slight, perfect slope. Too steep, and the water would flood. Too flat, and it wouldn't flow.



A Roman engineer named Frontinus, who lived in the 1st century CE, was in charge of the city's water system. He once said, “*Compared to the useless pyramids of Egypt, Rome's aqueducts are a much greater achievement.*” He wasn't wrong. Some aqueducts ran underground, while others were carried across valleys by giant stone arches, like the famous Pont du Gard in France. By the year 100 CE, eleven aqueducts were pouring water into Rome every day—over 200 million gallons!

The aqueducts weren't just about drinking water. They were a foundation for Roman life:

- Public Baths: Everyone, rich or poor, could go to the baths. It made the city cleaner and healthier.
- Fountains and Public Toilets: Water flowed constantly, washing waste away.
- Gardens and Homes: Wealthy people had private fountains and running water—something most people on Earth wouldn't have again for 1,500 years!
- Strong Armies: The Romans built aqueducts in the cities they conquered. This kept soldiers and citizens healthy and loyal to Rome.
- Happy Citizens: With clean water and hygiene, people lived longer, stayed healthier, and felt proud to be Roman.

Even after the Roman Empire fell, many of their aqueducts still stood. Some, like the Aqua Virgo, still deliver water to fountains in Rome today, including the famous Trevi Fountain.

So the next time you turn on a faucet or see a water tower, remember: the Romans were doing something similar over 2,000 years ago—with nothing but stone, tools, and genius engineering.

So, again...Aqueducts provided *running* freshwater to areas that lacked freshwater. For 500 years, the Romans perfected the aqueduct. Think about this concept as modern plumbing. *Now*, one did **not** need to live next to a river or a body of water, for water was now brought to the town. These aqueducts were an incredible feat of engineering. Though the Romans were not the first to build these structures, the Romans get much of the credit for building such a complex network across vast territory. Some of the Roman aqueducts remain (in ruin) in France, Spain, Greece, North Africa, Turkey, and of course, Italy. The Romans used the simple force of gravity to create these pipes, tunnels, canals, and bridges.



Before building an aqueduct, Roman engineers assessed the quality of a potential water source by examining: the water's clarity, source rate of flow, and taste of the water. They also took note of the health of the locals who drank it. Yes, they actually paid attention to whether the water was clean enough for drinking and bathing! Once a water source was approved, people calculated the right path and gradient. In some cases, the Romans even dammed up rivers!



Education

If you had grown up in Rome, your **education** would have depended on the type of family you were born into. Many poor children in Rome were sent to work instead of to school. They learned the trades, such as metalworking, leatherworking, glassblowing, and other small skills. Wealthier families often tutored their children until they were six years old, then they attended school. Roman boys learned Latin, Greek, math, science, literature, music, and public speaking. The most often sought after occupations were lawyers, doctors, politicians, or professional soldiers. An educated society is a better one...just saying.

Language

An important legacy of Rome for the people in medieval times was the Romans' language, Latin. After the fall of the empire, Latin continued to be used by scribes in the Roman Catholic Church. Latin still remains influential as we can see from the English language with roots and prefixes. We still use the Latin alphabet, although Latin has 23 letters, we have 26...

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
A	BE	CE	DE	E	EF	GE	HA
ā	bē	cē	dē	ē	ef	gē	hā
[a:]	[be:]	[ke:]	[de:]	[e:]	[ɛf]	[ge:]	[ha:]
I	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
I	KA	EL	EM	EN	O	PE	QV
ī	kā	el	em	en	ō	pē	qū
[i:]	[ka:]	[ɛl]	[ɛm]	[ɛn]	[o:]	[pe:]	[k ^w u:]
R	S	T	V	X	Y	Z	
ER	ES	TE	V	EX	I GRAECA	ZETA	
er	es	tē	ū	ex	ī Graeca	zēta	
[ɛr]	[ɛs]	[te:]	[u:]	[ɛks]	[i: 'grajka]	['ze:ta]	

Latin was the language of Ancient Rome. It evolved into many modern languages spoken throughout Europe -- Other languages that are Romance languages are

