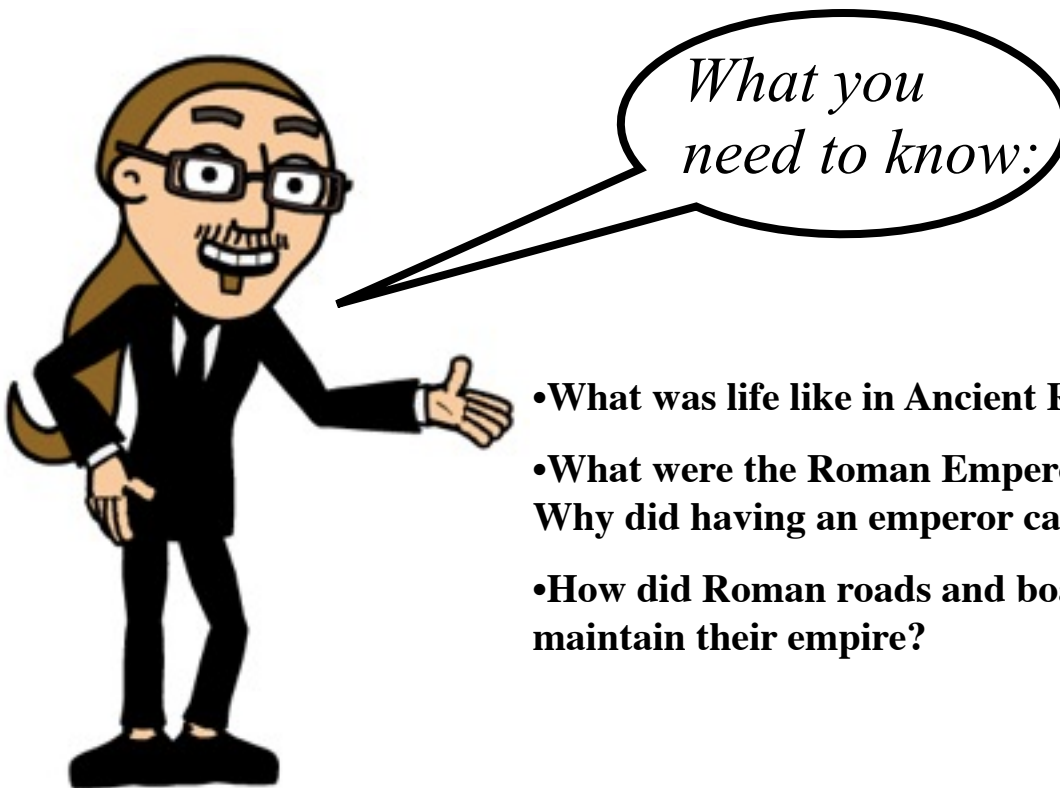


# UNIT Five: Ancient Rome



- What was life like in Ancient Rome?
- What were the Roman Emperors like?  
Why did having an emperor cause problems?
- How did Roman roads and boats help them maintain their empire?

**Section one - History of Rome**

**Section two - Roman Emperors**

**Section three- Life in Rome**

**Section four- Getting around the Empire**

**Unit Five: Prove it!**

# Section One

## History of Rome



### Part one: Ancient Rome

#### Questions:

Describe Rome before 750 bc.

What is the difference between Plebeians and Patricians?

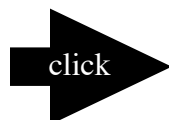
Who was the first Roman Emperor? How did he come to power?

What was Pax Romana?

What areas did Rome control (use the maps)?

How did Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire?

How were early Christians treated by Rome?



answer online





# Ancient Rome

## TERMS & NAMES

republic  
Senate  
patrician  
plebeian  
Julius Caesar  
empire  
Augustus  
Constantine

### MAIN IDEA

The ancient Romans made important contributions to government, law, and engineering.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The cultural achievements of the Romans continue to influence the art, architecture, and literature of today.

## DATELINE

EXTRA

### ROME, 295 B.C.

Yet another Roman road was completed today! Rome is famous for its vast network of roadways. Repairing old roads and adding new ones keeps Roman engineers busy. Construction is time-consuming because the lengthy roads, which are paved with large stones, must be carefully planned. However, the benefits are worth the effort.

The roads connect the great city to distant lands under Roman rule. These roadways also enable the army to move quickly. These days, it seems that almost all roads lead to Rome. In fact, when this massive undertaking is finished, Roman roads will stretch for tens of thousands of miles across the land.



**Location** • All roads lead to Rome—including the Via Appia (VEE•uh APP•ee•uh) shown here. ▲

## The Beginnings of Ancient Rome

Ancient Rome began as a group of villages located along the banks of the Tiber River in what is now Italy. There, early settlers herded sheep and grew wheat, olives, and grapes. Around 750 B.C., these villages united to form the city of Rome.

### TAKING NOTES

Use your chart to take notes about Western Europe.

Time Period	Social Structure	Architecture
Ancient Greece		
Ancient Rome		



**The Formation of the Roman Republic** For more than 200 years, kings ruled Rome. Then, in 509 B.C., Rome became a republic. A **republic** is a nation in which power belongs to the citizens, who govern themselves through elected representatives.

### BACKGROUND

In ancient Rome, a senator held his position for life.

**The Senate** The Roman **Senate** was an assembly of elected representatives. It was the single most powerful ruling body of the Roman Republic. Each year, the Senate selected two leaders, called consuls, to head the government and the military.

**Patricians** At first, most of the people elected to the Senate were patricians (puh•TRISH•uhns). In ancient Rome, a **patrician** was a member of a wealthy, landowning family who claimed to be able to trace its roots back to the founding of Rome. The patricians also controlled the law, since they were the only citizens who were allowed to be judges.

**Plebeians** An ordinary, working male citizen of ancient Rome—such as a farmer or craftsman—was called a **plebeian** (plih•BEE•uhn). Plebeians had the right to vote, but they could not hold public office until 287 B.C., when they gained equality with patricians.

## The Expansion of the Roman World

Over hundreds of years, Rome grew into a mighty city. By the third century B.C., Rome ruled most of the Italian Peninsula. This gave Rome control of the central Mediterranean.

The city-state of Carthage, which ruled North Africa and southern Spain, controlled the western Mediterranean. To take control over this area as well, Rome fought Carthage and eventually won.

As Rome's population grew, its army also expanded in size and strength. Under the leadership of ambitious generals, Rome's highly trained soldiers set out to conquer new territories one by one.

## Strange but TRUE

**Roman Law** It may be hard to believe, but in the early Roman Republic, laws were not written down. Only the patrician judges knew what the laws were. This meant that judges usually ruled in favor of fellow patricians and against plebeians.

The plebeians grew tired of unfair treatment and demanded that the judges create a written code of laws that applied to all Roman citizens. This code, called the Law of the Twelve Tables, was written around 450 B.C. It formed the foundation of Roman law.







### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

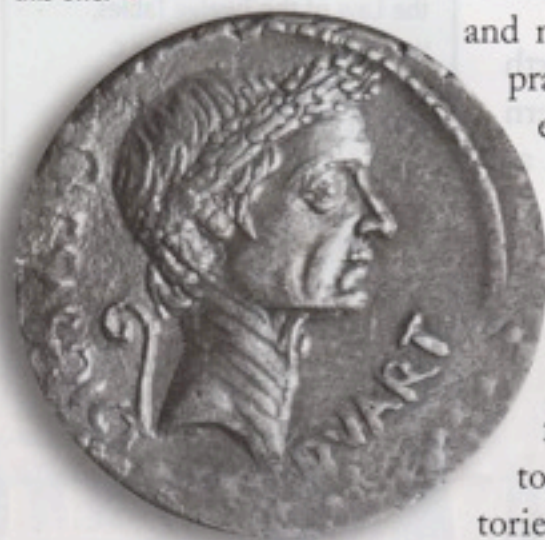
- Location** • Around which body of water was Roman control located in 146 B.C.?
- Region** • When was Roman control at its greatest?

As Rome's control over its neighbors expanded, its culture and language continued to spread into Spain and Greece. By the end of the second century B.C., the Romans ruled most of the land surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. The ancient Romans even called the Mediterranean *mare nostrum* (MAH-ray NOH-struhm), which means "our sea."

**Region** • Once in power, Julius Caesar had his likeness stamped on coins such as this one. ▼

## From Republic to Empire

As the Roman Republic grew, its citizens became a more and more diverse group of people. Many Romans practiced different religions and followed different customs, but they were united by a common system of government and law. In the middle of the first century B.C., however, Rome's form of government changed.



**The End of the Roman Republic** Julius Caesar, a successful Roman general and famous speaker, was the governor of the territory called Gaul. By conquering nearby territories to expand the land under his control, he increased both his power and his reputation. The Roman Senate feared that Caesar might become too powerful, and they ordered him to resign. Caesar, however, had other ideas.

### BACKGROUND

Ancient Gaul included the lands that are modern-day France, Belgium, and parts of northern Italy.



Rather than resign, Caesar fought a long, fierce battle for control of the Roman Republic. In 45 B.C., he finally triumphed and returned to Rome. Caesar eventually became dictator of the Roman world. A dictator is a person who holds total control over a government. Caesar's rule marked the end of the Roman Republic.

**The Beginning of the Roman Empire** Julius Caesar had great plans to reorganize the way ancient Rome was governed, but his rule was cut short. On March 15, 44 B.C., a group of senators, angered by Caesar's plans and power, stabbed him to death on the floor of the Roman Senate. A civil war then erupted that lasted for several years.

In 27 B.C., Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, was named the first emperor of Rome. This marks the official beginning of the Roman Empire. An **empire** is a nation or group of territories ruled by a single, powerful leader, or emperor. As emperor, Octavian took the name **Augustus**.

**The Augustan Age** Augustus ruled the Roman Empire for more than 40 years. During this time, called the Augustan Age, the empire continued to expand. To help protect the enormous amount of land under his control, Augustus sent military forces along its borders, which now extended northward to the Rhine and Danube rivers.



**Region** • Sculptures of Augustus were sent all over the Roman Empire to let people know what their leader looked like. ▲

### Reading Social Studies

**A. Recognizing Important Details**  
How many years separated the rules of Julius Caesar and Augustus?

### The Roman Empire, A.D. 14



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

- 1. Location** • Name two continents on which the Roman Empire was located.
- 2. Location** • What was the easternmost territory of the Roman Empire in A.D. 14?





**Region •** A diver holds an artifact from an ancient Roman shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea. ▲

#### Reading Social Studies

**B. Making Inferences** How do you think the Roman Empire indirectly helped the spread of Christianity?

**Region •** Constantine (died A.D. 337) was the first Christian emperor of Rome. ▼



While the Roman army kept peace, architects and engineers built many new public buildings. Trade increased, with olive oil, wine, pottery, marble, and grain being shipped all across the Mediterranean. Lighthouses were constructed, too, to help ships find their way into port.

The Augustan Age was also a time of great Roman literature. One of the most famous works of the age is the *Aeneid* (ih•NEE•ud). This long poem tells the story of Rome's founding. Augustus himself asked the famous poet Virgil to write it. This period of peace and cultural growth that Augustus created in the Roman Empire was called the "Pax Romana" (pahks roh•MAH•nah). The Pax Romana, or Roman Peace, lasted for 200 years.

#### Vocabulary

**marble:**  
a hard, smooth  
stone, often white  
in color

## The Rise of Christianity

In the years following the death of Augustus in A.D. 14, a new religion from the Middle East began to take hold in the rest of the Mediterranean world: Christianity. At first, this religion became popular mainly in the eastern half of the Roman Empire. Many followers there preached about its teachings. Christianity spread along the transportation network constructed by the Romans. By the third century A.D., this religion had spread throughout the empire.

Most earlier Roman leaders had tolerated the different religions practiced throughout the empire. Christians, however, were viewed with suspicion and suffered persecution as early as A.D. 64. Roman leaders and people of other religions even blamed the Christians for natural disasters. Many Christians during this time were punished or killed for their beliefs.

## The First Christian Emperor

Things changed when **Constantine** became emperor of Rome in A.D. 306. In A.D. 312, before a battle, Constantine claimed to have had a vision of a cross in the sky. The emperor promised that if he won the battle, he would become a Christian. Constantine was victorious, and the next year he fulfilled his promise. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Today, Christianity has nearly two billion followers worldwide.

