



The Romans

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While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Which of the following were built by the Romans? Write 'Roman' next to the name.

- Hadrian's wall
- The Appian Gate
- Dura-Europos
- Trajan's Market

2 Complete these sentences with numbers.

- a The Romans believed that their city started in BC.
- b Hadrian's wall was kilometres long.
- c It was kilometres from Rome to the sea in its early years.
- d Rome was at war with its neighbours in Italy for years.
- e The Baths of Diocletian were more than metres long on each side.
- f The hot room in the baths was kept at about °C.
- g By 300 AD there were more than baths in the city.
- h Trajan's Market was built in about AD.

3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

Change the wrong sentences.

- a The Latin people moved into the area near the River Tiber a thousand years before the city of Rome was started.
-
-
- b This was a good place to choose because it was near the sea.
-
-
- c As Rome was in the centre of France, it could attack to the north and the south.
-
-
- d When Rome became an Empire, the citizens chose their politicians.
-
-
- e The people from the defeated cities could become citizens but did not choose the politicians.
-
-

Chapters 3–4

4 Complete the sentences.

- Roman citizens Roman women
- Slaves from the east Slaves from the north
- Slaves underground House slaves
- a could not vote.
- b could join the Senate.
- c were paid something for their work.
- d had easy lives.
- e died painful deaths.
- f did hard work.

5 Look at the picture on page 11. Underline the wrong words. Write the correct words.

- a The Roman houses usually had a lot of windows.
- b The best parts of a Roman house were outside.
- c The Romans had small doors because they did not use much glass.
- d Houses could be cold in summer.
- e Most slaves in private houses were men.

Chapters 5–6

6 Put these in the right order. Write the numbers, 1–8.

- a When Hannibal attacked the Spanish city of Sagunto, Rome went to war again.
- b When the Carthaginians had no food left, the Romans broke through the walls and completely destroyed their city.
- c Carthage had strong city walls and fought well for three years.
- d The Romans left the Carthaginians with only ten ships.
- e When Rome sent an army to North Africa, Hannibal was called home to defend Carthage.
- f It all started when the Romans sent 40,000 men into Sicily, when Carthage helped the Mamertines.
- g The Romans built ships to fight the Carthaginians and defeated them near the west coast of Sicily.
- h Hannibal crossed the Alps to go into Italy, but did not take Rome.



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7 Answer the questions.

- a How did the men fight before Marius changed the army?
- b How many soldiers did a legion have?
- c What did the legionaries carry?
- d What did the soldiers on horses do?
- e Why were the Roman soldiers usually healthy?
- f Where did the soldiers stop to build a camp for the night?
- g Why could soldiers not get married until 200 AD?

Chapters 7–8

8 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a The Circus Maximus was smaller than the Colosseum.
- b Criminals and Christians were given gold or silver.
- c Some emperors paid for the games.
- d All gladiators fought to the death.
- e Slaves liked to be chariot drivers because that job was not dangerous.
- f Caesar was poisoned.
- g Antony, Octavian and Lepidus ruled Rome.
- h Life in the empire was better after Augustus's changes.

9 Read pages 33–35 again and compare Caesar and Augustus. Who was a better ruler? On another piece of paper, write 3–4 sentences.

Example: *Both made new buildings.*

Chapters 9–10

10 On another piece of paper, write why ...

- a the Romans built very good roads.
- b aqueducts were built on bridges.
- c only part of the water came out at the end of the aqueducts.
- d the Romans used animal skins for important writing and wax for everyday writing.
- e sums were more difficult for the Romans than for us.

11 Complete with the correct numbers.

- | | | |
|-------------|--------|------------|
| 100 km | 240 km | 275 metres |
| 800–1,000 | 312 BC | 50 km |
| 200 million | 19 BC | |

- a The Appian Way was started in It began in the Forum and for the first it was completely straight.

