

CHAPTER 6 Section 1 (pages 155–159)

The Roman Republic

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about Hellenistic culture. In this section, you will read about the Roman republic.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on early Rome.

TERMS AND NAMES

republic Government in which citizens have the right to select their own leader

patrician Aristocratic landowner

plebeian Farmer, artisan, or merchant; commoner

tribune Official who helped the plebeians protect their rights

consul Official who was like a king

senate Aristocratic branch of Rome's government

dictator Roman leader who had absolute power to make laws and command the army for a brief period

legion Military unit of the ancient Roman army

Punic Wars Series of wars between Rome and Carthage

Hannibal Carthaginian general who invaded northern Italy

EARLY ROME

Geography	<i>On river Midpoint of the Mediterranean</i>
Government	
Growth	

The Origins of Rome (pages 155–156)**Where** was Rome founded?

The city of Rome was founded by the Latin people on a river in the center of Italy. It was a good location, which gave them a chance to control all of Italy. It put them near to the midpoint of the Mediterranean Sea. Two other groups lived in what is now Italy: the Greeks in the south, and the *Etruscans* in the north. The Romans borrowed some ideas from both peoples.

1. What were the advantages of Rome's location?

The Early Republic (pages 156–157)**How** was Rome governed?

In 509 B.C., Romans overthrew the Etruscan king who had ruled over his people and over Rome. The Romans said Rome was now a **republic**. The people had the power to vote and choose leaders.

Two groups struggled for power in the new republic. One was the **patricians**. They were the *aristocratic* landowners who held most of the power. The other group was the **plebeians**. They were the common farmers, *artisans*, and merchants who made up most of the population. At first, the patricians had the most power. Over time, the plebeians got the right to form their own *assembly*. They could elect representatives called **tribunes**.

The basis for Roman law was the *Twelve Tables*. This set of rules said that all free citizens were protected by law.

The government had three parts, Two **consuls**, or officials, were elected each year. They led the government and the army.

The second part of the government was the **senate**. It usually had 300 members chosen from the upper classes, The senate passed laws.

The third, and most democratic, part of government was the assemblies. The assemblies included members from different parts of society, such as citizen-soldiers or plebeians. The assemblies could also make laws.

If there were a crisis, the republic could appoint a **dictator**. This was a leader with absolute power. The dictator made laws and commanded the army. But his power lasted for only six months.

Any citizen who owned property had to serve in the army. Roman soldiers were organized into military units called legions. The Roman **legion** was made up of some 5,000 heavily armed foot soldiers.

2. What were the three main parts of Roman government?

Rome Spreads Its Power (pages 158–159)

How did Rome spread its power?

In the fourth century B.C., Rome began to get larger. Within 150 years, it had captured almost all of Italy. Rome allowed some of the conquered peoples to enjoy the benefits of citizenship. With its good location, Rome saw a growth in trade. This brought it into conflict with Carthage, a trading city in North Africa.

From 264 to 146 B.C., Rome and Carthage fought three bitter wars called the **Punic Wars**. In the first, Rome won control of the island of Sicily. In the second, **Hannibal**, a brilliant Carthaginian general invaded northern Italy. He and his soldiers did much damage. But he was unable to take Rome. It took an equally brilliant Roman general, Scipio, to defeat him. By the time of the third war, Carthage was no longer a threat to Rome. Even so, Rome destroyed the city and made its people slaves. Carthage became a new Roman province.

3. What happened as a result of the wars with Carthage?

CHAPTER 6 Section 2 (pages 160–165)**TERMS AND NAMES****civil war** Conflict between two groups in the same country**Julius Caesar** Ambitious leader who brought order to Rome**triumvirate** Group of three rulers**Augustus** First ruler of imperial Rome**Pax Romana** Period of Roman peace and prosperity

The Roman Empire

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the creation of the Roman republic.

In this section, you will read about the transformation of Rome from a republic to an empire.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the end of the Roman republic and the emergence of the Roman Empire.

Collapse of the Republic	<i>conflict between rich and poor</i>
A Powerful Empire	<i>power struggles</i>
Life in Imperial Rome	<i>civil wars</i>

The Republic Collapses (pages 160–162)

What conflicts existed in Rome?

Rome's victory in Carthage brought conflict between the rich and poor in Rome. **Civil war**, or fighting between groups in the same country, broke out. Leading generals fought for power.

Julius Caesar tried to take control. First he joined with two others—Crassus, a wealthy man, and Pompey, a successful general. They formed a **triumvirate**, a group of three leaders. For the next ten years, the triumvirate ruled Rome.