## Section One



### Part two: Horrible Histories

#### Questions:

What was the legendary origin of Rome?

What kind of government did Rome have before Julius Caesar?

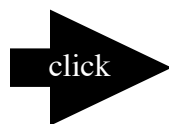
How did Julius Caesar come to power?

Why was Julius Caesar Murdered?

What were some of the bad things that happened after  
Emperor Augustus died?

What problems did the barbarians cause Rome?

Why was Rome split into two empires?



[answer online](#)



# ROME SWEET ROME

LEGEND SAYS THAT ROMULUS AND REMUS WERE TWO BROTHERS RAISED BY WOLVES. WHEN THEY WERE GROWN UP, ROMULUS KILLED HIS BROTHER AND BECAME THE FIRST KING OF ROME.

GUESS THIS MEANS I'M LEADER OF THE PACK

YEAH, RIGHT!

THE TRUTH IS THAT THE PEOPLE WHO FOUNDED ROME WERE FARMERS LIVING IN A REGION CALLED LATIUM.

FEEL LIKE CREATING AN EMPIRE?



AT FIRST, ROME WAS RULED BY KINGS. THE WORST, AND LAST, WAS TARQUINIUS SUPERBUS, FAMOUS FOR HIS CRUELTY. THE ROMANS SOON GOT TIRED OF HIM.

THE ROMANS DECIDED TO RULE THEMSELVES AND CALL THIS A 'REPUBLIC'. NOW ANYONE COULD HAVE A VOICE IN RUNNING THE COUNTRY. WELL, ANYONE RICH, THAT IS.



THE NEW REPUBLIC WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES, BUT THE ROMAN ARMY ATE ENEMIES FOR BREAKFAST. BEFORE LONG, THE ROMANS HAD CONQUERED THE PEOPLE OF ITALY, SPAIN, GREECE AND CARTHAGE (NORTH AFRICA).

THE TREASURES PLUNDERED FROM THE NEW EMPIRE FLOODED INTO ROME AND STRAIGHT INTO THE HANDS OF THE RICH...

THIS POWER-SHARING THING REALLY WORKS

MORE FOOD, SLAVE!

I'M HOPING FOR A WAR WITH GREECE SOON. I COULD DO WITH A BIT OF SUN





THIS LED TO STRUGGLES BETWEEN THE POOR, WHO WANTED POWER, AND THE RICH, WHO DIDN'T WANT TO SHARE IT WITH THEM.

WE WANT  
WHAT YOU'VE  
GOT

THAT'S NOT FAIR, WE DON'T  
WANT WHAT YOU'VE GOT



THIS WAS WHERE JULIUS CAESAR CAME IN.  
HE WAS POSH, BUT STOOD UP FOR ORDINARY FOLK.

...AND FREE  
CIRCUSES FOR  
EVERYONE!

HURRAY!



CAESAR WAS ALSO A GREAT GENERAL,  
AND THIS MADE HIM POPULAR.

AND NEXT WEEK,  
I'M GOING TO  
CONQUER BRITAIN!

HURRAY!

WHAT'S  
BRITAIN?

WHO?

WHERE?



IN FACT, HE WAS SO POPULAR THAT THE PEOPLE WANTED HIM  
TO RULE ROME ON HIS OWN.

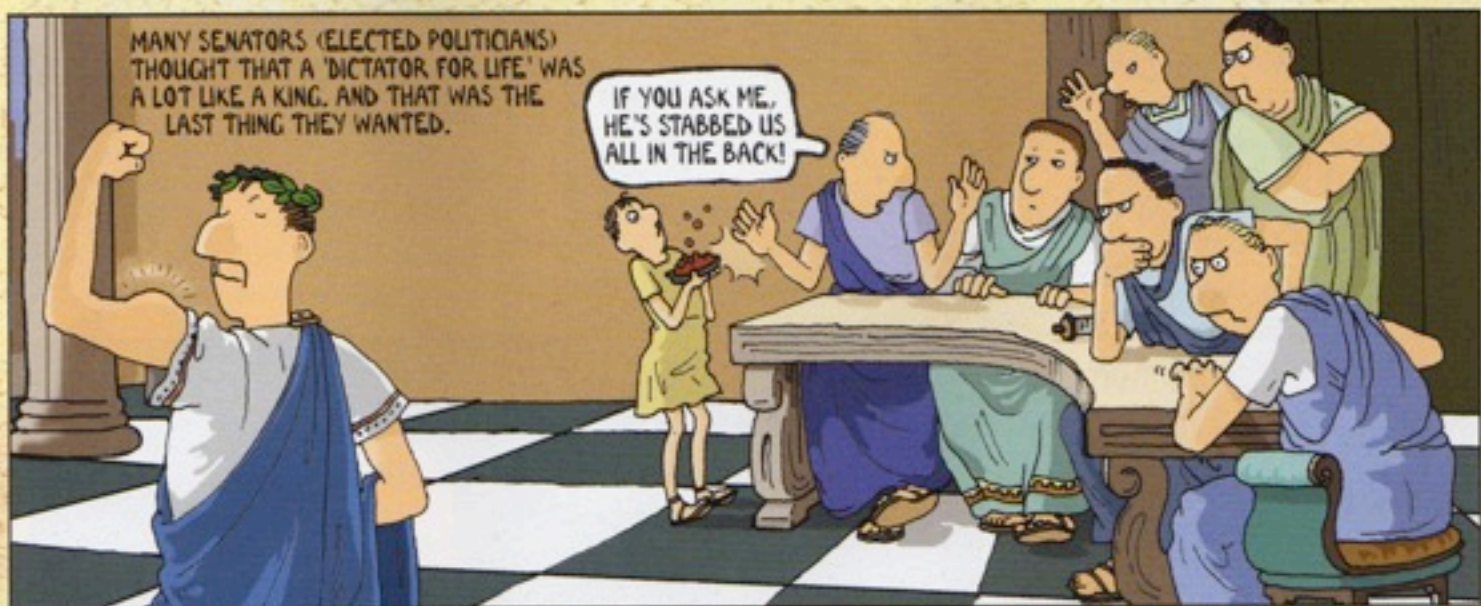
MMM... I LIKE THIS. I THINK  
I'M GOING TO MAKE MYSELF  
DICTATOR FOR LIFE!

HURRAY!



MANY SENATORS (ELECTED POLITICIANS)  
THOUGHT THAT A 'DICTATOR FOR LIFE' WAS  
A LOT LIKE A KING, AND THAT WAS THE  
LAST THING THEY WANTED.

IF YOU ASK ME,  
HE'S STABBED US  
ALL IN THE BACK!





# Terrible Times

SO THEY DECIDED TO STAB CAESAR IN THE BACK INSTEAD...



DOES THIS MEAN YOU DON'T LIKE ME?



WHAT IT REALLY MEANT WAS CIVIL WAR. GENERALS AND POLITICIANS ALL FOUGHT FOR POWER.

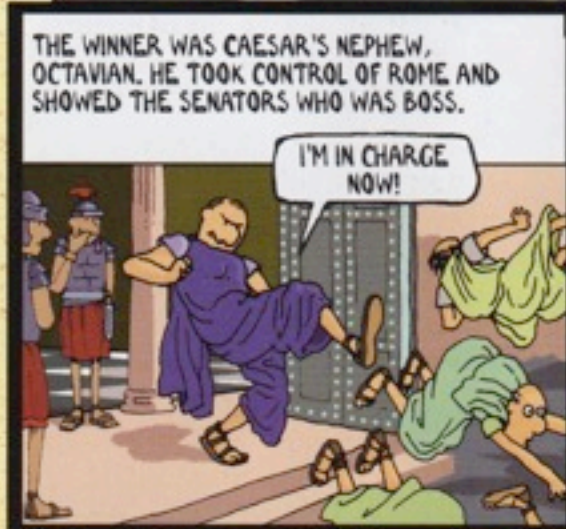
GIMME THAT CROWN, I WANT TO WEAR IT!

NO, IT'S MY TURN



THE WINNER WAS CAESAR'S NEPHEW, OCTAVIAN. HE TOOK CONTROL OF ROME AND SHOWED THE SENATORS WHO WAS BOSS.

I'M IN CHARGE NOW!



OCTAVIAN MADE HIMSELF EMPEROR AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO AUGUSTUS, WHICH MEANS 'VERY IMPORTANT PERSON'. HE MERGED ALL THE LANDS ROME CONTROLLED INTO A MIGHTY EMPIRE. THE THING THE ROMANS HAD FEARED, RULE BY ONE ALL POWERFUL MAN, HAD RETURNED.

MINE! ALL MINE!



SOME OF THE EMPERORS THAT FOLLOWED AUGUSTUS WERE GOOD, SOME WERE BAD, AND SOME WERE STARK RAVING BONKERS. ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES, GET THE LOWDOWN ON THE MADDEST AND BADDEST OF THE ROTTEN ROMAN RULERS.

I AM NOT BONKERS. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, JUST ASK MY SENATOR HERE





# Romans Run Riot!

HERE'S THE STORY OF HOW ROME GREW FROM A SMALL CITY INTO A MIGHTY EMPIRE. IT'S A CRUESOME TALE OF 'GENERAL' BETRAYAL – A REAL 'TOG-A' WAR!

BY 500BC THE PEOPLE OF ROME HAD GOT RID OF THEIR BULLYING KINGS. INSTEAD THEY DECIDED TO BE RULED BY A COUNCIL OF POSH BLOKES (THE SENATE) AND LIVE IN A REPUBLIC. 'PROPER' ROMAN HISTORY STARTS HERE.

ROME WAS SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES. BUT THE ROMANS WERE TOUGH FIGHTERS AND CONQUERED THE SURROUNDING CITIES AND TRIBES. PRETTY SOON THEY CONTROLLED ALL OF ITALY.

THE ROMANS' FIRST REAL CHALLENGE CAME FROM THE CITY OF CARTHAGE IN NORTH AFRICA. BOTH ROME AND CARTHAGE WANTED TO CONTROL THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA – AND BEFORE LONG WAR BROKE OUT.



CARTHAGE'S SECRET WEAPON WAS THEIR MIGHTY GENERAL, HANNIBAL BARCA. HANNIBAL LED HIS ARMY (AND ITS ELEPHANTS!) INTO ITALY, WHERE HE RAMPAGED AROUND, SQUASHING ANY ROMANS THAT GOT IN HIS WAY!

THE ROMANS COULDN'T BEAT HANNIBAL IN ITALY, SO THEY SENT AN ARMY TO ATTACK CARTHAGE. HANNIBAL RUSHED HOME – ONLY TO BE CRUSHED BY THE ROMANS. THE WAR WAS OVER.



WITH CARTHAGE NO LONGER A THREAT, ROME CELEBRATED ITS VICTORY – BY TAKING OVER GREECE, SPAIN AND BITS OF NORTH AFRICA.



THE ROMAN GENERALS BECAME HEROES TO THEIR SOLDIERS AND THE ORDINARY ROMAN PEOPLE. THE GENERALS FOUND THAT THEY WERE THE ONES WITH THE REAL POWER. AFTER ALL, THEY COULD MAKE THE SENATE DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED!



BUT THE GENERALS STARTED ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER AND THESE ARGUMENTS TURNED INTO WARS, WITH ROMANS BATTLING ROMANS. THIS COULD GET VERY CONFUSING...



THINGS GOT VERY VIOLENT AND MESSY. IT WAS MURDER AND MAYHEM, WITH RIOTERS RAMPAGING THROUGH ROME.



TO MAKE THINGS WORSE, A GLADIATOR CALLED SPARTACUS STARTED A HUGE SLAVE REBELLION. THE SLAVES RAMPAGED ACROSS ITALY LOOTING AND KILLING.



POMPEY AND CRASSUS THEN JOINED FORCES WITH A YOUNG POLITICIAN CALLED JULIUS CAESAR. TOGETHER THEY TOOK CONTROL OF ROME BY BULLYING THE SENATE.



THE SENATE GAVE CAESAR AN ARMY, AND HE MARCHED OFF TO BATTLE ROME'S ENEMIES. HE CONQUERED ALL OF GAUL (FRANCE) AND EVEN INVADDED ENGLAND AND GERMANY.



