Bluebonnet Learning
K–5 Reading Language Arts

ENGLISH

STORIES OF ANCIENT ROME



GRADE 3 UNIT 4 | READER

EDITION 1

Grade 3 | Unit 4

Stories of Ancient Rome

Reader

Acknowledgement:

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AFRICA

Chapter

1 Rome, Then and Now

"This is Rome," said Mrs. Teachwell, pointing to a black dot on the classroom map.

"But this is Rome too," she added, as she traced a circle that was so large it seemed to touch all four sides of the map.

The students looked confused.

"How can it be both?" Charlie Chatter shouted out.

"I'll explain," Mrs. Teachwell said, "but please raise your hand if you would like to speak."

Charlie Chatter nodded. It was not the first time he had heard this. In fact, Mrs. Teachwell had asked him to raise his hand many times, but it was hard for Charlie. His mouth seemed to be faster than his hand.

"Rome started out as a little town along the Tiber River," Mrs. Teachwell explained.



Mrs. Teachwell and her students, looking at a map showing Rome

"Like Egypt on the Nile?" Charlie asked.

"Yes," said Mrs. Teachwell, "but let's see that hand!"

The students giggled.

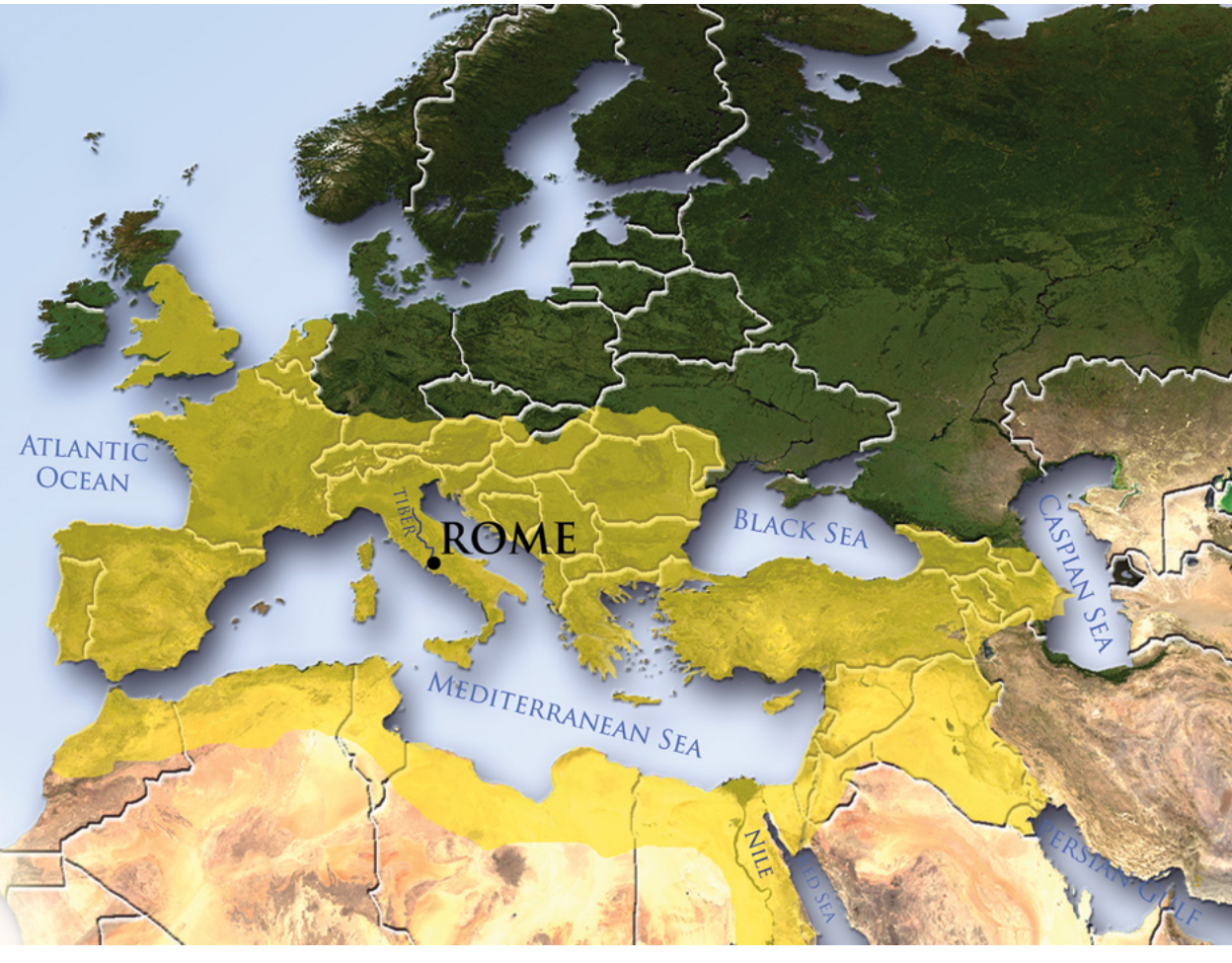
"As Charlie has just reminded us," Mrs. Teachwell said, "many **civilizations** spring up along the banks of a river. Rome was no exception. It sprang up here, on the banks of the Tiber River, among seven hills. At first, Rome was just a few houses on a hill. Then, it grew and grew and grew. After a while, people started building houses on other hills nearby. Then, the little towns on the hills grew together to make a big city. In fact, to this day, Rome is known as the 'City of Seven Hills.'

"Then, the Romans fought wars with their neighbors. The Romans won most of these wars. They **defeated** the Etruscans, who lived north of them. They **conquered** the Greeks, who had settled to the south, as well. It wasn't long before they controlled most of this piece of land that we call Italy."

Mrs. Teachwell traced the outline of Italy with her finger.



Present-day Rome and the Tiber River



A map of the ancient Roman ***civilization***

"Check it out!" Charlie Chatter shouted. "Italy looks like a boot!"

"Yes," said Mrs. Teachwell. "Italy does look like a boot, but please, Charlie, raise your hand! This is your last warning. Now, does anyone know what this body of water that the boot of Italy sticks out into is called?"

Rachel Readmuch, who always had her nose in a book, raised her hand. Mrs. Teachwell called on her.

"It's called the **Mediterranean**," said Rachel.

"That's right!" said Mrs. Teachwell. "This is the **Mediterranean** Sea. Rome grew so much that, at its **peak**, the Romans controlled all the land around the **Mediterranean** Sea. They took over most of Spain and France. They took over this area that we call the Balkans. They took over Greece and much of Turkey. They took over the Middle East, Egypt, and the coast of North Africa. Rome was a city, but that city was the capital of a great **empire**."

Tim Timetable, who loved to learn about when things happened, put up his hand.

"When was all this happening?"

"Rome started growing about two thousand five hundred years ago," Mrs. Teachwell explained. "It started growing about five hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ, in the years we call **BC** for *before Christ*. It was still growing when Jesus was born. In fact, Jesus was born here, in a part of the Middle East that was controlled by the Romans."

Tim Timetable made a note of the date.

Mrs. Teachwell went on: "We will be studying Rome for three weeks or so. Each day, we will have a report on a topic connected to ancient Rome. I'll give the first few reports. Then, each of you can do some research and give the next few. How does that sound?"

The kids cheered. They were **eager** to learn more about Rome. Rachel Readmuch already knew quite a lot. Tim Timetable had lots of questions about what happened when. As for Charlie Chatter, he was looking forward to the day when he would get to give his report. Then, he would get to talk without having to raise his hand first!



Parts of Roman buildings still remain today, even though they were built over two thousand years ago.

Chapter

2 Roman Mythology



Mrs. Teachwell's Report

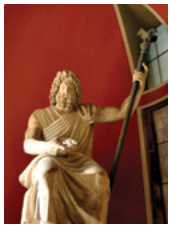
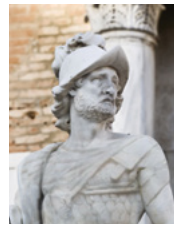
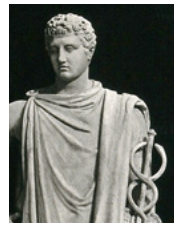
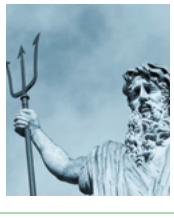
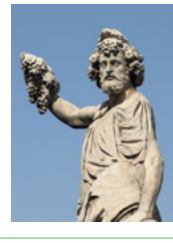
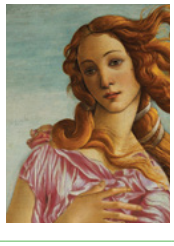
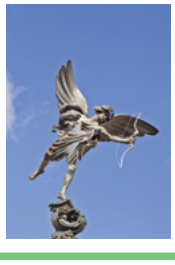
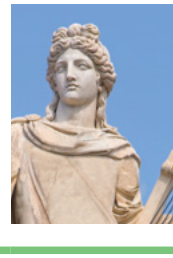
Let's learn about the mythical gods and goddesses of Rome.

In the early part of Rome, the empire promoted a belief in many gods.

In many ways, these mythical Roman gods acted like human beings. They ate and drank. They played tricks on each other. They fell in love and got into fights. But there was one main way in which the gods were not like human beings: the gods were **immortal**. Human beings might live for many years. Some might even live to be one hundred. Eventually, though, they would die. The Romans believed that the mythical gods, on the other hand, lived forever.

The Romans' ideas about their mythical gods were similar to the ancient Greeks. In fact, they believed in many of the same gods as the Greeks, but they called them by different names. The chart shows the Roman names for some mythical Greek gods you may already know.

Characters in Mythology

Greek Name		Roman Name	Greek Name		Roman Name
Zeus		Jupiter	Ares		Mars
Hera		Juno	Hermes		Mercury
Poseidon		Neptune	Dionysus		Bacchus
Aphrodite		Venus	Athena		Minerva
Eros		Cupid	Apollo		Apollo

The top mythical god, sometimes called the father of the **immortals**, was a strong, bearded figure. The Greeks called him Zeus. The Romans called him Jupiter.

Jupiter was portrayed as a mighty god. He carried a thunderbolt that he could throw at anyone who angered him. If Jupiter threw his thunderbolt at you, that was the end of you.

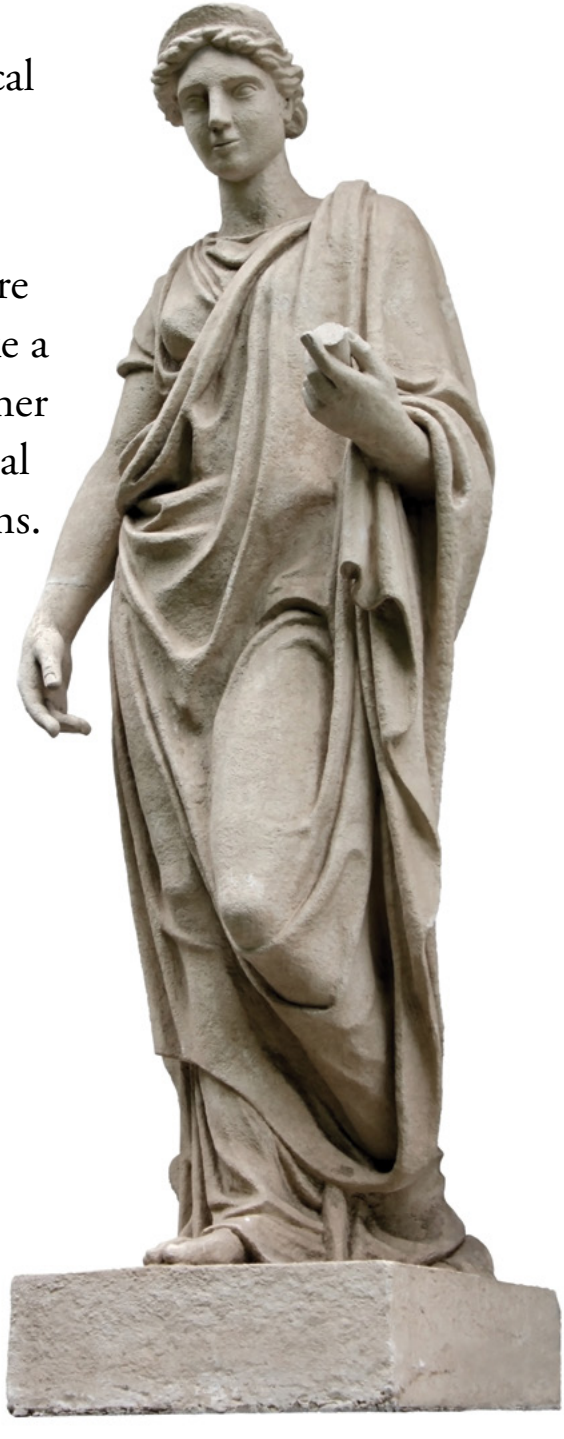
Jupiter lived on Mount Olympus with the other mythical gods.

Jupiter was the father of the immortals.



Juno was Jupiter's wife. She was the mythical goddess of marriage and the protector of wives.

The Roman gods were all related. They were like a big family. Jupiter's brother Neptune was the mythical god of the seas and oceans.



Juno, Jupiter's wife, was the mythical goddess of marriage.

There are many statues of Neptune. In most of them, he is holding a special, three-pronged spear called a trident. Neptune's trident had magical powers. He could use it to stir up storms and waves. He could also wave it over the stormy seas and make the **rough** seas smooth.

Roman sailors spoke to Neptune. "Great Neptune!" they said. "Send us good weather and smooth sailing!"



