
The Rise and Fall of Ancient Rome

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Chapter 1: Stories of Roman Beginnings

Comprehension Questions

1. Who were the first Romans?
 - a. A tribe of Germans
 - b. Members of a tribe called the Latins who lived in central Italy
 - c. Mars, the Roman god of war, and the sister of the king
 - d. Mithradates and the people of his kingdom

2. What story did Romans tell to explain how their tribe grew bigger?
 - a. The story of Romulus and Remus
 - b. The story of Mithradates
 - c. The story of Mars, the Roman god of war
 - d. The story of the Sabine women

3. How did the Romans become free to govern themselves?
 - a. By defeating the Etruscans in 510 B.C.
 - b. By winning a chariot race
 - c. By praying to the priestess at Delphi
 - d. By defeating Lucius Junius Brutus

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Chapter 1: Stories of Roman Beginnings

Vocabulary Questions

1. _____ is a curved structure that can support a lot of weight.
 - a. A throne
 - b. A legend
 - c. An arch
 - d. A century

2. _____ is a cart on two wheels.
 - a. A chariot
 - b. An Etruscan
 - c. A Sabine
 - d. A Junius

3. A _____ was a slave who was trained to fight to the death in a Roman amphitheater.
 - a. gladiator
 - b. tribe
 - c. Roman
 - d. priestess

4. _____ was the language of ancient Rome.
 - a. Aquillius
 - b. Pontus
 - c. Latin
 - d. Tiber

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Chapter 2: The Roman Republic

Comprehension Questions

1. Roman citizens were divided into two groups, the patricians and the plebians. Who belonged to the plebians?
 - a. The richest and most important citizens in Rome
 - b. Women and children
 - c. *Farmers, laborers, craftsmen, and shopkeepers*
 - d. Slaves and free people from other countries

2. How did the patricians rule Rome?
 - a. *By choosing the men who ran the government and who served in the Senate.*
 - b. By sharing power with the plebians.
 - c. By electing one ruler for Rome and giving him complete power for life.
 - d. By passing many laws and by using the Roman army to make sure that people followed the laws.

3. What tribe almost destroyed the Roman Republic in 390 B.C.?
 - a. The plebians
 - b. The kingdom of Pontus
 - c. The Latins
 - d. *The Gauls*

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Chapter 2: The Roman Republic

Vocabulary Questions

1. In _____, people elect representatives to make laws for them.
 - a. a kingdom
 - b. *a republic*
 - c. an army
 - d. a tribe

2. A person who lives in a country and has rights there is called a _____.
 - a. tribune
 - b. *citizen*
 - c. prince
 - d. priestess

3. _____ were the richest and most important citizens in the Roman Republic.
 - a. *Patricians*
 - b. Gauls
 - c. Plebians
 - d. Women

4. In the Roman Republic, the _____ was a group of men who discussed and voted on important issues.
 - a. Mediterranean
 - b. Tiber
 - c. Delphi
 - d. *Senate*

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Chapter 3: The Army Expands Roman Lands

Comprehension Questions

1. Why was the Roman army so successful?
 - a. Because Roman soldiers fought as individuals which gave them a great advantage in battle.
 - b. Because the soldiers in the Roman army were rich patricians who could buy the best armor.
 - c. Because all Roman soldiers rode horses into battle, and this forced the enemy to flee.
 - d. Because Roman soldiers were well-trained, and they worked together as a team.

2. Rome and Carthage fought three wars that are called the Punic Wars. What did Rome gain from these wars?
 - a. The southern coast of Italy, the Alps in northern Italy, and the country of France.
 - b. The right to form a republic and pass its own laws.
 - c. The island of Sicily, the country of Spain, and the area around Carthage.
 - d. New weapons of war such as the javelin, iron swords, and the onager.

3. How was Rome different after the Punic Wars and its war with Greece?
 - a. Rome became the only republic at that time to give women the right to vote.
 - b. Rome became the greatest power in the Mediterranean world.
 - c. Rome was controlled by Carthage.
 - d. Rome was controlled by the island of Sicily.

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Chapter 3: The Army Expands Roman Lands

Vocabulary Questions

1. A Roman foot soldier was called a _____.
 - a. *legionnaire*
 - b. patrician
 - c. tribune
 - d. slave

2. A _____ is a wooden spear with an iron tip.
 - a. catapult
 - b. legend
 - c. *javelin*
 - d. sword

3. _____ are people or countries who agree to support each other — for example, by protecting each other against their enemies.
 - a. *Allies*
 - b. Citizens
 - c. Plebians
 - d. Republics

4. _____ means the business of buying and selling products.
 - a. *Trade*
 - b. Tribune
 - c. Punic
 - d. Architecture

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Chapter 4: The End of the Republic

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Caesar destroy the Roman Republic?
 - a. By getting the Senate to appoint him dictator for life.
 - b. By burning the city of Rome to the ground.
 - c. By taking the Senators prisoner and appointing himself king.
 - d. By taking Rome's army to Gaul where he set up his own government.