French,
Spanish,

Root	Meaning	Examples
ab	to move away	abstract, abstain, aversion
acer, acri	bitter	acid, acrimony, exacerbate
audi	hear	audible, audience, auditorium
bene	good	benefit, benign, benefactor
brev	short	abbreviate, brief
circ	round	circus, circulate
dict	say	dictate, edict, dictionary
duc	lead, make	deduce, produce, educate
fund	bottom	founder, foundation, funding
gen	to birth	gene, generate, generous
hab	to have	ability, exhibit, inhabit
jur	law	jury, justice, justify
lev	to lift	levitate, elevate, leverage
log, logue	thought	logic, apologize, analogy
luc, lum	light	lucid, illuminate, translucent
manu	hand	manual, manicure, manipulate
mis, mit	send	missile, transmit, permit
omni	all	omnivorous, omnipotent, omniscient
pac	peace	pacify, pacific, pacifist
port	carry	export, import, important
quit	silent, <u>restive</u>	tranquil, requiem, acquit
scrib, script	to write	script, proscribe, describe
sens	to feel	sensitive, sentient, resent
terr	earth	terrain, territory, extraterrestrial
tim	to fear	timid, timorous
vac	empty	vacuum, vacate, evacuate
vid, vis	to see	video, vivid, invisible

Latin Root	Meaning	Examples
act	do	react, transact
ang	bend	angle, angular
aud	hear	audience, audible
credit	believe	discredit, incredible
dict	speak	contradict, dictate
duc, duct	lead	aqueduct, educate
fac	make	factory, manufacture
loc	place	location, allocate
man	hand	manuscript, manipulate
migr	move	immigrant, migratory
miss	send	dismiss, missionary
mob	move	automobile, mobile
mot	move	motion, motor
ped	foot	pedal, pedestrian
pop	people	population, popular
port	carry	import, portable
rupt	break	erupt, rupture
sign	mark	signature, signal
spec	see	inspect, spectator
tract	pull, drag	tractor, attraction
urb	city	urban, suburb
vac	empty	vacant, vacuum
vid	see	video, evidence
volv	roll	revolver, revolution

You have a “roots” quiz coming...

The Army...

Not gonna lie...This Roman soldier’s uniform/outfit looks pretty amazing for 300-500 CE. Metal plates, sandals with



metal studs in the bottom, metal helmets, and fine red cloth...I mean, no wonder this army was the grandest in the world at the time.

Rome generally conscripted (forced) young boys/men to serve in the army and were some of the highest paid people in the Roman Empire. However, they did have *a lot* of territory to defend. Also imagine how many miles these soldiers marched 20 miles a day to protect the empire.

The Roman army had it rough. They were constantly fighting outsiders & putting down rebellions within the borders. Rome's army relied on slave labor to grow food & cook for the army, and eventually the slaves had had enough...

Art and Architecture: What else made

Rome such an amazing place? Their art and architecture. The Romans admired Greek culture and arts. After conquering Greece, they brought many Greek artists to Rome to make sculptures for them in the Greek fashion. The art of Ancient Greece had a *great* influence on the art of Ancient Rome.



Roman sculpture played an important part of Roman daily life. Sculptures took the form of full statues, busts (sculptures of just a person's head), reliefs (sculptures that were part of a wall), and sarcophagi (sculptures on tombs). These sculptures accurately reflected what some of these rulers actually looked like. The attention to detail was amazing, especially because these massive pieces of stone & marble were carved completely by hand.



The Ancient Romans decorated with sculptures in a number of places, including public buildings, public parks, and private homes and gardens. Again, Roman sculpture was heavily influenced by Greek sculpture. In fact, many of the Roman sculptures were just copies of Greek sculptures. The wealthy Romans decorated their large homes with sculptures, but they were much more detailed. A lot of times these sculptures were of themselves or their ancestors. Other popular subjects for sculptures included gods and goddesses, philosophers, famous athletes, and successful generals.

Roman architecture was unlike anything that had come before. Roman buildings were designed to be impressive when viewed from outside because their architects all had to rely on building Greek-style buildings using columns, but added a “Roman” touch to them.

Roman concrete (*opus caementicium*), was developed early in the 2nd century BCE. The use of **mortar** or masonry was not new in the ancient world. Mortar was a combination of sand, lime and water. This had been used by empires and civilizations before the Romans. The major contribution the Romans made to the mortar recipe was the introduction of volcanic Italian sand (also known as “**pozzolana**”). The Roman builders who used **pozzolana** rather than ordinary sand noticed that their mortar was incredibly strong and durable. It also



had the ability to set underwater, which made it, possibly, the strongest material in the world to that time.

