Ancient Rome

The Italian Peninsula

- Narrow boot-shaped peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea
- Modern-Day Italy
- Center of trade among 3 continents = Asia, Africa, Europe
- Mild, moist climate & rich soil
- Swamps at the mouths of rivers
  - Infested with disease-carrying mosquitoes
- Mountains caused early people to only trade among themselves
- Greek traders sailed up to Italy to set up farming colonies

The Rise of Rome

- According to myth, Rome was founded by the twin brothers Romulus and Reemus

The Rise of Rome

- At first, Rome consisted of 7 villages on 7 hills
- In 620 BCE = Roman villages were unified
- The Tarquins (wealthy family) were the first kings of united Rome
  - Taught the people to build houses out of brick & laid out city streets
  - Created a Forum at the center of the city = became the seat of Roman government
  - Tarquins were driven out in 509 BCE --> people were upset with Tarquin the Proud's cruelty and harshness
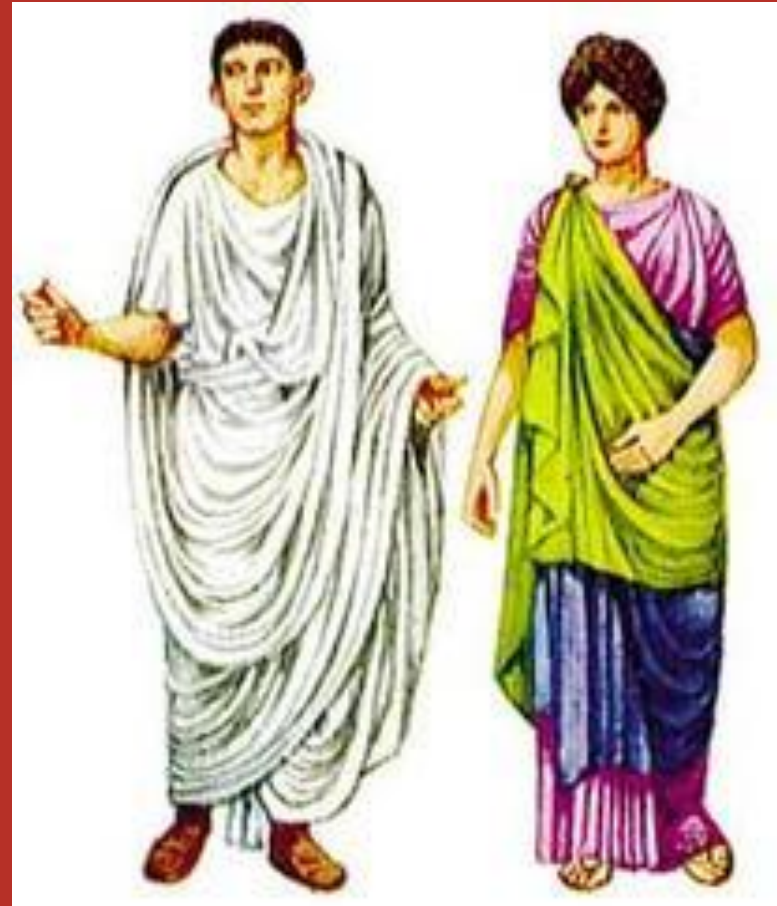
The Roman Forum

Social Groups

- **Patricians =** wealthy Roman nobles
  - ◆ **Declared Rome a republic =** a community in which people elect their leaders

Social Groups

- Most Romans were **plebeians**
  - Landowners, merchants, farmers, etc.
  - Had some rights, but couldn't hold public office

Patricians   Slaves   Plebeians

Rome's Government

- Rome's government had 2 branches = legislative & executive

- Legislative Branch:
  - Elected people to the Executive Branch
  - Senate proposed laws, advised consuls, debated foreign policy & approved building contracts

Rome's Government

- Executive Branch:
  - Headed by 2 **consuls** = patrician officials elected to 1-year terms
  - Either consul could veto the actions of the other
  - Occasionally, the Romans appointed a **dictator** = a leader whose word was law --> only during times of crisis
  - Dictator could overrule the consuls

Plebeians vs. Patricians

- Plebeians resented the fact that they didn't have any power

- Refused to fight in the army unless their demands were met

- Plebeians were given representatives in government = called **tribunes**

- Plebeians Assembly of Tribes elected the tribunes

- Plebeians improved their social standing
  - Enslavement for debt ended
  - Marriage between plebeians & patricians now allowed