2. Who fought for power after Caesar's death?
 - a. The patricians and the plebians
 - b. The men who killed Caesar
 - c. Actium
 - d. Octavian and Mark Antony

3. Who became Rome's first emperor?
 - a. Antony
 - b. Augustus
 - c. Brutus
 - d. Cincinnatus

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Chapter 4: The End of the Republic

Vocabulary Questions

1. A leader who rules with complete power is called a _____.
 - a. senator
 - b. tribune
 - c. *dictator*
 - d. legionnaire

2. A large area that is controlled by one ruler is called _____.
 - a. a republic
 - b. a dictator
 - c. *an empire*
 - d. an island

3. Because Caesar wanted to be the most powerful person in Rome, we say that he was an _____ man.
 - a. *ambitious*
 - b. Octavian
 - c. adopted
 - d. Etruscan

4. After pirates attacked his ships, Caesar captured them and had them crucified. This means that the pirates were _____.
 - a. trained to fight
 - b. paid for working
 - c. sent home
 - d. *hanged from crosses until dead*

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Chapter 5: The Roman Empire

Comprehension Questions

1. What was the Pax Romana?
 - a. A war against people who were enemies of the Romans.
 - b. A period of 200 years when the lands under Roman rule were mostly at peace.
 - c. A name that the Senate gave to Octavian when he died.
 - d. A group of countries that agreed to become allies of Rome.

2. The Romans used building projects to help unite their empire. Which one of the following things was **not** a building project in ancient Rome?
 - a. Aqueducts
 - b. Roads
 - c. Pyramids
 - d. Amphitheaters

3. What was the Roman idea of justice?
 - a. That the rich should have more power than the poor.
 - b. That all citizens who did not obey the law should be crucified.
 - c. That every person had rights and that courts should respect those rights.
 - d. That the emperor and the Senate should have power over the courts.

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Chapter 5: The Roman Empire

Vocabulary Questions

1. An _____ is a pipe or channel that brings water from a faraway place.
 - a. *aqueduct*
 - b. arch
 - c. ally
 - d. amphitheater

2. _____ was a Roman building that was shaped like a circle or an oval. The Romans used these buildings for sports and other games.
 - a. A capital
 - b. *An amphitheater*
 - c. A catapult
 - d. A legend

3. “Pax Romana” means _____ in Latin.
 - a. *Roman peace*
 - b. Rome’s emperor
 - c. people of Rome
 - d. Rome rules

4. The Roman _____ was built for gladiator fights and other kinds of entertainment.
 - a. *Colosseum*
 - b. Senate
 - c. republic
 - d. temple

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Chapter 6: The End of the Empire

Comprehension Questions

1. Three of the sentences below help to explain why the Roman Empire came to an end. Which one of these sentences is **not** true?
 - a. The huge size of the empire made it hard to defend.
 - b. There were many bad emperors.
 - c. *Rome's enemies invented new weapons that Rome could not defend itself against.*
 - d. The Romans did not have a peaceful way for one leader to hand over power to the next.

2. What happened in 476 A.D.?
 - a. Constantine moved his capital from Rome to Byzantium.
 - b. *The last Roman emperor in the west was forced to give up his throne and the Roman Empire came to an end.*
 - c. The last Byzantine emperor was forced to give up his throne and the Byzantine Empire came to an end.
 - d. The citizens of Rome were poisoned by lead in their pottery and water pipes.

3. Today we borrow many ideas about building from the Romans. Where did the Romans get some of their ideas?
 - a. From the French
 - b. From the Italians
 - c. From the Spanish
 - d. *From the Greeks*

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Chapter 6: The End of the Empire

Vocabulary Questions

1. The city where the government of a country is located is called the _____.
 - a. republic
 - b. tribune
 - c. *capital*
 - d. empire

2. An emperor is _____.
 - a. a large area that is controlled by one ruler
 - b. a senator
 - c. a plebian
 - d. *someone who rules over an empire*

3. The Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C. looks very much like an ancient _____ that is still standing in Rome.
 - a. *temple*
 - b. aqueduct
 - c. legionnaire
 - d. arch

4. The Latin word *septimus* gave us the name for one of our _____.
 - a. days
 - b. *months*
 - c. cities
 - d. holidays