Each civilization that you will study in this unit made important contributions to history.

- The Romans invented concrete and used the arch in building.
- The Christians helped shape the West’s religious beliefs.
- The Muslims spread the religion of Islam and invented algebra.
A.D. 300
- Western Roman Empire ends
- Muhammad founds Islamic state in Arabia
- Church of Hagia Sophia ("Holy Wisdom")

A.D. 476
- Christianizes Rome’s official religion
- Justinian reforms Roman law
- Mosques in the Arabian Peninsula

A.D. 534
- Government of the Eastern Roman Empire
- A.D. 624
- Baghdad reaches its height as center of Islamic learning

A.D. 700
- Christianizes Rome’s official religion
- Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches separate
- Church of Hagia Sophia ("Holy Wisdom")

A.D. 830
- Founder of Islamic State
- Baghdad reaches its height as center of Islamic learning

A.D. 1054
- Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches separate
- Muslim rule reaches to northern India

A.D. 1100
- Christianizes Rome’s official religion
- Church of Hagia Sophia ("Holy Wisdom")

Gladiators in battle
Unit 3

Places to Locate

1. Roman aqueduct
   See Ancient Rome Chapters 8 & 9

2. Roman Pantheon
   See Ancient Rome Chapters 8 & 9

People to Meet

Augustus
63 B.C.–A.D. 14
Roman emperor
Chapter 8, page 289

Jesus
C. 6 B.C.–A.D. 30
Crucifixion led to rise of Christianity
Chapter 10, page 346

Paul
C. A.D. 10–65
Christian thinker
Chapter 10, page 349

Constantine
C. A.D. 280–337
Roman emperor
Chapter 9, page 321
Muslims believe Allah dictated the Quran to Muhammad
C. A.D. 570–632
Chapter 11, page 376

Islamic poet and philosopher
A.D. 1048–1131
Chapter 11, page 392

Augustine
A.D. 354–430
Christian philosopher
Chapter 10, page 357

Theodora
C. A.D. 500–548
Byzantine empress
Chapter 9, page 331

Hagia Sophia
See Ancient Rome
Chapters 8 & 9

Mount of the Beatitudes
See Rise of Christianity
Chapter 10

Kaaba
See Islamic Civilization
Chapter 11

Arabian Sea

ASIA
Chapter 8

The Rise of Rome

Ruins of the Forum in Rome, Italy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>451 B.C.</td>
<td>Romans adopt the Twelve Tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>267 B.C.</td>
<td>Rome controls most of Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 B.C.</td>
<td>Octavian becomes Rome’s first emperor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.D. 96</td>
<td>Rule of the Good Emperors begins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter Preview

While the Chinese civilization arose in East Asia, the Romans created an empire that covered much of the Mediterranean world. Read this chapter to discover how the Romans were able to win control of such a large area.

View the Chapter 8 video in the World History: Journey Across Time Video Program.

Section 1: Rome’s Beginnings

The civilization of Rome began in Italy. Rome grew from a small city into an economic and military power.

Section 2: The Roman Republic

Rome was a republic for almost 500 years. During this time, it gradually expanded the right to vote. After many years of war and following the destruction of the Carthaginian Empire, Rome took control of the Mediterranean region.

Section 3: The Fall of the Republic

As Rome’s territory grew, the army gained political power. The Roman Republic, weakened by civil wars, gave way to the Roman Empire.

Section 4: The Early Empire

Augustus and many of his successors governed well. Rome’s empire grew larger and wealthier.

Know-Want-Learn

Make this foldable to help you organize what you know, what you want to know, and what you learn about the rise of Rome.

Step 1: Fold four sheets of paper in half from top to bottom.

Step 2: On each folded paper, make a cut 1 inch from the side on the top flap.

Step 3: Place the folded papers one on top of the other. Staple the four sections together and label the top four tabs: Rome’s Beginnings, The Roman Republic, The Fall of the Republic, and The Early Empire.

Cut 1 inch from the edge through the top flap only.

Reading and Writing

Before reading the chapter, write what you already know about the beginning of Rome, the rise and fall of its republic, and the early Roman Empire under the tabs of your foldable. Also write one question you have on each tab. As you read, summarize what you learn under each tab.
Learn It!

Note Taking

Did you know that when you take notes, you remember more than three-fourths of the information you recorded? That is why it is important to learn to take careful notes as you are reading.

Read this paragraph from Section 3.

Trouble in the Republic

Rome’s armies were victorious wherever they went. Yet problems were building at home. Dishonest officials stole money, and the gap between rich and poor was growing. Thousands of farmers faced ruin, and the cities were becoming overcrowded and dangerous.

—from page 278

Authors of textbooks help with note taking by giving you headings and subheadings. If you are not sure of the main topic, it is a safe bet that headings in bold are important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Topic</th>
<th>Important Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republic's Problems</td>
<td>1. dishonest officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. gap between rich and poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. farmers faced ruin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. cities overcrowded</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Make a T-Chart

Read the first few pages of Section 2 and use this T-chart as a guide to help you practice taking notes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Topic</th>
<th>Important Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rome’s government</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social groups in Rome</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman law</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Read to Write

On page 273, read about Rome’s first code of laws, the Twelve Tables. Come up with your own 12 Tables of School Law, and explain why each one should be used to govern the students in your school.

### Apply It!

As you read Section 1, write the names of important people or places on the left column of your note-taking paper. On the right side, list details from your reading.
What’s the Connection?
In previous chapters, you learned about the civilization of ancient Greece. Greek ways did not die with the end of Greece’s freedom. They were adopted and spread widely by another civilization, Rome.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• Geography played an important role in the rise of Roman civilization. (page 263)
• The Romans created a republic and conquered Italy. By treating people fairly, they built Rome from a small city into a great power. (page 265)

Locating Places
Sicily (SIH·suh·lee)
Apennines (A·puh·NYNZ)
Latium (LAY·shee·uhhm)
Tiber River (TY·buhr)
Etruria (ih·TRUR·ee·uh)

Meeting People
Romulus (RAHM·yuh·luhs) and Remus (REE·muhs)
Aeneas (ih·NEE·uhhs)
Latins (LA·tuhnz)
Etruscans (ih·TRUHS·kuhnz)
Tarquins (TAHR·kwihnz)

Building Your Vocabulary
republic (rih·PUH·blihk)
legion (LEE·juhn)

Reading Strategy
Summarizing Information Use a diagram like the one below to show how the Etruscans affected the development of Rome.

When & Where?

650 B.C.
- c. 650 B.C.
- Etruscans rule Rome

450 B.C.
- 509 B.C.
- Rome becomes a republic

250 B.C.
- 267 B.C.
- Rome controls most of Italy
The Origins of Rome

Main Idea: Geography played an important role in the rise of Roman civilization.

Reading Focus: If you were founding a new city, what natural features would influence your choice of a building site? As you read this section, think about the choices that the early Romans made.

Italy is in an important location in the middle of the Mediterranean region. It is a long, narrow peninsula with a distinctive shape: it looks like a high-heeled boot jutting into the sea. The heel points toward Greece and the toe toward the island of Sicily (SIH•suh•lee). Across the top of the boot are the Alps, craggy mountains that separate Italy from European lands to the north. Another mountain range, the Apennines (A•puh•NYNZ), runs all the way down the boot from north to south.