Caesar gained fame with several victories in battle. Pompey feared Caesar as a result. The two fought another civil war that lasted several years.

Caesar won the civil war and then governed as an absolute ruler, or a leader who holds all power.

Caesar made some reforms that increased his popularity. But some members of the senate mistrusted him. They killed him because they feared he wanted to become king.

Once again, Rome suffered civil war. Caesar's nephew was the winner. He took the title **Augustus**, meaning “*exalted* one.” The Roman Empire was now ruled by one man.

1. How did Caesar's rule lead to the end of the republic?

A Vast and Powerful Empire

(pages 162–163)

What was the Pax Romana?

For about 200 years, the Roman empire was a great power. Its population of between 60 and 80 million enjoyed peace and prosperity. This period is known as the **Pax Romana**—Roman peace.

The empire stretched around the Mediterranean, from modern Syria and Turkey west and north to England and Germany. It relied on farming, which employed 90 percent of all workers.

Trade was also important. Traders used common coins to buy and sell goods. Coins made trading easier.

Rome had a vast trading network. Goods traveled throughout the empire by ship and along the Roman roads. The Roman navy protected trading ships.

The army defended all the people and Roman territories from attack. Many of the army's troops came from the conquered peoples. Once they finished their time in the army, they became Roman citizens.

Augustus was Rome's ablest emperor. He brought peace to the frontier, built many public buildings, and created a lasting government. He also set up a civil service. That is, he paid workers to manage the affairs of government.

Between A.D. 96 and A.D. 180, the Five Good Emperors ruled Rome. The death of Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 180 marked the beginning of the decline of the Roman Empire and the end of *Pax Romana*.

2 How were the people of the empire employed?

The Roman World (pages 163–165)

How did the quality of Roman life vary?

Throughout its history, Romans valued discipline, strength, and loyalty. The family was the center of Roman society. The oldest man in the family had complete authority in the household. He controlled all the property, too.

The Romans made more use of slaves than any civilization before. About one third of the people were slaves. Most slaves came from conquered lands. Slaves worked in the city and on farms. Some slaves were forced to become gladiators. Gladiators were professional fighters who fought to the death in public contests. Slaves did revolt from time to time. None of these revolts succeeded.

Quality of life in *imperial* Rome depended on social position. The wealthy ate well and enjoyed luxuries. The poor—including many people in Rome itself—had no jobs and received food from the government. Housing was poor. People lived in constant danger of fire. To distract people from their problems, the government gave many celebrations and *spectacles*.

3. Who were the slaves, and what work did they do?

CHAPTER 6 Section 3 (pages 168–172)

The Rise of Christianity

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the *Pax Romana*. In this section, you will read about the development of Christianity.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the beginnings and the spread of Christianity.

TERMS AND NAMES

Jesus Leader who came to be known as Christ and was believed to be a savior

apostle Close follower of Jesus

Peter First apostle who helped spread Christianity through Syria and Palestine

Paul Apostle who played a key role in the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire

Diaspora Moving away of the Jews from their homeland in Palestine

bishop Head of all churches in one area

pope Head of the Christian Church

Constantine Roman emperor who ended persecution of Christians

LEADER	RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE
Jesus	<i>spread message of love believed by some to be Messiah</i>
Peter	
Paul	
Constantine	

The Life and Teachings of Jesus

(pages 168–169)

Why did people believe Jesus was the savior?

One group of people that lost its land to the Romans was the Jews. Many Jews wanted the Romans to leave their land.

Others hoped for the coming of the *Messiah*—the savior. According to Jewish tradition, God promised that the Messiah would restore the kingdom of the Jews.

Jesus was born in Judea. At about age 30, Jesus began to preach. His message included many ideas from Jewish traditions, such as the principles of the Ten Commandments and the belief in one God. According to close followers, who were later called **apostles**, Jesus performed many miracles. His fame grew. Some believed him to be the long-awaited Messiah.

Jewish leaders did not believe that his teachings were those of God. Roman leaders feared he would *incite* the people. The Romans arrested Jesus and put him to death.

After his death, Jesus's followers said that he appeared to them again and then went to heaven. They said this proved he was the Messiah. They called him Christ. This is the Greek word for savior. His followers came to be called Christians. Led by **Peter**, the first apostle, they spread his teachings throughout Palestine and Syria.

1. Why was Jesus put to death?

Christianity Spreads Through the Empire (pages 169–170)

How did Christianity spread through the empire?

At first Jesus's followers were all Jewish. Later, under one apostle, **Paul**, Christians began to look to all people, even non-Jews, to join the church. The leaders of the early church traveled throughout the empire spreading the teachings of Jesus.