The invention of *opus caementicium* created a Roman architectural revolution, allowing for builders to be much more creative with their designs. Since **concrete** takes the shape of the mold or frame it is poured into, buildings began to take on ever more fluid and creative shapes.



And y'all thought Truist Park and the Mercedes-Benz stadiums were a big deal??

***Rome: The Megacity!**

Rome is often known for the republic, the aqueducts, arches, etc. Rome *should* be most known for creating the “megacity”. The Romans created incredible technology to serve the city of Rome. There were elaborate bridges, fountains, common areas, shops, recreational areas, bathrooms/bath houses, a colosseum for entertainment, markets & 11 aqueducts to bring running water to the city. All of these incredible things united the city & the empire. Because of technology, Rome could not build “up”, they built “out.” I mean, just *look* at the elaborate architecture and structure! It’s like Atlanta, but better!



PAX ROMANA

Watch me: [BrainPop! - Pax Romana](#)

Pax Romana → the *Peace of Rome* was considered the highest point in the empire’s history. Rome’s spread throughout the three continents was mainly due to its military strength and might. It was unprecedented in population, territorial, and economic growth at a time where the empire



also saw its longest time of peace with nearly 70 million people within the empire.

However, in the middle of the third century CE, the Roman Empire began to crumble from the top down. Between 235 and 284 CE, 26 more or less legitimate rulers were crowned the emperor of Rome. That's a lot of rulers for a short period of time. The only stable power was the Roman army and even they were beginning to lose their military might over the vast empire...

Constantine & His Changes...

One of the many factors that contributed to the fall of the Roman Empire was the rise of a new religion, Christianity. The Christian religion, which was monotheistic ran counter to the traditional Roman religion, which was polytheistic (many gods). At different times, the Romans persecuted the Christians because of their beliefs, which were popular among the poor.

In 313 C.E., Roman emperor Constantine the Great ended all persecution and declared toleration for Christianity. Later that century, Christianity became the official state religion of the Empire. This drastic change in policy spread this relatively new religion to every corner of the Empire.

By approving Christianity, the Roman state directly undermined its religious traditions. Finally, by this time, Romans considered their emperor a god. But the Christian belief in one god — who was not the emperor — weakened the authority and credibility of the emperor.



Constantine enacted another change that helped accelerate the fall of the Roman Empire. In 330 CE, he split the empire into two parts: the western half centered in Rome and the eastern half centered in Constantinople, a city he named after himself, located in present-day Istanbul. Check out the map above. How can an empire have *two* ruling centers and *two* emperors?

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT

c. A.D. 280–337

First Christian Roman Emperor

Constantine was the first Roman Emperor to become a Christian, although he was not baptized until near his death in A.D. 337. He first came to believe in Christianity many years earlier, when he was a military leader. Constantine believed he had seen a flaming cross in the sky that said, "By this sign thou shall conquer." The next day his army was victorious in an important battle. He believed that the cross was a call to the Christian God.

During his reign, Constantine granted new opportunities to Christians and helped advance the power of the early Catholic Church. At the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325, he encouraged discussion about the acceptance of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). He also boosted the political positions and power of bishops within the Roman government.

Even though Constantine had many political and religious successes, his life was filled with controversy and tragedy. Constantine married a woman named Fausta. His eldest son from a previous marriage was named Crispus. Fausta accused

Crispus of crimes and claimed that he was planning to seize the throne. Constantine was so shocked that he had his son killed. Constantine later discovered that Fausta had lied because she wanted her own son to be in line for the throne. He then had Fausta killed.



▲ Constantine



▲ Modern-day Constantinople

Then and Now

Constantine believed freedom of religion was important for the success of his empire and made sure that Christians could no longer be persecuted. What part of the U.S. Constitution protects freedom of religion?

Last Bit of Rome...

There's something to be said about having such a massive empire that it spreads across three continents. Think about how these great colosseums, roads, and buildings were physically constructed. Who built these magnificent structures that linked the largest empire in the world: Slaves.

Slavery was far from uncommon in the Ancient Roman days. When the Romans invaded towns and conquered opposing armies, those who lost were enslaved. People who religiously opposed the empire were also enslaved. In fact, one thing that disappeared from the Ancient times *before* Rome was that the social classes had a peasant class at the bottom. As we saw above in the packet, the Roman Empire had slavery in its empire. The wealthy had purchased all of the smaller farms within the empire and brought slaves to work in these vast areas. In some areas, on the outskirts of the empire, it was the military who was in charge of maintaining and overseeing slave labor.