The landscape of Italy is similar to that of Greece, but the Apennines are not as rugged as Greece's mountains. They can be crossed much more easily. As a result, the people who settled in Italy were not split up into small, isolated communities as the Greeks were. In addition, Italy had better farmland than Greece. Its mountain slopes level off to large flat plains that are ideal for growing crops. With more capacity to produce food, Italy could support more people than Greece could.

Historians know little about the first people to live in Italy. There is evidence, however, that groups from the north slipped through Italy's mountain passes between about 1500 B.C. and 1000 B.C. Attracted by the mild climate and rich soil, a small but steady stream of newcomers settled in the hills and on the plains. Among these peoples were a Latin-speaking people who built the city of Rome on the plain of Latium (LAY•shee•uhm) in central Italy.
In addition, Rome was built on seven hills. The Romans did this on purpose. The hills were very steep, making it easy to defend the city against enemy attack. Rome was also located at a place where people could easily cross the Tiber River. As a result, Rome became a stopping place for people traveling north and south in western Italy and for merchant ships sailing in the western Mediterranean.

How Did Rome Begin? Two different legends describe how Rome began. The traditional story is that twin brothers named Romulus (RAHM•yuh•luhs) and Remus (REE•muhs) founded the city. As babies, the boys were abandoned near the Tiber River. Rescued by a wolf and raised by a shepherd, they decided to build a city in 753 B.C. The twins quarreled, however, and Remus made fun of the wall his brother was building. In a fury, Romulus lashed out at Remus and killed him. Romulus went on to become the first king of Rome, the new city he named after himself.

The seeds of Rome are traced even farther back in the Aeneid, a famous epic by the Roman poet Virgil. The Aeneid is the story of the Trojan hero Aeneas (ih•NEE•uhs). He and a band of followers are said to have sailed the Mediterranean Sea after the Greeks captured Troy. After many adventures, the Trojans landed at the mouth of the Tiber. Through warfare and then marriage to the local king’s daughter, Aeneas united the Trojans and some of the Latins (LA•tuhnz), the local people. He thus became the “father” of the Romans.

Historians are not sure how Rome began. They think that Latins lived in the area of Rome as early as 1000 B.C. They built huts on Rome’s hills, tended herds, and grew crops. Sometime between 800 B.C. and 700 B.C., they decided to band together for protection. It was this community that became known as Rome.

Early Influences After about 800 B.C., other groups joined the Romans in Italy. Two of these groups, the Greeks and the Etruscans (ih•TRUHS•kuhnz), played a major role in shaping Roman civilization.

Many Greeks came to southern Italy and Sicily between 750 B.C. and 550 B.C., when Greece was busily building overseas colonies. From the Greeks, Romans learned to grow olives and grapes. They also adopted the Greek alphabet, and they
would eventually model their architecture, sculpture, and literature after the Greeks. 

Rome’s early growth was influenced most, however, by the Etruscans. The Etruscans lived north of Rome in Etruria (ih•TRUH•ee•uh). After 650 B.C., they moved south and took control of Rome and most of Latium.

The Etruscans were skilled metalworkers who became rich from mining and trade. They forced enslaved people to do the heaviest work and made their own lives comfortable. Their tomb paintings show men and women feasting, dancing, and playing music and sports. Some murals also show bloody battle scenes, revealing the Etruscans’ pride in their military.

The Etruscans changed Rome from a village of straw-roofed huts into a city of wood and brick buildings. They laid out streets, temples, and public buildings around a central square. Etruscans also taught Romans a new style of dress, featuring short cloaks and togas—loose garments draped over one shoulder. More importantly, the Etruscan army would serve as a model for the mighty army the Romans eventually assembled.

**Reading Check** Explain How did geography help the Romans prosper?

---

**The Birth of a Republic**

**Main Idea** The Romans created a republic and conquered Italy. By treating people fairly, they built Rome from a small city into a great power.

**Reading Focus** Have you heard the phrase “winning hearts and minds”? It means convincing people to support you rather than just forcing them to obey. Read on to learn how the Romans not only conquered other people in Italy but also won their hearts and minds.

The Etruscans ruled Rome for more than 100 years. Under the Etruscans, Rome became wealthy and powerful. However, the ruling family, called the Tarquins (TAHR•kwihnz), grew more and more cruel.

Finally, in 509 B.C., the Romans rebelled. They overthrew the Tarquins and set up a republic (rih•PUH•blihk). A republic is a form of government in which the leader is not a king or queen but someone put in office by citizens with the right to vote. In a republic, the citizens have the power. The rise of the Roman Republic marked the beginning of a new chapter in Rome’s history.

---

**Etruscan murals often showed lively scenes of daily life, such as religious ceremonies or people enjoying music and feasts. How did the Etruscans become wealthy?**
At the time Rome became a republic, it was still a small city, surrounded by enemies. Over the next 200 years, the Romans fought war after war against their neighbors. In 338 B.C. they finally defeated the other Latins living nearby. Next they attacked the Etruscans and defeated them in 284 B.C. By 267 B.C., the Romans had also conquered the Greeks in southern Italy. With this victory, the Romans became the masters of almost all of Italy.

Why Was Rome So Strong? Rome was able to conquer Italy because the Romans were excellent soldiers. In the republic’s early days, every male citizen who owned land had to serve in the army. Discipline was harsh, and deserters were punished by death. The tough discipline helped mold Roman soldiers into fighters who did not give up easily. In addition, they were practical problem solvers.

For example, Roman armies at first fought like Greek armies. Row upon row of soldiers marched shoulder to shoulder, keeping their shields together and holding long spears. Roman generals soon realized that this way of fighting was slow and hard to control. They reorganized their soldiers into smaller groups called legions (LEE•juhnz). Each legion had about 6,000 men and was further divided into groups of 60 to 120 soldiers. These small groups could quickly cut through enemy lines.

Roman soldiers, or legionaries, were armed with a short sword called a gladius and a spear called a pilum. Each unit also carried its own standard—a tall pole topped with a symbol. In battle, standards helped keep units together because the soldiers could see them above the action.

Shrewd Rulers The Romans were not only good fighters but also smart planners. As they expanded throughout Italy, they built permanent military settlements in the areas they conquered. Then they built roads between these towns. These roads allowed troops to travel swiftly to any place in their growing territory.

To rule their new conquests, the Romans created the Roman Confederation. Under this system, Romans gave full citizenship to some peoples, especially other Latins. They could vote and serve in the government, and they were treated the
same as other citizens under the law. The Romans granted other peoples the status of allies.

Allies were free to run their own local affairs, but they had to pay taxes to the republic and provide soldiers for the army. The Romans made it clear that loyal allies could improve their position and even become Roman citizens.

With these policies, the Romans proved themselves clever rulers. They knew that conquered peoples would be more loyal to the government if they were well treated. Rome’s generosity paid off. As a result, the republic grew stronger and more unified.

All the same, Rome was not afraid to use force if necessary. If conquered peoples revolted against Roman rule, their resistance was swiftly put down.

Reading Check Describe How did Rome rule its new conquests?

What Did You Learn?