During this time, Jews made attempts to break free of the Romans. These movements did not succeed. Most Jews were driven from their homeland into *exile*. This scattering of the Jews is called the **Diaspora**.

At the same time, Roman leaders tried to punish the Christians. Some were put to death or killed by wild animals in the arena. But Christianity continued to spread. After almost 200 years, millions of people across the empire became Christians.

2. What did the Romans do to the Jews?

A World Religion (pages 170–172)

Why did Christianity spread?

Christianity spread for several reasons. First, it accepted all believers: rich or poor, male or female. Second, it gave hope to the powerless. Third, it appealed to those who were bothered by the lack of *morality* in Rome. Fourth, it offered a personal relationship with god. Fifth, it offered the promise of life after death.

As the church grew, it became more organized. Priests were in charge of small churches. **Bishops** were in charge of all the churches in one area. The **pope** was in charge of all. The pope was the head of the Christian Church.

In A.D. 313, Christianity entered a new era. The Roman emperor **Constantine** said that Christians would no longer be *persecuted*. He gave his official approval to Christianity. A few decades later, Christianity became the empire's official religion.

While Christianity grew in power, it went through changes. Church leaders sometimes disagreed over basic beliefs and argued about them. Church leaders called any belief that appeared to contradict the basic teachings a heresy. From time to time, councils met to end disagreements and define beliefs.

3. How was the church organized?

CHAPTER 6 Section 4 (pages 173–176)

The Fall of the Roman Empire

TERMS AND NAMES

inflation Large drop in the value of money and rise in the prices of goods

mercenary Foreign soldiers who fought for money

Diocletian Strong-willed army leader and Roman emperor

Constantinople New name for Byzantium under Constantine

Attila Powerful chieftain of Huns

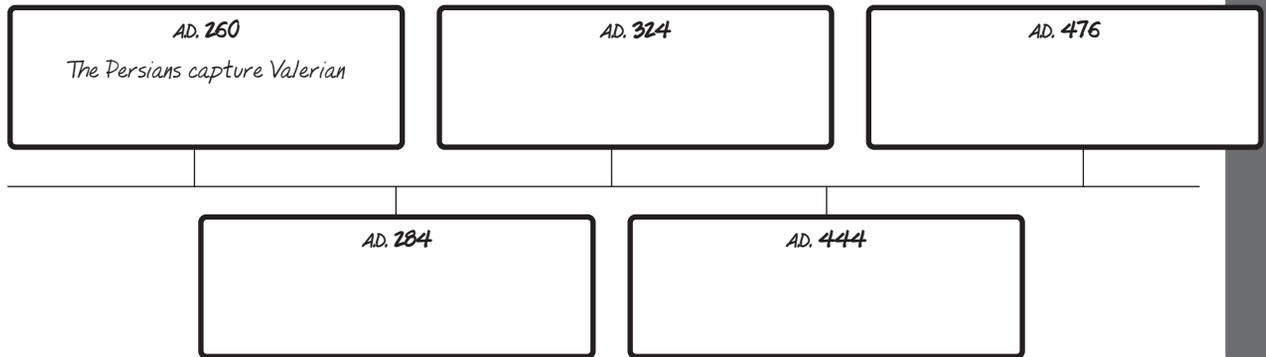
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the spread of Christianity.

In this section, you will learn how the Roman Empire collapsed.

AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on the fall of the empire.



A Century of Crisis (page173)

What problems did Rome face?

Rome entered a period of decline after the reign of Marcus Aurelius ended in 180 A.D. Rome suffered economic problems. Trade slowed as raiders threatened ships and *caravans* on sea and land. The economy suffered from **inflation**, a drastic drop in the value of money and a rise in prices. Food supplies also dropped as tired soil, warfare, and high taxes cut the amount of grain and other foods produced on farms.

The empire also had military problems. German tribes caused trouble on the frontiers. Persians defeated the Romans in A.D. 260 and captured the emperor. Roman soldiers could no longer be counted on. Instead, **mercenaries**—soldiers who

fight for money—had to be hired. At the same time, Roman generals fought one another for control of the empire.

1. What economic problems did Rome face?

Emperors Attempt Reform

(pages 174–175)

What changes did the emperors make?

Diocletian took the throne as emperor in 284. He passed many new laws to try to fix the economy. He tried to restore the status of the emperor by naming

himself a son of the chief Roman god. He even divided the empire into eastern and western halves to make it easier to govern.