Roman Laws

- Roman laws were written down on 12 bronze tablets
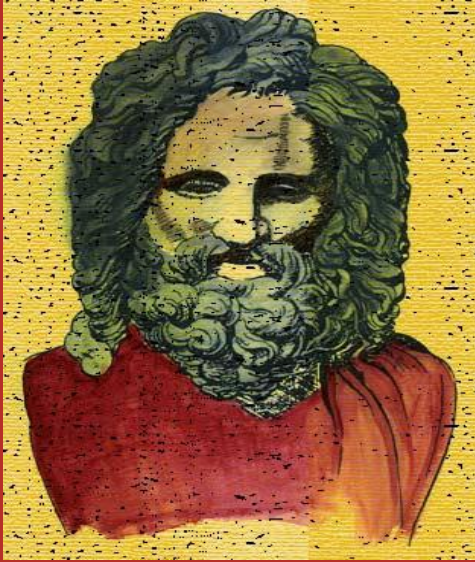 - Called the Twelve Tables & displayed in the Forum

Roman Religion

- At first, Romans worshipped nature spirits
- **Soothsayers** = priests who thought they could foretell the future by observing patterns in nature like the flight of birds or the intestines of an animal
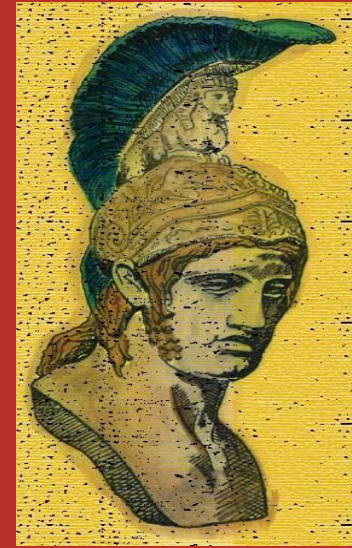
Roman Religion

Jupiter - Head of the Gods   Minerva - Goddess of Wisdom   Mars - God of War

- Were influenced by the Greeks
  - Borrowed Greek deities & gave them Roman names

Roman Families

- Roman households were large & close-knit
  - Included all unmarried children, married sons & their families, dependent relatives & slaves
- Father was the absolute head of the household
  - Controlled property, supervised sons' education, could even sell family members into slavery
- Wives had few legal rights, but had more freedoms than the Greeks
  - Ran the household
  - Occasionally got to own property & businesses
- Values: thrift, discipline, self-sacrifice, devotion to family & the republic

The Roman Republic

- Rome constantly faced threats from its neighbors
- To protect the Republic, Rome either conquered its opponents or forced them to be allies with Rome
- 264 BCE = Rome ruled the entire Italian Peninsula
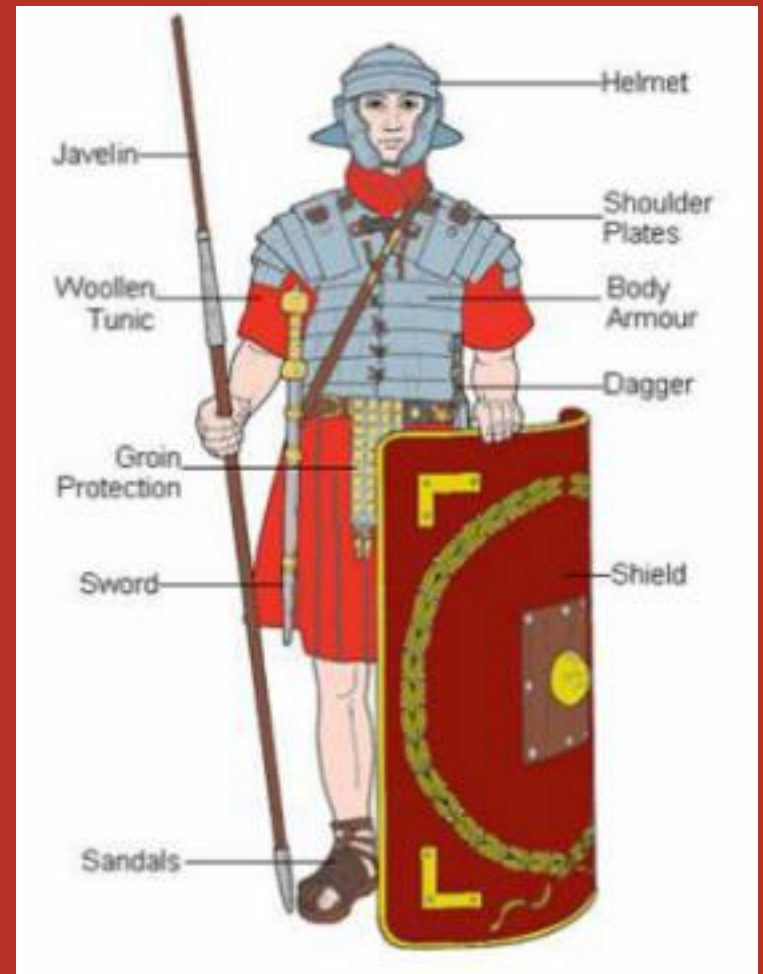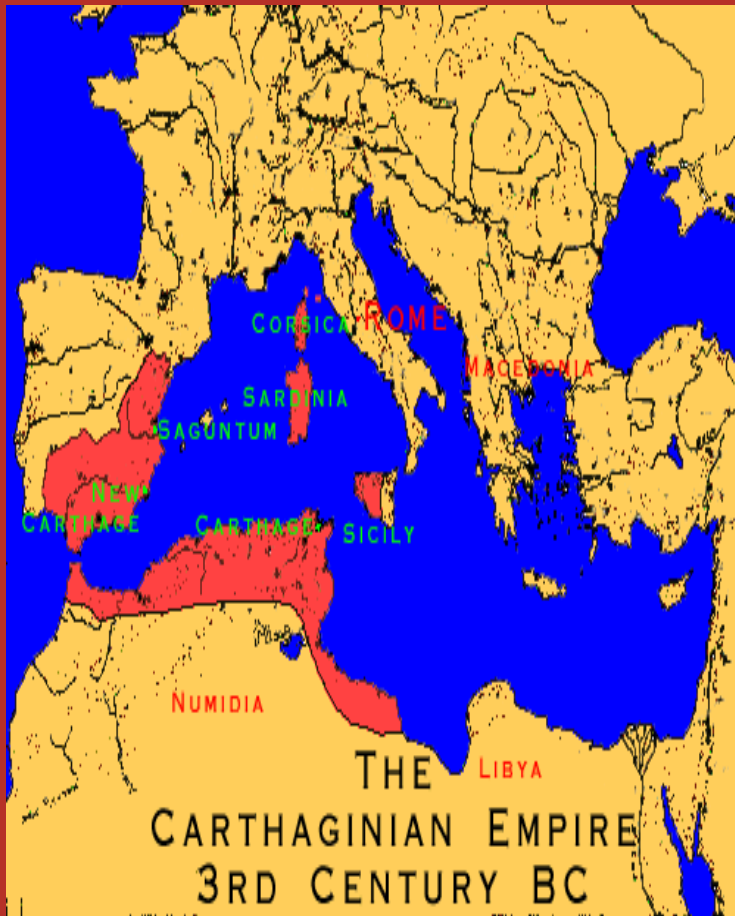
Roman Legions

