

ANCIENT ROME - WEBQUEST

Directions: Answer the following questions by using the web link below.

<http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/ancient-rome>



1. Briefly explain the legend of Romulus and Remus.
2. When was Rome founded?
3. Rome's era as a monarchy ended in ____ B.C. with the overthrow of its seventh king, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, whom ancient historians portrayed as _____.
4. What does the word "republic" mean?
5. Explain the type of government system that existed in Rome after the fall of the monarchs that ruled Rome in its early years fell.

6. Explain what is meant by the “Twelve Tables”.

7. By around ____ B.C., real political power in Rome was centered in the _____, which at the time included only members of _____.

8. Explain the “Punic Wars” AND the rest of these conflicts.

9. What other civilization greatly impacted Rome and Roman culture?

10. Explain the internal struggles and turmoil in Rome in the late republic.

11. Rome had a series of warlords that would dominate in the late republic. Complete the chart below to show the correct order of the warlords.

Gaius Marius

Sulla

Pompey

Marcus Tullius Cicero

WARLORDS	TIMEFRAME IN POWER

21. Augustus' dynasty included the unpopular _____ (14-37 A.D.), the bloodthirsty and unstable _____ (37-41) and _____ (41-54), who was best remembered for his army's conquest of Britain. The line ended with _____ (54-68), whose excesses drained the Roman treasury and led to his downfall and eventual suicide.
22. Who was the emperor of Rome during the infamous eruption of Vesuvius, which destroyed the towns of Herculaneum and Pompeii?
23. According to the reading, what brought the golden age of Roman emperors to an end?
24. Rome suffered from both internal and external issues after the death of Commodus. In the space below, briefly explain these struggles.
- a. Internal Issues (From Within):

 - b. External Issues (From Outside):

Answer the remaining questions by viewing the video at the top of the web page as well as the last part of the reading. The video is titled "Rome Falls".

25. _____ (the son of Constantius) emerged from the ensuing power struggles as sole emperor of a reunified Rome in 324. He moved the Roman capital to the Greek city of _____, which he renamed _____. At the Council of Nicaea in 325, Constantine made _____ (once an obscure Jewish sect) Rome's official religion.
26. It is often said that Rome collapsed under its own weight. What do you suppose this means?

27. What group of people played a large role in the final demise of the Roman Empire?

28. Who was Odovacar AND what did he do?

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1. Briefly explain the legend of Romulus and Remus.

As legend has it, Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus, twin sons of Mars, the god of war. Left to drown in a basket on the Tiber by a king of nearby Alba Longa and rescued by a she-wolf, the twins lived to defeat that king and found their own city on the river's banks in 753 B.C. After killing his brother, Romulus became the first king of Rome, which is named for him.

2. When was Rome founded?

8th Century B.C.

3. Rome's era as a monarchy ended in 509 B.C. with the overthrow of its seventh king, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, whom ancient historians portrayed as cruel and tyrannical, compared to his benevolent predecessors.

4. What does the word "republic" mean?

Property of the people.

5. Explain the type of government system that existed in Rome after the fall of the monarchs that ruled Rome in its early years fell.

The power of the monarch passed to two annually elected magistrates called consuls; they also served as commanders in chief of the army. The magistrates, though elected by the people, were drawn largely from the Senate.

6. Explain what is meant by the “Twelve Tables”.

In 450 B.C., the first Roman law code was inscribed on 12 bronze tablets—known as the Twelve Tables—and publicly displayed in the Roman Forum. These laws included issues of legal procedure, civil rights and property rights and provided the basis for all future Roman civil law.

7. By around 300 B.C., real political power in Rome was centered in the Senate, which at the time included only members of patrician and wealthy plebeian families.

8. Explain the “Punic Wars” AND the rest of these conflicts.

Rome then fought a series of wars known as the Punic Wars with Carthage, a powerful city-state in northern Africa. The first two Punic Wars ended with Rome in full control of Sicily, the western Mediterranean and much of Spain. In the Third Punic War (149–146 B.C.), the Romans captured and destroyed the city of Carthage and sold its surviving inhabitants into slavery, making a section of northern Africa a Roman province.

9. What other civilization greatly impacted Rome and Roman culture?

The Greeks

10. Explain the internal struggles and turmoil in Rome in the late republic.

Rome’s complex political institutions began to crumble under the weight of the growing empire, ushering in an era of internal turmoil and violence. The gap between rich and poor widened as wealthy landowners drove small farmers from public land, while access to government was increasingly limited to the more privileged classes.

11. Rome had a series of warlords that would dominate in the late republic. Complete the chart below to show the correct order of the warlords.