Constantine continued many of these changes. He became emperor of both halves of the empire in 324. A few years later, Constantine moved the capital of the empire to a new city in northwestern Turkey where Europe and Asia meet. The city was *Byzantium*. It was given a new name—**Constantinople**, the city of Constantine.

2. Who was Constantine?

the empire remained strong and unified. But troubles continued in the west. Germanic tribes moved into the empire. They were trying to escape from the *Huns*, fierce nomadic people from central Asia, who were moving into their land.

The Roman armies in the west collapsed. German armies twice entered Rome itself. In 408 Visigoths led by their king, Alaric, put the city under siege. In 444, the Huns united under a powerful chieftain named **Attila**. Attila and his armies terrorized both halves of the empire.

The invasions continued after Attila's death. The Germans had arrived for good. By 476 German peoples controlled many areas of Europe. That year a German general removed the last western Roman emperor from the throne.

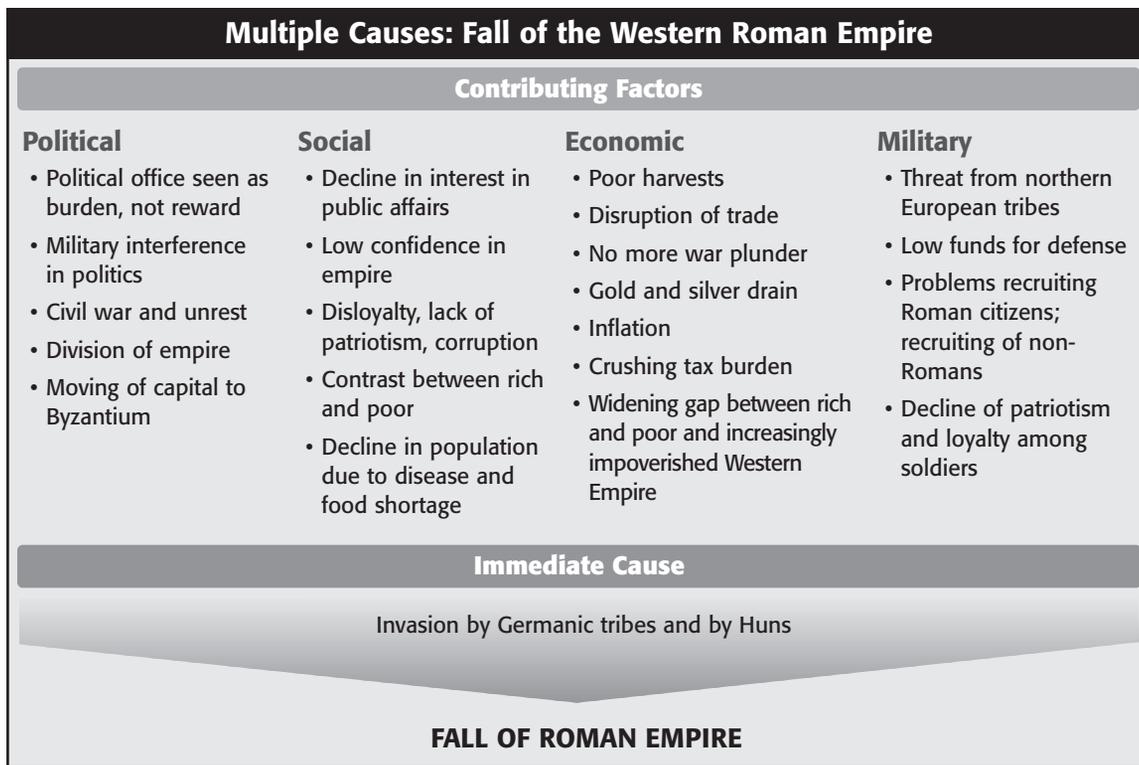
3. What role did Attila play in the collapse of Rome?

The Western Empire Crumbles

(pages 175–176)

Who *overran Rome?*

Reforms delayed the end of the Roman Empire but could not prevent its fall. The eastern part of



Skillbuilder

1. What was the immediate cause of the fall of the Roman Empire?

2. Which of the social factors do you think was most important? Why?

CHAPTER 6 Section 5 (pages 178–183)