1. Where did the Greeks live in Italy, and how did they influence Roman civilization?
2. Describe the two legends that tell of the founding of Rome. Then describe how and when Rome was actually founded.
3. Geography Skills Draw a diagram like the one below. List examples of how geography determined Rome’s location.
4. Summarize Describe the Roman conquest of Italy.
5. Compare and Contrast How did geography affect the development of civilization in Greece and Italy?
6. Expository Writing Write a short essay discussing the reasons Rome was so successful in its conquest of Italy.
7. Taking Notes Use the blue subheads in Section 1 to create notes about Rome’s beginnings. List each subhead on the left of a T-chart and details on the right.
Roman Republic

What's the Connection?
Romans had suffered under cruel Etruscan kings. When they had the chance to create their own government, they chose something very different.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
- Rome’s republic was shaped by a struggle between wealthy landowners and regular citizens as it gradually expanded the right to vote. (page 269)
- Rome slowly destroyed the Carthaginian Empire and took control of the entire Mediterranean region. (page 274)

Locating Places
- Carthage (KAHR•thihj)
- Cannae (KA•nee)
- Zama (ZAY•muh)

Meeting People
- Cincinnatus (SIHN•suh•NA•tuhs)
- Hannibal (HA•nuh•buhl)
- Scipio (SIH•pee•OH)

Building Your Vocabulary
- patrician (puh•TRIH•shuhn)
- plebeian (plih•BEE•uhhn)
- consul (KAHN•suhl)
- veto (VEE•toh)
- praetor (PREE•tuhr)
- dictator (DIHK•TAY•tuhr)

Reading Strategy
Categorizing Information Complete a chart like the one below listing the government officials and legislative bodies of the Roman Republic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officials</th>
<th>Legislative Bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When & Where?

450 B.C. 300 B.C. 150 B.C.

451 B.C. Romans adopt the Twelve Tables
264 B.C. Punic Wars begin
146 B.C. Rome destroys Carthage
Rome's Government

Rome’s republic was shaped by a struggle between wealthy landowners and regular citizens as it gradually expanded the right to vote.

Reading Focus Do you know where our word republic comes from? It is made up of two Latin words meaning “thing of the people.” Read on to learn about the republican government that early Romans created.

Early Romans were divided into two classes: patricians and plebeians. The patricians (puh•TRIH•shuhnz) were wealthy landowners. These nobles made up Rome’s ruling class. Most of Rome’s people, however, were plebeians (plih•BEE•uhnz). This group included artisans, shopkeepers, and owners of small farms.

Both patrician and plebeian men were Roman citizens. They had the right to vote and the responsibility to pay taxes and serve in the army. However, plebeians had less social status. Marriage between members of the two classes was forbidden. Plebeians also lacked an important political right: they could not hold public office.

How Did Rome’s Government Work? Rome had a tripartite, or three-part, government. One group of people ran the government, another group made laws, and a third group acted as judges. It had checks and balances so that one group could not get too strong, but it did not separate powers like our government does today. In the Roman Republic, the top government officials were

Growth of the Roman Republic 500–146 B.C.

During the early years of the Republic, Rome gained territory around the Mediterranean Sea.

1. What major islands did Rome conquer?
2. Why do you think Rome did not expand farther north?
the **consuls** (KAHN•suhlzh). Two consuls—both patricians—were chosen every year. They headed the army and ran the government. Because they served such short terms, there was little risk that they would abuse their power. The consuls also kept each other in line because each could **veto** (VEE•tuh), or reject, the other’s decision. The word **veto** is Latin for “I forbid.” Rome had other important officials called **praetors** (PREE•tuhrz). Their main job was to interpret the law and act as judges in court. Various other officials performed specialized duties—keeping tax records, handling public festivals, and so forth.

Rome’s most important legislative, or lawmaking, body was the Senate. This was a select group of 300 patrician men who served for life. In the beginning, the Senate only gave advice to the consuls. Over time, the power of the Senate grew. By the 200s B.C., it could also propose laws, hold debates, and approve building programs.

Another legislative body was the Assembly of Centuries. It elected consuls and praetors, and passed laws. Like the Senate, the Assembly of Centuries was under the control of the patricians.

**Plebeians Against Patricians** As you might expect, plebeians complained about having so little power in the Roman Republic. After all, they fought alongside patricians in the army, and their tax payments helped the republic thrive.

Eventually, the plebeians took action to bring about change. In 494 B.C. many plebeians went on strike. They refused to serve in the army. They also left the city to set up a republic of their own. These moves frightened the patricians into agreeing to share power.

In 471 B.C. the plebeians were allowed to set up their own body of representatives, called the Council of the Plebs. The assembly elected tribunes who brought plebeian concerns to the government’s attention. The tribunes also won the right to veto government decisions. In 455 B.C. plebeians and patricians were allowed to marry, and in the 300s B.C., plebeians were allowed to become consuls.

The most far-reaching political reform came in 287 B.C. In that year, the Council of the Plebs finally gained the power to pass laws for all Romans. Now all male citizens had equal political standing, at least in theory. In practice, a few wealthy patrician families still held most of the power, and women remained without a voice in government.
The Roman Republic had become more representative, but it was far from a full-fledged democracy.

**Who Was Cincinnatus?** An unusual feature of the Roman Republic was the office of **dictator** (dihk • tay • tuhhr). We define a dictator today as an oppressive ruler with complete control over the state. Roman dictators also had complete control, but they served the people and ruled on a temporary basis during emergencies. The Senate appointed a dictator in times of great danger. As soon as the danger was past, Roman dictators gave up their power.

The best-known early Roman dictator is **Cincinnatus** (sighn • suh • NA • tuhs). About 460 B.C., a powerful enemy had surrounded a Roman army. Officials decided that the crisis called for a dictator and that Cincinnatus was the man for the job. The officials found Cincinnatus plowing his fields. A loyal and devoted citizen, Cincinnatus left his farm and gathered an army. He defeated the enemy in short order and returned to Rome in triumph. Although he probably could have continued ruling, Cincinnatus did not want power. Having done his duty, he returned to his farm a mere 15 or 16 days later.

Romans strongly believed in civic duty, or the idea that citizens have a responsibility to help their country. Cincinnatus was widely admired for his civic duty in his own time and in later ages. George Washington, for one, took inspiration from his example. Like Cincinnatus, Washington was a farmer when he was asked to head an army: the Continental Army in the American War for Independence. After leading the Americans to victory, Washington returned to his plantation home. Only later, and with some reluctance, did he agree to become the first president of the United States.

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**Focus on Everyday Life**

**Roman Dinner Parties** Before Rome became a powerful empire, Romans ate simple meals of porridge, dried vegetables, and greens. People rarely ate meat or seafood. After Rome’s conquests, the dining habits of wealthy Romans changed. Newly rich Romans showed off their wealth with expensive feasts that included exotic foods and lively entertainment for their guests.

At Roman dinner parties, guests reclined on couches. The enslaved servants served the food, which would be carried into the banquet room on great silver platters. Roman dishes might include boiled stingray garnished with hot raisins; boiled crane with turnips; or roast flamingo cooked with dates, onions, honey, and wine.

![A wealthy Roman woman reclining on a couch](image)

**Connecting to the Past**

1. Whose eating habits changed after Rome became wealthy and powerful?
2. Describe how their eating habits changed.
Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus

c. 519–438 B.C.