WHEN HE GOT BACK TO ROME, HIS CONQUESTS HAD MADE HIM RICH, FAMOUS AND POPULAR. POMPEY AND THE SENATE WERE A TEENSIE-WEENSIE BIT JEALOUS...



P.S. CRASSUS WASN'T JEALOUS - HE WAS DEAD.



POMPEY DECLARED WAR ON CAESAR. BUT CAESAR BEAT POMPEY AND TOOK CONTROL OF ROME - AND THERE WASN'T A THING THE SENATE COULD DO ABOUT IT.

FROM NOW ON I'M IN CHARGE. ANY QUESTIONS?

NO, NOTHING, ABSOLUTELY NOT. WE SEE YOUR POINT!



JULIUS HAD IT ALL - PLUS A FANCY NEW GIRLFRIEND, CLEOPATRA, QUEEN OF EGYPT. BUT JULES AND CLEO WEREN'T POPULAR WITH EVERYONE. THE PLOTTING POLITICIANS IN THE SENATE WANTED TO GET RID OF J.C.

HUH! WALKING AROUND LIKE HE OWNS THE PLACE

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAESAR SEES IN HER!



ON 15 MARCH 44BC, THEY AMBUSHED CAESAR AND STABBED HIM 23 TIMES. HE DIED.

OKAY, OKAY, ONE AT A TIME!



J.C.'S ADOPTED SON, OCTAVIAN, AND HIS OLD PAL, MARK ANTONY, TRACKED DOWN AND KILLED HIS MURDERERS. THEN THEY TURNED ON EACH OTHER! BY THIS TIME MARK ANTONY HAD NICKED HIS DEAD PAL'S GIRLFRIEND, CLEO.

CHARGE!

HAVEN'T WE ALREADY DONE THIS?

KILL!

I'VE 'SENATE' ALL BEFORE



IN THE END OCTAVIAN BEAT ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA. HE RENAMED HIMSELF AUGUSTUS, AND BECAME ROME'S FIRST EMPEROR. HE FINALLY BROUGHT PEACE AND ORDER TO ROME.



OF THE EMPERORS WHO FOLLOWED, SOME WERE GOOD, MANY WERE BAD AND LOTS WERE BONKERS!

THE EMPIRE KEPT GROWING AS THE ROMANS WENT AROUND 'CIVILISING' BARBARIAN TRIBES. THIS WAS JUST A FANCY TERM FOR ATTACKING THEM AND NICKING THEIR LAND!



SOON THE ROTTEN ROMAN EMPIRE WAS MASSIVE. ROME CONTROLLED LANDS FROM BRITAIN TO SYRIA AND FROM FRANCE TO EGYPT. NOT BAD GOING FOR WHAT WAS ONCE A SMALL CITY.



# Imperial Rumpus

HERE'S THE STORY, GENTS AND LADIES, ABOUT HOW ROME WAS ROTTEN IN THE 'AD'S.  
IT'S A STORY OF SLAVES, RIVALRIES AND GRAVES – NOT TO MENTION  
CIRCUSES WITH PLENTY OF CRUEL CLOWNS!

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC RAN INTO TROUBLE WHEN GENERAL JULIUS CAESAR SEIZED POWER. CAESAR MADE HIMSELF THE BOSS – UNTIL A MOB OF JEALOUS SENATORS ASSASSINATED HIM. THEN CAESAR'S NEPHEW, AUGUSTUS, KILLED THE KILLERS AND BECAME ROME'S FIRST EMPEROR...

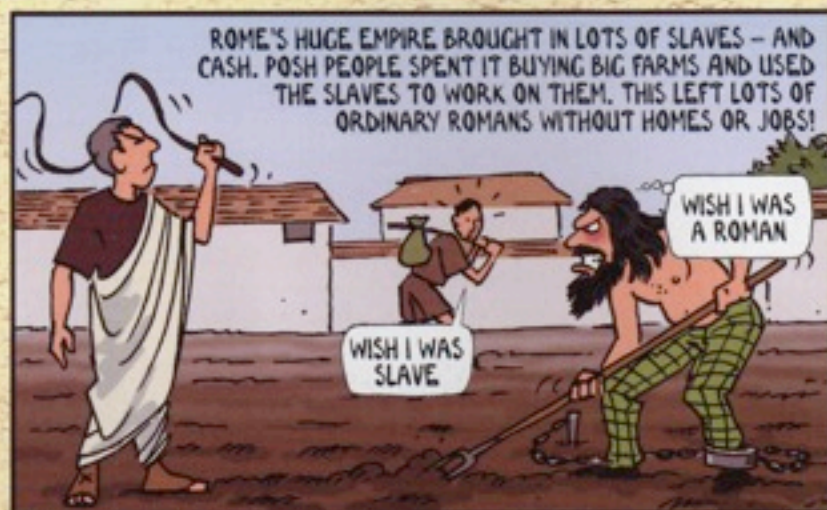
AUGUSTUS BROUGHT PEACE – AND LOTS OF BRILL NEW BUILDINGS.



AUGUSTUS SET UP A SYSTEM TO MAKE THE EMPIRE WORK WELL. THIS WAS A GOOD JOB BECAUSE THE NEXT EMPERORS WERE PRETTY BARMY! CRAZY CALIGULA EVEN SAID HE WOULD MAKE HIS HORSE INTO A CONSUL.



ROME'S HUGE EMPIRE BROUGHT IN LOTS OF SLAVES – AND CASH. POSH PEOPLE SPENT IT BUYING BIG FARMS AND USED THE SLAVES TO WORK ON THEM. THIS LEFT LOTS OF ORDINARY ROMANS WITHOUT HOMES OR JOBS!



TO KEEP THE COMMON PEOPLE FROM CAUSING ANY TROUBLE, THE INGENIOUS EMPERORS GAVE THEM FREE FOOD AND CORY GAMES – 'BREAD AND CIRCUSES'.



THE RICH HAD ALL ROME'S HOME COMFORTS. BUT THE POOR 'PROLES' LIVED IN CRAMPED BLOCKS OF FLATS THAT OFTEN COLLAPSED OR CAUGHT FIRE.





THE LAST RULER FROM AUGUSTUS' FAMILY WAS NERO. BUT AFTER ROME BURNT DOWN HE WAS A ZERO. ROME'S TOP SOLDIERS (THE PRAETORIAN GUARDS) TRIED TO PICK A NEW EMPEROR WHO'D PAY THEM MORE. IN AD69 THERE WERE FOUR DIFFERENT EMPERORS!



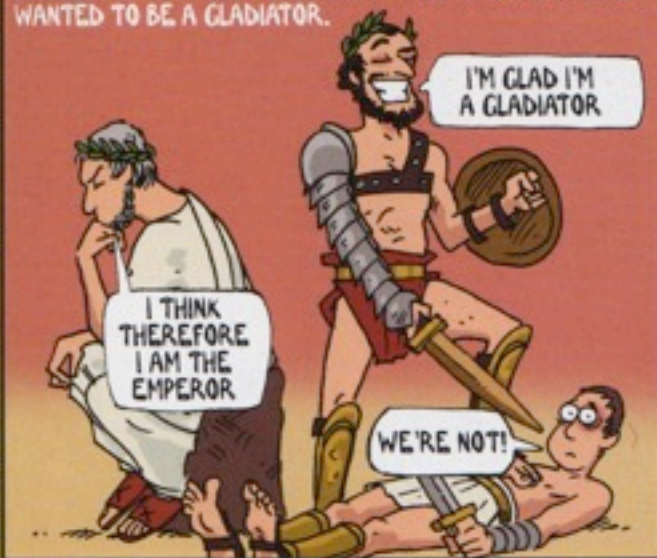
EVEN NATURE TURNED NASTY. THE VOLCANO VESUVIUS ERUPTED AND PUMMELED POMPEII WITH RED HOT PUMICE STONES.



ROME KEPT ADDING LAND IN THE 'AD'S. AFTER EMPEROR TRAJAN TRASHED DACIA, THE EMPIRE WAS AT ITS MOST ENORMOUS EVER.



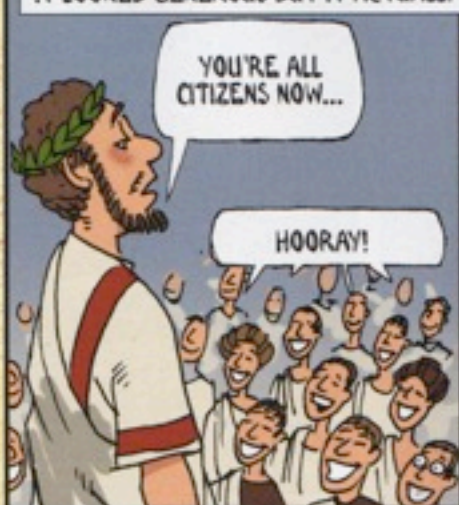
BUT A BIG EMPIRE MEANT BIG BORDERS FOR BARBARIANS TO BARGE ACROSS! EMPEROR MARCUS AURELIUS HAD HIS WORK CUT OUT KEEPING THEM OUT. MARCUS FANCIED HIMSELF AS A BIT OF A THINKER, BUT HIS SON, COMMODUS, WANTED TO BE A GLADIATOR.



MORE ATTACKS BY BARBARIANS MEANT MORE SOLDIERS WERE NEEDED... AND THIS MEANT MORE TAXES. OF COURSE, IT WAS THE POOR WHO PAID. MEANWHILE A PESTILENT PLAGUE WIPED OUT THOUSANDS.



SO THE EMPEROR CARACALLA GAVE EVERYBODY IN THE EMPIRE ROMAN CITIZENSHIP. IT LOOKED GENEROUS BUT IT ACTUALLY MEANT THEY HAD TO PAY MORE TAX.





TO KEEP PEOPLE HAPPY THE EMPERORS LAID ON MORE EXOTIC AND GRISLY GAMES. BUT MORE CORE SOON BECAME A BORE!

WAT-ER SPECTACLE!

THESE MODERN SHOWS ARE ALL SPECIAL EFFECTS!



EVERYTHING STARTED TO FALL APART AGAIN. THE PESKY PRAETORIAN GUARDS KEPT KILLING EMPERORS AND CHOOSING NEW ONES. THEN REBEL GENERALS FOUGHT UNCIVIL WARS TO BE EMPEROR - FOR 50 YEARS!

PIP!

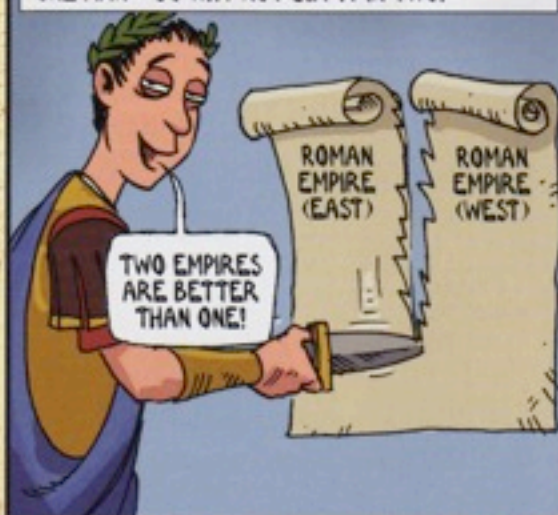


WHEN DIOCLETIAN CAME TO POWER HE DECIDED THAT THE EMPIRE WAS TOO BIG TO BE RULED BY ONE MAN - SO WHY NOT CUT IT IN TWO?

TWO EMPIRES ARE BETTER THAN ONE!

ROMAN EMPIRE (EAST)

ROMAN EMPIRE (WEST)



BUT ROME WAS STILL ON THE ROPES. FIGHTING OFF INVADERS COST SO MUCH MONEY THAT TAX WENT TO THE MAX. PEOPLE RAN AWAY FROM THEIR HOMES TO AVOID PAYING. ONE SOLUTION WAS TO BRING THE BARBARIANS INTO THE ROMAN ARMY.

BARBARIAN ATTACKS?