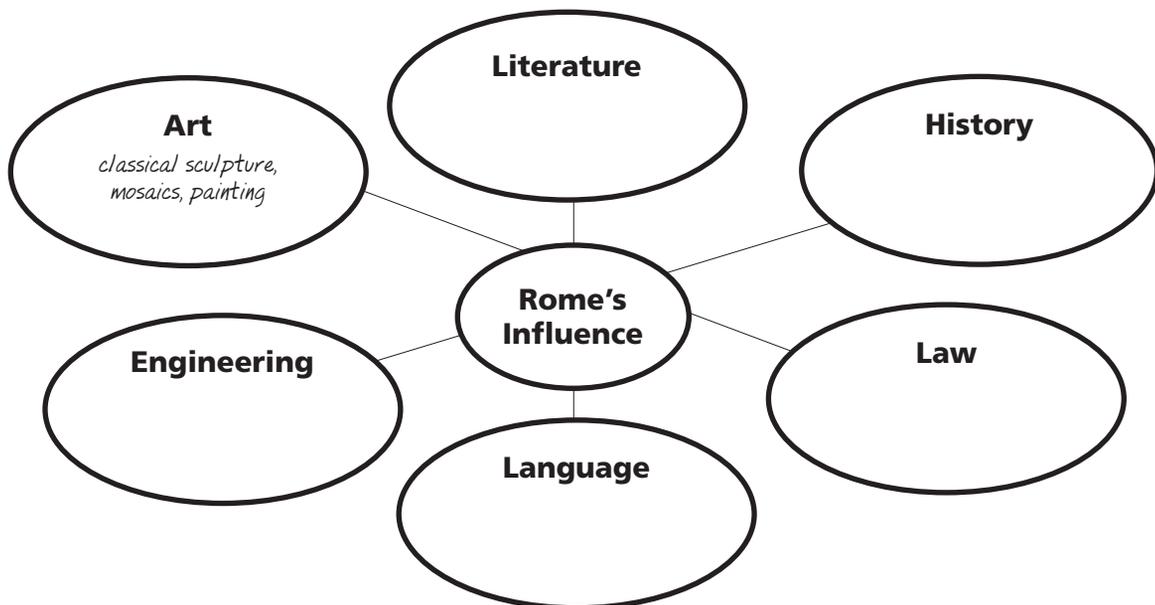
Rome and the Roots of Western Civilization

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the fall of Rome. In this section, you will learn about the contributions of Rome to Western civilization.

AS YOU READ

Use the web below to take notes on Rome's influence on the western world.



TERMS AND NAMES

Greco-Roman culture Culture developed from the blending of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman cultures

Pompeii Roman town covered by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius

Virgil Roman poet who wrote the Aeneid

Tacitus Roman historian who recorded the good and bad of imperial Rome

aqueduct Pipeline or channel built to carry water

The Legacy of Greco-Roman Civilization

(pages 178–181)

What is Greco-Roman culture?

Rome took aspects of Greek and Hellenistic culture and added ideas of its own. The mixing of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman culture produced a new culture called **Greco-Roman culture**. This is also often called classical civilization.

Roman artists, philosophers, and writers did not just copy Greek works. They created a style of their own for their own purposes. Much of Roman art had practical purposes. It was aimed at educating the public.

One example of the mixing of cultures occurred in sculpture. Romans borrowed Greek ideas but made their sculptures more realistic. The Romans also developed a kind of sculpture in which images stood out from a flat background.

Romans were skilled at creating pictures made from tiny tiles, a process called *mosaic*. But Romans were perhaps most skilled at painting. The best examples of Roman painting are found in the Roman town of **Pompeii**. Pompeii was covered with ash after a volcanic eruption. The ash preserved many works of art and culture.

In both literature and philosophy, Romans were inspired by the Greeks. The poet **Virgil** wrote the

most famous work of Latin literature, the *Aeneid*. It was modeled on the Greek epics of Homer.

The Romans also produced some important histories. **Tacitus** is an important Roman historian. Among ancient historians, he is known for presenting accurate facts. He described the good and bad parts of imperial Rome in his *Annals* and *Histories*.

1. Name three Roman cultural achievements.

The Legacy of Rome (pages 181–183)

What were Rome's most major contributions to Western culture?

The Roman language, Latin, was important in European history. It was the official language of the Roman Catholic Church into the 20th century. Many European languages developed from Latin, including French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Romanian. And many Latin words are used in other languages, including English.

Romans also became famous for their skill at engineering. They used arches and domes to build large, impressive buildings. Many of these forms are still used today. They also built an excellent system of roads and several **aqueducts**. Aqueducts

carried water from distant lakes or rivers to large cities.

But Rome's most lasting influence was in the field of law. The Roman government set standards of law that still influence people today. Some of the most important principles of Roman law were:

- All persons had the right to equal treatment under the law.
- A person was considered innocent until proven guilty.
- The burden of proof rested with the accuser rather than the accused.
- A person should be punished only for actions, not for thoughts.
- Any law that seemed unreasonable or unfair could be set aside.

2. What important standards of law were set by the Romans?