The loyal devotion of Cincinnatus greatly impressed the Roman historian Livy. In his History of Rome, Livy advised his readers to listen to the worthwhile story of Cincinnatus, whose virtue rose high above any rewards that wealth could bring.

According to Livy, Cincinnatus lived in Rome but owned and worked a four-acre field on the other side of the Tiber River. On the day that the officials looked for Cincinnatus, they found him hard at work in his field, covered with dirt and sweat. Cincinnatus was surprised when the officials asked him to put on his toga and listen as they explained the wishes of the Roman Senate.

The officials explained the emergency situation to Cincinnatus. He agreed to the Senate’s request that he become a dictator. Cincinnatus and the officials crossed the Tiber River to Rome. The next morning, before daylight, Cincinnatus went to the Forum and gathered his forces to attack the enemy.

The story of Cincinnatus was important to the ancient Romans for several reasons. He was victorious in battle and yet quickly gave up the dictatorship. Perhaps more importantly, he did his civic duty by responding to a call to serve.

“Cincinnatus is asked to lead Rome.”

—Livy, The Rise of Rome

“Then and Now”

Name a modern-day leader that you think historians will write about with great admiration. Explain why.
Roman Law One of Rome’s chief gifts to the world was its system of law. The legal system of the United States owes much to the Roman system.

Rome’s first code of laws was the Twelve Tables, adopted about 451 B.C. Before this time, Rome’s laws were not written down. As a result, plebeians claimed that patrician judges often favored their own class. They demanded that the laws be put in writing for everyone to see.

The patricians finally agreed. They had the laws carved on bronze tablets that were placed in Rome’s marketplace, or the Forum (FOHR•uhm). The Twelve Tables became the basis for all future Roman laws. They established the principle that all free citizens had the right to be treated equally by the legal system.

The Twelve Tables, however, applied only to Roman citizens. As the Romans took over more lands, they realized that new rules were needed to solve legal disputes between citizens and noncitizens. They created a collection of laws called the Law of Nations. It stated principles of justice that applied to all people everywhere.

These standards of justice included ideas that we still accept today. A person was seen as innocent until proven guilty. People accused of crimes could defend themselves before a judge. A judge had to look at the evidence carefully before making a decision.

The idea that the law should apply to everyone equally and that all people should be treated the same way by the legal system is called the “rule of law.” In the age of Rome, the rule of law was still a new idea. In many lands, people at the top of society often had special privileges and did not have to obey the same laws or use the same courts as people lower down. In some places, people at the bottom of society did not have any legal rights at all. The rule of law is one of the key ideas that the Romans gave to the world. It is still the basis of our legal system today.

Contrast: Before 471 B.C., what right did patricians have that plebeians did not?
Rome Expands

**Main Idea** Rome slowly destroyed the Carthaginian Empire and took control of the entire Mediterranean region.

**Reading Focus** When you achieve a victory—whether it is in academics, sports, or some other field—do you then strive for more success? That may have been how the Romans felt once they had taken over Italy. Read on to learn how they continued to expand their power.

While Rome developed its government, it also faced challenges abroad. The Romans had completed their conquest of Italy. However, they now faced a powerful rival in the Mediterranean area. This enemy was the state of **Carthage** (Kahr•thihj) on the coast of North Africa. It had been founded around 800 B.C. by the Phoenicians. As you learned earlier, the Phoenicians were sea traders from the Middle East.

Carthage ruled a great trading empire that included parts of northern Africa and southern Europe. By controlling the movement of goods in this region, Carthage made itself the largest and richest city in the western Mediterranean.

**The First Punic War** Both Carthage and Rome wanted to control the island of Sicily. In 264 B.C. the dispute brought the two powers to blows. The war that began in 264 B.C. is called the First Punic War. *Punicus* is the Latin word for “Phoenician.” The war started when the Romans sent an army to Sicily to prevent a Carthaginian invasion.
In December 218 B.C., Hannibal’s forces and the Roman army met in battle near the Trebbia River in northern Italy. In a well-planned attack, the Carthaginian forces badly defeated the Romans. Hannibal made good use of his elephants in the attack, but most died following the battle. At what other battle in Italy were the Romans defeated by Hannibal?

The Second Punic War To make up for its loss of Sicily, Carthage expanded its empire into southern Spain. Roman leaders were not happy about Carthage gaining land on the European mainland west of Rome. They helped the people living in Spain rebel against Carthage. Of course, Carthaginians were angry. To punish Rome, Carthage sent its greatest general, Hannibal (HA•nuh•buhl), to attack Rome in 218 B.C. This started the Second Punic War.

Hannibal’s strategy was to take the fighting into Italy itself. To do this, Hannibal gathered an army of about 46,000 men, many horses, and 37 elephants. He landed his forces in Spain and then marched east to attack Italy.

Even before reaching Italy, Hannibal’s forces suffered severe losses crossing the steep, snowy Alps into Italy. The brutal cold, gnawing hunger, and attacks by
mountain tribes killed almost half of the soldiers and most of the elephants. The remaining army, however, was still a powerful fighting force when it reached Italy.

The Romans suffered a severe loss in 216 B.C. at the Battle of Cannae (KA•nee) in southern Italy. Even though Hannibal’s army was outnumbered, it overpowered the Roman force and began raiding much of Italy.

The Romans, however, raised another army. In 202 B.C. a Roman force led by a general named Scipio (SIH•pee•oh) invaded Carthage. Hannibal, who was waging a war in Italy, had no choice but to return home to defend his people.

At the Battle of Zama (ZAY•muh), Scipio’s troops defeated the Carthaginians. Carthage gave up Spain to Rome. It also had to give up its navy and pay a large fine. Rome now ruled the western Mediterranean.

More Conquests While Carthage was no longer a military power, it remained a trading center. In 146 B.C. Rome finally destroyed its great rival in the Third Punic War. Roman soldiers burned Carthage and enslaved 50,000 men, women, and children. Legend says that the Romans even spread salt on the earth so no crops would grow. Carthage became a Roman province, or regional district.

During the Punic Wars, Rome successfully battled states in the eastern Mediterranean. In 148 B.C. Macedonia came under Roman rule. Two years later, the rest of Greece became Roman. In 129 B.C. Rome gained its first province in Asia. It was no wonder that the Romans began to call the Mediterranean mare nostrum—"our sea."

Describe How did Rome punish Carthage at the end of the Third Punic War?

Reading Summary

**Review the Main Ideas**

- During the Roman Republic, the government changed as the plebeians, or lower classes, and the patricians, or ruling class, struggled for power.

- Beginning in 264 B.C., Rome fought and won a series of wars with Carthage and other powers and gained control of the Mediterranean region.

**What Did You Learn?**

1. Who were the top government officials in the Roman Republic, and what were their duties?

2. What does mare nostrum mean, and why did the Romans use the term?

3. **Sequencing Information**
   
   Draw a diagram to describe the sequence of events from the start of the First Punic War to the start of the Second Punic War.

   - Rome Invades Sicily
   - 
   - 
   -

4. **Geography Skills** Where was Carthage located, and why did it compete with Rome?

5. **Summarize** What other conquests did Rome carry out during the period of the Punic Wars?

6. **Evaluate** Why do you think the legacy of Roman law is considered so important?