- Rome had a very strong army
- Every male citizen had to serve when needed
- Troops were organized into **legions** of 6,000 men = smaller, quicker phalanxes

Roman Legions

- Soldiers were called **legionaries**
  - ◆ Well-trained; desertion was punishable by death
- Romans treated conquered people well *at this time*
- Rome & its colonies were linked by a series of roads

Javelin

Woollen Tunic

Groin Protection

Sword

Sandals

Helmet

Shoulder Plates

Body Armour

Dagger

Shield

Rome Against Carthage

THE CARTHAGINIAN EMPIRE 3RD CENTURY BC

- Carthage = wealthiest city in Mediterranean area --> in northern Africa
- Romans wanted to put the expansion of Carthage in check

Rome vs. Carthage
1st Punic War

Rome

Battle of Aegates Islands 241 BC

Carthage

Agrigentum

First Punic War 264-241 BC
History Wars Weapons

- Started when Carthage wanted to seize the Strait of Messina & the Romans wanted to stop them

- Rome defeated Carthage & took over Sicily

- Carthage forced to pay huge **indemnity =** payment for damages

Rome vs. Carthage
2nd Punic War

- Hannibal = became the general of the Carthaginian army in Spain

Hannibal

- Took one of Rome's allied cities
- Invaded Italy with 40,000 soldiers and 40 elephants
- On their way (and in crossing the Alps) --> 1/2 of Hannibal's army was killed by snow, cold, hunger, sickness, & attacks by mountain people
- Despite this, Hannibal's army was on the verge of destroying the entire Roman army

Scipio

- Scipio = Roman general that attacked Carthage - forcing Hannibal to retreat back to Africa
  - He helped the Romans defeat the Carthaginians -> Carthage had to give up their lands in Spain, their warships, & pay an indemnity

Rome vs. Carthage
3rd Punic War

- 50 years later = Rome forced war on Carthage
- Romans burned Carthage to the ground & sold its people into slavery

The Republic in Crisis

- Rome controlled all of the Mediterranean
- Growing social discontent
  - Corrupt Roman officials created large estates by stealing land from poor farmers & using a profitable agriculture business to get rich
  - Roman officials used captives & prisoners of war as slaves on the estates
  - Conquered people lost their land and couldn't find jobs