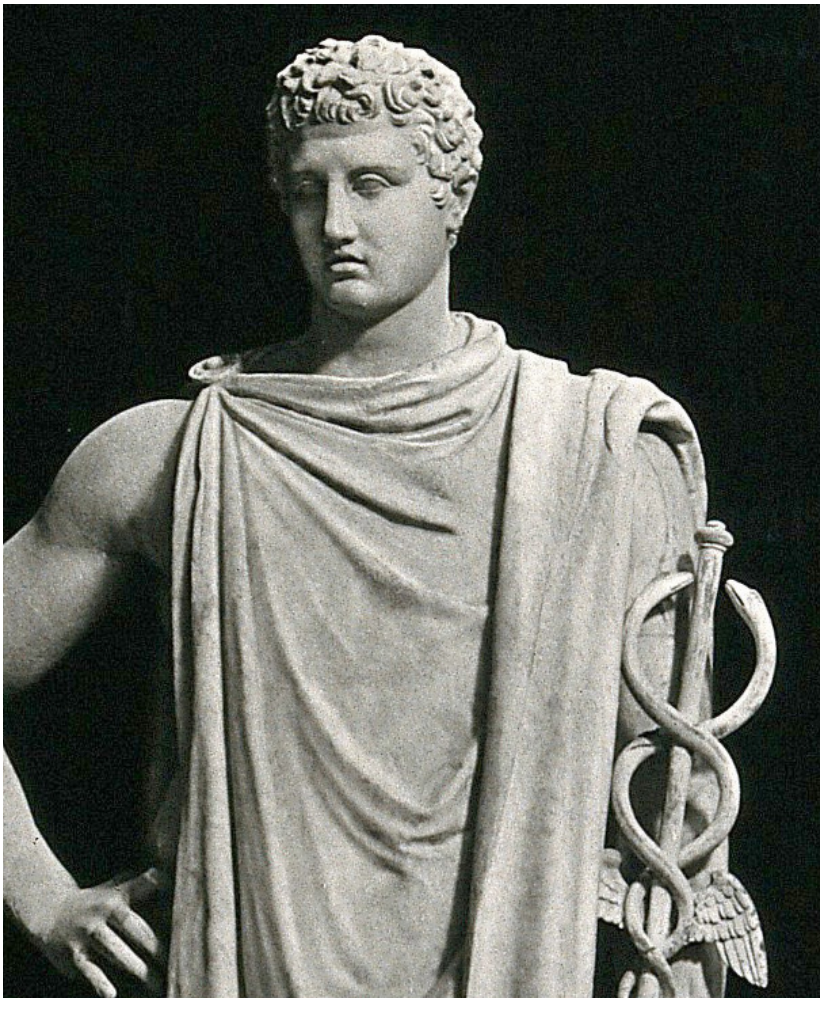
Neptune, the mythical god of the seas, with his magical trident

Mars was the mythical god of war. Soldiers would pray to him before a big battle. The Romans fought a lot of wars, so they spent a lot of time praying to Mars.



Mars was the mythical god of war.

Mercury was one of Jupiter and Juno's sons. He was the **messenger** of the mythical gods. He was as fast as a flash. In paintings, he is often shown with wings on his hat and his shoes, to show how fast he was.

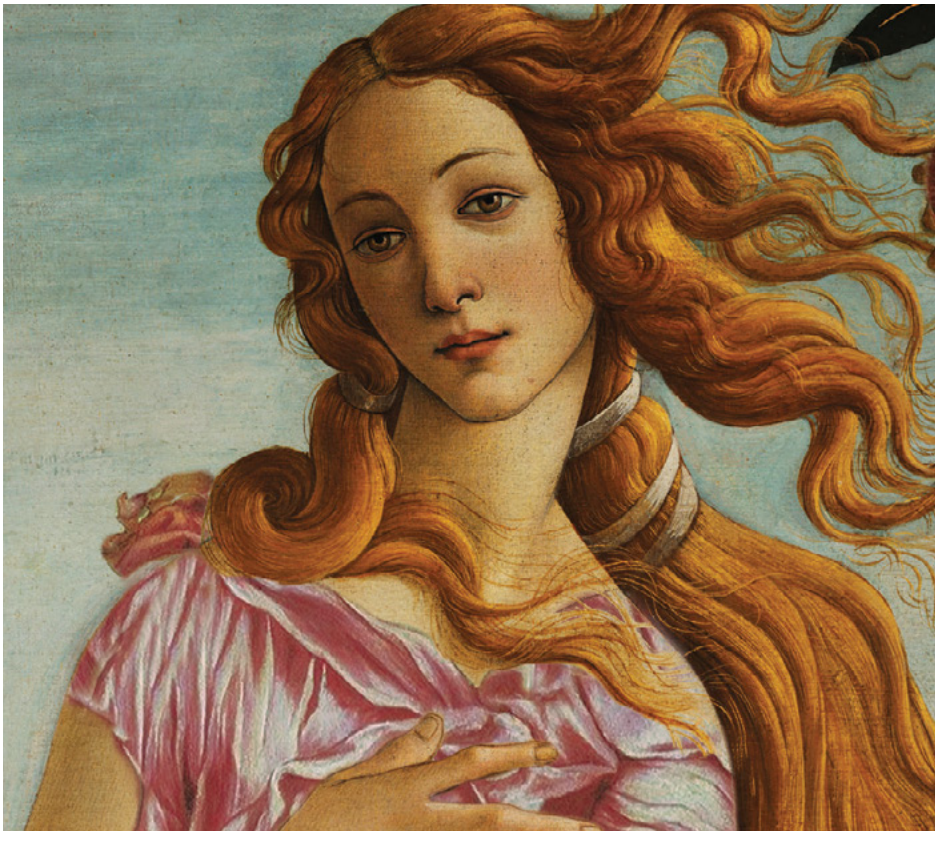


Mercury was the messenger of the mythical gods.

Venus was the mythical goddess of love. She was very beautiful.

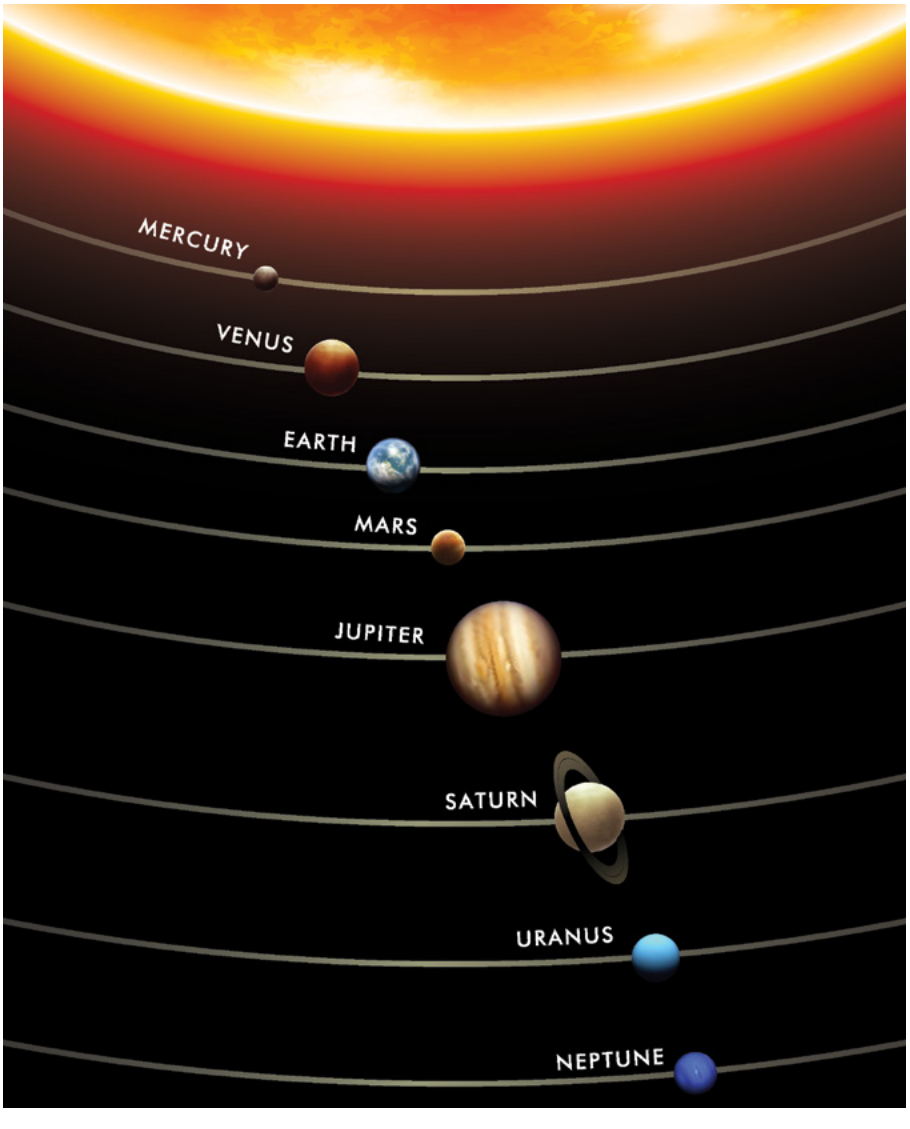
If Venus wanted someone to fall in love, she could send her son Cupid on a mission. Cupid would shoot the person with one of his magic arrows. The person would then fall in love with the first person he or she saw.

The myth of Cupid still provides entertainment today. You will see little Cupids all over the place on Valentine's Day, when we celebrate love.



Venus was the mythical goddess of love. She was also Cupid's mother.

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune are the names of planets in our solar system. These planets are named after the mythical Roman gods. For example, the planet Mars is named after Mars, the mythical Roman god of war.



The planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune are named after the mythical Roman gods and goddesses.

Vulcan was the blacksmith of the gods. He melted iron and other metals. Then, he shaped the metal to make a sword, a helmet, or a shield.

Vulcan was the mythical god of fire and volcanoes.



Apollo, the mythical god of the sun (right), talking to Vulcan, the mythical god of fire (left)

Apollo was the mythical god of the sun. He was also the god of music and poetry.

The Greeks and Romans both believed in the mythical god Apollo. He had a famous shrine at Delphi, in Greece. When the Greeks and Romans wanted advice, they would send **messengers** to Delphi. The priestess of Apollo would give them an answer. It was almost never a clear answer, though. Often, it was more like a riddle that they had to figure out on their own.



Apollo

Minerva was the mythical goddess of **wisdom**. She was also the goddess of crafts and weaving.

According to legend, Minerva was not born in the usual way. One day, Jupiter complained of a headache. Then—presto!—Minerva sprang, fully grown, from his head.

Minerva's special animal was the owl. Sometimes she was painted with an owl perched on her shoulder.



Minerva springing forth from Jupiter's head

Diana was the mythical goddess of the moon. She was also the goddess of the hunt. In statues, she is often shown as a young girl, with a bow and arrow. Sometimes, the sculptor will also show one of her dogs or a deer.



Diana was the mythical goddess of the moon and the hunt.

Bacchus was the Roman mythical god of grapes. He was followed by women and satyrs, who were half man and half goat.

A famous story tells how pirates tried to kidnap Bacchus. That was a big mistake. The mythical god transformed himself into a lion. He turned the boat into a lush garden. As for the pirates, he changed them into dolphins and sent them splashing away in the ocean.



Bacchus, the mythical Roman god of grapes

Chapter 3

The Punic Wars



Rachel Readmuch's Report

Read-Aloud

Imagine you are a solider in the Roman army. Your army is called the Roman Legion, and you are a legionary. You are wearing heavy, thick armor and a helmet with flaps to protect your head and face during fights. If you are one of Rome's finest soldiers, you are wearing a helmet with a furry strip on top. Besides your armor, you have a shield, a spear, and a short sword.



Legionary

You have learned to march in perfect step with hundreds of other legionaries. You have faced many enemies in battle, and you are prepared to fight for Rome. Since the founding of the Roman Republic, you and other legionaries have proudly fought to expand Rome's power and **influence**.



Roman territory and Carthaginian territory

Rome is no longer just a city. Through the years it has expanded to include the majority of the area known as present-day Italy. Dozens of kingdoms and other areas have been absorbed by the Roman Republic. Some have resisted and fought Rome's growing power, only to fall before the mighty Roman legions. Other kings have accepted Roman rule and have become wealthy patrician citizens.

Now you are preparing to fight a new enemy. This enemy comes from across the **Mediterranean**. They are called the Carthaginians, and their goal is to destroy Rome itself! The Carthaginians, or the people of Carthage, are from North Africa. There, they have built a **vast civilization**, even larger and richer than the Roman Republic.



City of Carthage

Carthage is the trading center of the known world. By land and by sea, most traded goods from the **exotic**, or unfamiliar, lands to the East—Mesopotamia, Persia, India—pass through Carthaginian territory on their way to Rome or wherever else they may be headed. Perhaps a **conflict** between the powers of Rome and Carthage is unavoidable. Two growing **civilizations** may only share the same sea and land for so long. As Rome has expanded through Italy, Carthage has expanded throughout North Africa and across the sea to present-day Spain. This rivalry between these two expanding **civilizations** has led to several battles which have become known as the Punic Wars.

Imagine you and your legion are preparing for a battle with the Carthaginians. You are practicing a formation called the *testudo* [tess-*too*-doh], or turtle. You and your fellow legionaries gather closely and lock your shields together. Hopefully, this will give you some protection from the hundreds of Carthaginian arrows that are sure to come your way in battle.

You have not had much time to prepare. Two days ago, you and your legion were preparing to be shipped off to fight on the island of Sicily, just off the shores of Italy, which the Carthaginians are trying to claim as their own. Then, out of nowhere, your general announced that a mighty army was invading Rome from the north, something you and your fellow soldiers believed to be impossible!



Roman soldiers training in fighting formation (testudo)

This mighty invading army of soldiers from Carthage is led by a general named Hannibal. Hannibal and his troops are coming from Spain. In order to **invade** Italy from the north, Hannibal and his army would need to cross the Alps. These mountains stretch throughout northern Italy, and you and the other Romans have always felt safe believing that no invading army could possibly cross these **peaks**. You and your fellow soldiers were wrong, and now you and the Roman Legion must prepare to defend your homeland.

It is not going to be easy. You believe you are a better soldier than any Carthaginian, but you don't really know because you have never faced one in battle. You have no idea what this army from Carthage will look like, but you know they must be strong if they were able to climb



Italian Alps



Hannibal with elephants

those mountains. You have heard rumors that, aside from many thousands of soldiers, the Carthaginians are bringing some kind of terrible monsters to the fight!

Okay, let's take a break now from pretending to be a Roman legionary. Hannibal, the Carthaginian general, really did cross the frozen Italian Alps with a huge army. And he really did bring monsters! Well, the Romans thought they were monsters, but do you see what they actually were? Elephants! The Romans had never seen elephants before. Elephants are not only very big and very strong—they are also very smart. The Carthaginians used that size, strength, and intelligence to their advantage in war.

One of the reasons the Romans had been able to expand so quickly through Italy and beyond was because they were excellent fighters. Roman soldiers were highly **disciplined**, meaning that they obeyed orders and were more determined to win for Rome than to survive. The main part of the Roman army consisted of heavily-armored soldiers. They were the foot soldiers, or infantry. The infantry was supported by cavalry, soldiers on horseback like the ones in this image. They marched shoulder-to-shoulder toward the enemy and won because they stayed together instead of panicking and running away.



Roman army units, infantry supported by cavalry bracing for attack



Romans losing to elephants

At least, they didn't usually run away scared, but that's exactly what they did the first time they encountered Hannibal and his war elephants! The Roman legions were terrified by the elephants, in addition to the thousands of soldiers Hannibal had marched through the mountains. The Roman cavalry was no match for Hannibal's elephants, which stomped and trampled everything in sight. In fact, the horses were too smart to even try to attack the elephants, no matter what the soldiers did!