7. **Persuasive Writing** Write a speech demanding equal rights for plebeians in the early republic.
What’s the Connection?
By the end of the Third Punic War, Rome ruled the Mediterranean world. All was not well, however. Closer to home, the republic faced increasing dangers that would soon lead to its end.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• The use of enslaved labor hurt farmers, increased poverty and corruption, and brought the army into politics. (page 278)
• Military hero Julius Caesar seized power and made reforms. (page 280)
• The Roman Republic, weakened by civil wars, became an empire under Augustus. (page 282)

Locating Places
Rubicon (ROO•bih•KAHN)
Actium (AK•shee•uhm)

Meeting People
Julius Caesar (jool•yuhs SEE•zuhr)
Octavian (ahk•TAY•vee•uhn)
Antony (AN•tuh•nee)
Cicero (SIH•suh•ROH)
Augustus (aw•GUHS•tuhs)

Building Your Vocabulary
latifundia (LA•tuh•FUHN•deh•uh)
triumvirate (try•UHM•vuh•ruht)

Reading Strategy
Finding the Main Idea Use a chart like the one below to identify the main ideas of Section 3 and supporting details.

Main Idea

<table>
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When & Where?

100 B.C.
82 B.C. Sulla becomes dictator of Rome

60 B.C.
44 B.C. Group of senators murder Julius Caesar

20 B.C.
27 B.C. Octavian becomes Rome’s first emperor
Trouble in the Republic

Main Idea The use of enslaved labor hurt farmers, increased poverty and corruption, and brought the army into politics.

Reading Focus Poverty, corruption, unemployment, crime, and violence are problems we hear about today. Read on to learn how the Romans struggled with these same issues 2,000 years ago.

Rome’s armies were victorious wherever they went. Yet problems were building at home. Dishonest officials stole money, and the gap between rich and poor was growing. Thousands of farmers faced ruin, and the cities were becoming overcrowded and dangerous.

Rich Versus Poor As you read in Section 2, most of the people who ruled Rome were patricians—rich people who owned large farms. These rich landowners ran the Senate and held the most powerful government jobs. They handled Rome’s finances and directed its wars. Despite some gains for the plebeians, many people became very unhappy about this situation.

Rome had few privileged citizens compared with the many Romans who farmed small plots of land. In the 100s B.C., however, these farmers were sinking into poverty and debt. Why? Many of them had been unable to farm because they were fighting in Rome’s wars. Others had suffered damage to their farms during Hannibal’s invasion of Italy.

Moreover, small farmers could not compete with wealthy Romans who were buying up land to create latifundia (LA•tuh•FUHN•dee•uh), or large farming estates. These rich landowners used a new source of labor—the thousands of prisoners brought to Italy during the wars. By using these enslaved people to tend their crops, wealthy Romans could force owners of small farms out of business.

Faced with debts they could not pay off, many farmers sold their land and headed to the cities, desperate for work. However, jobs were hard to find. Enslaved people did most of the work. If free men were lucky enough to be hired, they earned low wages. These conditions created widespread anger.

▲ This image shows Romans farming their land. Why were Roman farmers becoming poor in the 100s B.C.?
Roman politicians were worried about riots breaking out, but they quickly turned the situation to their advantage. To win the votes of the poor, they began providing cheap food and entertainment. This policy of “bread and circuses” helped many dishonest rulers come to power.

**Why Did Reform Fail?** Not all wealthy people ignored the problems facing the Roman Republic. Two prominent officials who worked for reforms were Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus (GRA•kuhs). These brothers thought that many of Rome’s problems were caused by the loss of small farms. They asked the Senate to take back public land from the rich and divide it among landless Romans.

Many senators, however, were among those who had claimed parcels of public land. Putting their own interests above the general welfare, they fought the Gracchus brothers’ proposals. A band of senators even went so far as to kill Tiberius in 133 B.C. Twelve years later, Gaius met the same fate. These were dark days for the Roman Republic, when the people charged with making and upholding the laws could so shockingly violate them.

**The Army Enters Politics** Matters only worsened as the Roman army took on a new role. Until now, the army had mostly stayed out of government affairs. Things changed when a military leader named Marius became consul in 107 B.C. Previously, most soldiers were owners of small farms. Now, because this type of farmer was disappearing, Marius began to recruit soldiers from the poor. In return for their service, he paid them wages and promised them the one thing they desperately wanted—land.

Marius changed the Roman army from citizen volunteers to paid professional soldiers. The new troops, however, were motivated by material rewards rather than a sense of duty. They felt loyal to their general, not to the Roman Republic. This gave individual generals a great deal of influence and good reason to become involved in politics. They needed to get laws passed that would provide the land they had promised their soldiers.

Marius’s new military system led to new power struggles. It was not long before Marius faced a challenge from a rival general with his own army, a man named Sulla. In 82 B.C. Sulla drove his enemies out of Rome and made himself dictator.

Over the next three years, Sulla changed the government. He weakened the Council of the Plebs and strengthened the Senate. Then he stepped down from office. He hoped that the Roman Republic could heal its wounds and recapture its glory. Instead, Rome plunged into an era of civil wars for the next 50 years. Ambitious men saw how Sulla used an army to seize power. They decided to follow the same path.
Julius Caesar

Main Idea) Military hero Julius Caesar seized power and made reforms.

Reading Focus Did you know that George Washington, Andrew Jackson, William H. Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, and Dwight D. Eisenhower all commanded armies before becoming president? Read to learn about a famous Roman who made a similar jump from military leader to political leader.

After Sulla left office, different Roman leaders battled for power, supported by their loyal armies. In 60 B.C. three men were on top: Crassus, Pompey, and Julius Caesar (jool•yuhs SEE•zuhr). Crassus was a military leader and one of the richest men in Rome. Pompey and Caesar were not as rich, but both were successful military men. Drawing on their wealth and power, they formed the First Triumvirate to rule Rome. A triumvirate (try•UHM•vuh•ruht) is a political alliance of three people.

Caesar’s Military Campaigns The members of the Triumvirate each had a military command in a remote area of the republic. Pompey was in Spain, Crassus in Syria, and Caesar in Gaul (modern France). While in Gaul, Caesar battled foreign tribes and invaded Britain. He became a hero to Rome’s lower classes. Senators and others back home in Rome feared that Caesar was becoming too popular and might seize power like Sulla.

After Crassus was killed in battle in 53 B.C., the Senate decided that Pompey should return to Italy and rule alone. In 49 B.C. the Senate ordered Caesar to give up his army and come home. Caesar faced a difficult choice. He could obey the Senate and perhaps face prison or death at the hands of his rivals, or he could march on Rome with his army and risk a civil war.

Caesar decided to hold on to his 5,000 loyal soldiers. He marched into Italy by crossing the Rubicon (ROO•bih•KAHN), a
small river at the southern boundary of his command area. By doing so, Caesar knew that he was starting a civil war and that there was no turning back. The phrase “crossing the Rubicon” is used today to mean making a decision that you cannot take back.

Pompey tried to stop Caesar, but Caesar was the better general. He drove Pompey’s forces from Italy and then destroyed Pompey’s army in Greece in 48 B.C.

Caesar’s Rise to Power  In 44 B.C. Caesar had himself declared dictator of Rome for life. This broke with the Roman tradition that allowed dictators to hold power for only short periods of time. To strengthen his hold on power, Caesar filled the Senate with new members who were loyal to him.

