

Section

4

The Early Empire

Guide to Reading



History Social Science Standards

WH.6.7 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures during the development of Rome.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

You learned in Section 3 that when Octavian became Augustus, the Roman world began to change. The republic gave way to an empire, and peace and prosperity spread throughout the Mediterranean.

Focusing on the Ideas

- By expanding the empire and reorganizing the military and government, Augustus created a new era of prosperity. (page 445)
- Rome's system of roads, aqueducts, ports, and common currency made the empire rich and prosperous. (page 446)

Locating Places

Rhine River (RYN)

Danube River (DAN•YOOb)

Puteoli (pyu•TEE•uh•ly)

Ostia (AHS•tee•uh)

Meeting People

Caligula (kuh•LIH•gyuh•luh)

Nero (NEE•roh)

Hadrian (HAY•dree•uhn)

Content Vocabulary

Pax Romana

(pahks roh•MAH•nah)

aqueduct (A•kwuh•DUHKT)

currency (KUHR•uhn•see)

Academic Vocabulary

successor (suhk•SEH•suhr)

commit (kuh•MIHT)

capable (KAY•puh•buhl)

Reading Strategy

Cause and Effect Use a chart like the one below to show the changes Augustus made in the Roman Empire and the effect of each change.

Causes	Effects



Where & When?



A.D. 10

A.D. 14

Augustus dies

A.D. 96

A.D. 96

Rule of the Good Emperors begins

A.D. 210

A.D. 180

Pax Romana ends



The Emperor Augustus

Idea By expanding the empire and reorganizing the military and government, Augustus created a new era of prosperity.

Reading Connection What makes a good or bad leader? Think about this question as you read about Augustus and other Roman emperors.

Augustus paved the way for 200 years of peace and prosperity in Rome. The emperors who followed him were not all good rulers, but they helped the Roman Empire reach its peak. For centuries, the Mediterranean region had been filled with conflict. Under Augustus and his **successors**, the region was under the control of one empire. A long era of peace began with Augustus and lasted until A.D. 180. It was called the **Pax Romana** (pahks roh•MAH•nah), or “Roman Peace.”

What Did Augustus Achieve? Upon becoming emperor in 27 B.C., Augustus set a goal to make the empire strong and safe. To provide security, he built a permanent, professional army of about 150,000 men—all Roman citizens. Augustus also created a special unit called the Praetorian Guard.

This force consisted of about 9,000 men in charge of guarding the emperor. The Praetorian Guard later became very influential in Roman politics.

Augustus's legions conquered new territories and added vast stretches of northern Europe to the empire. All of Spain and Gaul came under Roman rule, as did land in what is today Austria, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria.

Meanwhile, Augustus rebuilt Rome with stately palaces, fountains, and splendid public buildings. “I found Rome a city of brick,” he boasted, “and left it a city of marble.” The arts flourished as never before, and Augustus also imported grain from Africa to feed the poor. He knew that a well-fed population would be less likely to cause trouble.

Augustus devoted much of his energy to improving Rome's government. During his reign, more than 50 million people lived in the Roman Empire. To rule this huge population, Augustus appointed a proconsul, or governor, for each of Rome's provinces.

Augustus also reformed the Roman tax system. Previously, individual tax collectors paid the government for the right to do the job. To make their investment worthwhile,



▲ The city of Rome at the height of the Roman Empire



WH6.7.3 Identify the location of and the political and geographic reasons for the growth of Roman territories and expansion of the empire, including how the empire fostered economic growth through the use of currency and trade routes.

tax collectors were allowed to keep some of the money they gathered. Many of them, however, were dishonest and took too much. Augustus solved this problem by making tax collectors permanent government workers. This change made the tax system fairer.

Augustus also reformed the legal system. He created a set of laws for people in the provinces who were not citizens. As time passed, however, most of these people gained citizenship. The laws of Rome then applied to everyone, although the legal system traditionally stressed the authority of the government over the rights of the individual.

Who Came After Augustus? After ruling nearly 40 years, Augustus died in A.D. 14. No law stated how the next emperor was to be chosen. Augustus, however, had trained a relative, Tiberius, to follow him. The next three emperors—**Caligula** (kuh•LIH•gyuh•luh), Claudius, and **Nero** (NEE•roh)—also came from Augustus’s family. They are called the Julio-Claudian emperors. Unfortunately, they were not all fit to lead. Tiberius and Claudius ruled capably. Caligula and Nero, however, proved to be cruel leaders.

Mental illness caused Caligula to act strangely and to treat people cruelly. He had many people murdered, wasted a lot of money, and even gave his favorite horse the position of consul. Eventually, the Praetorian Guard killed him and put Claudius on the throne.

