

In this unit, students will be introduced to an ancient civilization whose contributions can be seen in many areas of our lives today.

What's the story?

Students will explore the **culture** of **ancient Rome**, including religion, food, education, legends, social class structure, and entertainment.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about **Roman geography** and **history, government**, major **leaders**, and monumental **battles**. They will also study the **rise and decline** of the Roman Empire.

Students will be introduced to a **writing portfolio**, which they will reference as they collaborate, share ideas, and give feedback on their writing. They will also focus on **writing an opinion piece** that will be completed through a multiday performance task.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. You learned about the word *ruins* in this unit. What are ruins?
Follow up: Can you use the word *ruins* in a sentence that relates to what you have been studying? What part of speech is *ruins*?
2. What made Rome a civilization?
Follow up: Why do you think civilizations were created along the banks of a river?
3. How is a myth different from a legend?
Follow up: Are myths fact or fiction? Why? Are legends fact or fiction? Why?
4. What kind of rights did Roman women have?
Follow up: What rights didn't they have?
5. Tell me about Augustus Caesar.
Follow up: Can you give me three facts about him?
6. What were some of the factors that led to the decline of the Roman Empire?