At the same time, Caesar knew that reforms were needed. He granted citizenship to people living in Rome’s territories outside the Italian peninsula. He started new colonies to provide land for the landless and created work for Rome’s jobless people. He ordered landowners using slave labor to hire more free workers. These measures made Caesar popular with Rome’s poor.

Caesar also created a new calendar with 12 months, 365 days, and a leap year. The Julian calendar, as it was called, was used throughout Europe until A.D. 1582. That year it was modified slightly to become the Gregorian calendar. This calendar, based on the birth of Christ, has been used in the United States since its beginning and is used by most countries in the world today.

While many Romans supported Caesar, others did not. His supporters believed he was a strong leader who brought peace and order to Rome. His enemies, however, feared that Caesar wanted to be king. These opponents, led by the senators Brutus and Cassius, plotted to kill him. Caesar ignored a famous warning to “beware the Ides of March” (March 15). On that date in 44 B.C., Caesar’s enemies surrounded him and stabbed him to death.

Reading Check Explain Why did Brutus, Cassius, and others kill Caesar?

Caesar crossing the Rubicon

Brutus (left) was one of the senators who killed Caesar. Antony (above) supported Caesar and his nephew Octavian and fought against Caesar’s assassins.
Rome Becomes an Empire

Main Idea  The Roman Republic, weakened by civil wars, became an empire under Augustus.

Reading Focus  Have you ever been in a traffic jam and wished that a police officer would show up to get things moving? Read on to learn how Romans welcomed the arrival of a strong new ruler.

Caesar’s death plunged Rome into another civil war. On one side were forces led by the men who had killed Caesar. On the other side was Caesar’s grandnephew Octavian (ahk • TAY • vee • uhn), who had inherited Caesar’s wealth, and two of Caesar’s top generals, Antony (AN • tuh • nee) and Lepidus. After defeating Caesar’s assassins, these three men created the Second Triumvirate in 43 B.C.

The Second Triumvirate  The members of the Second Triumvirate began quarreling almost at once. Octavian soon forced Lepidus to retire from politics. Then the two remaining leaders divided the Roman world between themselves. Octavian took the west; Antony took the east.

In short order, though, Octavian and Antony came into conflict. Antony fell in love with the Egyptian queen Cleopatra VII and formed an alliance with her. Octavian told the Romans that Antony, with Cleopatra’s help, planned to make himself the sole ruler of the republic. This alarmed many Romans and enabled Octavian to declare war on Antony.

In 31 B.C., at the Battle of Actium (AK • shee • uhm) off the west coast of Greece, Octavian crushed the army and navy of Antony and Cleopatra. The couple then fled to Egypt. A year later, as Octavian closed in, they killed themselves. Octavian, at the age of 32, now stood alone at the top of the Roman world. The period of civil wars was over, but so was the republic. Octavian would lay the foundation for a new system of government—the Roman Empire.

Who Was Augustus?  Octavian could have made himself dictator for life, like Julius Caesar did. He knew, though, that many people favored a republican form of government. One such person was
Cicero (SIH•suh•ROH), a political leader, writer, and Rome’s greatest public speaker. Cicero had argued against dictators and called for a representative government with limited powers.

Cicero’s speeches and books swayed many Romans. Centuries later, his ideas would also influence the writers of the United States Constitution.

Although Cicero did not live to see Octavian rule, he had supported him, hoping he would restore the republic. In 27 B.C. Octavian announced that he was doing just that.

He knew the Senate wanted this form of government. However, Octavian also knew that the republic had been too weak to solve Rome’s problems. Although he gave some power to the Senate, he really put himself in charge. His title, imperator, translates to “commander in chief,” but it came to mean “emperor.” Octavian also took the title of Augustus (aw•GUHS•tuhs)—“the revered or majestic one.” From this point on, he was known by this name.

Reading Check Explain How did Octavian’s government reflect the ideas of Cicero?

What Did You Learn?

1. What is a triumvirate?
2. Who was Cicero, and how did he influence the writers of the United States Constitution?
3. Understanding Cause and Effect Draw a diagram like the one below. Fill in the chain of effects that was caused by the thousands of enslaved prisoners that were brought to Italy from Rome’s many wars.
4. Summarize What reforms did the Gracchus brothers suggest?
5. Analyze What was the “bread and circuses” policy, and how did Roman politicians benefit from it?
6. Analyze What reforms did Julius Caesar put in place that increased his popularity with poor and working-class Romans?
7. Persuasive Writing Imagine you are a Roman citizen. Decide whether you would have been for or against Julius Caesar’s rise to power and his reforms. Then write a newspaper editorial explaining your views. Be sure to include facts to support your opinions.
Was Caesar a Reformer or a Dictator?

Great Reformer

During his life, Julius Caesar was greatly admired by many people. He was also hated and feared by many others. Some believed he was too ambitious—exceptionally eager for fame and power—and that his ambition would keep him from acting in Rome’s best interest.

Was Caesar a great reformer or an ambitious dictator? Those who saw him as a great leader and reformer said that he:

- won the support of his soldiers through his military leadership and strategy
- treated many of his defeated enemies generously and appointed some of them—including Brutus—to government positions
- ended the rule of corrupt Roman nobles
- brought order and peace to Rome
- restored cities that had been destroyed by the republic
- strengthened and expanded the state of Rome
- started public jobs programs to aid the poor
- granted Roman citizenship to people from foreign countries or states.

▲ The assassination of Julius Caesar
Ambitious Dictator

Caesar also had many enemies, including some who had been his friends. They saw Caesar as a dangerous dictator and thought he was taking advantage of his growing power.

They said that he
• became an enemy when he refused to follow the Senate’s order to return to Rome
• started a civil war that led to the destruction of the republic
• increased the number of senators to add to his number of supporters
• treated his defeated enemies with cruelty
• punished those who wanted to uphold the traditions and laws of the republic
• weakened the Senate to gain absolute power over Rome
• kept hidden any facts that did not make him look brave and intelligent
• sought glory for himself at the expense of the republic.

You Be the Historian

Checking for Understanding
1. Define ambition. Identify some ways ambition can be a positive characteristic and some ways it can be a negative characteristic.
2. What could Caesar have done to show his enemies that he was not abusing his power?
3. Do you think Caesar was a great leader and reformer or an ambitious dictator? Write a brief essay that explains how you view Caesar. Use facts to support your position.
The Early Empire

What's the Connection?
You learned in Section 3 that when Octavian became Augustus, the Roman world began to change. The republic gave way to an empire, and peace and prosperity spread throughout the Mediterranean.

Focusing on the Main Ideas
• By expanding the empire and reorganizing the military and government, Augustus created a new era of prosperity. (page 287)
• Rome’s system of roads, aqueducts, ports, and common currency made the empire rich and prosperous. (page 290)

Locating Places
Rhine River (RYN)
Danube River (DAN•YOOB)
Puteoli (pyu•TEE•uh•LY)
Ostia (AHS•tee•uh)

Meeting People
Caligula (kuh•LIH•gyuh•luh)
Nero (NEE•roh)
Hadrian (HAY•dree•uhhn)

Building Your Vocabulary
Pax Romana (pahks • roh•MAH•nah)
aqueduct (A•kwuh•DUHKT)
currency (KUHR•uhn•see)

Reading Strategy
Cause and Effect Use a chart like the one below to show the changes Augustus made in the Roman Empire and the effect of each change.