Hannibal frustrated with failed attacks, hearing news that some Romans are going to Carthage

At first, it seemed as though Hannibal would have no problem marching his army and elephants all the way to Rome. Unfortunately for Hannibal, the Romans were clever. Instead of trying to **defeat** Hannibal's army in an open battle all at once, the Romans **harassed**, or repeatedly attacked, them in small groups, escaping before the rest of the Carthaginians knew what was happening.

Hannibal had hoped to crush the Roman army in an attack on northern Rome in one easy battle, but instead he found himself roaming around the Italian countryside trying to find enough food to feed thousands of hungry soldiers and a couple dozen elephants. Believe it or not, this went on for nearly sixteen years! Toward the end of

this war, the Romans put together another army and set sail for Carthage to fight the Third Punic War. When Hannibal heard the news that some of the Romans were headed to Carthage, he was forced to hurry home. Instead of destroying Rome, he ended up racing home to try to defend Carthage from the Romans.

During these three Punic Wars, which lasted more than one hundred years, Rome and Carthage fought for ultimate control of the **Mediterranean** Sea and all the land surrounding it. The Punic Wars did not turn out well for the Carthaginians. Eventually, the Romans sacked Carthage, meaning they took everything of value and destroyed the rest. They also took many Carthaginians as slaves. As a result of winning the Punic Wars, Rome gained control of nearly every bit of land around the **Mediterranean**. This was the beginning of one of the most powerful **empires** in all of history.



*Romans **defeating** Carthaginians at Carthage*

Chapter

4 Hannibal Crosses the Alps



Tim Timetable's Report

The Romans faced many enemies, but the strongest and most determined enemy they ever faced was an African general named Hannibal.

Hannibal came from Carthage, a city on the coast of Africa. Carthage was home to many merchants and traders. Carthage also had an army and a navy. The Carthaginians took over much of North Africa and Spain. They even took over islands off the coast of Italy.

The Romans saw Carthage as a **rival**. They fought three wars against Carthage. These wars are known as the Punic Wars and are thought to have been fought during the years 264–146 BC.



Map of Roman and Carthaginian territories

Hannibal's father fought against Rome in the First Punic War, 264–241 BC. He made his son swear he would carry on the fight against Rome. Hannibal swore he would and kept his promise. It was Hannibal who led the fight against Rome in the Second Punic War, 218–201 BC.

Hannibal gathered an army in Spain. He had tens of thousands of foot soldiers. He had thousands more who fought on horseback. Best of all, he had his special forces: a squad of elephants. Hannibal had learned that few men are brave enough to stand and fight when they see a thundering herd of elephants coming their way.

Hannibal wanted to attack Rome. However, to **invade** Italy, he would have to march his army over a range of mountains called the Alps. The Alps were tall. The **peaks** were covered with snow and ice. There were no big roads that led across. There were only a few slippery paths.



Hannibal gathering his army to cross over the Alps

Most men would not have tried to cross the mountains, but Hannibal was not like most men. He marched his army over the mountains. His men suffered terribly. They experienced rock slides, avalanches, and freezing temperatures. Many of the elephants did not make it across. In the end, though, Hannibal got his army across the mountains and into Italy.

In Italy, Hannibal went on the attack. He beat the Romans at Trebbia [TREB-bee-ə] in 218 BC. Then, he wiped out an entire Roman army at the Battle of Trasimene [TRAZ-i-meen] in 217 BC. The Romans lost 15,000 men. The Battle of Cannae [CAN-ie] was even worse. The Romans lost at least 50,000 men, including 80 of their 300 senators.

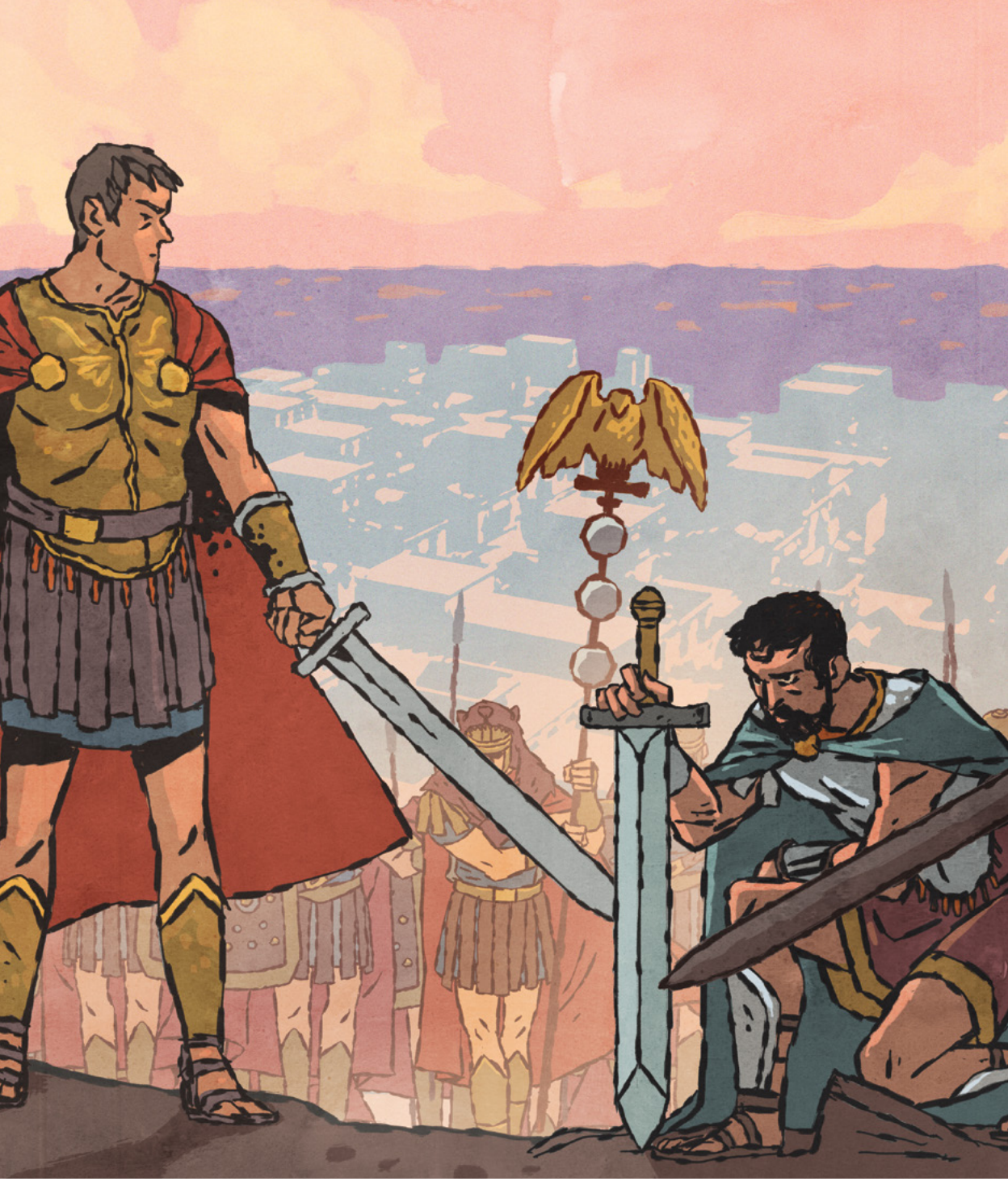


Hannibal and his troops won several battles against the Romans.

People thought that might be the beginning of the end for Rome. They did not see how the Romans could go on. But the Romans did go on. They raised another army and sent it out to stop Hannibal. This time, the Romans avoided big battles. Instead, they fought a lot of little battles. They attacked Hannibal's army here and there. They blocked his troops and slowed down his marches. They also launched a **counter-attack**. A Roman general named Scipio [SKIP-ee-oe] took Roman troops to Africa. The leaders of Carthage wrote to Hannibal. They told him to come home and protect Carthage.

Hannibal did as he was told. He left Italy and returned to Carthage. At the Battle of Zama, he **confronted** Scipio. This time, the Romans were **victorious**. Hannibal won most of the battles in the Second Punic War but he lost the war.

After the Battle of Zama in 202 BC, Carthage was never quite the same. They fought another war against Rome—the Third Punic War in the years 149–146 BC—but it was clear that Carthage was sinking, and Rome was on the rise.



Hannibal surrendered to Scipio in Zama.

Chapter 5

Daily Roman Life



Rachel Readmuch's Report

Read-Aloud

With Carthage **conquered** and the Punic Wars finished, there was nothing to stop the spread of Roman power. Rome became the heart of the **Mediterranean** world. The Romans realized that they no longer needed to worry about growing and producing all their own food. Instead, they could **import** wheat, olives, and other basic foods from other countries. Then, Roman farmers could focus on raising only the crops they wanted.

Ancient Rome became a major center of trade. Goods from all over the known world flowed through its Roman ports, and in the process, Rome became rich beyond compare. The city grew at a rapid rate. It must have been astonishing to be there and to witness all the workers who were involved in building the Colosseum, the Forum, the temples, and all the other buildings you see in this picture.



Model of Rome

Someone built this model out of clay, and some of the buildings are probably about as big as a pencil eraser. This model is based on what we estimate Rome would have looked like two thousand years ago, based on old Roman maps, drawings, and writings, as well as the hard work of archaeologists in discovering these items. To the right of the center of the image, you can see the Colosseum. The long, oval structure in lower left of the image is called the Circus Maximus. This model gives you a good idea of some of the places a Roman child might have seen as he or she explored the city.

So, what would it have been like to be born and raised in the city of Rome? Depending on who you were, you might live very different lives. Let's imagine that you are a child in a plebeian family. Plebeian families were a class of common people who were not as wealthy as the upper classes. You live



Roman family in their apartment

with your mother, father, sister, and brother in a small apartment near the center of the city, not far from the great Colosseum. Your apartment building is crowded and noisy. In your plebeian family's apartment, there is smoke from ovens and open fires in the courtyards where women bake and cook. They are not allowed to cook in their apartments for fear of burning down the whole building.

On warm summer mornings, you and your friends like to go to the bridge across the Tiber River and wave to your father and the other merchants as they return from the docks on their way back into the city. Your father dreams of becoming a wealthy merchant one day, but right now he only owns one little boat. Each morning, he and his partners row out to the docks, where the big ships unload their exotic goods. Your father buys goods from

Children watching their father captain his boat up the Tiber





Roman children at their lessons

the merchants on the ships and then he resells the goods in other places in the city.

After the boats pass, you and your friends hurry home for your daily lessons. Like most other plebeian children, you are educated at home instead of going to school. You are taught to read and write in Latin. You are taught good manners and proper behavior. You learn about Roman gods, Rome's history, and what it means to be a proud Roman citizen. You also learn about your culture: the traditional songs, dances, and recipes.



***Mosaic** of Virgil*

You like learning about Roman history and poetry, especially the work of a poet named Virgil. You heard a poem by Virgil one time, and this line

stuck in your head: "Fortune **favors** the brave." This line is very important for Romans. It means that you need to be brave—willing to take risks and try new things—if you want to have good fortune, or luck. You know from the stories your mother and father have told you that Rome became successful because of many brave Roman citizens who came before you.

Now, let's imagine that you are a child in a patrician family. Patricians were very wealthy Romans. Like most patrician families, you live in a large house known in Latin as a domus [/doh*moos/]. The domus has several stories with enough rooms for your large household: mother, father, children, grandparents, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. It is common to find the family gathered in the atrium, a large open space in the middle



Patrician family in atrium

of the domus. An atrium features a skylight, or hole in the roof, which creates a bright atmosphere and helps air circulate through the house. If you look closely at the floor, you can see a shallow pool of water in the middle of the atrium. This pool is there to collect rainwater because there is no way to close the skylight.

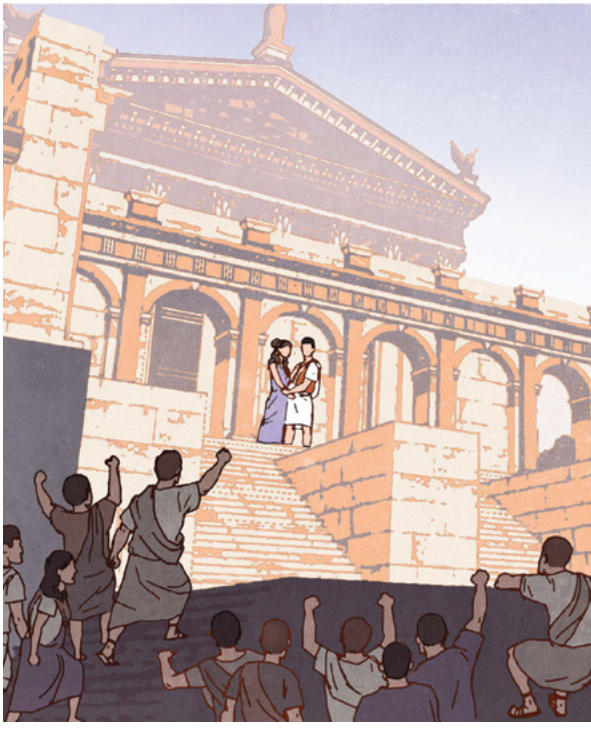
Although plebeian families had opportunities to make money and own property, life was not easy. Because Rome relied so much on grain shipments being imported from across the sea, sometimes there was a food **shortage**. War and bad weather sometimes delayed those food shipments from arriving at the wharves, and Rome would suddenly become an angry city of thousands of hungry people. Disease was a big problem, too. Romans worked hard to try to keep the city clean, but it was impossible with so many people.

The patricians controlled the majority of the trade, money, and government in Rome. There were not as many patricians as there were plebeians. As time passed, the ordinary people of Rome began to understand that they had power in their numbers. People were most often upset when there were food shortages. This always made the patricians very nervous due to large groups of plebeians coming together to voice their concerns. These times could be chaotic for everyone involved.



Romans waiting for grain ships

The wealthy Romans came up with a plan that is sometimes called "bread and circuses." They wanted to distract people from their problems by staging amazing spectacles. This was part of the reason why buildings like the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum were built. Just when the mobs were starting to get restless and wanting to start a riot, the Senate and other patricians would pay for a couple weeks of games to distract unhappy citizens.



Worried patrician watching an angry mob



Circus Maximus

Usually these games involved **chariot** races and circus tricks involving trained animals, acrobats, jugglers, and other entertainers. If you have ever been to a circus under a "big top" tent, you can thank the Romans, because they were one of the first to do it.

When you walk through the city, you can hear the cheers of the crowd in the Colosseum echoing through the city whenever events are happening. The Colosseum is a huge amphitheater that seats 50,000 people. Not too long ago, your father took you to see your first chariot

The ruins of the Colosseum as it appears today. In ancient times, the Romans came to the Colosseum to see battles between people and animals.



race at the Circus Maximus.

