

## Integration of Greek and Roman Culture

- Rome was vastly technologically and militarily superior, Greece was culturally advanced
- The Romans combined the Greek and Phoenician alphabet to create the Latin alphabet
- Romans adopt the Greek pantheon and various religious rituals
  - Some early Romans even consulted the Oracle of Delphi
- Romans adopted the system of Greek education and became bilingual, making Greek the language of aristocrats in Rome
- Literature, architecture, and all many other facets of culture are recorded in Alexandria and improved upon in Rome
- Greek rhetoric becomes Roman oration the art of speech is greatly expanded upon by many great Romans
- After the fall of Macedon, Rome acquired the contents of its Royal library, including but not limited to: scrolls, “books”, tablets, paintings, statues, and architecture. Bringing all back to Rome
- Greek culture became so popular, it was not uncommon to vacation to Greece and participate in “cultural tours”
- Senators, consuls, and other politicians learned Greek for diplomacy and get overtaken by a love for Greek culture, passing it on to their families
- Cato the Censor had many misgivings about all this love for Greece: two important writings of note are first, that participation in Greek culture would make the Romans as feeble as the Greeks had become and two, that Roman excellence would cease to be pursued in the face of Greek ideals
  - Greek philosophy was especially concerning to him [The reputation of a man should come as the result of martial deeds, not just mere words]-Cato
  - Carneades comes to Rome: In 155 BC, a series of philosophers come to Rome via invitation to promote their schools. Carneades, head of The Academy, presents two arguments on subsequent days. Day one arguing for the definition and merits of justice and on day two disputing every argument he had presented the day before, claiming “Justice is a tool used by those who implement the law to promote their status in the world. If Rome was purely just they would return all land, money, and goods they had acquired over the previous centuries and return to their tribal lifestyle in central Italy. He also argues that religion is just oral history that has been drastically exaggerated over centuries due to many unreliable retellings.

- If the Romans were better than the Greeks (and they were in the eyes of Cato), then they would be able to produce superior art, architecture, literature, etc.
- Cicero would later import the relevant philosophies into Roman culture such as virtue ethics, poetics, and politics
- The Romans were superior bureaucrats and the Greeks were better artists
  - Differences in the way culture is framed matter
  - Romans admired Greek art but did not support democracy, claiming it was an inferior way of government