

# Roman Civilization

## Lesson 1 The Roman Way of Life

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*What makes a culture unique?*

### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What was daily life like for the Romans?*
2. *How did the Greeks influence Roman culture?*

### Terms to Know

**gladiator** a person who fought people and animals for public entertainment

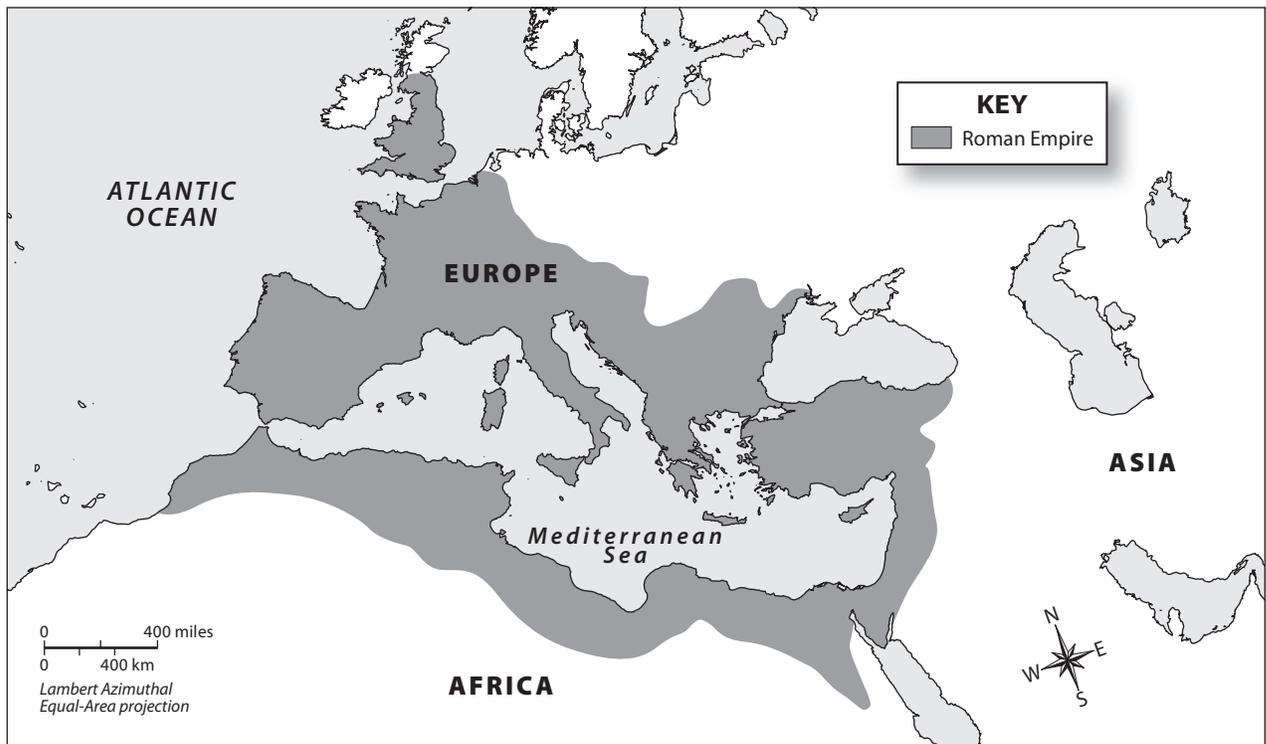
**satire** writing that pokes fun at human weaknesses

**ode** poem that expresses strong emotions about life

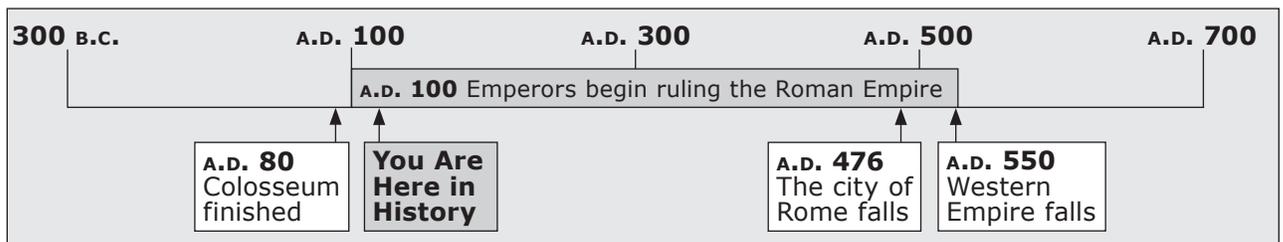
**vault** a curved ceiling

**anatomy** the study of the body's structure

## Where in the world?



## When did it happen?



## Roman Civilization

### Lesson 1 The Roman Way of Life, *Continued*

#### Daily Life

Rome was one of the largest and most carefully planned cities in the ancient world. More than a million people lived in Rome by about A.D. 1. It had a public square called the Forum. Romans shopped, conducted business, played games, and visited with friends in this area.

Wealthy people lived in big houses built around courtyards. Most Romans were poor and did unskilled labor. They lived in apartment buildings. Those neighborhoods were crowded, noisy, and dirty.

Politicians offered free food and entertainment to gain the support of the poor. People watched chariot races. They also watched **gladiators** fight. Gladiators fought each other or even wild animals to entertain the crowds.