The Circus Maximus is a great big racetrack in the middle of the city. When you see the chariots **sauntering** down the city street, you don't think anything of it—they're just men standing on two-wheeled wagons being pulled by horses at a slow and relaxing pace. But these chariots seem completely different when you see them racing around the track at the Circus Maximus. Chariots pulled by horses can move extremely fast! The driver, called a charioteer, stands on a wheeled platform and clings to the reins, hoping that he can keep control. As the charioteers quickly round the curves in the racetrack, everyone holds their breath to see if they can remain upright.



Charioteers racing in the Circus Maximus

The city is full of opportunities for acquiring wealth, new knowledge, and new experiences. Even though you were born and raised in the vibrant city of Rome, you are still amazed every day by all the things you see and do. Your favorite place to relax is on a little patch of grass near the Temple of Apollo on one of the seven hills where Rome got its start. There, you sit and



*Children admiring the **aqueduct***

admire the **aqueduct**. This beautiful structure supported by arches carries fresh, clean water from the mountains into the city. **Aqueducts** use gravity and pressurized pipes to help the water flow through them. The water comes from mountains, and because the water is higher than the city, the water flows downhill through the channels of the **aqueducts** with the help of gravity.

The **aqueduct** is just one of many **ingenious** accomplishments—in addition to road networks, sewer and heating systems, and beautiful structures such as the Colosseum and Pantheon—that surround Rome and make you proud to be a Roman citizen. Think about life in Rome from your Roman perspective. You lived in an incredible city, and had all kinds of opportunities, but life was still

very hard. War, disease, and hunger were always life's obstacles. Medicines and medical care such as we know today did not exist in ancient Rome. The Roman legions marched all over the world, with countless Roman soldiers never to be seen or heard from again. For all their inventions and immense power, the Romans could not change the fact that their lives were uncertain and dangerous.

Roman ***aqueduct***



Chapter 6

The Sword of Damocles



Dave King's Report

Have you ever wished you were a king? Does that seem like the best job a person could have? Well, before you decide for sure, listen to this legend that was made famous by the Roman writer Cicero [SIS-er-oe] more than two thousand years ago.

Damocles [DA-mə-kleez] was a friend of Dionysius [die-ə-NIS-ee-us], the king of Syracuse, a city in southern Italy. Damocles **envied** his friend. He believed that the king had a very good life. He had all the riches and power he could want. What could be better?

"You think I'm lucky?" Dionysius said to him one day. "If you think so, let's trade places. You sit here, on the throne. Try it for just one day. Then, tell me if you still think I'm lucky."

Damocles accepted his friend's invitation. He was **eager** to live the life of a king.



Damocles accepting Dionysius's invitation to be king for one day

When the day came, Damocles ordered servants to bring him fine robes. He had them set out a great **banquet**. He ordered expensive food and fine music. He sat back, sure that he was the happiest man in the world.

Then, he looked up. He caught his breath in fear. Above his head was a sword. It was **dangling** from the ceiling, held by a single strand of horse's hair. Damocles could not speak. He could not eat. He could not enjoy the music. He could not even move.

"What is the matter, my friend?" asked Dionysius.

"How can I **conduct** my life with that sword hanging above me?" Damocles asked.

"How indeed?" answered Dionysius. "Now you know how it feels to be king. That sword hangs over my head every minute of every day. There is always the chance the thread will break. An **advisor** may turn on me. An enemy spy may attack me. I might make an unwise decision that brings my **downfall**. You see, my friend, with power comes danger."



Damocles sits on the throne of King Dionysius, with the sword dangling from the ceiling.

Chapter

7 Julius Caesar: Great Fighter, Great Writer



Mrs. Teachwell's Report

After the Punic Wars, generals started to play a big part in Roman history. Roman generals went all around the **Mediterranean**, fighting battles and **conquering** new lands. Some of these generals became heroes. Some of them got to be so famous and so popular that they **threatened** to take over the republic. That's what happened with Julius Caesar.

Julius Caesar came from an old Roman family. He was proud and ambitious, with a high opinion of himself.

When he was a young man, Caesar was captured by pirates. The pirates told him they would kill him unless he could pay a **ransom** of twenty **talents**. Caesar laughed at them. He told them they clearly didn't know what sort of man they had captured. He was Julius Caesar. He was not a man to be **ransomed** for just twenty **talents**! Caesar told the pirates he would not allow himself to be **ransomed** for less than fifty **talents**!



Caesar told the pirates he was worth a larger ***ransom****.*

Caesar told his friends to raise the money. He stayed with the pirates, writing poems. He read some of his poems to the pirates. They shrugged. They didn't care much for poetry. They were pirates, not poets. They just wanted to collect the **ransom** money. Caesar got angry at the pirates. He scolded them for not liking his poems. He told them they had no taste. He told them they were **barbarians**. He told them someday he would come back and punish them for their bad taste. The pirates thought Caesar was joking. Maybe they thought he was crazy. At any rate, as soon as they got the **ransom** money, they quickly forgot about him. But Caesar did not forget about them. He went back to Rome, got some ships, and hired some good fighters. Then, he tracked down the pirates and punished them.

Caesar quickly established himself as a man who knew what to do with his sword and also with his pen. Once, he was sent to Asia. The people there were in **revolt**. Caesar led a Roman army there and put down the **revolt**. Then, he got out his pen to write his report. The normal thing would have been to write a long report, filling several pages, but that was not Caesar's style.



Caesar quickly became known as a brave and determined soldier.

This is the report Caesar sent back to Rome:

Veni, vidi, vici. [wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE]

That's the whole report. Those three words—written in **Latin**, the language of ancient Rome—mean, "I came, I saw, I **conquered**." What else was there to say? Mission accomplished!

Caesar led an army into the land the Romans called Gaul. Today, we call it France. Gaul was not part of the Roman **civilization** when Caesar marched in, but it was when he marched out a few years later. Caesar **conquered** it. Then, he wrote a book about how he did it. The first sentence in his book is famous.

It is written in **Latin**. In English, the words mean, "The whole of Gaul is divided into three parts."

If you ever study **Latin**, you may have a chance to read Caesar's book on the Gallic Wars. It's so clear and so well-written that teachers all around the world still use it to teach **Latin** to students.



Caesar writing about his conquest of Gaul

Chapter

8 Julius Caesar



Mrs. Teachwell's Report

Read-Aloud



Statue of Julius Caesar

You will hear the name Julius Caesar, or just Caesar, throughout your life. You may have already heard this name many times. Julius Caesar is one of the most famous Romans who ever lived. His full name was Gaius [*guy*-es] Julius Caesar, and he was born in 100 BC, when the Roman Republic was a little more than 400 years old.

Julius Caesar became a soldier at a young age. Originally, he was nominated to become a priest of Jupiter, which was a very powerful religious position in Rome. However, a **feud** erupted between his family and another important patrician family. As a result, Julius Caesar left Rome and joined the army instead.



Young Julius Caesar as a soldier

Julius Caesar was a fine soldier, and he soon became well known throughout the army. For his bravery, he was awarded a Civic Crown, which was a simple crown made of oak leaves. A Civic Crown was a very important honor and represented a soldier's bravery. Only very important Romans earned the right to wear one.



Young Julius Caesar wearing the Civic Crown

After a few years in the army, Julius Caesar returned to Rome and became involved in politics. The word *politics* refers to the activities involved in running a government. In a republic, making laws, going to war, collecting taxes, and other government actions all require agreement between various people in the government. In Rome, the consuls, senators, and other Roman officials all had to work together to try to solve problems.

However, when it came to governing the areas Rome controlled, there were always disagreements about what the role of government should be. In order to get things done, politicians formed an **alliance** with other politicians who agreed with them.



Young Julius Caesar in politics

In Roman politics, there was power in numbers. If a group of politicians formed an **alliance**, then together they had an easier time convincing other people to go along with them.

Julius Caesar formed a political **alliance** with another soldier, a very rich man named Pompey [*pom*-pee]. Together, they set out to gain the things they wanted, such as land and power. Julius Caesar was elected to a number of special political offices, even though he had as many enemies as he had friends. He worked his way up the political ladder until he finally became one of the two consuls at the top of the government.

Remember, the consuls had a great deal of power. To keep some of that power under control, the two consuls worked together with a process of checks and balances: They could not take any action until both consuls agreed. If one consul wanted a new law to be passed, and the other consul did not like the law, then the two of them would have to **negotiate** and **compromise** and make whatever changes were necessary in order to come to an agreement.

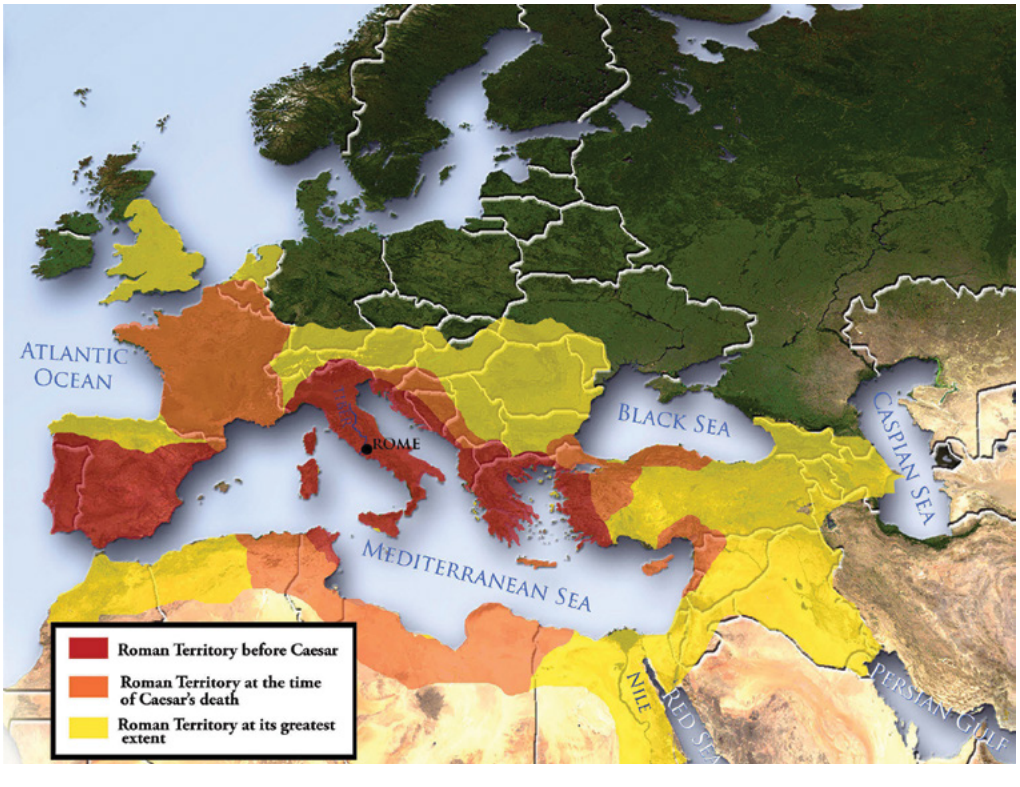
Consuls served for just one year. After that, they often became proconsuls. Proconsuls were often governors of provinces, the lands beyond Italy that the

Consuls



Roman army had **conquered**. The red areas on this map show Roman territory around the time of Julius Caesar's birth in 100 BC, shortly after the end of the Punic Wars. You can see that after the Punic Wars, Rome controlled most of the land around the **Mediterranean** Sea.

After his term as consul, Julius Caesar became proconsul of a number of provinces to the north and east of Italy. Julius Caesar was in charge of Rome's northern frontier. As proconsul, he had a number of Roman legions at his command, and decided that his job was to use his armies to expand Roman territory farther to



Map of Roman expansion during Caesar's rule

the north. In these northern provinces, the Romans built roads, towns, and temples. One of Caesar's jobs as proconsul was to protect Roman property in these areas. Julius Caesar decided it would be a good idea if he went out and **conquered** these lands for Rome.

The only problem was that the areas he wanted to **conquer** were full of what were considered by some as **barbarians**. That is what many Romans called some of the people who didn't speak their language and who had a different culture than theirs. The Romans did not consider these people to be an advanced society because they did not have roads, **aqueducts**, massive marble **arenas**, or temples. The Romans considered these people to be uncultured. To someone accustomed to the sights

Proconsul Julius Caesar looking over northern territory making plans, map of areas visible



and sounds of the vibrant city of Rome and all that Roman **civilization** had to offer, the homes and lifestyles of those outside of Rome may have seemed **crude**, or unpolished. To the common Roman mind, they would be doing these "**barbarians**" a **favor** by **conquering** them and forcing them to adopt Roman ways and culture.

The people to the north of Rome that the Romans considered **barbarians** could basically be put into two categories: the Gauls and the Germanic tribes. The Gauls lived in the area of present-day France, and the Germanic tribes were spread across a large area of central and northern Europe. Julius Caesar first turned his attention to the Gauls. He spent much of the next ten years fighting to **conquer** and control Gaul, but it seemed there was always another Gallic or Germanic tribe ready to rise up and fight Roman expansion.



Gauls

There were many Gallic tribes, each following its own king, or chieftain, and its own set of laws and customs.



Caesar writing his memoirs of Gallic victories

The Gauls' way of life was more sophisticated than the Romans expected. The Gallic tribes often traded and cooperated with each other; they had their own money, their own religion, and their own traditional stories, songs, and dances.

At the time when Julius Caesar was given the province of Gaul as a proconsul, he needed money to make things happen and to become further recognized. He also needed to show that he was not someone to be pushed around by his enemies. He looked at Gaul as a wonderful opportunity—a massive area of land and people to **conquer**! He hoped that because they all answered to their own chieftains, the Gauls would be easy to divide and **conquer**.

Chapter

9 Julius Caesar: The Later Years



Mrs. Teachwell's Report

Read-Aloud

As you heard in the previous Read-Aloud, Gallic soldiers were not able to put up much of a fight in some areas, and so Julius Caesar thought he was going to be able to **conquer** Gaul quite easily. The Romans thought the people in Gaul were **uncivilized**, and they wanted to **conquer** them so they would adopt Roman ways and culture. But the Gauls, led by a powerful Gallic chieftain named Vercingetorix [ver-sin-*gett*-oh-ricks], rose up and rebelled against him. Vercingetorix united several powerful Gallic tribes, and for a few months it appeared as though the Gauls might be able to succeed against this Roman **conqueror**.



Vercingetorix leading the rebellion against Caesar



Roman military technology

Unfortunately for the Gauls, Julius Caesar and his legions would not be easy to **defeat**. Caesar's men would follow him anywhere. Julius Caesar was loved by soldiers because he **favored** being out in front of his army, fighting alongside the common soldiers. His men respected him for it, even though it may have terrified them to see their leader so close to danger.

Aside from being courageous, Julius Caesar was a brilliant commander. He kept up with the latest in Roman technology, and his armies fielded weapons that the Gauls had never imagined. Julius Caesar **favored** the ballista in battle, which was like a giant catapult or crossbow used to throw weapons. The Gauls were terrified when they faced the ballista on the battlefield.