Slaves dug quarries, built aqueducts, paved roads, built homes, and in some cases, slaves even served as tutors or merchants, however, they paid all of their earnings to those who *owned* them. Sold like cattle, some masters even sold them to the emperor's people to fight in arenas. These slaves were called gladiators. They often fought lions, bears, tigers, elephants, and at times the Roman Army themselves! Slave revolts were common in the empire as well...foreshadowing...



So, we've seen how Rome got to be so great. We examined its incredible art and architecture through columns, sculptures, and the construction of roads and aqueducts. We saw how the Romans took their language, Latin, and spread it throughout the empire. We examined how Rome's megacity was the hub of all

trade and culture of its empire. We now need to see just how all of this collapsed. Perhaps, we need to now examine *how* many factors and *why* these factors lead to the collapse of the greatest empire in all of world history, Rome.

By 395, the Roman empire had two divisions, two capitals, and lands that consisted of Britannia, Italy, Gaul, Spain, North Africa, Egypt, Palestine, Asia Minor, Greece & Macedonia. Greek & Latin were the dominant languages and Christianity was the empire's official religion, even though both Christians, Jews, & other tribes lived within its boundaries. As Christianity spread, bishops & archbishops wielded great power.

Ancient Rome had a large influence on the modern world. Though it has been thousands of years since the Roman Empire flourished, we can still see evidence of it in our art, architecture, technology, literature, language, and law. From bridges and stadiums to books to plumbing and the words we hear every day, the ancient Romans have left their mark on our world! We are the result of the Roman Empire!

Watch me: BrainPop

Fall of Roman Empire

Wow...It looks like Rome was doing pretty well! **So, how did Rome fall?** This is a *very* complex question. There is *no* single reason for Rome's demise. Instead, historians believe there were a number of reasons...

In 1984, a historian published a list of 210 reasons for the fall of the Roman Empire. The list points to everything from taxes to starvation to public baths, but most likely there were many causes. In 2023, *The Economist* featured the following article (right) that even compares the fall of the Roman Empire to what some people think the same will happen to modern republics/civilizations for some of the same reasons for Rome's fall. Yikes! I hope barbarians do not invade Atlanta –though, I've never met a barbarian, and that might be a neat person to chat with.