CausesFFECTS
A.D. 14 Augustus dies
A.D. 96 Rule of the Good Emperors begins
A.D. 180 Pax Romana ends

When & Where?

BRITAIN
GAUL
ITALY
SPAIN
GREECE
PALESTINE
EGYPT

National Geographic
The Emperor Augustus

Main Idea By expanding the empire and reorganizing the military and government, Augustus created a new era of prosperity.

Reading Focus What makes a good or bad leader? Think about this question as you read about Augustus and other Roman emperors.

Augustus paved the way for 200 years of peace and prosperity in Rome. The emperors who followed him were not all good rulers, but they helped the Roman Empire reach its peak. For centuries, the Mediterranean region had been filled with conflict. Under Augustus and his successors, the region was under the control of one empire. A long era of peace began with Augustus and lasted until A.D. 180. It was called the *Pax Romana* (pahks roh•MAH•nah), or “Roman Peace.”

**What Did Augustus Achieve?** Upon becoming emperor in 27 B.C., Augustus set out to make the empire strong and safe. To provide security, he built a permanent, professional army of about 150,000 men—all Roman citizens. Augustus also created a special unit called the Praetorian Guard.

This force consisted of about 9,000 men in charge of guarding the emperor. The Praetorian Guard later became very influential in Roman politics.

Augustus’s legions conquered new territories and added vast stretches of northern Europe to the empire. All of Spain and Gaul came under Roman rule, as did land in what is today Austria, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Meanwhile, Augustus rebuilt Rome with stately palaces, fountains, and splendid public buildings. “I found Rome a city of brick,” he boasted, “and left it a city of marble.” The arts flourished as never before, and Augustus also imported grain from Africa to feed the poor. He knew that a well-fed population would be less likely to cause trouble.

Augustus devoted much of his energy to improving Rome’s government. During his reign, more than 50 million people lived in the Roman Empire. To rule this huge population, Augustus appointed a proconsul, or governor, for each of Rome’s provinces. These new officials replaced the politicians who had been chosen by the Senate. Augustus often traveled to the provinces to see how the governors were doing.

![The city of Rome at the height of the Roman Empire](image)
Augustus also reformed the Roman tax system. Previously, individual tax collectors paid the government for the right to do the job. To make their investment worthwhile, tax collectors were allowed to keep some of the money they gathered. Many of them, however, were dishonest and took too much. Augustus solved this problem by making tax collectors permanent government workers. This change made the tax system fairer.

Augustus also reformed the legal system. He created a set of laws for people in the provinces who were not citizens. As time passed, however, most of these people gained citizenship. The laws of Rome then applied to everyone, although the legal system generally stressed the authority of the government over the rights of the individual.

Who Came After Augustus?
After ruling for almost 40 years, Augustus died in A.D. 14. No law stated how the next emperor was to be chosen. Augustus, however, had trained a relative, Tiberius, to follow him. The next three emperors—Caligula (kuh•LIH•gyuh•luh), Claudius, and Nero (NEE•roh)—also came from Augustus’s family. They are called the Julio-Claudian emperors. Unfortunately, they were not all fit to lead. Tiberius and Claudius ruled capably. Caligula and Nero, however, proved to be cruel leaders.

Mental illness caused Caligula to act strangely and to treat people cruelly. He had many people murdered, wasted a lot of money, and even gave his favorite horse the position of consul. Eventually, the Praetorian Guard killed him and put Claudius on the throne.

Nero was also a vicious man. Among those he had killed were his mother and two wives. He is best remembered for having “fiddled while Rome burned.” According to legend, he was playing music miles from Rome when a fire destroyed much of the city in A.D. 64. Eventually, he committed suicide.

Reading Check Explain What did Augustus do to make the empire safer and stronger?
Octavian was born to a wealthy family in a small Italian town southeast of Rome. During his youth, Octavian suffered a number of illnesses. He refused to let his illnesses interfere with his life, however, showing the determination that would later make him Rome’s first emperor.

Octavian’s father was a Roman senator, but it was Octavian’s great-uncle—Julius Caesar—who first introduced Octavian to public life in Rome. In his late teens, Octavian joined Caesar in Africa and then the following year in Spain. At the age of 18, while Octavian was studying at school, he learned that his great-uncle had been murdered. In his will, Caesar had adopted Octavian as his son. Caesar had also made Octavian his heir—a position that Antony had assumed would be his. Against his family’s advice, Octavian went to Rome to claim his inheritance. By the time he reached Rome, however, Antony had seized Caesar’s papers and money and refused to give them to Octavian. With remarkable political savvy for someone so young, Octavian turned the situation around in his favor. He won the hearts of Caesar’s soldiers and the people of Rome by celebrating the public games that Caesar had started.

In his rise to power and during his reign as Emperor Augustus, Octavian pushed himself and his loyal followers with relentless energy. In his private life, however, he lived simply and quietly and shunned personal luxury. He was devoted to his wife, Livia Drusilla, and spent his spare time with her at their home on the outskirts of Rome.

“I extended the frontiers of all the provinces of the Roman people.”
Unity and Prosperity

Rome's system of roads, aqueducts, ports, and common currency made the empire rich and prosperous.

Reading Focus Do you find that you are more productive when you are not worried about conflicts at home or school? Read to learn how the Roman Empire prospered during its time of peace.

After Nero committed suicide, Rome passed through a period of disorder until Vespasian, a general and one of Nero’s proconsuls, took the throne. Vespasian restored peace and order. He put down several rebellions in the empire, including the Jewish rebellion in Palestine. Troops commanded by his son Titus defeated the Jews and destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

During his reign, Vespasian began construction of the Colosseum—a huge amphitheatre—in central Rome. His son Titus, then his other son Domitian, ruled Rome after he died. Both sons oversaw an era of growth and prosperity in Rome. During Titus’s reign, two disasters struck the empire. The volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted, destroying the city of Pompeii, and a great fire badly damaged Rome.

Linking Past & Present

Living in the Shadow of Mt. Vesuvius

THEN Ancient Pompeii was a busy port town. Its citizens were going about their day on August 24, A.D. 79, when Mt. Vesuvius erupted and buried the town in volcanic ash. About 20,000 people escaped, but thousands of others died. Not until centuries later—in the 1500s—were the preserved ruins at Pompeii discovered.

NOW Today, about 600,000 people live near Mt. Vesuvius. Some people even live on the volcano’s beautiful green slopes. Scientists warn that the volcano is overdue to erupt again and suggest that people move away from the highest-risk areas. Would you choose to live near Mt. Vesuvius? Why or why not?
The “Good Emperors”  At the beginning of the A.D. 100s, a series of rulers who were not related to Augustus or Vespasian came to power. These five emperors—Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian (HAY•dree•uhn), Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius—are known as the “good emperors.” They presided over nearly a century of prosperity, from A.D. 96 to A.D. 180. Agriculture flourished, trade increased, and the standard of living rose.