WORSE, DEAR - IT'S A BARBARIAN TAXMAN



WHEN CONSTANTINE WAS SOLE EMPEROR HE MADE CHRISTIANITY THE TOP RELIGION. CHRISTIANS WEREN'T THROWN TO THE LIONS ANY MORE BUT IT WAS STILL CARRY ON CRUELTY AT THE GAMES.

PIP!

YOU CAN'T KILL ME, I'M A CHRISTIAN



CONSTANTINE DECIDED TO MOVE THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL FROM ROME TO THE EAST END OF THE EMPIRE. SO HE HAD A NEW CITY BUILT - A SORT OF ROME FROM HOME.

CREEP!

I THINK I'LL CALL IT CONSTANTIN-OPLE?

WHAT A CAPITAL IDEA



WHILE THE WESTERN EMPIRE GOT BATTERED BY BARBARIANS, CONSTANTINOPLE KEPT GOING FOR A THOUSAND YEARS! BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY...



## Section two

# Roman Emperors



## Horrible Histories

### Questions:

How did Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey take over Rome? How did they die?

Why did Mark Antony and Cleopatra's relationship get them into trouble?

In what ways were some of the emperors "evil"?

What was Caligula like?

Why did Constantine convert to Christianity?

After reading about some of the Roman leaders do you think it would be good to live under an emperor? Why or why not?

Go to google and choose a Roman Emperor to learn more about. Write a paragraph about what you learned.



answer online



# Terrible Trios

They say bad luck comes in threes – they must mean these!  
Meet Caesar's gang, another trio and three awesome enemies.

## All For One....

No one could stop the rise of these three ruthless Romans – except themselves.

**J**ulius Caesar is easily the most famous ancient Roman. But he didn't get to the top on his own – he did it with the help of two Romans who were just as ambitious as he was: Crassus and Pompey. On their own, they were trouble, but together it was trebled. They decided to work as a terrific trio – a 'Triumvirate' (try-UM-ver-ate) in Latin lingo. Before long, these three schemers were the most powerful men in Rome. How did they do it? Each one used his special talents...

### CAESAR: THE MOUTH

When Caesar was a young man, Rome was rottenly rowdy. Generals spent more time fighting each other than Rome's enemies. Crowds of poor Romans rioted in the streets. And the Senate, who were meant to keep everyone under control, couldn't do a thing about it.

Julius decided he should run things.

He gave big impressive speeches to the people about how the rich senators were cheating them, and how things would be better if HE was in charge. The people of Rome liked his speeches... but what they really liked were expensive circuses, with gladiators and wild animals and blood all over the place. So

THANKS CAESAR!

YEAH – THANKS A BUNCH



Jules borrowed money from his rich chum Crassus to pay for vilely violent shows. The Romans loved them – so they loved Caesar too.

### Roamin' Roman

But Julius knew that the way to get really popular was to go abroad and conquer people, enslave them, and take their land in the name of Rome. So the Triumvirate wheeled and dealt to get the Senate to give Caesar an army. Caesar's legions grabbed the Gauls, jumped the Germans, slaughtered the Spanish – and even invaded Britain.

Caesar was now unstoppable – and absolutely top of the Roman pops.

### CAESAR SEES RED

**W**hen Caesar was once taken prisoner by pirates, he joined in their games and made speeches. But the pirates made fun of him for being a fancy-pants Roman. So Caesar said, "When I get out of here, I'll have the lot of you killed!" And guess what? After Caesar was freed, he came back and had all his pirate 'buddies' crucified.

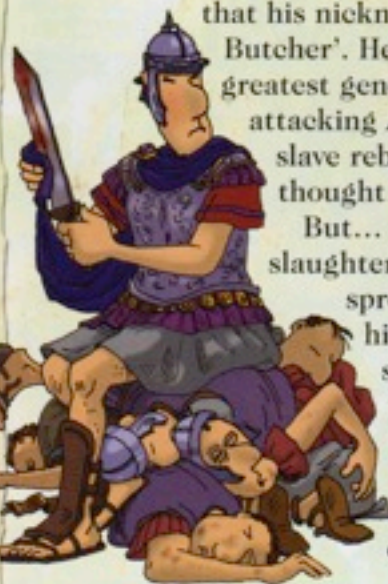




## POMPEY: THE MUSCLE

Pompey began his murderous career by killing other Romans in civil wars. He was so merciless that his nickname was 'The Teenage Butcher'. He became one of Rome's greatest generals, punishing pirates, attacking Africans and squashing slave rebellions. The Senate thought he was the cat's pyjamas.

But... while Pompey was away slaughtering, a jealous senator spread nasty rumours about him. To save his own skin, scheming Pompey joined up with Caesar and Crassus. He even married Caesar's daughter. So Pompey was safe now – or was he?



## CRASSUS: THE MONEY

Crafty Crassus made his cash during those same civil wars. While people were getting executed, Crassus bought their houses at chopped-down prices! But that's nothing compared with his meanest scheme. Crassus set up his own fire brigade. Why? Well, if a mad mob torched a house, he would buy it for next to nothing from the upset owner while it was burning... then get his firemen to put out the fire. (Talk about hot property!)

But money wasn't enough for Crassus. He wanted power. So he joined up with Caesar and then Pompey, too.



## ...AND ALL FOR NOTHING!

**T**hese three gory geezers could talk, bribe and bully the Senate into doing what they wanted. But then it all started to go rottenly wrong...

### CRASSUS CHOPPED

Crassus wanted to be like Caesar. He got the Senate to give him an army to go and fight the Parthians, who lived in what is now Syria. But the Parthians were wicked warriors. They slaughtered 30,000 Roman soldiers. (Find out how on page 19.) So Crassus met the Parthian generals to make peace. Big mistake!

When Crassus showed up, the Parthians cut off his head and sent it to their king, 'orrible Orodes. He's

supposed to have poured melted-down gold into Crassus' mouth, saying: "It's a good last drink for a man who was so thirsty for gold!" One down, two to go...

### POMPEY BUMPED

When Caesar returned to Rome with wagons of loot, everyone loved him. Well, everyone except the Senate. Caesar was just too popular. They demanded that Caesar hand over his legions. Caesar refused, so the Senate asked Pompey to put Caesar in his place. This meant war!

Caesar's troops beat his old buddy's army, so Pompey escaped to Egypt. Caesar followed him there – only to find that his friend-turned-enemy had already been murdered by Egyptians trying to get on Caesar's good side. They gave him Pompey's head when he arrived. Two down, one to go...

**CAESAR STABBED**  
While he was in Egypt Caesar fell for Cleopatra. Together the lethal lovers took over Egypt. Julius returned to Rome in triumph. He'd beaten Pompey, had a new girlfriend, and was so popular that the Senate had to do whatever he said.

The senators weren't so pleased. No TRUE Roman would fall for a foreigner. And Julius was just too big for his boots. (Actually he had a red pair that fitted very well. But red was the colour of kings, and the Senate HATED kings.)

On May 15th, 44BC, a gang of senators stabbed Caesar to death. (Maybe they wanted his clothes to match his boots?) He died beside a statue of his old mate Pompey. Three down – terrible trio over!



I'VE HEARD OF GOLD FILLINGS, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!



# 'Tri' Again

With Caesar gone, another trio took control of Rome – led by his adopted son Octavian.

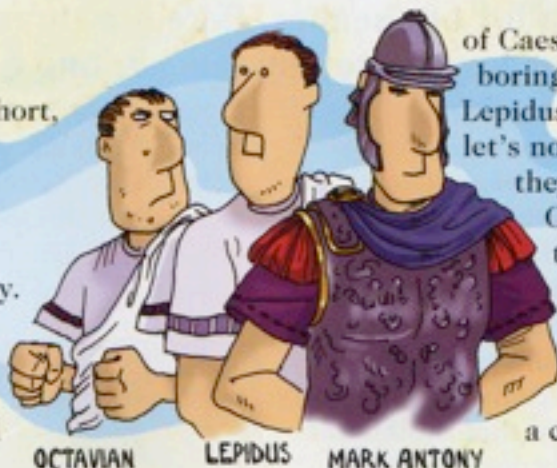
## OCTAVIAN

**Octavian was...**

**not a pretty sight** In fact he was short, spotty and had bad teeth.

**Caesar's nephew** – and his adopted son. Best of all, Caesar had left Octavian most of his money.

**smart** Octavian wanted to avenge his dad's death. So he joined forces with a great general and pal



OCTAVIAN      LEPIDUS      MARK ANTONY

of Caesar called Mark Antony (who is boringly famous) and a bloke called Lepidus (who is famously boring, so let's not bother with him!). Together they hunted down and killed Caesar's assassins. Then the trio took charge of the Senate and Rome. Just to make it a family affair, Mark Antony married Octavian's sister, Octavia. And everything was going OK until a certain lady got involved again...

## MARK ANTONY

**Warning: sick-making alert** – this gets gooeey!

Caesar's old mate Mark Antony (Ant for short) had heard fascinating stories about Cleo. He reckoned that if she could capture Caesar's heart, she must be hot stuff. So Ant summoned her to Rome to meet him.

### Petal poser

When Cleo finally showed up, she did so in style – on a luxurious boat, lying underneath a tent of golden cloth, surrounded by little boys dressed as cupids. The cabins were knee-deep in flower petals, and Cleo's waiting women were dressed as goddesses and mermaids. Yuck! Sappy soldier Ant fell for it and fell head over heels in love. He dumped Octavia and went off to Egypt with Cleo.

### Drippy duo

Ant and Cleo got up to all sorts of lovey-dovey stuff together – like dressing up as slaves for fun,

eating off gold plates and giving each other entire libraries as presents.

But there was one little problem – Ant already had a wife... and worse still, she was Octavian's sister. When Ant left his wife to go and live with Cleo for the **SECOND** time, Octavian had had enough.

### Anti-Ant attack

Uppity Oct got his hands on Mark Antony's will – and read it out in public. It said that if Ant died in Italy, he wanted his body sent to Cleo in Egypt. This outraged the Romans: no true Roman would rather be buried there! So the Senate declared war on Ant and Cleo. Octavian got a fleet of warships together and sailed off to destroy Mark Antony's fleet at Actium in Greece. (See them 'all at sea' on pages 12 and 13.)



## CLEOPATRA

Cleopatra is one of the most famous people in history. But most of what people **THINK** they know about Cleo is a pack of porky pies.

**Fib 1** Cleopatra was Egyptian. **WRONG!** She was Greek – her ancestor was one of the Greek generals who helped Alexander the Great conquer Egypt.

**Fib 2** Cleopatra was beautiful. Well, it's not exactly wrong, but she was short and chubby with a big nose. But looks aren't everything. She was smart, sassy and lots of fun to be with!

**Fib 3** She married Julius Caesar. **WRONG!** She was married (at different times) to both of her brothers, Ptolemy and – er – Ptolemy. Yuk!



# The Evil Emperors

You may have thought Julius Caesar was a bit of a meany pants, but some of the other emperors were a hundred times worse. Here are a few of the rottenest Romans who ever lived...



## Emperor Tiberius AD14–AD37

**Favourite saying:** "I don't care if they hate me so long as they obey me!" (Know any teachers like that?)

**Nastiest habit:** Breaking the legs of anyone who disobeyed him.

**Rottenest act:** Tiberius had a poor fisherman stripped and skinned alive using a scaly fish and the sharp shell of a crab.

**Sticky end:** Suffocated, probably by one of his helpers.

### Did you know?



Rome's emperors were a funny bunch. Here are some of their lesser-known nasty habits and potty hobbies...

- Vitellius, one of Tiberius' paid 'companions', became emperor in AD69. But Emperor Vitellius (known as 'The Glutton') only ruled for a matter of months before he was dragged half-naked to the Forum where he was tortured, killed and tossed in the River Tiber. By Evil Emperor standards, he wasn't that cruel (although he did starve his mother to death!) No, it was his greediness that made him unpopular.

Vitellius stuffed himself three times a day. At one of his banquets, 2000 fish and 7000 birds were served. He liked to snack on pike livers, pheasant brains and flamingo tongues.

- Emperor Domitian's (AD81–96) hobby was inventing new ways of

torture – his favourite was barbecuing people's naughty bits. In his spare time, he liked catching flies, spearing them with his pen and tearing off their wings.