Nero was also a vicious man. Among those he had killed were his mother and two wives. He is best remembered for having “fiddled while Rome burned.” According to legend, he was playing music miles from Rome when a fire destroyed much of the city in A.D. 64. Eventually, he **committed** suicide.

 **Reading Check Explain** What did Augustus do to make the empire safer and stronger?

Unity and Prosperity

Idea Rome’s system of roads, aqueducts, ports, and common currency made the empire rich and prosperous.

Reading Connection Do you find that you are more productive when you are not worried about conflicts at home or school? Read to learn how the Roman Empire prospered during its time of peace.

After Nero committed suicide, Rome passed through a period of serious disorder. In not much more than a year, four different men had taken the title of emperor.

At first the senate tried to appoint Nero’s successor. However, the new emperor did not pay his personal troops enough money, and they assassinated him. The leader of this conspiracy, a man named Otho, became the next emperor. Many of the legions outside of Italy did not support him. The troops in Gaul picked one of their own generals to rule, a man named Vitellius. After Vitellius defeated Otho in battle, Otho committed suicide and Vitellius became emperor.

However, the troops in Palestine did not support Otho or Vitellius. In July of A.D. 69, they declared the general Vespasian to be emperor. Vespasian led his soldiers back to Italy, where he defeated Vitellius and took the throne. Unlike the other generals, Vespasian restored peace and order. He put down several rebellions in the empire, including the Jewish rebellion in Palestine. Troops commanded by his son Titus defeated the Jews and destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

During his reign, Vespasian began construction of the Colosseum—a huge amphitheater—in central Rome. His son Titus, then his other son Domitian, ruled Rome after he died. Both sons oversaw an era of recovery and growth in Rome.



AUGUSTUS

63 B.C.–A.D. 14

Octavian was born to a wealthy family in a small Italian town southeast of Rome. During his youth, Octavian suffered a number of illnesses. He refused to let his illnesses interfere with his life, however, showing the determination that would later make him Rome's first emperor.

Octavian's father was a Roman senator, but it was Octavian's great-uncle—Julius Caesar—who first introduced Octavian to public life in Rome. In his late teens, Octavian joined Caesar in Africa and then the following year in Spain. At the age of 18, while Octavian was studying at school, he learned that his great-uncle had been murdered. In his will, Caesar had adopted Octavian as his son. Caesar had also made Octavian his heir—a position that Antony had assumed would be his. Against his family's advice, Octavian went to Rome to claim his inheritance. By the time he reached Rome, however, Antony had seized Caesar's papers and money and refused to give them to Octavian. With remarkable political savvy for someone so young, Octavian turned the situation around in his favor. He won the hearts of Caesar's soldiers and the people of Rome by celebrating the public games that Caesar had started.

In his rise to power and during his reign as Emperor Augustus, Octavian pushed himself and his loyal followers with relentless energy. In his private life, however, he lived simply and quietly and shunned personal luxury. He was devoted to his wife, Livia Drusilla, and spent his spare time with her at their home on the outskirts of Rome.

Augustus ▶

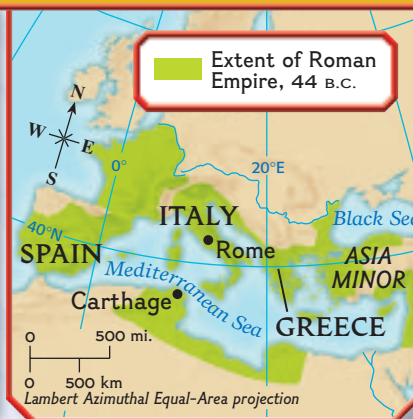


**"I extended the frontiers
of all the provinces of the
Roman people."**

—Augustus, "Res Gestae: The
Accomplishments of Augustus"

Then and Now

Augustus overcame the obstacles of illness and political enemies to become a great emperor. Can you think of any present-day individuals who overcame obstacles to excel at something?