- b The Via Aemelia, a later road, was also completely straight for It ran from Rimini to Piace.
- c The Pont du Gard aqueduct was built about and it is almost long. It carried litres of water to the city of Nimes in the south of France. For five years, men worked hard to build it. This aqueduct crosses the River Gardon on a bridge long, which is on top of two other bridges.

Chapters 11–12

12 You are one of the four early emperors. On another piece of paper, write your government plan to present to politicians at the Senate. The rest of the class vote for the best plan.

13 Find the mistakes in this newspaper story about the fire of Rome. Correct them. Then add a title to the story.

Title:

This year of 60 ad will be remembered as the year of the great fire. Rome burnt for a month. A large part of the city was destroyed. Our emperor was busy building a new castle with a bridge while the city was burning. He did not help people who were homeless. And he made new buildings, which were better than the old ones. Did he start the fire? Perhaps he needed land for his castle or perhaps he thought it was the Christians. But he did not hurt them.

After reading

- 14 **Imagine you are the guest of a rich Roman family. Write about a typical day with them.**
- 15 **Make a time line. Show ten important events in the history of the Roman Empire.**
- 16 **What did the Romans leave behind in the countries they ruled? What did the Romans learn from the people they ruled? Write your answers.**
- 17 **Which emperor would you like to meet? Why? What questions would you like to ask him? Write your answers.**
- 18 **Were women important in Rome? Could they rule the empire? Did they bring trouble to the men who were with them? Write your answers.**



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1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a The Romans learned many skills from the Greeks.
- b Rome was very noisy because it was full of slaves.
- c The rich and the poor enjoyed the same things: both bought their things at Trajan's Market.
- d If you were not a citizen, you could become one by paying a large amount of money.
- e All the slaves were paid something for their work.

2 Correct five wrong facts.

The Roman Way of Life

The Romans built very good roads. They needed the roads for the army and for entertainment. These roads were built higher than the ground. But it was difficult to walk along them on rainy days: they got very wet in the rain. The Romans also built aqueducts to bring fresh water to the cities.

The Romans enjoyed chariot races at the Colosseum. These chariots were driven by a slave and pulled by horses. There were four teams. Their names were different cities in the empire. The Romans also liked to see the fights at the arenas. They always involved a gladiator and an animal. The fight was sometimes to the death.

3 Choose the correct answer. Circle 1, 2 or 3.

- a House slaves had more pleasant lives than farm slaves because:
 - 1 house slaves were able to use the guestrooms.
 - 2 house slaves were part of the family.
 - 3 house slaves were paid something for their work.
- b The slaves in private houses...
 - 1 shopped, cooked and washed clothes.
 - 2 made tools and equipment for the house.
 - 3 looked after the children.
- c When slaves were able to save money...
 - 1 their lives became easier.
 - 2 they bought their freedom.
 - 3 they could pay bills and become citizens.

- d Medicine in the Roman army was very good so...
 - 1 the soldiers drank clean water.
 - 2 the soldiers were healthy.
 - 3 the doctors looked after the men.
- e To rule Rome, it was necessary to...
 - 1 have an army.
 - 2 be a good politician.
 - 3 be a professional soldier.

4 Match the name of the emperor and the action.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Tiberius | often dressed as a woman. |
| Caligula | made new rules for buildings after the fire. |
| Nero | made the farming system better. |
| Claudius | left the work to his son and his friend. |
| Augustus | made life in Rome safer for the ordinary people. |

5 A friend is talking to Publius Ostorius, a famous gladiator in Rome. Complete their conversation.

Friend: That was a very good fight, Publius.

Publius: Thanks.

- a Friend:?
Publius: Yes, it was. The other gladiator was strong but my shield protected me. And I was fast.
- b Friend: Yes, I saw that!?
Publius: I was given gold.
- c Friend:?
Publius: No, the crowd saved him. But he was badly hurt.
- d Friend:?
Publius: Not his year. I have already fought four times, so no more fights for some time.
- e Friend: I see.?
Publius: Home. My house is on the other side of Rome. I must go now.