The Republic in Crisis: Slave Revolts

- One major revolt led by slave named Spartacus --> Romans finally crushed the uprising, killing about 6,000 revolters
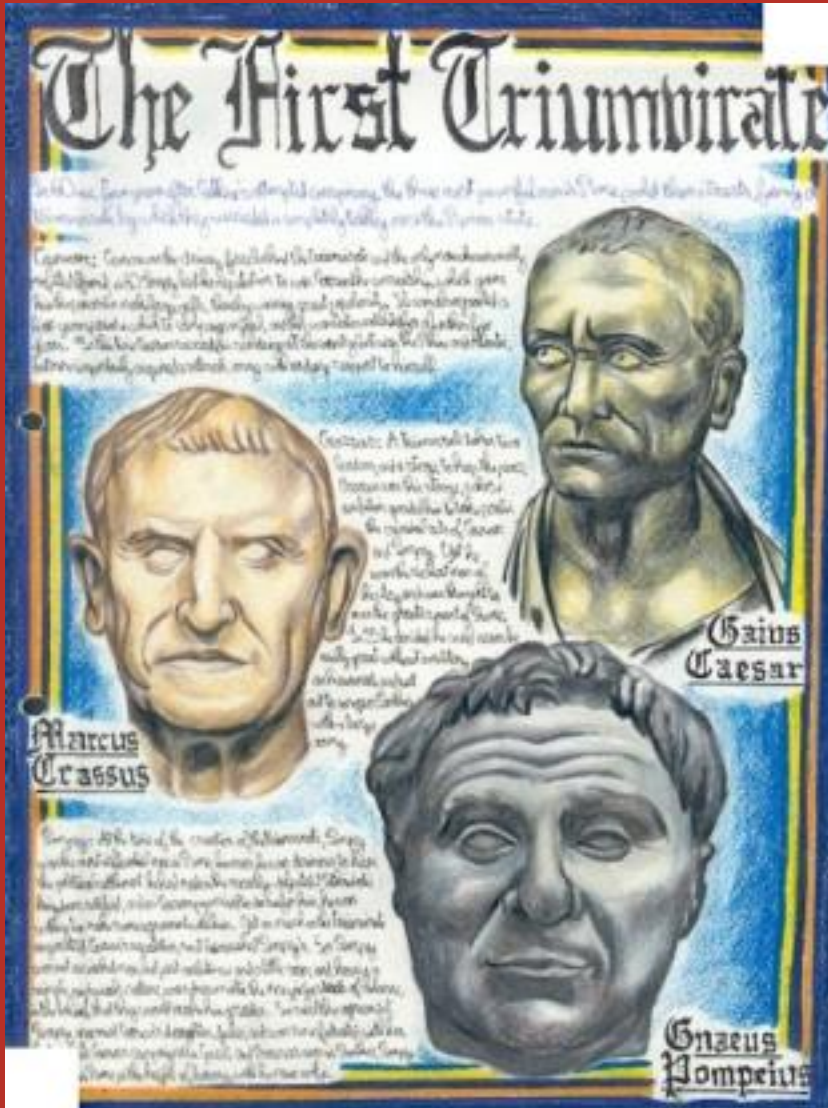
The Republic in Crisis: Possible Solution?

- Gracchus Brothers (both consuls) proposed distributing land to the poor -- but they were both murdered

The Republic in Crisis: Solution that Worked

- Army leaders came to rule Rome
  - ◆ Formed separate armies that fought each other for power
  - ◆ Julius Caesar used this practice of using the army to get political power

Julius Caesar

The First Triumvirate

Marcus Crassus

Gaius Caesar

Gnaeus Pompeius

- One of Rome's greatest generals & leaders
- Caesar, Pompey, & Crassus ruled Rome as a **triumvirate =** 3 people with equal power

Julius Caesar

- Caesar conquered the Celts, fought Germanic tribes & invaded Britain
  - Seen as a military hero
  - This helped him advance his political career
- Was feared by senators

Julius Caesar

- Took over complete control of Rome & became dictator for life
  - Granted Roman citizenship to people in areas outside of Italy
  - Provided jobs for the unemployed
  - Created a new calendar (Julian calendar)

Death of Julius Caesar

- Stabbed to death by a group of Senators - led by Brutus & Cassius
  - Accused of being a tyrant trying to be king
  - Plotting to be king was punishable by death without trial

End of the Republic

- Caesar's successors (Octavian, Marc Antony, Marcus Lepidus) divided the Roman world among themselves