##### Roman Men

- Heads of household
- Responsible for their children's education
- Responsible for the family business
- Could work outside the home
- Could own property

##### Roman Women

- Not full citizens
- Had strong influence on their families
- Did the housework
- Could work in the family's business
- Few worked outside their homes

Roman families were large. Fathers had control over their families. They could even sell their children into slavery. Children of wealthy families received an education. Sons went to school to learn reading, writing, math, and rhetoric, or public speaking. Children of poor families could not afford to go to school. Poor people learned just enough reading, writing, and math to help them conduct business.

Wives of wealthy, powerful men had more freedom than those with less money. They could own land. They could hire enslaved people to do their housework, so they had free time to study art and literature, and go out for entertainment. Women with little money generally worked in the family business and took care of their households.

The use of enslaved persons in Rome became more common as the empire grew larger. Most enslaved people were prisoners of war. They worked in homes and on farms. They also helped build roads, bridges, and buildings.

Romans believed that gods and spirits controlled all parts of life. Greek gods and goddesses were popular in



#### Explaining

1. What did politicians do to make people like them?

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#### Listing

2. List three activities that wealthy women could do that poorer women could not.

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#### Marking the Text

3. Underline the phrase that explains why wives of wealthy men had time for study and entertainment.

## Roman Civilization

### Lesson 1 The Roman Way of Life, *Continued*

#### Reading Check

4. Why was the family important in Roman society?

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#### Listing

5. Cut a two-tab Foldable in half to make four tabs. On the anchor tab, write *Romans Borrowed from Greeks*. Label the four tabs *Religion and Culture*, *Art*, *Science*, and *Architecture*.

Use both sides of the tabs to list examples of each category.

#### Contrasting

6. How were satires different from odes?

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Rome, but the Romans gave them new names. The Roman Senate declared that the emperors were gods. The Romans worshiped their gods by praying and offering food to them.

Romans borrowed ideas such as Stoicism from the Greeks and changed them to fit their culture. For Greeks, Stoicism meant finding happiness through reason. For the Romans, it meant living in a practical way. Roman Stoics urged people to do their civic duty and participate in government. These ideas are still important to us today.

### Science and Art

The Romans used many features of Greek writing, art, and architecture, but changed them to fit Roman style. Like the Greeks, Roman artists created statues. Greek statues showed perfect and beautiful people. Roman statues, on the other hand, showed people that looked more realistic.

Greeks	Romans
Greeks believed in gods and goddesses.	Romans gave Greek gods and goddesses new names.
Stoicism taught people to find happiness through reason.	Stoicism taught people to do their duties as citizens and participate in government.
Statues made people look perfect and beautiful.	Realistic statues showed details like warts and wrinkles.
Writers honored their gods and praised their generals' successes.	Writers wrote comedies about their gods' mistakes. Writers also wrote about the failures of their generals.

Some Roman writers based their work on Greek models. The Roman poet Virgil borrowed some of the ideas for his poem the *Aeneid* from the Greek poem called the *Odyssey*. The poet Horace based his **satires** and **odes** on Greek works. Satires poke fun at human weakness, like comedians do today. Odes are poems that express strong emotions about life.

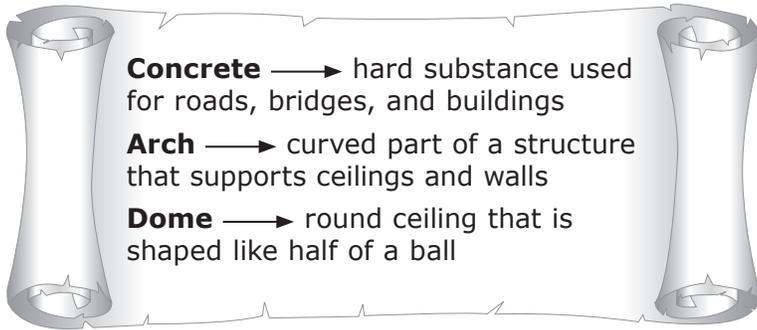
Other Romans wrote plays. Unlike the Greeks, however, Romans wrote comedies about their gods as well as plays that honored them.

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**Roman Civilization**

**Lesson 1** The Roman Way of Life, *Continued*

Romans added new ideas to architecture. Architecture is the art of making structures, such as buildings. Romans built with concrete. They added arches. By putting many arches together, they could form a **vault**, or curved ceiling. Curved ceilings created beautiful domes. Using domes, the Romans were able to build large, open rooms.



Romans also learned science from the Greeks. They studied the work of a Greek doctor named Galen. Galen studied **anatomy** to learn about the body's structure.

Roman engineers built practical things such as bridges, buildings, and roads. Roads connected the city of Rome to every part of the empire. This allowed soldiers to travel quickly. Traders used the roads so trade grew. The Romans also built aqueducts that carried fresh water into the cities.

The Romans influenced future generations. Concrete and other elements of Roman architecture are still used today. Until about A.D. 1500, Latin, the language of the Romans, was the official language of European government, trade, and learning. It is the basis of many modern languages, such as Italian, French, and Spanish.

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**Check for Understanding**

List two facts that describe what life was like for the Romans.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

List two things the Romans borrowed from the Greeks and then adapted to meet their needs.

3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Explaining**

7. How did engineers change and improve the lives of people throughout the empire?

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**Reading Check**

8. Describe Roman improvements to Greek architecture.

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9. Place a one-tab Foldable to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Culture and Influences*. In the center of the Foldable, write *Roman Daily Life*.

Make a memory map by drawing five arrows out from the title. Write five words or phrases about Roman daily life. Use your notes to help you with the lists under the tab.