During this time, the emperor came to overshadow the Senate more than ever before. The five “good emperors” did not abuse their power, however. They were among the most devoted and capable rulers in Rome’s history. They improved Roman life in many ways, naming trained officials to carry out their orders.

Among the achievements of these emperors were programs to help ordinary people. Trajan gave money to help poor parents raise and educate their children. Hadrian made Roman law easier to understand and apply. Antoninus Pius passed laws to help orphans. All the emperors supported public building projects. They built arches and monuments, bridges and roads, and harbors and aqueducts. An aqueduct (A•kwuh•DUHKT) is a human-made channel for carrying water long distances.

A Unified Empire  Later emperors continued to conquer new territory for Rome. The empire reached its largest size under Trajan. It spread well beyond the Mediterranean, including Britain in the north and part of Mesopotamia in the east.

Trajan’s successors, however, realized that the empire had grown too big to rule effectively. Hadrian began to pull back. He removed troops from most of Mesopotamia.

Connecting to the Past

1. How did the Romans transport water to the city of Rome?
2. Why do you think that only the rich and powerful had private water supplies?
In Europe, he set the empire’s northern boundaries at the Rhine River (RYN) and Danube River (DAN•YOOB). He also built Hadrian’s Wall across northern Britain to keep out the Picts and Scots—two warlike people who lived in northern Britain.

In the A.D. 100s, the Roman Empire was one of the greatest empires in history. It included about 3.5 million square miles (9.1 million square km). Its people spoke different languages—mostly Latin in the west and Greek in the east. They also practiced different local customs. What unified the empire, though, were Roman law, Roman rule, and a shared identity as Romans.

Roman culture had been carried into every province by the soldiers who protected the empire and by the officials sent to govern. The Romans were generous in granting citizenship. In A.D. 212 every free person was made a Roman citizen.

A Booming Economy  Most people in the Roman Empire made a living from the land. Small farms dotted northern Italy. In
southern and central Italy, latifundia, or large estates worked by enslaved people, were common. On these estates and in the provinces of Gaul and Spain, farmers produced grapes and olives. The making of wine and olive oil became big business. In Britain and Egypt, the chief crops were grains. Bountiful harvests from these regions kept Rome’s people well fed.

Agriculture was the most important part of the economy, but industry was important too. Potters, weavers, and jewelers produced goods and cities became centers for making glass, bronze, and brass.

Traders came from all over the empire—and beyond—to ports in Italy. Two of the largest port cities were *Puteoli* (pu•TEE•uh•li) on the Bay of Naples and *Ostia* (AH•SH•tee•uh) at the mouth of the Tiber. The docks were lively places. Luxury items, including silk goods from China and spices from India, poured in to satisfy the rich. Raw materials, such as British tin, Spanish lead, and iron from Gaul, went to the workshops of Roman cities.
**Roads and Money** A good transportation network was vital to the empire’s trade. During the *Pax Romana*, Rome’s system of roads reached a total length of 50,000 miles (80,000 km). On the seas, the Roman navy helped to rid the Mediterranean of pirates. Goods could be shipped more safely to and from Rome’s ports.

Rome’s trade was helped by a common **currency** (KUHR•uhn•see), or system of money. Roman coins were accepted throughout the Mediterranean region by A.D. 100. Merchants could use the same money in Gaul or Greece as they did in Italy. The Romans also created a standard system of weights and measures. This made it easier for people to price goods, trade, and ship products.

**Ongoing Inequality** The Roman Empire’s prosperity did not reach all of its people.

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**What Did You Learn?**

1. **What was the *Pax Romana***?
2. **What products came from the farms of Italy, Gaul, and Spain***?

**Critical Thinking**

3. **Organizing Information**
   
   Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details about the improvements and changes Augustus made to the Roman Empire during his reign.

4. **Sequencing Information**
   
   Describe the sequence of emperors who ruled Rome, from Augustus through the “Good Emperors.”

5. **Analyze**
   
   Why was Rome’s creation of a common currency important?

6. **Evaluate**
   
   Who do you think was a more important leader, Julius Caesar or Augustus? Explain.

7. **Creative Writing**
   
   Write a short play in which several Roman citizens discuss one of the emperors mentioned in this section and his accomplishments.
Section 1 Rome's Beginnings

Vocabulary
- republic
- legion

Focusing on the Main Ideas
- Geography played an important role in the rise of Roman civilization. (page 263)
- The Romans created a republic and conquered Italy. By treating people fairly, they built Rome from a small city into a great power. (page 265)

Section 2 The Roman Republic

Vocabulary
- patrician
- plebeian
- consul
- veto
- praetor
- dictator

Focusing on the Main Ideas
- Rome's republic was shaped by a struggle between wealthy landowners and regular citizens as it gradually expanded the right to vote. (page 269)
- Rome slowly destroyed the Carthaginian Empire and took control of the entire Mediterranean region. (page 274)

Section 3 The Fall of the Republic

Vocabulary
- latifundia
- triumvirate

Focusing on the Main Ideas
- The use of enslaved labor hurt farmers, increased poverty and corruption, and brought the army into politics. (page 278)
- Military hero Julius Caesar seized power and made reforms. (page 280)
- The Roman Republic, weakened by civil wars, became an empire under Augustus. (page 282)

Section 4 The Early Empire

Vocabulary
- Pax Romana
- aqueduct
- currency

Focusing on the Main Ideas
- By expanding the empire and reorganizing the military and government, Augustus created a new era of prosperity. (page 287)
- Rome's system of roads, aqueducts, ports, and common currency made the empire rich and prosperous. (page 290)
Taking Notes

18. Read the following paragraph from page 269. Take notes on the information by making a T-chart.

Early Romans were divided into two classes: patricians and plebeians. The patricians were wealthy landowners. These nobles made up Rome’s ruling class. Most of Rome’s people, however, were plebeians. This group included artisans, shopkeepers, and owners of small farms.

To review this skill, see pages 260–261.
Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

19. **Place** Which areas did Rome control after the Punic Wars?

20. **Human/Environment Interaction** What does the building of Hadrian’s Wall say about the Picts and Scots?

21. **Region** Why was it important to the Romans to control Mediterranean lands?

Read to Write

22. **Persuasive Writing** Suppose you were working with Tiberius and Gaius to reform Rome. Write a letter or speech that explains why reform is needed and what types of reforms should occur.

23. **Using Your Foldables** Use your foldable to write a series of questions about the chapter. With a partner, take turns asking and answering questions until you have reviewed the entire chapter.

Building Citizenship

24. **Making Connections** Use the Internet and your local library to research the Twelve Tables. Work with your classmates to design a similar series of laws, and record them, using modern language. How is your law code similar to and different from the Twelve Tables?

Using Technology

25. **Creating Promotional Materials** Use the Internet to find at least five places related to ancient Rome that can be visited by tourists. Create a guidebook or brochure on the computer advertising these links to the past and persuading people to visit that area. Share your final product in a report to the class.

Analyze

Augustus wrote a historical document describing his accomplishments. This passage is about his military leadership.

“About 500,000 Roman citizens were under military oath to me. Of these, when their terms of service were ended, I settled in colonies or sent back to their own munici-palities a little more than 300,000, and to all these I allotted lands or granted money as rewards for military service.”


26. Why did Augustus give money to his retired soldiers?

27. Why do you think Augustus did not explain the reasons for his actions?