- Octavian forced the other 2 out -- would become the 1st ruler of the Roman Empire
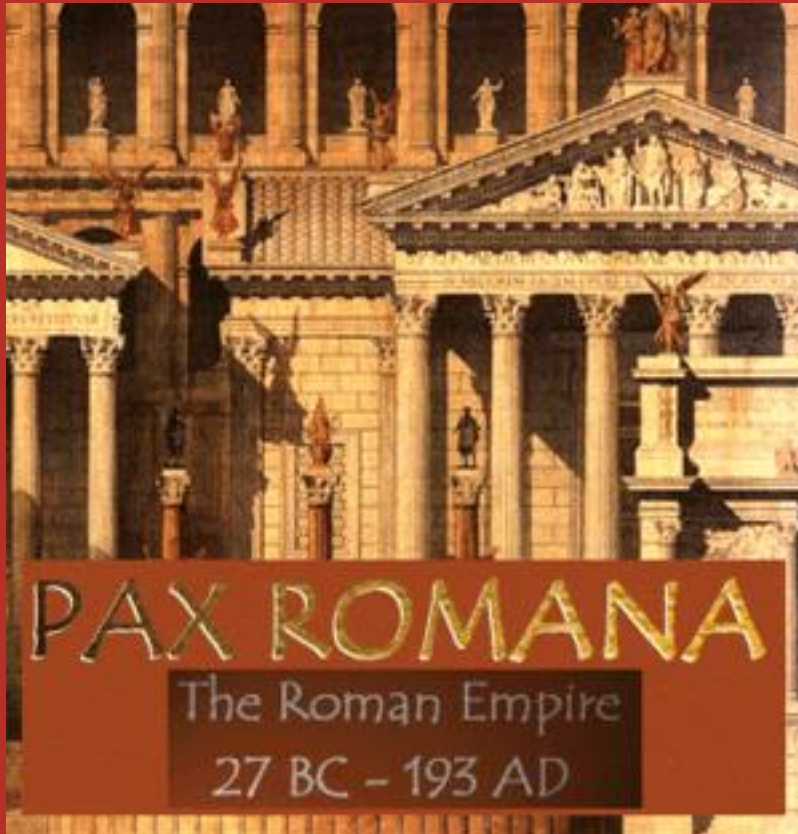
The First Emperors

- Roman Republic = too weak to maintain control
- **Octavian =** believed Rome needed <u>ONE</u> strong ruler

Octavian

- Octavian = gave himself title *Augustus* = "majestic one"
    - Became Rome's first emperor = absolute ruler
    - Rebuilt Rome
    - Imported grain so all of Rome could be fed
    - New roads build & old ones rebuilt
    - Had magnificent buildings built
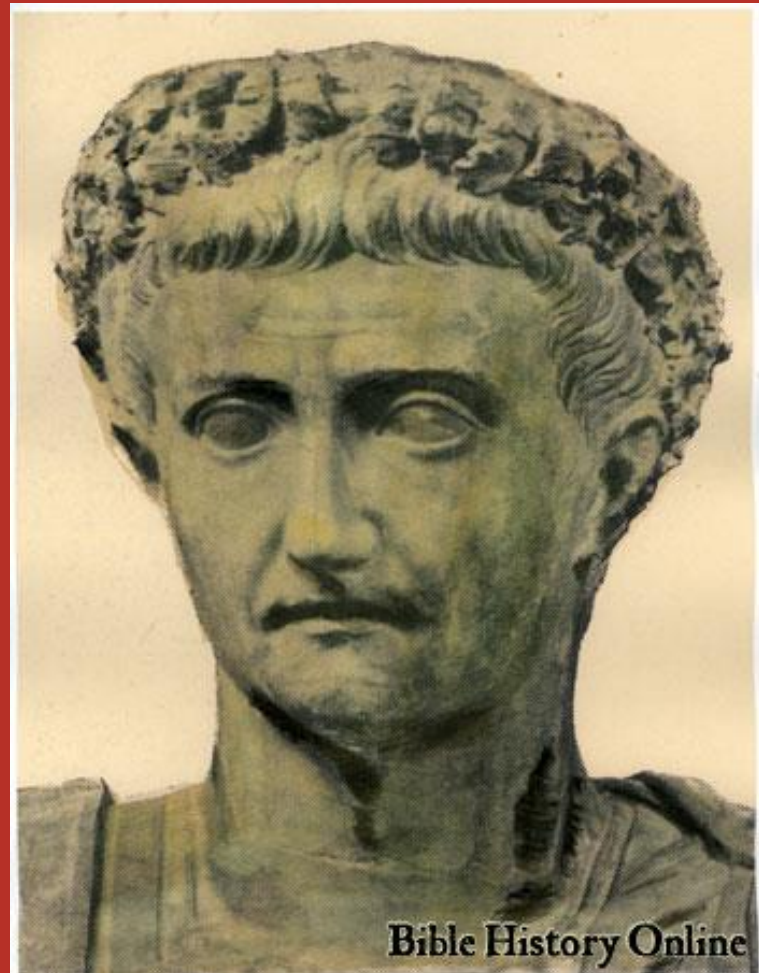   - Ruled for 40 years

The Pax Romana

- Pax Romana = Roman Peace
  - Period of Peace that lasted about 200 years
  - Only minor disturbances = selection of later emperors