Julius Caesar put all his technology to use during one particular **siege**, the battle in which he finally **defeated** Vercingetorix. A **siege** is a long, drawn-out battle in which one army has retreated behind the **fortress** walls of its city, and the other army surrounds the fortress and tries to break in. A **siege** could take months or even years to **resolve**. If the one army could not break down the city walls or climb over them, then they would wait until the defenders in the city ran out of food or water.

Thanks to the ballista and other weapons used in battle, Julius Caesar was able to force the Gallic chieftain Vercingetorix to surrender. Vercingetorix spent several years in jail, and was killed when Caesar finally returned to Rome.

Statue of Vercingetorix





Caesar's triumphant procession into Rome

When he returned to Rome, Julius Caesar threw a military parade for himself called a triumph. In this parade, Gallic warriors were in chains. Commander Julius Caesar and his soldiers marched around Rome, showing off prizes and basking in cheers and applause from the citizens of Rome. While Julius Caesar had many admirers, he still had many enemies. To his enemies' horror, Julius Caesar had returned to Rome more powerful than ever!



Caesar at the Rubicon

Before marching his army into Rome, Julius Caesar had led his legions across the Rubicon River in northern Italy and then south into the city of Rome. Marching an army into Rome was against an old Roman law. By crossing the Rubicon River, Caesar was perceived as a **threat** who might try to take over the government. Julius Caesar knew that what he had done would start a **civil war**. This meant that Romans were going to fight against each other. When Caesar crossed the Rubicon River, Caesar said, "The die is cast," meaning that he knew exactly what would happen if he crossed the Rubicon, and he was ready to see if Fortuna would **favor** his bravery.



Pompey

Caesar's old ally Pompey was now his greatest enemy. Pompey did not like all the power and glory Caesar had. Pompey raised an army of his own to fight Caesar. It was a **civil war** that lasted

several years. Through it all, Julius Caesar remained a hero to most plebeians. During his time in Roman politics, Caesar preferred passing laws that **favored** the lowly over the rich in Roman society and members of the Senate. In the end, Caesar's army won the **civil war**. Caesar unexpectedly had mercy on many of his other enemies within Rome. Rather than remove all of his enemies, as most ancient Roman leaders would have done, Caesar tried to heal the wounds of **civil war** by trying to unite Romans.

Caesar was now the **dictator** of Rome, meaning he was the main ruler who could make decisions without needing the approval of consuls. This was very different from the process of checks and balances which the Romans had relied upon to control the power of the consuls! Julius Caesar and his armies continued to **conquer** other lands, extending Rome's **influence** throughout nearly all of the **Mediterranean**. After one battle, Caesar famously claimed, "*Veni, vidi, vici*," [pronounced in Caesar's day as *way*-nee, *wee*-dee, *wee*-kee] meaning in **Latin**, "I came, I saw, I **conquered**."

Julius Caesar wanted to **import** wheat, among other things, from Egypt into Rome. Thanks to the lush farmland along the Nile, there was enough wheat



Caesar in Egypt with Cleopatra

in Egypt to feed all of Rome. Julius Caesar crossed the **Mediterranean** Sea to seize Egypt's wealth. Once there, however, Caesar met Queen Cleopatra and instead, he fell in love! Cleopatra was considered to be an extraordinary person. She was incredibly smart and clever. When Cleopatra walked into a room, everyone wanted to hear what she had to say.

Cleopatra was involved in her own political problems and **civil war** in Egypt. She was fighting her brother, Ptolemy [*tol*-uh-mee], for control of the Egyptian throne. Caesar helped her settle her problem by having Ptolemy killed. After Ptolemy's death, Cleopatra became queen of Egypt, and much-needed shipments of Egyptian wheat were soon exported to Rome.

Eventually, Caesar's enemies gained the upper hand. They worried that as Caesar became more powerful, he might declare himself king. Many members of the Senate became jealous and wanted to remove Caesar from power. In one of history's most famous deaths, Caesar was killed on the floor of the Roman Senate. It was the Ides of March—March 15, 44 BC.

Sixty Roman senators, led by Junius Brutus, secretly **plotted** to murder Caesar in the Roman Senate. According to legend, Julius Caesar's last words were "*Et tu, Brute*?" This means, "And you, Brutus?" Caesar was surprised to discover that Brutus, someone he considered an ally, was a part of the plan to murder him. For all the troubles he faced during his time as **dictator** of Rome, Julius Caesar died a hero in the eyes of most Roman people.

Caesar's assassination



Chapter

10 Julius Caesar: Crossing the Rubicon



Mrs. Teachwell's Report

After he **conquered** Gaul, Caesar started marching back to Rome. By this time, the Roman senators were very nervous about Caesar. They thought he might march into Rome and take over. The senators sent Caesar a message. They told him to stop and send his soldiers home. They ordered him not to cross the Rubicon River. If he did, they said he would not be treated as a hero. Instead, he would be treated as a **traitor** and an **invader**.

In the year 49 **BC**, Caesar crossed the Rubicon. He is said to have remarked in **Latin**, "The die is cast." That was his way of saying he knew he was taking a big risk. Crossing the Rubicon meant there was no turning back.



Caesar crossing the Rubicon with his troops

Caesar's actions led to a **civil war**—a war in which Romans fought against Romans. Caesar was the leader on one side. Pompey [POM-pee], another famous Roman general, was the leader on the other side. Caesar **defeated** Pompey and chased him to Egypt, where Pompey was killed.

When Caesar got to Egypt, he found another country tangled up in a **civil war**. The princess Cleopatra was trying to take power from her brother. Caesar sided with Cleopatra. He helped her become Queen of Egypt.

Caesar had big plans. He didn't think Rome was run the way it should be. He wanted to change a lot of things. He had the Senate pass new laws. He replaced the old calendar with the one we still use today. (Did you know that the month of July is named for Julius Caesar?)



Caesar met Cleopatra in Egypt and helped her become queen.

Caesar wanted to do more, but he felt he needed more power. He got himself appointed **dictator**. At first, he was appointed **dictator** for only one year. That was not so **unusual**. The Romans had chosen **dictators** in the past. A **dictator** could be put in power during times of trouble. But the **dictator** was only supposed to rule for a little while, until the troubles passed. That was not what Caesar had in mind. He had himself appointed **dictator** for ten years. That upset a lot of people. How do you think those people felt a little later, when Caesar had himself appointed **dictator** for life? That was really too much for some people. For hundreds of years, Rome had been a republic. Now, Caesar was setting himself up as a **dictator**. Perhaps, he even wanted to be a king. That was even more upsetting. The Romans had driven out the kings hundreds of years earlier.



*Caesar became **dictator** of Rome for life.*

A group of Romans agreed that Caesar was a **threat** to the republic. They stabbed him to death in the Senate.

Some of the men who stabbed Julius Caesar were men he considered friends. One of them, Brutus, was a man Caesar had treated almost like a son. How could these men kill Caesar? Brutus explained that it was not that he loved Caesar less, but that he loved Rome—and the Roman republic—more. Brutus and the other **conspirators** killed Caesar to save Rome. At least, that was the plan.



The senators who stabbed Caesar thought they were saving the Roman republic.

Chapter

11 Augustus Caesar and the Roman Empire



Mrs. Teachwell's Report

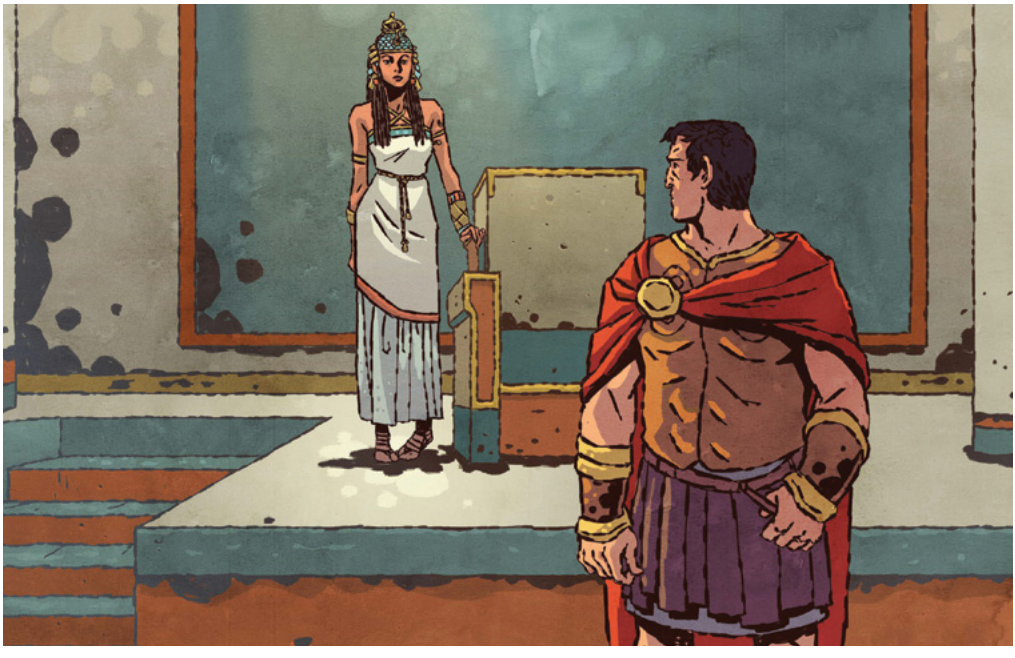
Read-Aloud

During his life, Julius Caesar had a few close friends, the closest of which was Marc Antony. Marc Antony was a general under Julius Caesar and helped in the **conquering** of Gaul. Julius Caesar did not have any sons that could take over his position as ruler of Rome. In his will, Julius Caesar adopted his eighteen-year-old great-nephew, Octavian, as his own son. After Caesar's death, Marc Antony and Octavian worked together to fight against Julius Caesar's enemies and **resolve** some of the **conflict** in the **empire**, at least for a while.



Marc Antony and Octavian busts

Marc Antony took it upon himself to make sure Rome and Egypt continued to be allies, because Rome needed to keep importing Egypt's wheat. Plus, Cleopatra's Egypt was a rich and powerful country with a strong

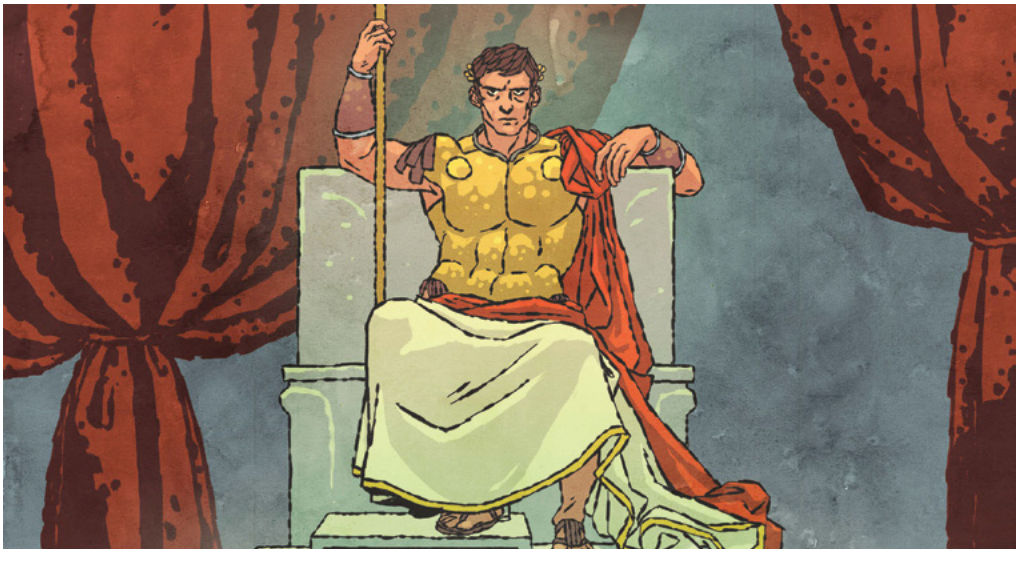


Cleopatra with Marc Antony

army—not as powerful as Rome, but still an important force in the **Mediterranean** area with which to have an **alliance**. Just as Julius Caesar had done, Marc Antony fell in love with Cleopatra, and she fell in love with him. In fact, they became one of the most famous couples in history. William Shakespeare, the playwright you heard about earlier who wrote the play *Julius Caesar*, wrote a play about this couple titled *Antony and Cleopatra*.

Marc Antony and Cleopatra became allies in a struggle for power with Octavian. Even though Marc Antony and Octavian had worked together in an **alliance** to end Rome's **civil war**, they eventually became enemies.

Octavian won the war against Marc Antony and Cleopatra. He went on to become the most powerful Roman leader at the time, with **influence** over most of the senators and generals. Octavian served as consul, proconsul, and in a number of other important roles, becoming a true Roman war hero just like his **predecessor**, Julius Caesar. Octavian managed to make more friends than enemies, unlike Julius Caesar. He was so popular and powerful that the Senate gave him a new name: Augustus, which in **Latin** means "**Illustrious** One." Augustus Caesar was presented the same award as his **predecessor** for his bravery, the Civic Crown. Today, Augustus is remembered as **Emperor** Augustus Caesar. He took the name *Caesar* in honor of Julius Caesar, his **predecessor** and adoptive father.



*Octavian as **emperor***

Augustus Caesar was considered the first Roman **Emperor**, which means he had a lot of power and **influence** over Roman politics. Under his leadership, Rome was no longer called the Roman Republic. Instead, from the time of **Emperor** Augustus Caesar onward, it would be called the Roman **Empire**.

Whether he was called a consul, **dictator**, king, or **emperor** did not matter; the fact was that Augustus Caesar was the most powerful man in Rome. Many soldiers and generals throughout most of Rome's provinces were loyal to Augustus Caesar.