Domitian wasn't a very trusting sort. He even went as far as having all the pillars in his palace made of reflective marble so that he could see what was going on behind his back. He must have forgotten to polish his pillars, because the palace guards burst in and hacked him to death.

- By contrast, Emperor Heliogabalus' favourite hobby was positively kind to flies. He liked collecting cobwebs... by the ton!

OF ALL MY BELGIAN  
COBWEBS THIS IS MY  
FAVOURITE





# Caligula AD37–AD41



**Favourite sayings:** To his friends at a banquet: 'It has just occurred to me that I only have to give one nod and your throats will be cut.'

To the guards of a row of criminals: 'Kill every man between that one with the bald head and that one over there.'

To his people: 'Rome is a city of necks just waiting for me to chop.' And to everyone who would listen: 'I am a god.'

**Nastiest habit:** His little 'jokes'. At a sacrifice ceremony, he was given a hammer that was used to knock out the beast about to be sacrificed. The priest was waiting to cut the beast's throat. Caligula hit the priest over the head instead!

**Rottenest act:** Caligula enjoyed nothing more than a good blood bath in the Rome Colosseum. But the wild animals had to be kept alive until the day of the show. This was very expensive, so Caligula found a cheap supply of raw meat for them... he fed the animals on criminals!

Caligula was sensitive, but only about himself. Because he had a hairy body like a goat, anyone who said 'goat' in front of him was executed. He had an actor whipped to death for not saying that Caligula was greater than Jupiter, king of the gods.

He can't have been all bad, as he loved his sister Drusilla very much (rumour has it he married her!). When she died, he made the whole empire mourn for a year. Anyone who laughed, ate with his own family or took a bath was executed.

**Sticky end:** For the first six months of his reign, Caligula was so popular that when he fell ill all of Rome went into mourning. But they got even sadder when he recovered! Nice Caligula had gone stark raving bonkers. In the end one of his trusted guards stabbed him to death. Others went to the palace where they killed his wife and daughter.

## Did you know?



- Emperor Caligula's real name was Gaius. Caligula was just a nickname meaning 'little boot'. This was because, as a child, he liked dressing up and playing at being a soldier from a very early age.
- Caligula wanted to copy Julius Caesar and invade Britain. In AD40 he went to the Roman base in northern France where he set sail to lead the invasion. He turned back when he saw that no-one wanted to follow him! Not wanting to return home empty handed, he ordered his soldiers to gather seashells from the beach and sent them to Rome as spoils of war!



Caligula tried to make his dear friend Incitatus a senator – Incitatus would then become one of the most powerful rulers in the Roman Empire. So what? Well, Incitatus was his favourite horse!





## Claudius AD41–AD54



**Favourite saying:** "K-k-k-k-k-k-...er...execute him!"

**Nastiest habit:** Watching criminals being tortured and men being executed.

**Rottenest act:** When Claudius discovered that his wife was a bit of a flirt and had wild parties with her friends, he was not too happy. He had his fun-loving missus executed but he also got rid of 300 of her pesky party friends!

**Sticky end:** His niece, Agrippina, poisoned him with mushrooms.

### Did you know?



Claudius' family thought he was a stammering idiot (he was really quite brainy). His nephew, Caligula, only gave him a job so he could laugh at him. So Claudius' promotion to emperor came as quite a surprise, especially to him. When the guards who murdered Caligula found Claudius hiding behind a curtain, they declared him emperor!

## Nero AD54–AD68



**Favourite sayings:** He played the lyre very badly but people told him he was good. The Greeks were particularly creepy about telling him he was brilliant. 'Only the Greeks are worth my genius,' he would say.

When he knew he had to die all he could say was 'What a loss I shall be to the art of music!'

**Nastiest habit:** Murdering people, including his wife and girlfriend. He had his half-brother, Britannicus, poisoned. (Britannicus had a food taster who ate and drank a bit of every dish. If it was poisoned, the taster would die first. The taster drank some hot wine and passed it over. The wine was 'safe' to drink. But Britannicus complained that the wine was too hot and ordered water to cool it. Then he drank it... and died. The cold water had been poisoned!)

**Rottenest act:** It was rumoured that Nero was behind the fire that destroyed Rome. He wanted to clear some space to build his plush palace The Golden House. His enemies claimed that he 'fiddled (played his lyre) while Rome burnt'.

**Sticky end:** When he knew the army had deserted him and rebels were coming to get him, he placed a sword to his throat. One of his friends gave him a push. He bled to death.



### Foul Facts



Christians brought out Nero's nastiest side. He had them covered in animal skins and thrown to hungry dogs. Or sometimes he would make his own special Roman candles: take one Christian, tie him to a post, cover in tar and set alight.



# Uppity Emperors

Meet five more emperors – including a cheating chump, a chundering lump and one who was 'holy' different...

## COMMODUS (AD180-192)



Emperor Commodus was an unpopular poser. People had loved his dad, Marcus Aurelius. But they didn't love cruel Com, because he was a show-off – and a sneak.

**Famous for...** fancying himself as a bit of a gladiator. He would dress up as the hero Hercules in a lion's mane, then fight. Brave? No way! Opponents were chained – or maimed. He'd never step into the arena with wild animals unless they'd had their claws and teeth removed. They still tried their best to lick him. (Groan.)

**Awful end:** The people hated seeing their emperor make a fool of himself by acting like a gladiator. (After all, gladiators were usually common criminals.) The final insult came when Commodus decided to go to a great ceremony dressed up as a gladiator.

His family and friends just couldn't stand it any longer, so the night before the event they fed him poison. Commodus vomited it up... so they paid a wrestler to strangle him in his bath. It was a cruel but clean end for odious Commodus!

## COM'S COWARDLY CONS

**C**rue! Commodus was only allowed to fight with blunt weapons, but this didn't stop him being absolutely brutal.

### WIMPY WEAPONS

When cowardly Commodus was in the ring, the other gladiators were armed only with wooden or lead weapons. So Commodus won easily... and then got paid a fortune for his 'bravery'. The Roman writer Dio Cassius said...

*He once got together all the men in the city who had lost their feet from disease or accident. He tied their knees together and gave them sponges to throw instead of stones. He killed them with blows from a club, pretending they were giants.*



In a wooden sword fight, one gladiator fell down to make Commodus look good. Crazy Com drew a real knife... and stabbed the man to death!

### AWFUL FOR AUDIENCES

Romans went to games to watch others die horribly. But when Commodus was in charge the audience sometimes got dragged into the arena to be victims. Imagine going to a boxing match and being told...



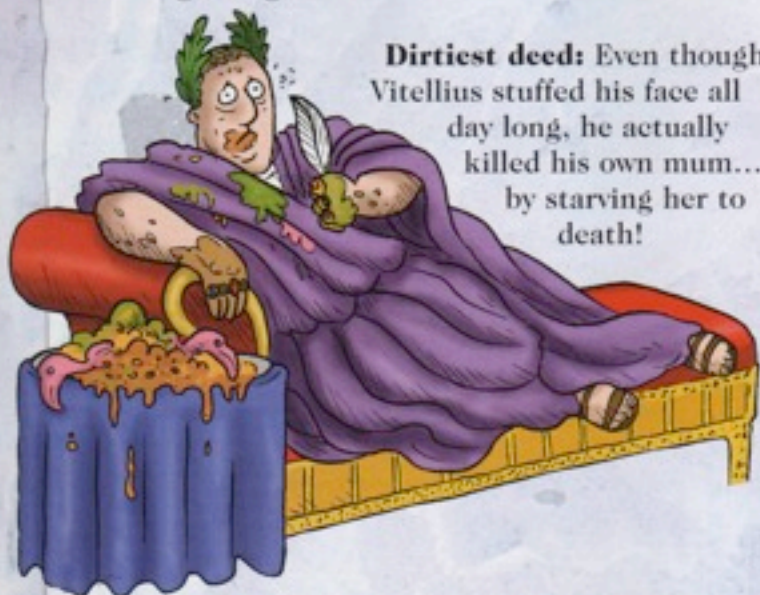
Even if he wasn't trying to kill you, Com was dangerous. He once swung his sword close to some gladiators' heads, as if trying to cut their hair... and sliced off their ears and noses by mistake.





## EMPEROR VITELLIUS (AD69)

**Famous for...** eating like an absolute pig. He had at least four feasts a day. If he was full he would tickle the back of his throat with a feather till he vomited to make room for more food! His favourite snacks were pike fish livers, pheasant brains – and flamingo tongues!



**Dirtiest deed:** Even though Vitellius stuffed his face all day long, he actually killed his own mum... by starving her to death!

## CONSTANTINE (AD312-337)



**Famous for...** letting people in his empire be Christians. He finally put an end to that rotten Roman habit of throwing Christians to the lions! What made him keen on Christianity? Well, in battle he saw a flaming cross with "In this conquer" written on it – which he took as a sign that Christianity would help him win battles. Beating his enemy to become ruler of the Roman world convinced Con he must be right...

**Dirtiest deeds:** Although he gave Christians a break, Constantine was NOT constantly kind. Far from it. He had his wife and eldest son executed. So he was a deadly dad and a horrid hubby.

## DIOCLETIAN (AD284-305)

**Famous for...** Diocletian was a general who was made emperor by his troops. One of his first moves in the job was to cut the Empire in two. This worked rather well. He also set up a system of having two junior and two senior emperors, which stopped a lot of squabbles. What a smart idea! That's probably why Dio was the first emperor for ages to die a natural death.

**Dirtiest deeds:** Dio was convinced that to keep the Empire in good shape he had to wipe out Christianity. What a savage idea. So he had thousands of Christians rounded up and slaughtered.



Ever had a teddy bear in your room? Go on, admit it. One emperor, Valentinian, went much further. He kept a cage near his bedroom filled with ferocious bears. Just for fun, Valentinian had victims thrown into the cage for the bears to tear apart. Kind-hearted Val set his pet bears free after they'd ripped dozens of people to pieces. What a pal. Probably couldn't 'bear' to see them suffering.





## Section three

### Life in Rome



## Horrible Histories

### Questions:

What was life like for women in Rome? (one paragraph)

What was life like for children in Rome? (one paragraph)

What was life like for slaves in Rome? (one paragraph)

What was life like for Gladiators in Rome? (one paragraph)

What was life like for Soldiers in Rome? (one paragraph)

How were the Roman people entertained?

In what ways were ancient Roman cities like ours? In what way were they different?



[answer online](#)



# A Kid's Life!

Children had a tough time in the age of the rotten Romans from the moment they were born.

One writer, Soranus, described how each new-born child was laid on the earth and allowed to cry for a while before it was washed and clothed. Only the fit survived.

Some of the Germans in the Roman Empire gave the new-born children an even worse test. They dunked the child in cold water. If the baby came out purple with the cold or shivering then it was a weakling – it wasn't worth bringing up, so it was left to die!



Girls who survived were named after eight days and boys on the ninth day. Girls would usually take their father's name – but change the '-us' on the end to '-a'. So the daughter of Julius became Julia, the daughter of Claudius was Claudia and so on.

**BACKSTROKE?**

Children probably had 'pet names' or nicknames. One girl was known as 'Trifosa' – that means 'delicious'!



Having made it through babyhood, and maybe putting up with a silly name, you then had to face the terrors of the rotten Roman schools...

WHO WROTE THAT?

**HISTORY HORRIBILIS**

## Suffering schoolchildren – you think you've got it bad!

Schools cost parents money, so only the parents who could afford it sent their children to school. Education was divided into primary, secondary and college, rather as it is today.

• Most people only went to primary school where they studied the three 'Rs' – reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. 'Fine' you may say, but the Romans didn't have the figure zero. That made sums rottenly difficult to learn.

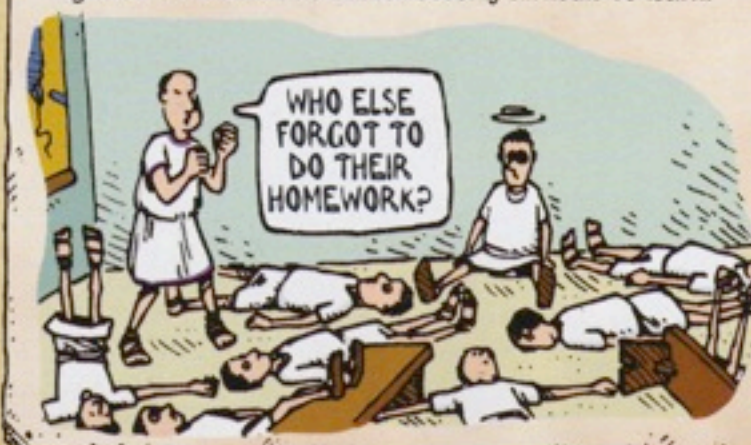
• Schoolchildren only got one day off every nine days and that was only because it was market day and it was probably too noisy to teach.