The First Emperors

- Augustus was followed by the Julio-Claudian Emperors (4 of them)
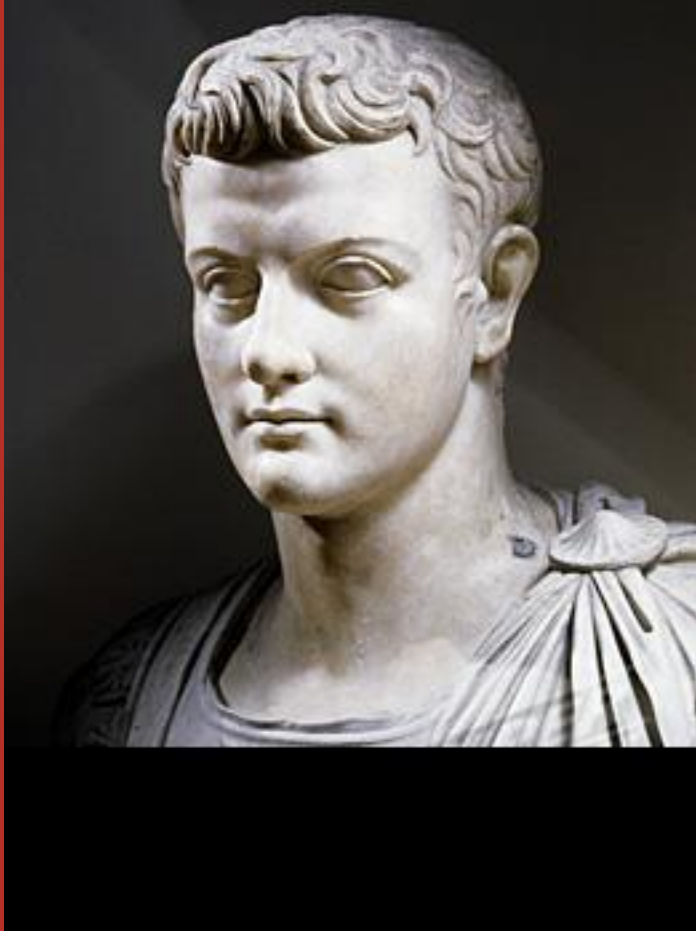 - All members of Augustus's family
  - Poor leaders

The First Emperors

- Tiberius Caesar = accused innocent people of treason

Bible History Online

The First Emperors

- Caligula Caesar = mentally disturbed & killed by a palace guard

The First Emperors

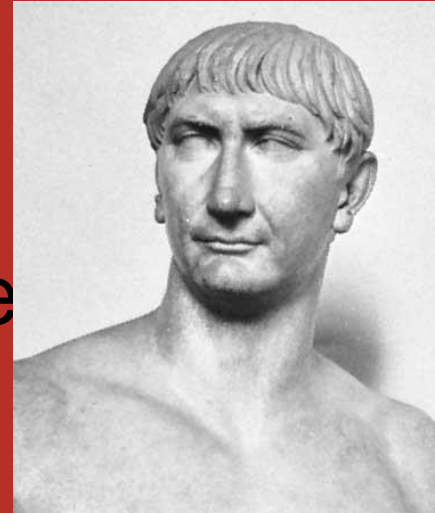- Claudius Caesar = very smart, but had trouble focusing on affairs of the state

The First Emperors
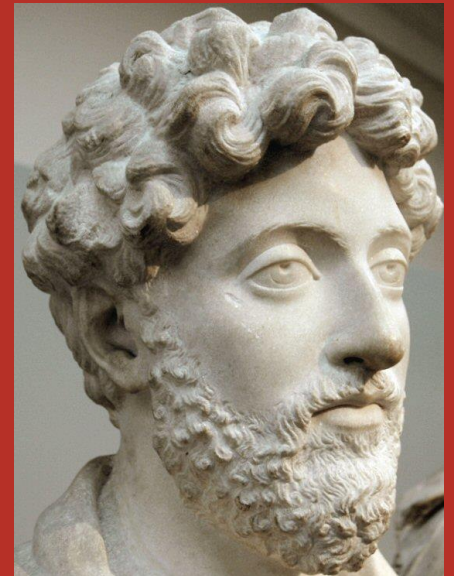
- Nero Caesar = cruel & insane
  - Willing to bankrupt Rome to pay for his horse racing & music
  - Paranoid of traitors --> killed own wife, mother, & many senators
  - Sentenced to death for treason, but killed himself first