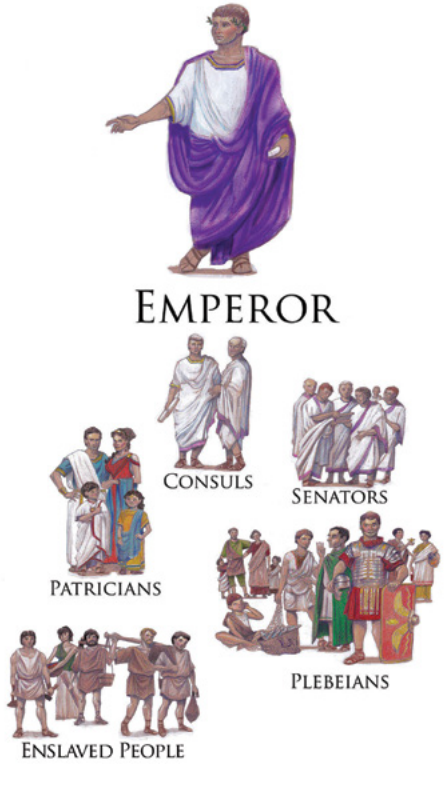
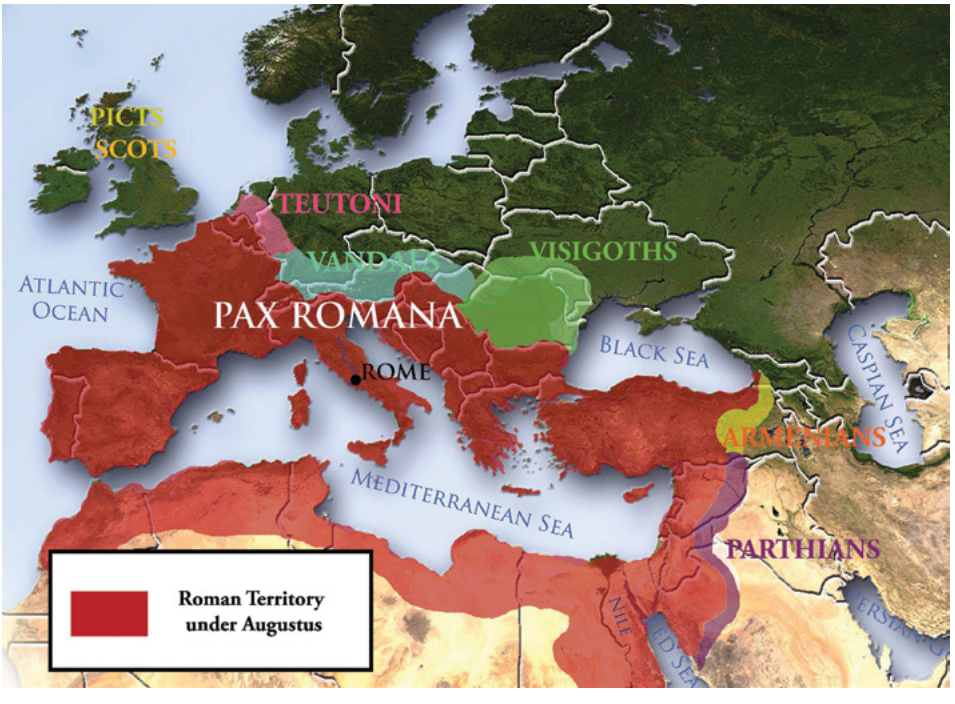


*Diagram of power in Roman **Empire***

They respected him and would do anything for him. This alone gave Augustus Caesar great power. He was also incredibly rich, and he had the power to make other people incredibly rich if they would do what he wanted them to do. Under the Roman **Empire**, the basic structure of government was similar to the structure of the Roman Republic: There was a Senate with two consuls, as well as proconsuls, or governors, and many of the same laws. The **emperor** of the Roman **Empire** was most powerful.

During his first several years as **emperor**, Augustus Caesar worked to make Rome's borders and provinces secure and safe from attack. The Roman **Empire** was huge, stretching over thousands of miles including large cities, **vast** forests, mighty mountains, and **parched** deserts. The land of Gaul had been **conquered**, but there were still tribes in the deep forests determined to fight the Romans that called them **barbarians**. To the north of Gaul there were countless other Germanic tribes that were angry and nervous that Rome would try to take their land next. In the Alps, just north of Italy, there were still many ancient tribes unwilling to submit to Roman rule. There were also enemies in Spain and throughout various parts of Africa and western Asia.

Individually, none of these enemies were a real **threat** to Roman power, but all together they posed a real problem. It seemed as though the wars and fighting would never end.



*Map of Roman border **threats**, the* Pax Romana

Augustus Caesar wanted to put an end to the continuous warfare once and for all. He spent more than twenty years fighting these enemies of Rome and expanded Roman territory to reduce the amount of surrounding **threats**. Thus began an important two- hundred-year period in Roman history known as the *Pax Romana*, which means Roman Peace in **Latin**. In truth, things weren't entirely peaceful; Roman armies

still had to do some fighting here and there, but there were no serious **threats** to Roman power. Augustus Caesar preferred to win wars without fighting at all, and many enemies surrendered to Roman rule rather than face Roman legions in battle. The mere thought of fighting the Romans was enough to make most kings shudder with fear.

Wherever they **conquered**, the Romans built their roads, bridges, temples, **aqueducts**, and fortresses. Wherever they went, the Romans also brought their language, laws, money, and arts. Augustus Caesar loved art, and he knew how important it was to all Romans. He paid artists to create some of the finest and most beautiful sculptures, **mosaics**, frescoes, and temples. There are fewer frescoes today because they have not held up as well as **mosaics** and sculptures over time. Frescoes and other art from ancient Rome show us that Romans were talented artists. Ancient Roman art provides important clues about daily Roman life.



*Roman art (**mosaics**, fresco, sculpture)*

Augustus Caesar convinced Romans that peace was better than war. This idea was difficult for many Romans to accept at first, because they were used to constant warfare and expansion as the way to sustain the Roman **Empire**. Roman boys were expected to join the army as adults, and when necessary, die in battle for Rome. Roman mothers, wives, and children expected their sons, husbands, and fathers to march away to wars, often never to return. The idea of *Pax Romana* was something most Romans had never even dreamed of! Over the next hundreds of years, the Roman **Empire** had many, many **emperors**, but none would ever be as powerful or as **illustrious** as Augustus Caesar.

Chapter
12 After Caesar: Augustus and the Roman Empire



Charlie Chatter's Report

The men who killed Julius Caesar were trying to save the republic. They did not succeed. After Caesar was killed, another **civil war** broke out. The man who came out on top at the end of the war was a man known as Augustus Caesar, or just Augustus.

Augustus was an adopted son of Caesar and he agreed with Caesar that Rome needed to change. But he was smart. He knew that the Romans cared about their history. They would not be happy if he came to power and changed everything all at once. What he did instead was very clever. He made himself **emperor**, and he made it clear that he intended to serve until he died. That meant Rome was no longer a republic. But Augustus did not sweep away all of the old **traditions**. He let the Romans keep the Senate and consuls. Still, everybody knew that it was Augustus who was really in charge.

Augustus brought peace to a country that had been fighting **civil wars** for many years.



A statue of Augustus Caesar

He **reformed** the government and **conquered** new lands. He set up monuments. He built **magnificent** new buildings, including temples, theaters, and bath houses. He also repaired old buildings and decorated them with fancy stone, like marble. He once boasted that he "found Rome brick and left it marble."

One of the most famous buildings built during the **reign** of Augustus is the Pantheon. The Pantheon was built as a temple to all the mythical Roman gods. (*Pan–* means all and *theo–* means gods.) The Pantheon is a beautiful building with a dome roof. While the original building was destroyed in a fire, the Pantheon still standing today was built to replace it. Thousands of tourists visit it every day.



The Pantheon as it appears in Rome today

The Pantheon is only one of many examples of great Roman architecture. Another one is the Colosseum. The Colosseum, built not long after the **reign** of Augustus, is a huge, oval stadium. The Romans went to the Colosseum to see people and animals fight. The Colosseum would hold fifty thousand people. Today the Colosseum is in ruins, but some of it is left to give us a good idea of what it would have looked like.

The Colosseum is not just an example of the great architecture of the Romans, but also an example of how the conquest of the Roman Empire made that architecture possible. Roman emperors had conquered a land far to the east called Judea, home to the Jewish people. Rome took funds from the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and enslaved thousands of Jewish people. Those funds and those slaves largely built the Colosseum.



The Arch of Titus is another piece of architecture that resulted from the Roman conquest of Jerusalem.

Roman architecture supported Roman entertainment. The Romans enjoyed watching **chariot** races. These were held in an even larger stadium, called the Circus Maximus. For the Romans, a **chariot** race or a fight was good entertainment, the way a football game or a movie is for us today.



*The Romans enjoyed watching **chariot** races at the Circus Maximus.*

The Romans also built roads and **aqueducts**. The roads brought people from all around the **Empire**. The **aqueducts** were used to bring water from the country into the city. Some of the **aqueducts** are also very beautiful.



*An example of a Roman **aqueduct** as it appears today*

Chapter

13 Christianity and the Roman Empire



Charlie Chatter's Report

Read-Aloud

Over hundreds of years, the Roman Empire stretched across many different lands and included many different groups of people. As the Romans conquered more land, they tried to spread their culture and **customs**. However, the Romans themselves were also changed by the cultures of the people they ruled. One group of people in a far-flung corner of the empire ended up having a major impact on the Romans.



Map of the Roman Empire



Judea, 1st century BC

Judea was a land that sat at the far eastern edge of the Roman Empire, and is in the general area of some of the modern-day country of Israel. Judea was the homeland of the Jewish people. Over more than a thousand years, Jews sometimes ruled this land directly, but they had also been subject to different conquering empires. The Romans were another in a long line of conquering powers.

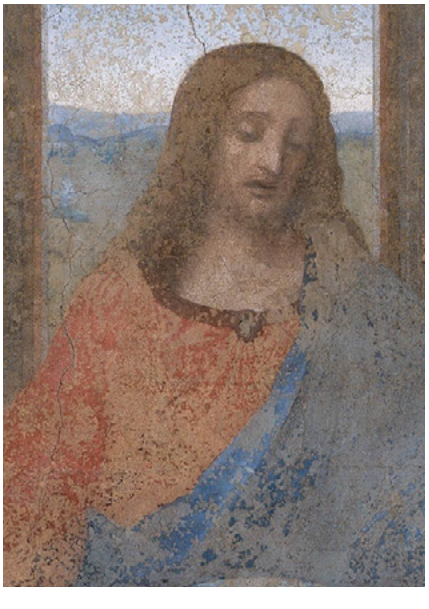
Jewish people practice a religion known as Judaism. Judaism is based around a series of religious texts called the Tanakh, or the Hebrew Bible. The Hebrew Bible stresses belief in one God and describes that the proper way to connect to God is through just and ethical action. The Jewish religious practice of worshiping a single God was very different from the Roman practice of worshiping many different gods.

As is true with any religious texts, there have been different interpretations of the Hebrew Bible. Some interpreted the texts that there would be a coming **Messiah**, or an anointed or chosen one set apart for a special purpose.

During the time of the Roman Empire, some in the Jewish faith believed this Messiah would come to free the Jewish people from Roman rule.

The Romans could apply very strict rules to the people they conquered, and that was no different for the Jews of Judea under Roman rule. Jews were still permitted to practice their religious beliefs, but life was often very hard for them. Romans took Jews captive as slaves and took money they had saved for religious purposes. Jewish leaders in Judea organized several rebellions to try to break free of Roman rule. The Jewish people from the small region of Judea had an outsized impact on the empire.

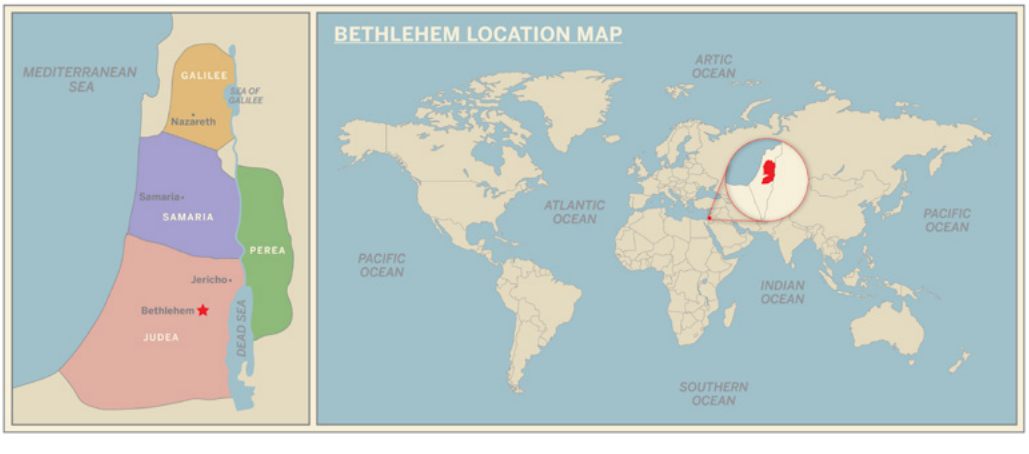
Two thousand years ago, when Augustus Caesar ruled the Roman Empire, a Jewish man who lived in Judea would ultimately have a very significant impact on the history of the empire and beyond. His name was Jesus of Nazareth. The Roman historian Josephus described some of Jesus's life and his death at the hands of Roman authorities.



Jesus of Nazareth from DaVinci's The Last Supper

Other texts were also written about Jesus after his death and brought together as the New Testament. They were grouped with the texts of the Hebrew Bible, which were organized as the Old Testament. Together, they formed the Christian Bible.

These New Testament texts of the Christian Bible describe what modern Christians believe to be the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus, celebrated today as Christmas. According to the new testament texts, a Jewish woman named Mary was told by an angel that she had found **favor** with God. The angel explained that she would have a son who would be called Jesus, and that this was the Messiah referenced in the Hebrew Bible.



Map of Bethlehem

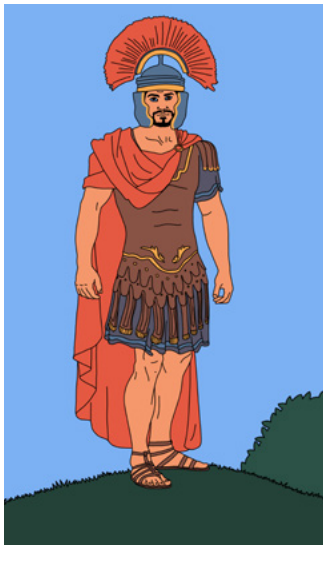
According to the Christian Bible, on the day Jesus was born, his mother Mary and father Joseph were traveling to the town of Bethlehem to register for the **census**. The census, ordered by the Roman government, required Roman citizens to be counted and their names registered. This was used in part to help the empire know how many people needed to pay taxes and is a practice continued by governments to this day.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they were told there were no rooms available to rent. They took shelter in a nearby **stable**, a type of barn where animals are kept. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in pieces of cloth and laid him in a **manger**, which is a long wooden or stone box used for horses and cattle to eat animal feed. This story of Jesus's birth in a stable is commonly featured as part of displays put on by Christians even today during the Christmas holidays each year.

The Christian Bible explains that throughout his life, Jesus taught about God's love and forgiveness, and performed many miracles. For many early Christians and Christians today, accounts of miracles performed by Jesus are an important part of their beliefs, and it encouraged a rapid spreading of the faith. Some of these miracles included healing the sick, walking on water, and calming a raging storm.