• For laziness in primary school you'd get the cane, or a beating if the teacher didn't have a cane handy. One poet described his bullying teacher like this... 'His mouth's no good – but he has a hard fist. Why doesn't he become a boxer instead.'

• In secondary school, you were more likely to be flogged with a leather whip while other pupils held you down.

• Poor children had to miss school. But they weren't as lucky as you might think as they had to work twice as hard for their parents. And, if you think teachers were brutal, dads could be downright deadly!

A father was the ruler of the family and if you did anything to displease him your punishment was likely to be lot worse than losing your pocket money. Usually he would make do with a good whipping or selling you off as a slave. But if you were really bad, he could have you executed!





# Woeful Women

Life was especially bad if you were unlucky enough to be a female. Here are ten terrible reasons why you **WOULDN'T** want to be a woman in Roman times...

**1** Roman girls were lucky... if they lived! 'If you give birth to a boy, look after it – but if it is a girl then let it die!' (Letter from Hilarion to his wife.)

**2** Men weren't happy with the idea of a clever woman. 'I hate a woman who reads' wrote Juvenal in the 1st century AD.

**3** Roman women had to be 'controlled' from an early age. They were given a lucky charm at birth. Why? Because they didn't have a man of their own to protect them.

**4** When a Roman girl was 14 she was ready for marriage. A husband would be chosen for her. Who chose? Her father. What if the girl didn't like her father's choice? Bad luck.

**5** On the evening before the wedding the girl had to place her childhood toys on the altar of the household gods and give them up forever! She also took off her lucky charm – as she now had a man to protect her.

**6** Even festival times could be bad news for women. The spring celebration of Lupercalia gave young men an excuse to run around half naked hitting women with strips of goat skin. This was to help them produce babies!

**7** Women removed hair from their legs and from under their arms using a hair-dissolving cream. One hair-remover



consisted of the blood of a wild she-goat, sea-palm and powdered viper. Then, if you wanted to stop the hair growing back again, you would have to rub on the blood of a hare.

**8** Roman women used chalk to whiten their neck – pale skin was meant to be a sign of beauty.

**9** If a woman's lips and cheeks weren't red enough she would rub them with ochre, a red earth.

**10** If a girl's eyebrows weren't dark enough she might have used a metallic stuff called antimony. No antimony? Then girls used ashes! Imagine walking around with mud on your face, chalk on your neck and ashes on your eyebrows. A real babe!

## Did you know?



Women didn't have much fun in Roman times, and even if you were a goddess you were normally put in charge of something boring. For example, Minerva, goddess of wisdom also had to be goddess of weaving cloth. Modesty, honesty and purity were other qualities that goddesses were allowed to have. One of the dullest goddesses was Cardea, whose job was to protect door hinges. Angina was the goddess of sore throats, and Cloacina watched over the construction of sewers.



# Chains and Pains



It was a dog's life for slaves in Rome. Some bought their way to freedom – but for most, it was dire drudgery until they dropped.

Roman law allowed slave owners to treat their workers terribly, but it didn't matter – slaves were just seen as possessions. In fact, they were called 'speaking tools'.



Slaves were given all the worst jobs to do – cooking, cleaning, shopping, laundry and even looking after small children. Fields need digging? Slaves could do it. Roads need building? Special slaves were trained for that. Not to mention one of the most dangerous jobs of all – mining.

Nobody thanked slaves for working hard. In fact, the more backbreaking a slave's job, the less people thought of him. (That wouldn't happen today... would it?) For example, slaves who had to carry water (called *aquarii*) were treated as utter scum. (Water scum, perhaps?)

In AD 157, the Roman writer Apuleius described life in a flour mill...

*The slaves were poor, skinny things. Their skin was black and blue with bruises, their backs were covered with cuts from the whip. They wore rags, not clothes, and hardly enough to keep them decent. They had a brand mark burned into their forehead and half of their hair was shaved off. They wore chains around their ankles.*

## Did you know?

If a slave killed their master and got caught red-handed, then ALL the slaves in that household got crucified – whether they'd had anything to do with it or not!

## Cowards' toys

Romans loved savage sports like gladiator fights and chariot races, but they wouldn't risk their own necks – they'd get slaves to do it, and just watch! And if the slaves got flattened by a filly or diced by *dimacheri* (see Issue 1), so what? There were loads of new slaves to replace them while the Roman army was capturing people everywhere it went.

Some slaves were paid wages, and they could save these to buy their freedom – so it made sense to please their master. Sometimes slaves were freed

## Good Slave Guide

Need some slaves? Come down to the auction and place a bid. And if you're new to the marketplace, use our handy slave guide to sort the bargains from the barbarians.



1 Foreigners captured by the Roman army can be tricky. They don't speak Latin and are bound to be a bit upset. (Look what happened with Spartacus!). Strong warriors make good labourers or gladiators, but most rich Romans are just using their gladiators as bullying bodyguards! Tough slaves are handy when the army needs men, but it's a bit barmy to give weapons to slaves...

Hard workers, but mind they don't turn on you!



2 Pretty ladies are good servants to have around at parties. Blonde German girls are popular – their hair can be cut off and used for wigs!

They'll look good – once their hair grows back.



for doing a good deed. They could never become citizens, but their children might. It wasn't unusual for men to buy female slaves, free them, then marry them. And if a slave woman had four children, she was freed – if she hadn't already died in childbirth!

Sometimes, fed-up slaves tried to grab freedom by fighting back – like those led by Spartacus. But these 'uprisings' were usually crushed by the army. In fact, thousands of slaves got slaughtered for getting uppity and wanting to be free.

## Foul Facts



When really poor slaves died, their bodies might be thrown into 'puticuli' – open pits, where really vile Romans would also tip rubbish. The bodies and the rubbish would rot into the most disgusting stinking black gloop you could ever imagine.

**5** Conquering the cities of Greece, North Africa and Asia Minor means that a lot of educated locals are being grabbed to be sold as slaves. Greeks are great and you can use the clever ones as librarians, secretaries, tutors or even pet poets. Maybe you could get some to do your homework – but be quick: the government might snap them up to run their business.



Pricey, but worth every denarius!

WHY? BECAUSE I'M WORTH IT!



## Slave Labour

- Slaves had to sleep wherever they could – on the floor, or outside, like a dog. At least slave children didn't have to go to school, because there wasn't one for them. In fact, even the scariest school would have seemed like an amazing treat – imagine that!

- In the last years of the Republic, playing music in public was thought to be too rude for citizens to do themselves – but they still liked it, so they got slaves to play the music for them!

COULD I BORROW YOUR WALKMAN?

SURE – HERE HE IS



- Most farmhouses had special prisons where the slaves were kept in chains as a punishment. But apart from that, slaves owned by a wealthy master in the country probably had a nicer life than slaves in the town.

Life as a town slave was the pitiful pits.

...AND HERE'S A FIRST-CLASS STAMP!

...!!P...!!



- Special messenger slaves – known as *tabellarii* – had to deliver the post. They were made to run up to 27 miles (44km) every day. That's a marathon postal round!

**3** People born into slavery – those whose mums were slaves – are called *vernae*. Because they've never known a better life they are less likely to grumble. And they can be taught special skills from an early age.



Not cheap, easy to keep.

**4** Street children are plentiful – there's always an abandoned baby somewhere. Older kids may have problems – so the younger the better.



Cheap, but kids can cause chaos!



# Gruesome Gladiators

Gladiators in ancient Rome were treated like pop idols – but with a bit of a difference. Their lives were more clamour than glamour and more gruesome than gorgeous. Here are ten terrible truths about real-life gladiators.

**1** The idea of fighting and killing as a game is thought to have begun at funerals. These sacrifices changed into fights to the death between two men at a funeral. They became so popular that they were taken away from the funeral and put on in a huge arena. The fighters became known as gladiators.

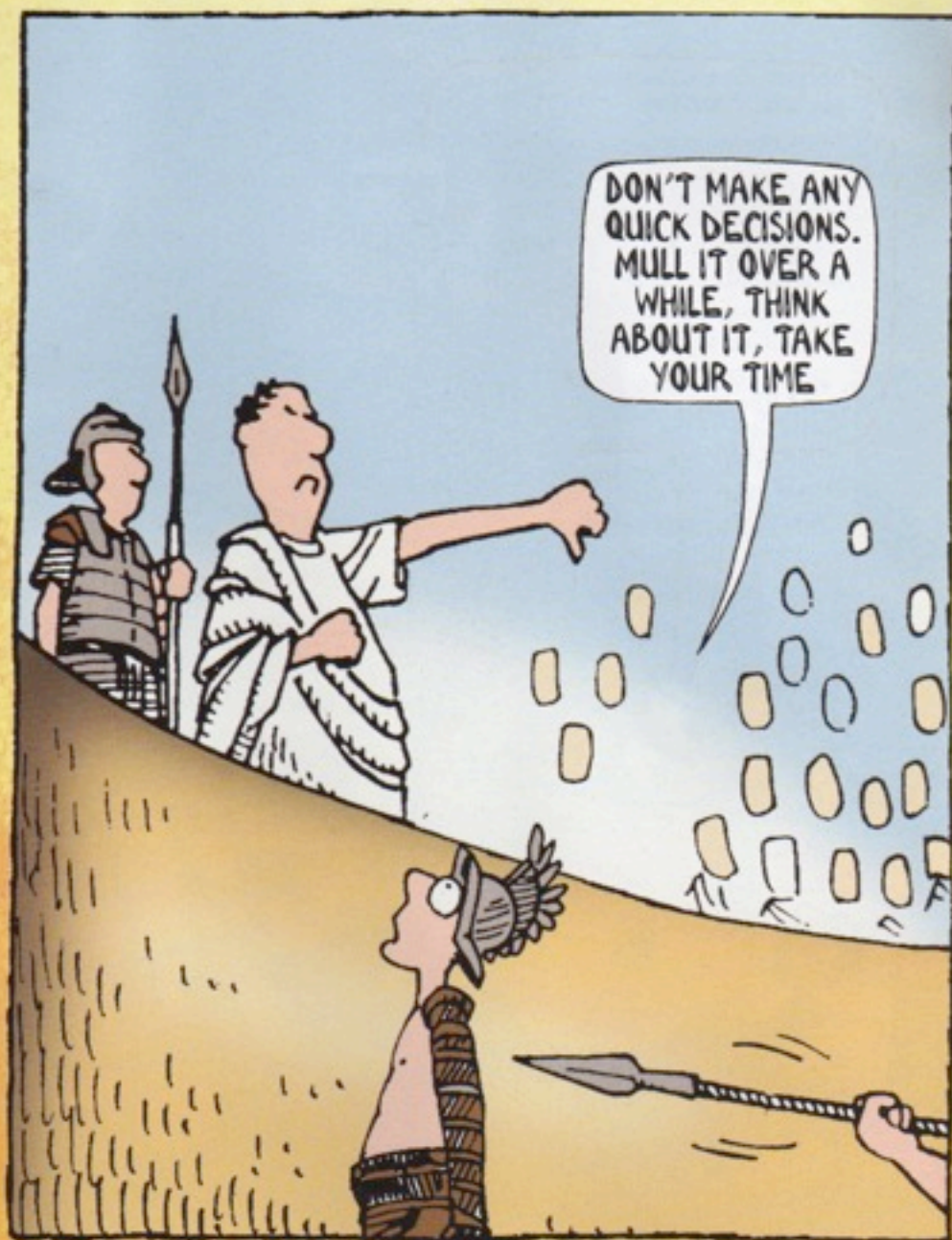


**2** In Rome there were schools for gladiators, where slaves were trained by a gladiator master. If a gladiator won enough battles – and murdered enough opponents – he could earn a lot of money and maybe even receive the wooden sword – a symbol of freedom!