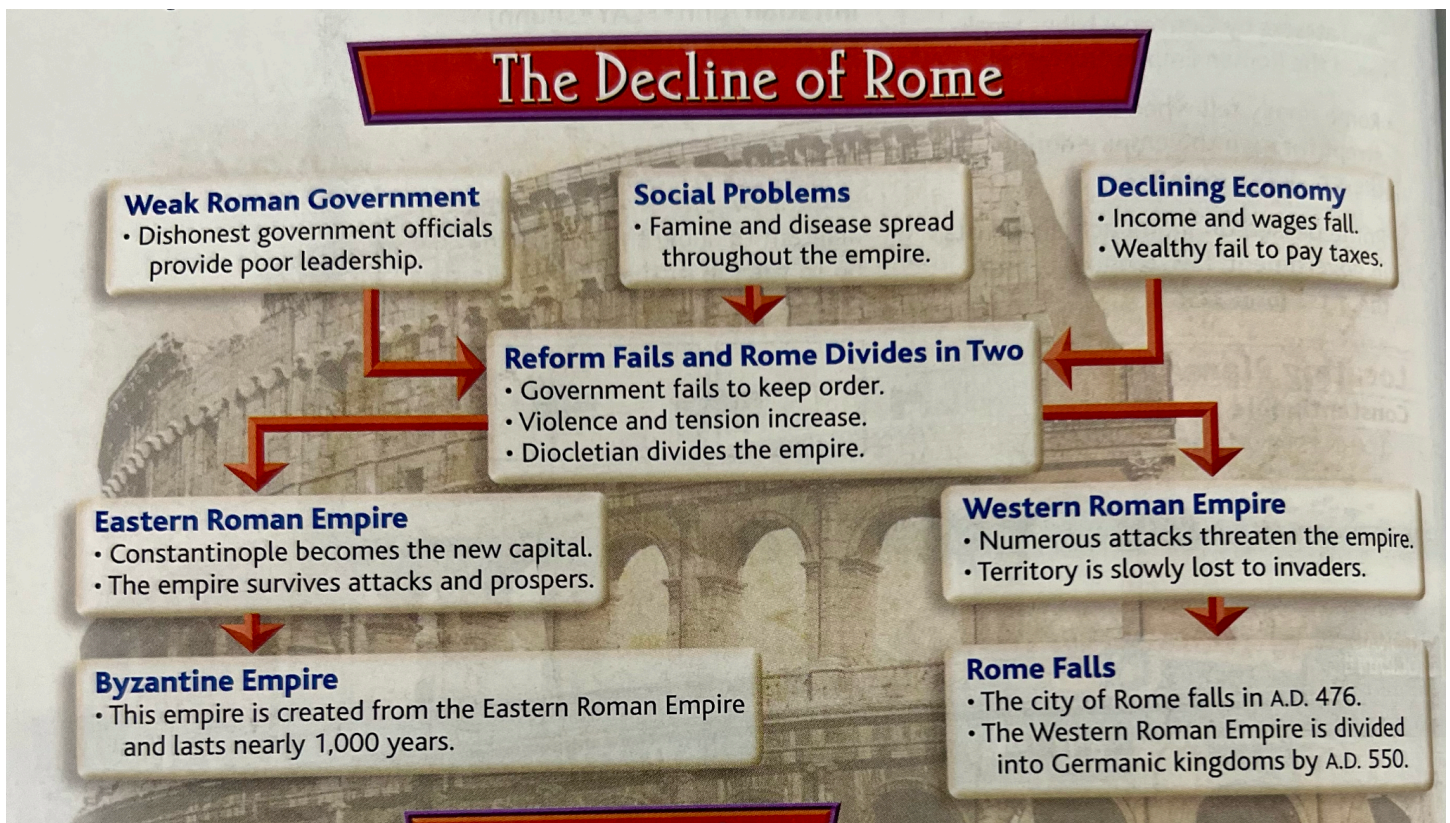
Rome fell. Will the modern-day West follow suit?

"Why Empires Fall" makes a diverting historical comparison, if not a wholly convincing one



Some economists, political scientists, and historians think that as the relationship between America and China continues to worsen, these massive nations will clash and only one will be the leader of the world! As we're going to see in the Middle Ages, when Rome fell Europe fell to kingdoms and regional territories that were

separate from other local/regional territories & kingdoms. Because the Romans did not keep Europe united, people like Charlemagne & William the Conqueror are gonna take over... Historians believe the rising cost of healthcare, massive amounts of debt and careless spending by governments, and immigration are all things that could lead to the fall of European democracies, and even the United States. Yikes!



Gosh, I hope we don't trip and fall...

We're now going to take a look at what YOU, the historian thinks. Based on our readings, class discussions, the BrainPops, etc., use your creativity to explain:



What do you think are the two most important things that united the Roman Empire and what do you think were the three most important contributing factors for the fall of the Roman Empire?

Read the list of events. Make an inference as to why you think this led to Rome's collapse. Make sure you understand each of the following below & yes, you can do some independent research if your heart desires....You more than 94% don't need to. The info is in the doc:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| • Starvation & disease | • Slavery | • Betrayal -Roman |
| • Loss of Faith in the | • Overpopulation | disunity/Lack of gov't |
| Empire & Christianity | • Overworked Military | control |
| dividing the people | • Crime because empire | • Trade (good or bad) |
| • Barbarian Attacks | was too large | • Language, Education, |
| • The Roads! | | and Religion! |

You will use a Bubble Font Template where you will draw an image or two inside of the individual letters and then explain your answer contributing factor beneath each letter. The image can go outside the bubble letter, but try to keep it inside...DRAW the image to show what you explain in the five sentence explanation. Use color. Use color. Use color! COLOR!!!

Each Reason -- 10 pts each -- Each reason must include a **minimum of five** sentences why you believe these answers are the contributing factors to the rise & fall of Rome. Please write in paragraph format.

Images/Drawing/Creativity -- 5 pts each letter -- The images within & around the bubble letters are clear, easy to understand, and are creative in some manner

Total: 60 pts – HW and Quiz Grade

ROME!

Student Example from Previous Years...Don't just copy it!