The Christian Bible says that a growing number of people became followers of Jesus. But there were also people who were angry that Jesus was spreading a religious message that went against their beliefs. Some people in positions of power in that part of the Roman Empire were upset that Jesus was worshiped by so many. They wanted Jesus gone. They began thinking of ways to stop people from following him.

The Christian Bible explains that Jesus told his closest **disciples**, or followers, that he would soon be killed, but that he would rise from the dead three days later. Not long after that, Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities. Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the region, made the decision to have Jesus sentenced to death by crucifixion.



Roman official

The Christian Bible explains that Jesus rose from the dead. Three days after his death by the Roman authorities, followers of Jesus visited his tomb and found it empty. An angel appeared and said he has risen and led them into the tomb. When the visitors entered the tomb, they found it empty. The Roman historian Josephus noted that Jesus had many disciples at the time of his death

by Pilate: "But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive."[1]

In the years that followed, many heard believers' stories about the **resurrection** of Jesus, that he had risen from the dead, and word spread throughout the empire. These early followers of Jesus grew to a large group of believers. They eventually became known as Christians, calling Jesus "the Christ," which was the Greek word for Messiah, and worshiping Jesus as the Son of God. Over time, these early Christians developed many new customs, including eventually celebrating the event of the resurrection as Easter.

Early Christians endured **persecution** from the Romans, meaning that they were treated badly for their beliefs. Some Christians were put in jail, some others were exiled, or forced to leave their homelands, and some were put to death. Some were forced to fight



A cross memorial in the Colosseum

[1]Agapius transcript of *Antiquities* 18:63

lions in the Colosseum. During this time, Christians had to meet in secret to worship God.



Constantine

In spite of the persecution, for several hundred years, more people throughout the Roman empire began converting to Christianity. Eventually, this reached the center of Roman power. Constantine was emperor of Rome between 306 AD and 337 AD, and was the first Roman emperor to convert to the new religion. He legalized Christianity in Rome and began providing formal government support for the religion.

Throughout its history, Rome went through many changes, but maybe none so great as the transformation that followed the life of Jesus of Nazareth. For nearly one thousand years, the core of Roman religious life had been to worship many different gods, continuing the beliefs of the ancient Greeks. Much of Roman culture was built around those religious beliefs. But those religious beliefs were completely upended. Rome would never be the same.

Beyond Rome, the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus are still recognized by billions of people all around the world and celebrated during holidays such as Christmas and Easter. Christians honor his life every day by showing faith and practicing the values of Christianity.



Nativity, recognized by Christians as the scene of Jesus's birth

Chapter

14 The Road to Damascus



Charlie Chatter's Report

Read-Aloud

The Roman Empire was **renowned** for its architecture, engineering, and technology. Great buildings like the Colosseum, construction of **aqueducts**, and even certain building materials like concrete were incredible developments that came from the Roman Empire. Even roads were a new technology in ancient Rome. Before Rome, in most places, traveling long distances was extremely difficult. Most people rarely traveled outside of their home cities. There were no well-built roads. Instead, there were only dirt trails used mostly for walking.



*Roman **aqueduct***

When the Romans conquered a country, they built roads. The roads were built to be very strong, sometimes including concrete. They were much easier to travel on than the previous dirt trails. The roads were made to connect to each other throughout the empire. Since they were all connected, it could be said that all roads lead to Rome. These roads allowed Romans to travel great distances to trade goods, and it allowed the Roman Empire to move their army when needed.


Key
Roman Road
OCEANUS GERMANICUS
OCEANUS BRITANNICUS
Sitones (?)
Sitones (?)
Fenni
Suiones
MARE SUEBICUM
Aestii
Heruli
Saxones
Angili
Teutones
Varini
Rugii
Gepidae
Gothones
Burgundiones
Lugii (Vandilii)
Venedi
Sarmatae
Navari
Buri
Marcomanni
Quadi
Cotini
Bastarnae
Costoboci
Carpi
Dacia
Daci Liberi
Iazyges
Scythae
Sindi
Alani
Heniochi
Abasgi
PONTUS EUXINUS
MARE ADRIATICUM
MARE TYRRHENUM
MARE IONIUM
MARE AEGAEUM
MARE INTERNUM
MARE IBERICUM
MARE RUBRUM
Mauri
Gaetuli
Musulamii
Garamantes
Desertum Africanum
Agraei
Arabes Nabataei
REGNUM PARTHICUM
Caledonii
Scotti
Frisii
Chauci
Cherusci
Hermunduri
Naristi
Osi
Lugii
Marcomanni
Quadi
Cotini
Iazyges
Dacia
Pannonia Superior
Noricum
Raetia
Germania Superior
Germania Inferior
Belgica
Britannia
Gallia
Aquitania
Hispania
Italia
Roma
Sardinia
Corsica
Sicilia
Africa Proconsularis
Numidia
Mauretania Caesariensis
Mauretania Tingitana
Syrtis Minor
Syrtis Maior
Cyrenaica
Aegyptus
Arabia Petraea
Syria
Cilicia
Cappadocia
Galatia
Pamphylia
Lycia et Pamphylia
Bithynia et Pontus
Thracia
Macedonia
Achaia
Dacia
Moesia Superior
Dalmat

Because the roads helped people to travel farther than ever before, ideas could spread faster, too. This included the ideas of early Christians. The primary idea spread by those Christians was that Jesus died and was resurrected in order to forgive people for their sins, or harmful behaviors that separate a person from God. Roman religious beliefs focused on the idea that individuals must worship many different gods, depending on what the individuals needed at different points in their lives. While Christianity was spreading on the roads of the Roman Empire, many people with different religious beliefs



Roman roads

disagreed with these Christian ideas and **persecuted** early Christians.

Several texts of the New Testament of the Christian Bible were written about or by a man who came to be known as Paul. According to the Bible, Paul was a formal citizen of Rome and traveled often on Roman roads.

The Christian Bible explains that when he was a young man, Paul believed that Christians should be **persecuted** for their beliefs. Paul traveled on Roman roads to find, arrest, and punish Christians. Many Christians feared him. Roman roads were a key tool to allow Paul and others like him to impose Roman power and culture, as well as certain religious beliefs, on people all over the Empire. One day, Paul was traveling on the road to Damascus. Damascus was a major city in that part of the Roman Empire, and it was, and still is, the capital of Syria.

According to the Christian Bible, Paul experienced a vision from Jesus on the road to Damascus, was blinded, and then was able to see again. From that point forward, the entire focus of his life became to spread the message of Christianity.

The Christian Bible describes Paul as a changed man, traveling from city to city, along many different Roman roads, and sometimes by boat. He would meet with new

groups of people in towns far from where he began. He would travel to cities in the empire where the Romans had constructed beautiful temples to various Roman gods, but he would preach the messages of Christianity. Many people in the Empire ended up becoming a Christian as a result. Before his vision on the road to Damascus, he would persecute Christians, but now, he traveled far and wide and was himself persecuted, even spending time in Roman jails because of his new religious beliefs. He wrote several letters detailing his experiences, many of which became parts of the New Testament of the Christian Bible. But when he could, he continued to travel, even making it to Rome. All roads did indeed lead to Rome, and it was along these roads that the ideas of Christianity would travel and ultimately transform the empire.



The Apostle Paul, Rembrandt

Chapter

15 From Augustus to Constantine



Charlie Chatter's Report

For 500 years before Julius Caesar, the Roman Republic was almost always at war. The Republic expanded and so did Roman roads. After the death of Julius Caesar, Augustus Caesar became emperor. Rome officially became an empire. He built up the Roman military and weakened Rome's opponents. Roads were strengthened. He brought in a time of relative peace. And during his reign, Jesus of Nazareth was born at the edge of the empire, marking the beginning of what would become the Christian religion.



Roman leader

For the next few centuries after Augustus, different emperors came and went. Some of them were good leaders, and some were not. Roman emperors would sometimes spend large amounts of money on chariot races or gladiator games and other **luxuries**. Many would not spend enough on things that made the Romans safe. For hundreds of years, most continued to actively persecute Christians.

One example was the emperor Nero. Nero came to power about 40 years after the death of Augustus. Under Nero's rule, most of the capital city was destroyed. It was remembered as the Great Fire of Rome. The fire started in the market near the Circus Maximus. It quickly spread and destroyed most of the city. Emperor Nero was known


The Great Fire of Rome

to spend large amounts on the arts and music. According to legend, he "fiddled while Rome burned." Some people even believed he started the fire himself!

No matter who was emperor, the large size of the empire created problems. The Roman Empire simply became too vast to handle, even with the roads. It was impossible for one emperor to control everything that was happening over thousands of miles of territory. The governors and generals in charge of the Roman provinces could do as they pleased.

The Roman Empire was so vast and complex that it needed to be divided into two parts: the Western Roman Empire, with Rome as its capital; and the Eastern Roman Empire.



Map of Roman ***Empire*** *divided into the East and West*

The Eastern Roman Empire would be ruled from a new capital city, called Constantinople. Constantinople was named after Constantine the Great.

Constantine brought new hope and confidence to many Romans. His new city of Constantinople was a chance at a fresh start for the entire empire. There was still conflict and warfare, but Constantine successfully united the Eastern and Western Empires for his lifetime. He credited his success to God and became a Christian.



Constantine the Great

Christianity became formally supported by the government of the Roman empire. Before Constantine, the Christian faith spread by word of mouth from travelers on Roman roads. They would sometimes carry hand-written copies of texts written by early followers of Jesus. In 325 AD, Constantine **convened** a special council of church leaders, called the Council of Nicaea, to discuss and define key beliefs about Jesus. Many Roman laws were changed, informed by the values of the

new faith. The empire remained complex and would experience decline, but Christianity would remain a key part of Rome from Constantine to today.



Council of Nicaea

Chapter

16 The Second Rome: From Constantine to Justinian



Constantine

Constantine was the first Roman **Emperor** to support Christianity. He issued an order that made it illegal to put Christians to death, or even throw them in jail.

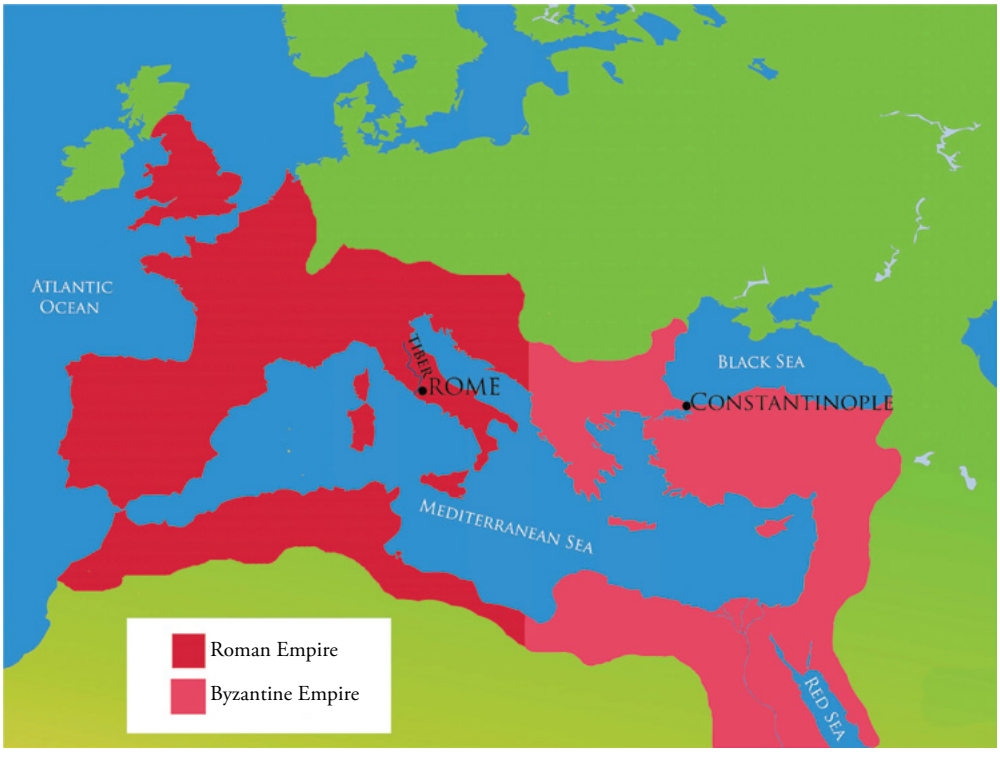
Constantine built churches all over the **empire**, including the completion of an enormous church called *The Basilica Nova*. He built one in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. He built another in Jerusalem, where Jesus died. He built churches in the ancient city of Byzantium, in present-day Turkey. Byzantium was Constantine's favorite city. He adopted it and renamed it Constantinople. His goal was to turn the city into a "new Rome," a sort of Rome away from Rome.



Constantine created many buildings, including The Basilica Nova.

Constantine did not want Constantinople to replace Rome. He hoped that Constantinople would take its place beside Rome and that the two cities would survive, side by side, for many years. He wanted Rome and Constantinople to be like two mighty **pillars** supporting the Roman Empire. But, in the end, one of those **pillars collapsed**.

One of the **emperors** who ruled after Constantine decided his job was just too big. He felt that the Roman **Empire** was too large to be ruled by any one man, so he split the **empire** into two parts. He declared that the western half of the Empire would be ruled by one **emperor**, based in Rome; the eastern half would be ruled by a second **emperor**, based in Constantinople.



*Map of Roman **Empire** and Byzantine **Empire***

Eventually, the Eastern Roman **Empire** completely separated from the Western Roman **Empire**. Once separated, it wasn't called the Eastern Roman Empire anymore. By 410 **AD**, the Eastern **Empire** was known as the Byzantine **Empire**.

Not long after the **empire** was divided, **invaders** from the North began attacking the Western **Empire**. Things got worse and worse. The **invaders** even attacked Rome itself. By 500 **AD**, the Western Empire had **collapsed**, with most of the provinces falling to one **barbarian** tribe or another.

The Western Empire in Europe— from Italy across France and Germany and all the way to Britain—drifted into a long, sad period without leadership and **vision** from the powers of Rome. The glorious Roman **Empire** finally came to an end.

The Eastern **Empire**, based in Constantinople, had better luck. It lived on, and for a while, even got stronger.

Most **historians** agree that the Eastern Empire was at its best during the **reign** of Justinian. Justinian came into power in the year 527 AD. That is, he became **Emperor** of Byzantium 527 years after the birth of Jesus and about two hundred years after Constantine decided to support Christianity. It was also about this time that years began by some to be formally marked as AD – *Anno Domini*, Latin for "in the year of the Lord."



Justinian

Like Constantine before him, Justinian was a Christian. He spent lots of money building churches. In Constantinople, he built the church of Hagia Sophia [ho-GEE-ə Soe-FEE-yə], with its **magnificent**, soaring dome that is still standing today.

