

People of Ancient Rome

When only one group knows the laws.

Patricians

The ruling men of Rome for as long as anyone could remember:

- knew the laws
- could be magistrates (judge court cases)
- could take important, powerful jobs
- owned land
- owned slaves to work for them.



The Patricians had to:

- fight for Rome
- pay taxes
- help rule Rome.

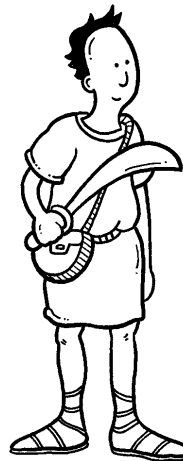
Plebeians

Ordinary freemen like farmers and tradesmen:

- could own land and slaves.

But Plebeians:

- did not know what the laws were
- could not get the important, powerful jobs
- could not outvote Patricians.



The Plebeians had to:

- fight for Rome
- pay taxes.



Women were not allowed:

- into the place laws were made
- they could not vote and had no say at all about laws.

Slaves:

- had to obey their owners
- had no say at all.



Making laws in Rome (before the Plebeian protest)



Consuls

Two Consuls governed Rome. They:

- could only be chosen from the Patricians
- were elected for one year
- both had to agree before any decisions were made.



Magistrates

- were only Patrician men
- said what the laws meant
- judged court cases.



The Senate

- about 300 Patricians became Senators for life
- gave advice to the Magistrates and Consuls.

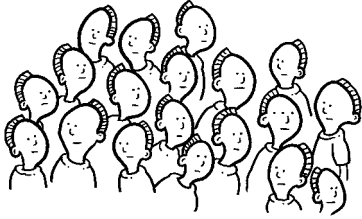


The Assembly

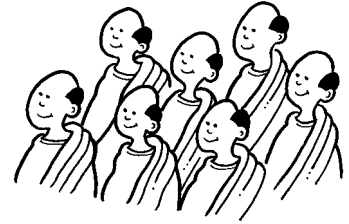
All Roman citizens (Patrician and Plebeian) met in the Assembly to vote on laws and to choose Patrician men for important jobs.

- only men
- the Patricians had more power than the Plebeians
- Patrician votes were always worth more than Plebeian votes.

Making laws after peaceful protest



There were far more
Plebeians than Patricians
in Ancient Rome.

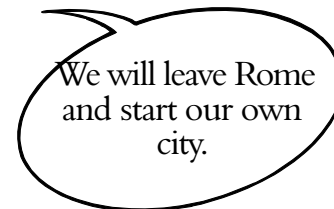
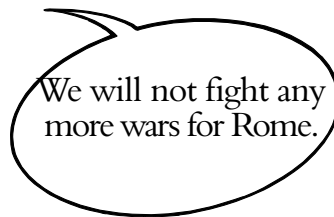


But only the Patricians
could make the laws.

The Plebeians wanted

- a say in making laws
- to know what all the laws were.

So they said



The Patricians needed the Plebeians so they were forced to give:

Tribunes

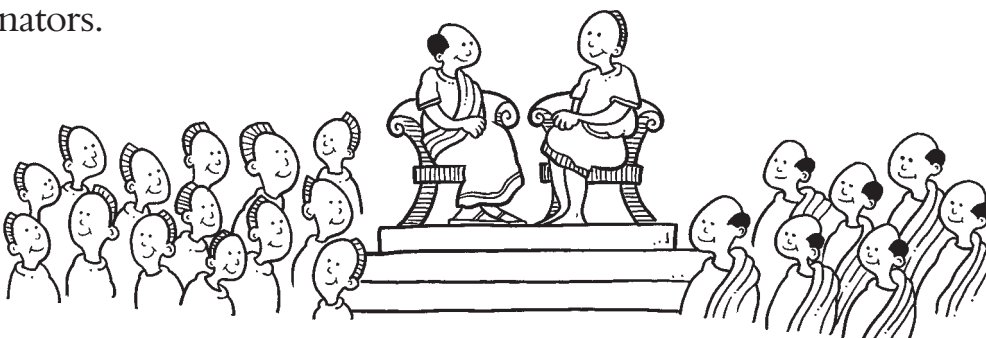
Plebeian men who could stop a law being made and protect any Plebeian in a law court

The Twelve Tables

The laws of Rome written down for everyone to see

Finally ... Plebeians were allowed to:

- make up laws in the Assembly
- have the powerful jobs (be Magistrates and Consuls)
- be Senators.



Checklist – before and after the Plebeian protest

Directions: Place a checkmark under the column that is true.

| PATRICIANS could: | before | after |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|
| • know the laws | | |
| • make and change laws | | |
| • be Magistrates | | |
| • be Consuls | | |
| • be Senators | | |
| • own land | | |
| • fight for Rome | | |
| • pay taxes | | |
| • vote in the Assembly | | |
| • out vote others in the Assembly | | |
| PLEBEIANS could: | before | after |
| • know the laws | | |
| • make and change laws | | |
| • be Magistrates | | |
| • be Consuls | | |
| • be Senators | | |
| • own land | | |
| • fight for Rome | | |
| • pay taxes | | |
| • vote in the Assembly | | |
| • out vote others in the Assembly | | |

What powers did the others have? List below.

| | Before | After |
|--------|--------|-------|
| Women | | |
| Slaves | | |