**3** Emperor Commodus liked to have a go at fighting. He always won because his opponents were blinded, tied up or wounded and unarmed.

**4** Gladiators could be dangerous! Spartacus led fellow gladiators to freedom, after killing the training school guards with kitchen utensils.

**5** An exhausted fighter could surrender. The emperor would then decide if he should live or not. The crowd would scream 'Mitle!' (Let him go!) or 'Iugula!' (Kill him!). The emperor would signal his decision with his thumb – down for death, up for life ('the thumb's up').





SLAVES, SLAVES, SLAVES,  
WHERE'S THE VARIETY?



**6** Giraffes, hippopotami and even ostriches were used in the arena – crocodiles could prove tricky because they didn't survive very well when taken out of Africa. One lot spoiled the fun by refusing to eat!

**7** In AD80, five thousand beasts were killed in just one day in the Colosseum.

**8** Gladiators sometimes fought bears with their bare fists and used cloaks to torment bulls – a little like bullfighters do to this day.

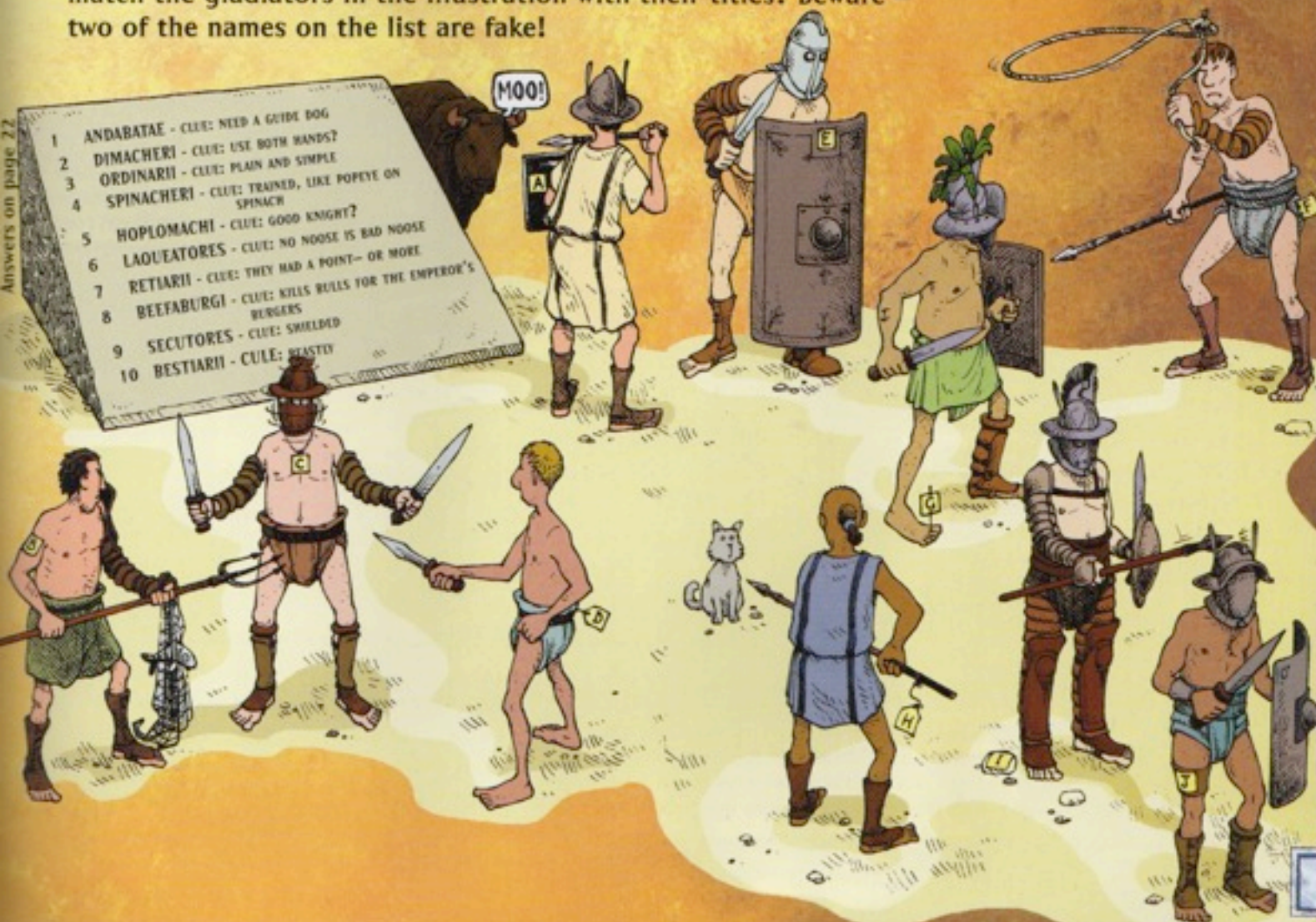
**9** Criminals had to fight till no-one was left. An unarmed man was put into the ring with an armed man who killed him. It was then the armed man's turn to be disarmed and die.

**10** Most gladiators were prisoners of war or slaves. But Roman citizens sometimes signed up to fight in the arena. These idiots were usually desperate, insane, or both.

## Name that Gladiator!

Gladiators weren't all the same – there were many types. Can you match the gladiators in the illustration with their titles? Beware – two of the names on the list are fake!

- 1 ANDABATAE - CLUE: NEED A GUIDE DOG
- 2 DIMACHERI - CLUE: USE BOTH HANDS?
- 3 ORDINARI - CLUE: PLAIN AND SIMPLE
- 4 SPINACHERI - CLUE: TRAINED, LIKE POPEYE ON SPINACH
- 5 HOPIOMACHI - CLUE: GOOD KNIGHT?
- 6 LAQUEATORES - CLUE: NO NOOSE IS BAD NOOSE
- 7 RETIARI - CLUE: THEY HAD A POINT – OR MORE
- 8 BEEFABURGI - CLUE: KILLS BULLS FOR THE EMPEROR'S BURGERS
- 9 SECUTORES - CLUE: SHIELDED
- 10 BESTIARI - CLUE: RASTY





# FEARSOME FORCE

The army of the Roman Republic was staffed by volunteers, but as the empire expanded a professional fighting force became necessary. By the 1st century CE, the troops had become a well-organized and virtually unbeatable standing army with career soldiers who each served for 25 years.

## STANDARD

Each legion (army unit) had a unique emblem, or standard, that it carried into battle. Choose one of your legionnaire models to be the standard-bearer. And don't forget he needs a wolf skin\* over his shoulders to look extra fearsome!



LEAD YOUR LEGION  
**INTO  
BATTLE**

\* WOLF SKIN SOLD  
SEPARATELY

## CENTURION

ABLE TO  
MARCH  
**ALL DAY**

COMMANDS  
**80  
SOLDIERS**

CARRIES  
**65-LB (30-KG)  
OF GEAR**

This great new action figure from Trajan Toys™ comes complete with armor, shield, and a vitis (short staff) that shows his authority. In the Roman army, a centurion was in charge of a century of 80 men, and was chosen for his strength and toughness.



**COLLECT THE S**



**WHERE YOUR FIGURE FITS IN**

A centurion commanded a century of 80 men. Six centuries made a cohort, 10 cohorts made a legion, and the whole army had 28 legions in all.

**YOU'VE GOT THE MOVES**

Discipline and training were key to the success of the Roman army. Your poseable centurion can be moved into all the main training positions, including running, marching, swimming, wrestling, and throwing.

**ON LOCATION**

The Roman army had outposts all over Europe, North Africa, and parts of Asia. They battled red-headed Celts, Hannibal's savage Carthaginians, and the vicious Germanic barbarians.

**SPECIAL SKILLS**

The army got around on foot, marching for days on end, and didn't budge in the face of obstacles. Skilled soldiers constructed forts, built bridges across rivers, and cut roads through hills.

**CREATE AN ARMY AND FORM A TESTUDO****TOUGH****IMPENETRABLE****STRONG****UNSTOPPABLE****INTIMIDATING****DEFENSIVE****BATTLE FORMATIONS**

Roman soldiers fought in tight formations. For this defensive *testudo* (tortoise) the men stood in a bloc, with their shields facing outward and upward. Attacking formations included the wedge, where the men stood in a V-shape.

**FANTASTIC ROMAN FORT**

Collect four tokens and this fantastic scale model of a Roman fort can be yours. The Romans built forts across their empire as military bases and to keep the locals in check. Pose your soldiers at the gates, in the barracks (living quarters), or even in the commandant's house.

**ONE  
TOKEN****ONE  
TOKEN****WEAPONS**

Arm your centurion to the teeth with this bumper pack of fighting tools. The *gladius* is the soldier's weapon of choice, while the *pugio* comes in handy for close combat. The *pilum* is designed to break on impact so it can't be thrown back.

**PUGIO**  
DAGGER**GLADIUS**  
SHORT SWORD**PILUM**  
JAVELIN



The Romans enjoyed their circuses, and the Colosseum held the greatest and goriest of them all – the games. The only thing being juggled here was human heads...

In AD106 Emperor Trajan held games lasting 117 days. Over 9000 gladiators were killed.

Fights were staged with all kinds of wild beasts – and that doesn't just mean gladiators. Thousands of bears, crocodiles, hippos and rhinos were slaughtered. Whole species were made extinct by the Roman lust for carnage.

Something for everyone! Criminals fought beasts in the morning, executions were held during lunch, while the 'pro' gladiators hacked each other up in the afternoon.

The emperor often gave out lottery tickets to the crowd. You might end up rich, but were more likely to win a booby prize – like a dead dog.

To make sure no-one faked death in the arena, a man dressed as Dis, the god of the dead, bonked any fallen combatants over the head with a hammer. Then another helpful attendant, dressed as Mercury, went round prodding the bodies with a red hot poker!

NOW I'M  
STUMPED!



Days before the games, the lions were fed live slaves to give them a taste for human blood. The slaves had their legs broken (to stop them running away) and had their tongues cut out (to stop them screaming). Hey, that's showbiz!

Roman women collected gladiator sweat, as they believed it made a great love potion. Yuk!

If you spoke out against the cruelty of the arena, you would be the next person in it!

OOPS!

The Colosseum could hold 50,000 spectators at one time. The best seats were at the front, where you could get a nice view of the blood.

HIC

GREAT TRICK!

HONESTLY, I'M TOO SKINNY TO MAKE A DECENT CROC SNACK!

Many prisoners killed themselves to avoid dying in the arena. One man killed himself by stuffing a bum-washing sponge down his throat. Pool

I JUST REMEMBERED - I LEFT MY SWORD IN MACEDONIA!



# Downtown in

What were Roman cities like? Dirty, crowded, smelly and full of life (just like modern cities, really). Why not take a look around...

Poorer Romans lived in blocks of flats, called insulae. They were crowded and noisy. No posh penthouses here – the higher up you lived, the worse things got.

There were no drains or plumbing in insulae. Never mind – there was always the street!

GOOD SHOT

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A DOWNPOUR!

Taverns were good places for doctors to find willing customers for cures.

HIC HIC

Sewers were huge. Gangs of thieves would hide out in the catacombs (underground burial chambers). Some were connected to the sewers. S'pose they really were smelly thieves!

SCRAM!

STOP  
THIEF!  
THERMAE

NAH. IT'S  
OUR DAY  
OFF!

A domus (a posh house) had clean running water and all the mod cons.



# Rotten Rome

Local water was full of dead bodies and waste, so fresh water was delivered by aquaducts.

The Colosseum was the biggest and most famous grand arena or 'amphitheatre'. Two thousand gladiators and 5000 animals were killed here in the first two weeks of its opening.

PEEPING TOMUS!

There were 144 public loos in ancient Rome. They were flushed using the waste water from the baths. So don't let anyone tell you that the rich didn't give to the poor!

Animals could only be sacrificed if they agreed to it by sticking their necks out for the axe.

City watchmen were trained to know all the water sources in the area and acted as Rome's firefighters. Shame they were too busy fighting crime when Rome burnt!

Urine (pee) was used for cleaning clothes (ugh!). Pots were put out in the street to collect fresh pee from passers-by!