Justinian also completed an important book project. He had scholars gather up all of the laws that had been passed in the Roman **Empire** over the years. What the scholars found was a big mess. There were so many laws, nobody could possibly keep track of them all. There were old laws that no longer made sense. There were even laws that seemed to be the opposite of one another.



The inside of the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople

One law might say "it is **illegal** to do X." Then another law might say "it's perfectly fine to do X." Justinian had his scholars gather up all the laws, sort them out, and organize them. When they were done, they published the laws. The new, organized laws filled several books. The new organized laws were known as **Justinian's Code**. The Justinian Code is one of Justinian's major accomplishments as **emperor**. Justinian appears in the center of this **mosaic**, which you can see today in an Italian church.



*A **mosaic** of Justinian who built the Hagia Sophia*

Chapter

17 Monarchy vs. Republic



Dave King's Report

For many years, Rome was governed by kings. Some of these kings were good men who ruled well. Some were bad men who treated the Romans poorly.

One of the kings was so bad he convinced the Romans that they should get rid of kings altogether. His name was Tarquin. The Romans called him Tarquin the Proud. Tarquin was a tyrant. He was a **cruel** ruler who treated the people badly. In the end, the people got so mad at Tarquin that they joined together and drove him out.

Once King Tarquin had been driven out, the Romans set up a different sort of government. They set up a republic—a kind of government with no kings.

What Are the Differences?	Monarchy	Republic
Who rules?	 The king rules.	 Elected officials rule.
How long is the rule?	The king usually rules until he dies.	Officials serve for a set length of time.
Who replaces the ruler?	A king is usually succeeded by his oldest son.	A new official is elected to replace the previous official.

How is a monarchy different from a republic?

One of the most important parts of the Roman republic was the Senate. The Senate was a group of older men who met to make decisions and pass laws. Many of the senators were from old, wealthy families. Almost all of them had fought in the army and earned the trust of their fellow Romans.

Each year, the people would elect two men to serve as consuls. To be chosen as a consul was a great honor. It was the most powerful position in the Roman republic.

Rome was a republic, but it was not a democracy. Some people played a role in the government, but many more played no role at all.

In the early years of the Roman republic, one group held most of the power. These were the patricians. The word *patrician* comes from the **Latin** word pater, or father. The patricians thought of themselves as the fathers of the people. They felt that it was their job to take care of the people in the same way that parents take care of their children. The patricians were from wealthy, old families. All of the men in the Senate were patricians. In the early days of the republic, the men selected to be consuls were also patricians.



In the early days of the republic, the consuls and the senators were patricians from wealthy Roman families.

The rest of the people—the ones who were not patricians—were called plebeians. The plebeians were the poorer people. In the early years of the republic, they had very little power.

The Roman republic lasted for more than five hundred years. Many Romans loved the republic. They thought it was the best kind of government a country could have. They were, however, not the only ones who thought so.

The Founding Fathers of the United States also believed a republic was the best kind of government. When the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776, they broke away from a king (King George III) and set up a republic. They created a Senate that was modeled on the Roman Senate. They created a president who was a lot like the Roman consuls. They even built government buildings that looked like ancient Roman buildings. So you can see that Roman ideas about government have had a big **influence** all around the world.



This is the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C. Many American government buildings look like ancient Roman buildings.

Glossary for *Stories of Ancient Rome*

A

advisor—a person who offers advice and help

alliance—a group of people who share common goals and agree to work together (**alliances**)

aqueduct—a channel or pipe built to carry water over a long distance (**aqueducts**)

architecture—design or style of buildings

arena—the area of a stadium where the events actually take place

armor—a protective covering, usually made of metal, worn by soldiers in battle

artifact—an old, man-made object, such as a tool or ornamental decoration, that shows how a group of people lived

attribute—characteristic or trait

Augustus—Julius Caesar's adopted son who changed ancient Rome from a republic to an empire by becoming the emperor

avalanche—snow, ice, and rocks that suddenly fall down the side of a mountain (**avalanches**)

B

banquet—a large, fancy, and formal feast

barbarian—a person who is wild, sometimes violent, and does not behave the right way (**barbarians**)

BC—Before Christ (alternatively, **BCE** for before the Common Era)

beautiful—very pretty, lovely

beauty—being pretty

blacksmith—a person who molds hot iron into metal objects

boisterous—very noisy; lively; active

bountiful—plentiful; having an abundance of something

Byzantium—ancient city in the eastern part of the Roman Empire, later called Constantinople

C

Carthage—city on the coast of Africa that Romans saw as a rival city (**Carthaginians**, **Carthaginian**)

census—a record of an official count of every person in a city, state, or country

chaos—complete confusion or disorder

chariot—a cart with two wheels and no seats that is pulled by horses; The driver stands up in the cart to hold the horses' reins.

Christian Bible—a collection of books, organized as the Old and New Testaments, that serves as the core text of the Christian faith

Christianity—a religion based on the belief that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God (**Christian**)

Circus Maximus—a large stadium where chariot races were held

civil war—a war between groups within the same country

civilization—a group of people living together, often in cities, with the same laws, leaders and form of government, language and writing system (**civilizations**)

Cleopatra—the Queen of Egypt; She became queen with help from Julius Caesar.

collapse—to suddenly fail (**collapsed**)

Colosseum—a huge arena in Rome where people would go to watch events, mainly gladiator fights, that is one of the most recognizable buildings from the Roman Empire

complex—difficult to understand; made up of many different parts (**complexity**)

compromise—to settle a disagreement by both sides giving up something they want (**compromises, compromised, compromising**)

conduct—to carry out, such as an activity

conflict—a fight or argument (**conflicts**)

confront—to meet face-to-face (**confronted**)

conquer—to take control of something by force (**conquered**)

conqueror—someone who defeats others and takes over their land (**conquerors**)

conspirator—a person who has secretly planned to do something harmful (**conspirators**)

Constantine—the Emperor who ended the war between the Romans and Christianity; the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity

Constantinople—new name for the city of Byzantium and Constantine's favorite city, which he wanted to turn into a "new Rome"

consul—one of two top officials elected to govern the Roman republic (**consuls**)

convened—came together or assembled (**convene, convening**)

counter-attack—a military response to an attack

crude—uncivilized; not knowing how to act appropriately (**crudeness, crudely**)

cruel—mean, causing pain on purpose

culture—a way of life; the characteristics that make up a group of people

customs—traditions or ways of life

D

Damocles—a friend of Dionysius who wanted to be king and have Dionysius's life

dangle—to hang loosely (**dangling**)

decline—a drop in number or quality

defeat—to win a victory over (**defeated**)

democracy—a kind of government in which people are elected as representatives freely and equally by all people of voting age

dictator—a ruler who has all the authority but is not chosen by the people (**dictators**)

Dionysius—the king of Syracuse, a part of the Roman Empire, and friend of Damocles

disciples—followers

disciplined—obeying the rules; controlled

dominant—most powerful; ruling or controlling

downfall—a sudden fall from power

E

eager—showing great interest in something

Eastern Empire—the eastern half of the Roman Empire

elaborate—made of many carefully placed or arranged pieces or parts; sophisticated; highly detailed

elect—to choose through votes (**elected**)

elite—a small group of wealthy, powerful people

emperor—the male ruler/head of an empire

empire—a group of nations or territories ruled by the same leader, an emperor or empress; like a kingdom

engineering—the work of designing and creating useful items

envy—to want what someone else has (**envied**)

establish—to gain recognition for doing something well (**established**)

Etruscan—a person who was part of a civilization to the north of Rome who the Romans defeated (**Etruscans**)

exotic—unfamiliar and mysterious

F

faith—strong religious beliefs

favor—to prefer; to like more than others; a small gift; the state of being supported or liked (**favors, favored, favoring**)

feud—a fight between people or families that lasts for a long time (**feuds**)

fortress—a castle or fort; a structure that is very well protected

Founding Fathers of the United States—men who played important roles in creating the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington

G

gladiator—a man in ancient Rome who fought other men or animals to entertain an audience (**gladiators**)

govern—to rule or control (**governed**, **government**)

H

Hagia Sophia—a large Christian church with a magnificent dome built by Justinian in Constantinople

Hannibal—general from Carthage who led the fight against Rome during the Second Punic War; He won many battles but lost the war.

harass—repeatedly attack or bother (**harassed, harasses, harassing**)

Hebrew Bible— also called the Tanakh, a collection of ancient texts that serve as the core text of the Jewish faith

historian—a person who writes about or is an expert in history (**historians**)

honor—a privilege or special opportunity to do something

Horatius—a Roman soldier who became a hero by fighting the Etruscan army with two other men so that the other Romans could escape; He jumped in the river during the fight and drifted downstream to Rome

horde—a large crowd

I

illegal—against the law

illustrious—famous and well-known (**illustriously**)

immortal—able to live forever

import—to bring in from another country to sell (**imports,**

imported, importing)

influence—the power to change how people think or act (**influences**)

ingenious—clever and creative (**ingeniousness, ingeniously**)

inhabitant—a person or animal who lives in a specific place or habitat

invade—to attack or enter a place in order to take control of it

invasion—when an enemy army enters your land to attack

J

jealousy—wanting what someone else has, wanting complete attention (**jealous**)

Jesus of Nazareth—a religious teacher born in the Judea region of the Roman Empire, also called Jesus Christ; believed by Christians to be the Son of God

Jewish—any person whose religion is Judaism. In a broader sense of the term, a Jew is a person who is connected, through descent or conversion, to the ancient Hebrew tribes of Israel.

Judaism—the monotheistic religion of the Jewish people based on the teachings of the ancient Hebrew Bible

Julius Caesar—a Roman general who conquered many lands and expanded the Roman republic; After serving as a consul, he decided he did not like the way the republic was run. He became a dictator, was then seen as a threat, and was killed

Justinian—great emperor of the Eastern Empire who built the Hagia Sophia and organized laws into Justinian's Code

Justinian's Code—the laws organized and published by Justinian

L

Latin—the language of ancient Rome

legacy—something that is passed down

legendary—well-known from an old story passed down from long ago that is usually not true

lowly—humble or low in wealth and status

luxuries—items that are nice to have but are not absolutely necessary (**luxury**)

M

magnificent—impressive and beautiful

manger—a long wooden or stone box used for horses and cattle to eat animal feed

marriage—the committed partnership between two people to make a home and raise a family

Mediterranean—the sea around which the Romans created their empire; an important body of water for trade, war, and transportation

mercenary—a soldier who will fight for any country that pays him

messenger—someone who delivers messages back and forth

Messiah—an anointed or chosen one set apart for a special purpose

miracle—an amazing event with no explanation, believed to be an act of God (**miracles**)

mission—a very important job

monarchy—a kind of government in which a king or queen rules and selects who will rule after his/her death, usually the oldest son

mosaic—art made by putting small pieces of glass or tile together to form a picture (**mosaics**)

Mount Olympus—home of the mythical Roman gods and goddesses

N

negotiate—to bargain or to come to an agreement (**negotiates, negotiated, negotiating, negotiator**)

O

official—a person who holds an office and has authority (**officials**)

P

Pantheon—a temple built to honor all of the mythical Roman gods

parched—extremely dry

patrician—a person from an old, wealthy, powerful family in the Roman republic who held government positions (**patricians**)

peak—the top of a mountain; the highest point (**peaks**)

persecute—to treat someone badly for their beliefs or characteristics

pillar—a column that supports a building or a supporting part of something (**pillars**)

pity—to feel sorry or unhappy for someone

plebeian—an ordinary person who was poor and had little education or power in the Roman republic (**plebeians**)

plotted—secretly planned something that is harmful (**plot, plots, plotting**)

predecessor—someone who comes before (**predecessors**)

preserve—to save in its original form so that it remains the same (**preserved**)

priestess—a woman who performs special duties to honor and communicate with the mythical gods

pumice—gray volcanic rock

Punic War—one of the three wars fought between the Romans and the Carthaginians over control of the Mediterranean (**Punic Wars**)

R

ransom—money paid to free someone who has been captured or kidnapped

reform—to change the way things are done to make them better (**reformed**)

reign—period of time during which a ruler is in charge

religion—the belief in a god or many gods

renowned—to be known for

republic—a kind of government in which people are elected as representatives to rule

resolve—to settle or solve a problem (**resolves, resolved, resolving; resolution**)

resurrection—to rise from the dead

revolt—riot or revolution against a ruler or government

ritual—important ceremony that is part of specific cultures and traditions

rival—an enemy

rivalry—conflict or competition between two groups or two people

rough—not calm

Rubicon—the river Julius Caesar crossed even though the Roman senators warned him not to, leading to a civil war

ruins—the remains of something that has fallen or been destroyed

S

satyr—a creature who was half man, half goat and was often found with Bacchus (**satyrs**)

saunter—to walk in a slow and relaxed way (**saunters, sauntered, sauntering**)

scholar—a person with a lot of knowledge about a certain subject (**scholars**)

Senate—a group of men (senators) who were elected to represent the people who voted for them and met to make decisions and pass laws for the Roman republic; American government today also has a Senate of elected men and women

shortage—a lack of something, such as food, money, or water (**shortages**)

shrine—a place where people honor someone or something, typically for religious purposes

siege—a closure of a city, fort, or base by surrounding it and cutting off supplies into that area (**sieges**)

stable—a type of barn where animals are kept

subjects—people who are ruled by a king or emperor

surplus—an extra amount of something that is needed

T

talent—a unit of measurement in ancient Rome, equal to about 71 pounds, used to measure gold and silver (**talents**)

Tanakh—also called the Hebrew Bible, a collection of ancient texts that serve as the core text of the Jewish faith

taunt—to tease or make someone upset by making fun of or being mean to the person

tender—gentle and caring

threat—someone or something that is or may be dangerous

thrive—to grow strong and healthy

tradition—custom (**traditions**)

traitor—someone who is not loyal

trial—a meeting in court to determine if someone has broken the law

trident—Neptune's magical, three-pronged spear that was shaped like a fork

tyrant—a ruler who is mean, harsh, and acts without regard for laws or rules

U

uncivilized—wild and barbaric

unusual—rare

V

valiantly—in a brave and courageous manner

vast—very big in size (**vaster, vastest, vastness, vastly**)

Veni, vidi, vici [wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE]—I came, I saw, I conquered, Julius Caesar's report about his efforts in Asia

vibrant—full of life and energy

vicious—dangerous; violent; mean (**viciousness, viciously**)

victorious—having won a battle, war, or contest

vision—the ability to plan for the future with imagination or wisdom; an image seen in a dream-like state

volcano—a mountain with openings through which melted rock, ash, and hot gases explode

W

Western Empire—the western half of the Roman Empire

wisdom—knowledge and good judgment gained over time

witness—to see something happen

worship—to show respect and love to something, typically for a religious purpose

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ENGLISH

STORIES OF ANCIENT ROME

GRADE 3 UNIT 4 | READER

EDITION 1