Good Emperors

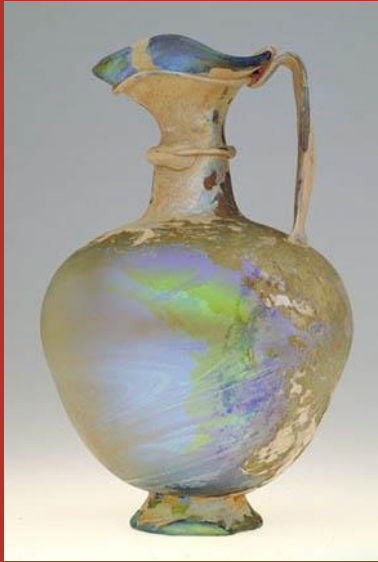- Trajan = increased the empire to its greatest size

- Marcus Aurelius = brought the empire to the height of its economic prosperity

Roman Rule

- Emperors were also chief priests of the Roman religion

- 2 separate sets of laws --> 1 for citizens & 1 for non-citizens
  - All laws stressed the state over the individual
  - Gave more legal rights (like you are innocent until proven guilty)

- Emperors reduced the size of the army

Roman Civilization

- Pax Romana boosted trade & generated many achievements in arts (pottery, woven cloth, blown glass, jewelry)

Roman Civilization

- Family became less significant
  - Had fewer children
  - Likely to divorce & remarry several times
  - Wives gained some legal rights

Roman Civilization

- Wealthy class = owned large farms, ran factories, held public office
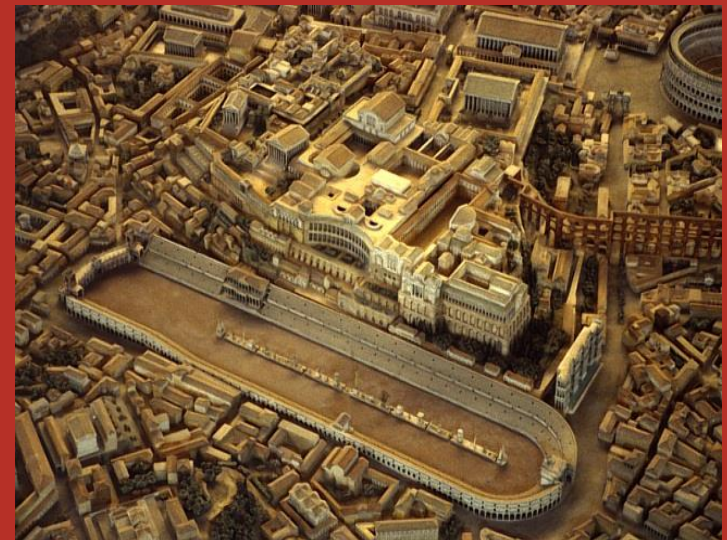 - Lived in luxurious homes with marble & mosaic floors, running water, and baths

Roman Civilization

- Most of Rome was still poor
  - Bathed in public baths, lived in apartment buildings that could easily collapse or catch fire
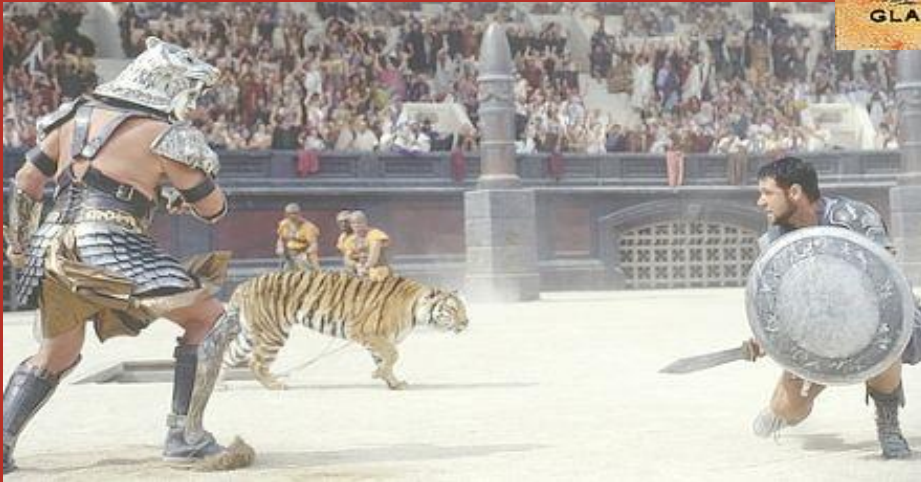 - Didn't rebel because they got free food & entertainment --> like chariot races and gladiator fights

Roman Public Baths

Chariot Races

Gladiator Fights

Roman Civilization

- Pantheon & Colosseum were built, as well as new roads

Roman Civilization

- Built **aqueducts =** artificial channels for carrying water
  - Brought water to Rome from far away

Roman Education

- Wealthy boys & girls received tutoring at home

- Wealthy boys went on to academies

- Wealthy girls continued studying at home & often learned as much as the men

- Lower classes usually had at least a knowledge of reading, writing, & arithmetic