MORE SILLY GOAT THAN BILLY GOAT IF YOU ASK ME!

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

GETCHA ROAST MICE HERE!

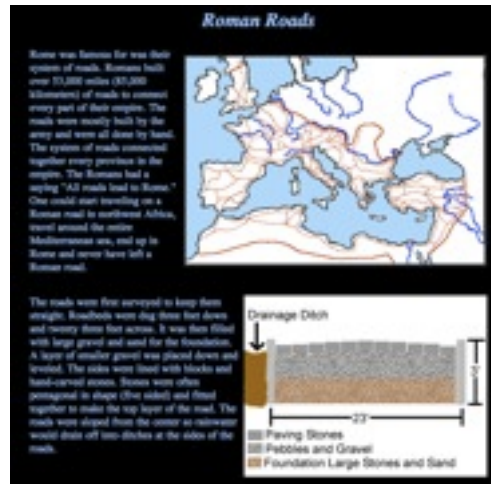
Julius Caesar banned chariots (except those on official business like this soldier) from the streets during the daytime because so many people got killed in traffic accidents!

JUST TAKING A SCROLL THROUGH TOWN!



## Section four

### Getting around Rome



#### Questions:

How many miles of road was there in the Roman Empire?

What were the roads like? Who built them?

How did Romans transport most of their trade goods?

What was a corbitas?

What technology did the Romans use to make travel by sea safer?

What two places in the empire were the farthest apart by boat?

Which were the closest?

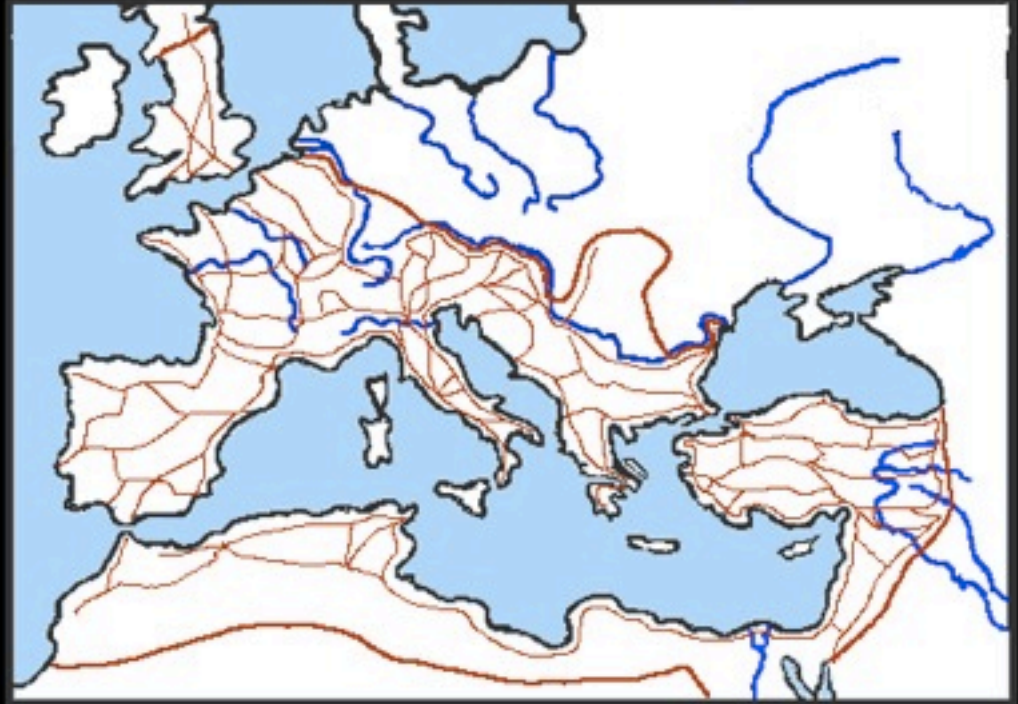


[answer online](#)

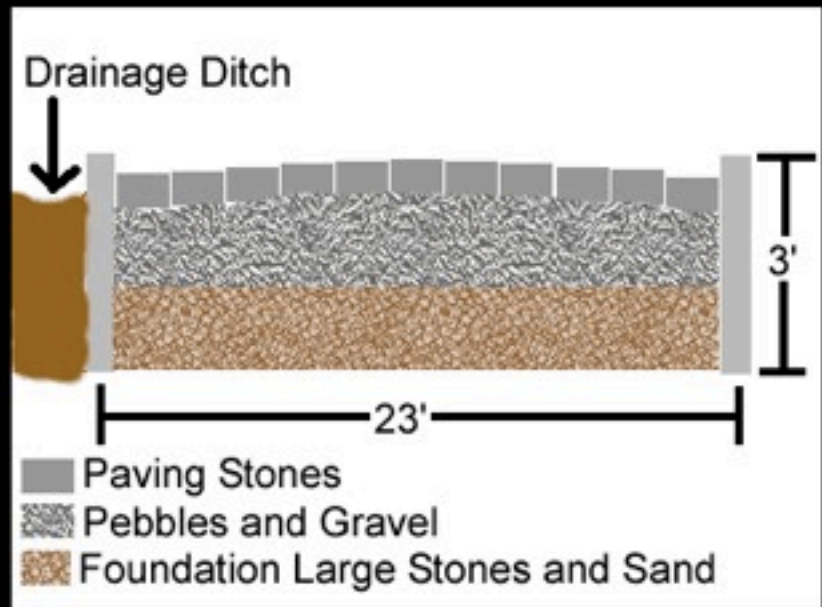


## *Roman Roads*

Rome was famous for was their system of roads. Romans built over 53,000 miles (85,000 kilometers) of roads to connect every part of their empire. The roads were mostly built by the army and were all done by hand. The system of roads connected together every province in the empire. The Romans had a saying "All roads lead to Rome." One could start traveling on a Roman road in northwest Africa, travel around the entire Mediterranean sea, end up in Rome and never have left a Roman road.



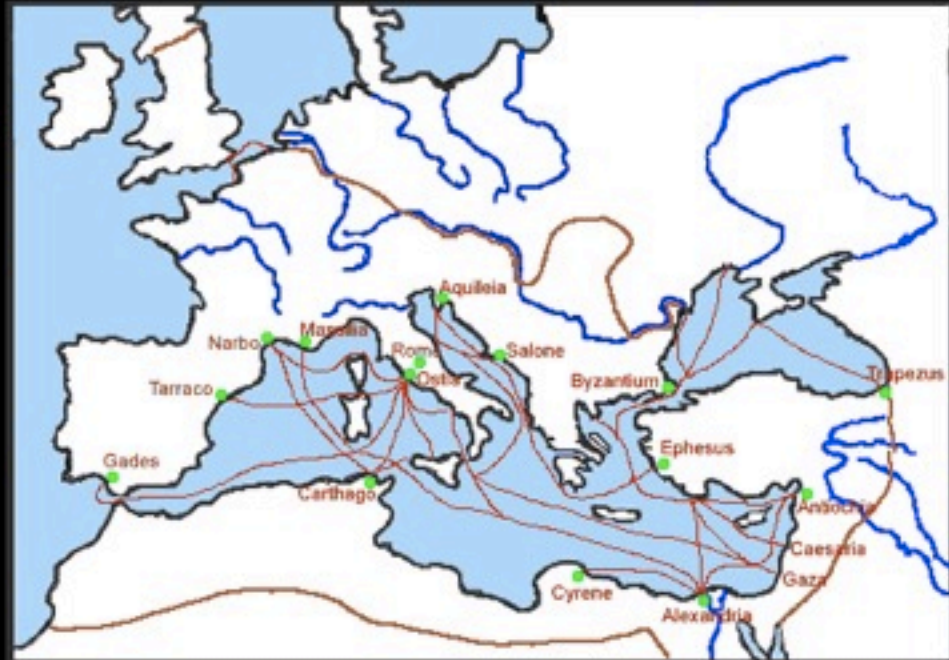
The roads were first surveyed to keep them straight. Roadbeds were dug three feet down and twenty three feet across. It was then filled with large gravel and sand for the foundation. A layer of smaller gravel was placed down and leveled. The sides were lined with blocks and hand-carved stones. Stones were often pentagonal in shape (five sided) and fitted together to make the top layer of the road. The roads were sloped from the center so rainwater would drain off into ditches at the sides of the roads.





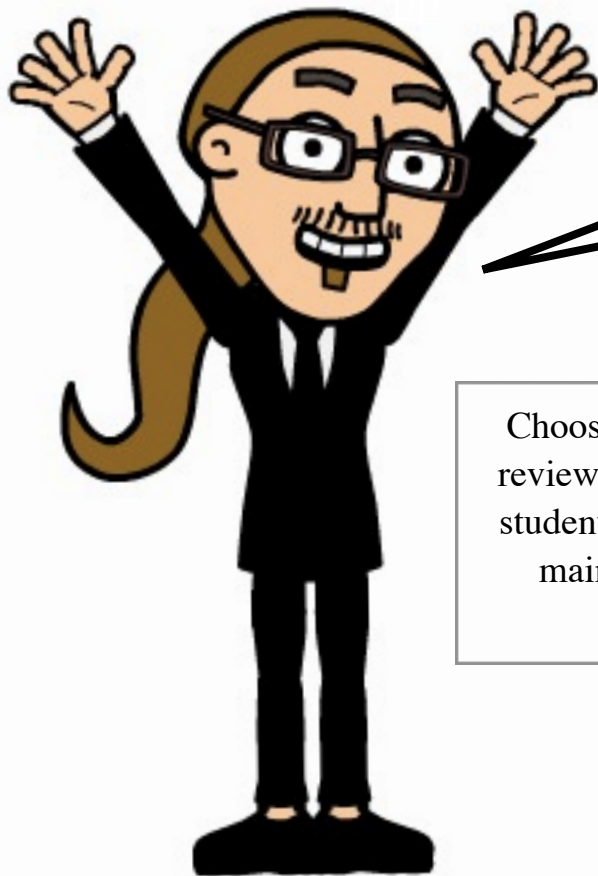
## ***Roman Trade Routes***

Goods were continually transported throughout the Roman Empire. The most effective way to transport goods was by sea. The type of ship commonly used by the Romans was known as a Corbitas. It is described as "a round-hulled ship with curving prow and stern. Depending on its size, it could carry cargo weighing between 70 and 350 ton" (Snedden 1998, pg. 41). Ships could carry as many as six hundred passengers or six thousand amphorae (clay jars) of wine, oil, or other liquids. Ships transported more goods in a shorter amount of time than could be moved overland. It took only two to three weeks by ship to go from Egypt to Rome. In order to increase the effectiveness of shipping, the Romans developed deep harbors at key locations. One of the largest harbors was at Ostia, about 15 miles from Rome on the Mediterranean Coast. In A.D. 50, a lighthouse was set up at Ostia to guide sailors. At its peak, Rome set up lighthouses in forty different locations to aid sailors. Pompey the Great promised the senate that the pirate threat on the Mediterranean Sea would be eliminated. When the threat was removed, Rome was able to get its much needed grain shipments for its citizens.



16-21 days	Alexandria to Ostia
9-10 days	Alexandria to Antichia
10-12 days	Byzantium to Gaza
3-5 Days	Ostia to Carthago
9-10 days	Ostia to Gades
20 days	Rome to Caesaria





**Prove you learned it!**

Choose and complete one of the following. Be sure to review the unit and the internet as you work. If another student couldn't look at what you created and learn the main ideas of the unit then you need need to keep working!!!

### **Write a journal or an essay**

Like to write?

Write a journal or essay that explains all of the topics.

Make sure to devote at least one paragraph to each.

### **Give a presentation**

Create a presentation that explains all of the topics.

If you create a power point you **MUST** present it to me for credit.

Presentation must be at least 3 min (I will time you).

You must be able to answer follow up questions.

### **Make a comic**

Use [domo.goanimate.com](http://domo.goanimate.com) to create a cartoon that explains all of the topics.

### **Make a cartoon**

Use [bitstrips.com](http://bitstrips.com) to create a cartoon that explains all of the topics.

### **Get interviewed**

Like to talk?

This time you have the option of getting questioned by ME. Use your time to put together some notes. You will be graded on how well you answer questions on the topics you were supposed to learn.