Gaius Marius

Sulla

Pompey

Marcus Tullius Cicero

WARLORDS	TIMEFRAME IN POWER
Gaius Marius	107 B.C. to 82 B.C.
Sulla	82 B.C. to ?
Pompey	For a time briefly after Sulla.
Marcus Tullius Cicero	63 B.C. to ?

12. Who did Gaius Julius Caesar complete with for rule over the Roman Empire after the fall of the rule of the warlords?

Pompey

13. In 49 B.C., Caesar and one of his legions crossed the Rubicon, a river on the border between Italy from Cisalpine Gaul. Caesar's invasion of Italy ignited a civil war from which he emerged as dictator of Rome for life in 45 B.C.

14. Briefly explain the events surrounding the death of Caesar.

Less than a year later, Caesar was murdered by a group of his enemies (led by the republican nobles Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius).

15. What was the Second Triumvirate?

Consul Mark Antony and Caesar's great-nephew and adopted heir, Octavian, joined forces to crush Brutus and Cassius and divided power in Rome with ex-consul Lepidus in what was known as the Second Triumvirate.

16. Explain the tensions that existed during the Second Triumvirate.

With Octavian leading the western provinces, Antony the east, and Lepidus Africa, tensions developed by 36 B.C. and the triumvirate soon dissolved.

17. What was the significance of the Battle of Actium?

In 31 B.C., Octavian triumphed over the forces of Antony and Queen Cleopatra of Egypt (also rumored to be the onetime lover of Julius Caesar) in the Battle of Actium. In the wake of this devastating defeat, Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide.

18. By 29 B.C., Octavian was the sole leader of Rome and all its provinces. To avoid meeting Caesar's fate, he made sure to make his position as absolute ruler acceptable to the public by apparently restoring the political institutions of the Roman republic while in reality retaining all real power for himself.

19. Who was the first emperor of Rome and when did it occur?

In 27 B.C., Octavian assumed the title of Augustus, becoming the first emperor of Rome.

20. What was life like under the rule of the first Roman emperor?

Augustus' rule restored morale in Rome after a century of discord and corruption and ushered in the famous *pax Romana*—two full centuries of peace and prosperity. He instituted various social reforms, won numerous military victories and allowed Roman literature, art, architecture and religion to flourish.

21. Augustus' dynasty included the unpopular Tiberius (14-37 A.D.), the bloodthirsty and unstable Caligula (37-41) and Claudius (41-54), who was best remembered for his army's conquest of Britain. The line ended with Nero (54-68), whose excesses drained the Roman treasury and led to his downfall and eventual suicide.

22. Who was the emperor of Rome during the infamous eruption of Vesuvius, which destroyed the towns of Herculaneum and Pompeii?

Titus

23. According to the reading, what brought the golden age of Roman emperors to an end?

The decadence and incompetence of Commodus (180-192) brought the golden age of the Roman emperors to a disappointing end.

24. Rome suffered from both internal and external issues after the death of Commodus. In the space below, briefly explain these struggles.

a. Internal Issues (From Within):

The death of Commodus at the hands of his own ministers sparked another period of civil war, from which Lucius Septimius Severus (193-211) emerged victorious. During the third century Rome suffered from a cycle of near-constant conflict. A total of 22 emperors took the throne, many of them meeting violent ends at the hands of the same soldiers who had propelled them to power.

b. External Issues (From Outside):

Threats from outside plagued the empire and depleted its riches, including continuing aggression from Germans and Parthians and raids by the Goths over the Aegean Sea.

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25. Constantine (the son of Constantius) emerged from the ensuing power struggles as sole emperor of a reunified Rome in 324. He moved the Roman capital to the Greek city of Byzantium, which he renamed Constantinople. At the Council of Nicaea in 325, Constantine made Christianity (once an obscure Jewish sect) Rome's official religion.

26. It is often said that Rome collapsed under its own weight. What do you suppose this means?

Rome was a massive empire that spanned across Europe to the Middle East and Northern Africa. After centuries, it became difficult for the empire to maintain itself and it struggled to maintain a cash flow that was necessary in order to protect such a large empire. Essentially, it got too big and the emperors were unable to financially support all of the territories.

27. What group of people played a large role in the final demise of the Roman Empire?

Germanic peoples, many of who were former soldiers for the Roman army.

28. Who was Odovacar AND what did he do?

In September 476, a Germanic prince named Odovacar won control of the Roman army in Italy. After deposing the last western emperor, Romulus Augustus, Odovacar's troops proclaimed him king of Italy, bringing an ignoble end to the long, tumultuous history of ancient Rome.