Roman Education

- Latin = official language of Rome
    - Basis of Romance languages
    - Supplies the roots for over half of all English words

Roman Writers

- Cicero = wrote beautiful speeches

- Virgil = wrote epic poems like Homer

- Livy = historian of Rome

The Empire's Problems

- Around 180 CE = Emperor Commodus bankrupted the treasury
  - Killed by his own troops
- The next 28 emperors were installed by the army, only to be killed off

The Empire's Problems

- Armies fighting each other didn't have time to defend the Empire's borders against attack

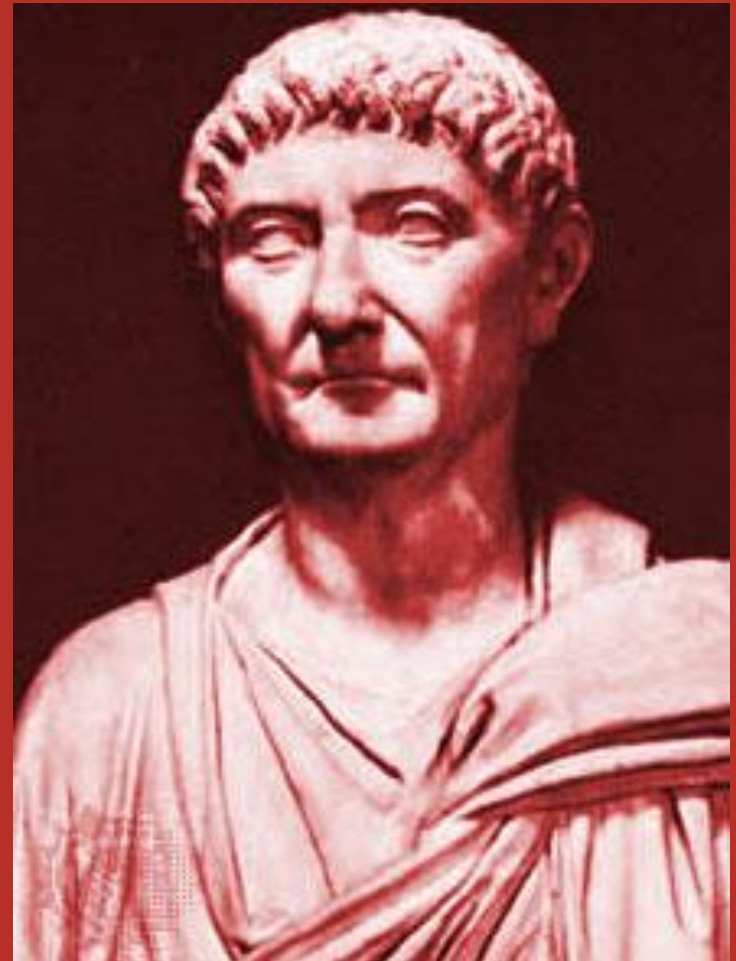- Warfare disrupted production & trade, as well as farmland

The Empire's Problems

- Government minted more coins to cope with economic problems
  - Caused **inflation =** a rise in prices & a decrease in the value of money
  - Higher taxes = only way to pay for soldiers needed in war
  - Taxing landowners caused them to abandon land --> this meant less crops & food shortage

Unsuccessful Reforms

- Diocletian = increased the number of men in the army
  - Divided the Empire into 2 units
    - He ruled the east, another ruled the west
  - His economic reforms failed

Unsuccessful Reforms

- Constantine
  - Tried to stabilize the Empire after civil wars
  - Made it legal for landowners to chain workers so they didn't leave
  - Made most jobs hereditary
  - Moved the capital in the east & called in Constantinople

Unsuccessful Reforms

- Theodosius
  - Made the east & west separate Empires
    - East = Byzantine Empire
    - West = Roman Empire

Barbarian Invasions

Invasions of the Roman Empire
100 - 500 CE

- Germanic tribes entered the Empire for many reasons:
  - Looked for warmer climate
  - Wanted better grazing land
  - Wanted Rome's wealth
  - Most were fleeing from the Huns = fierce nomadic invaders & warriors

Warrior Groups

- Warrior group = warriors, their families, and a chief
- Poor compared to Romans
- Many different warrior groups --> only thing they had in common was Germanic language
- Romans considered these tribes barbarians & thought of their language as weird babbling & sounds
- The Visigoths = captured & sacked Rome
- The Huns (led by Attila the Hun) = plundered cities in Italy

Attila the Hun

Vandals Sacking Rome

The Huns celebrating

End of the Western Empire

- Germanic tribes (Vandals, Franks, Goths, etc.) took over the Empire
- Overthrew the emperor
- Western Roman Empire ended in the late 400s
  - Some Roman culture remained
  - Germanic rulers accepted: Latin language, Roman laws, and Christian Church