(1)Seamus Culligan/ZUMA CORBIS (2)Jonathan Blair/CORBIS

The “Good Emperors” of the *Pax Romana*



Nerva

A.D. 96–98

Reformed land laws in favor of the poor; revised taxes



Trajan

A.D. 98–117

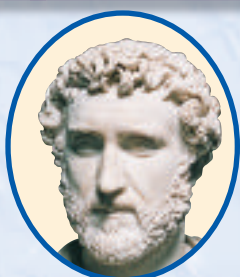
Expanded the empire to its largest size; built many new public works



Hadrian

A.D. 117–138

Built Hadrian’s Wall in Britain; made Roman laws easier to understand



Antoninus Pius

A.D. 138–161

Promoted art and science; built new public works; passed laws to aid orphans



Marcus Aurelius

A.D. 161–180

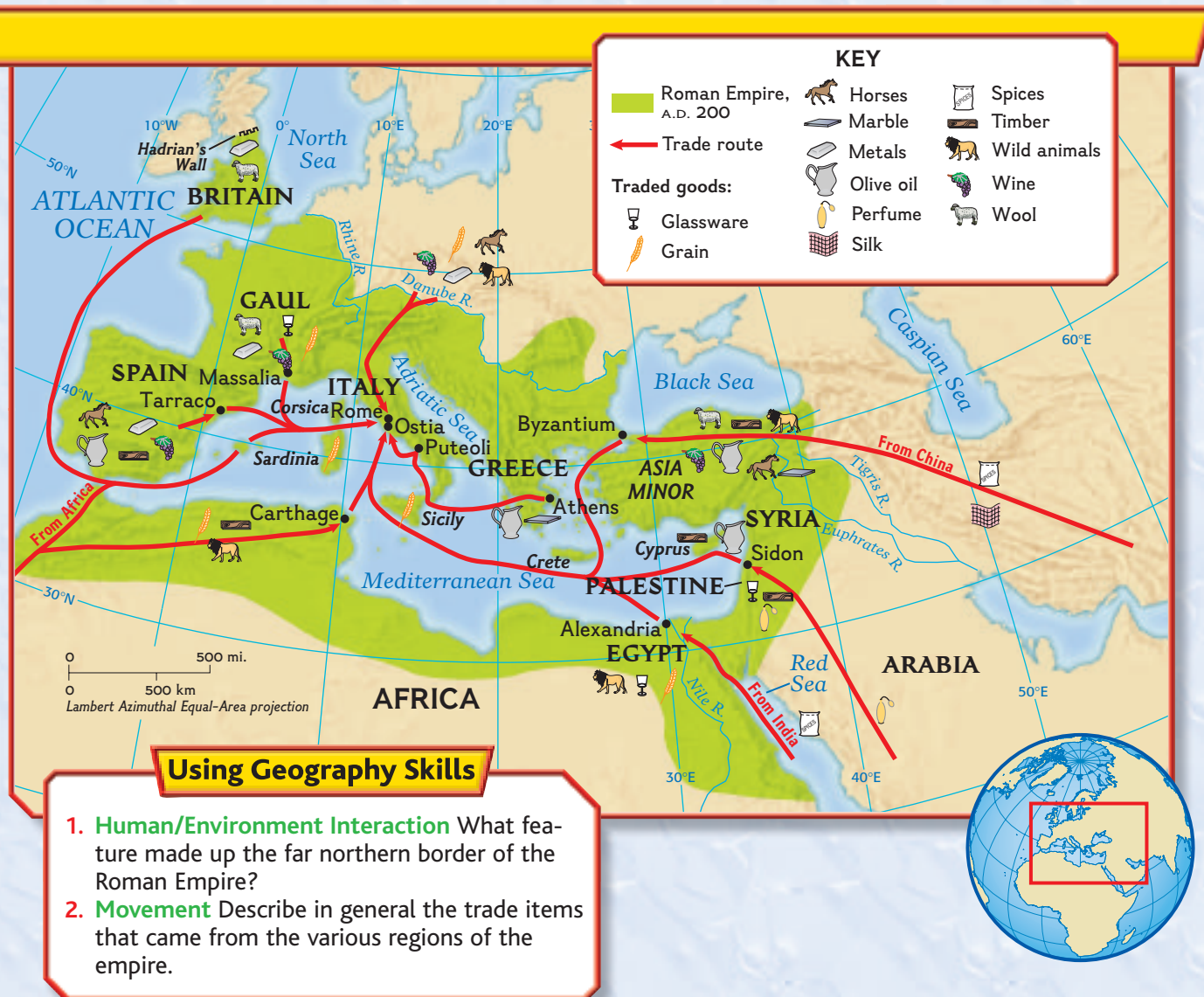
Helped unite the empire economically; reformed Roman law

The “Good Emperors” At the beginning of the A.D. 100s, a series of rulers who were not related to Augustus or Vespasian came to power. These five emperors—Nerva, Trajan, **Hadrian** (HAY•dree•uhn), Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius—are known as the “good emperors.” They presided over nearly a century of prosperity, from A.D. 96 to A.D. 180. Agriculture flourished, trade increased, and the standard of living rose.

During this time, the emperor came to overshadow the Senate more than ever before. The five “good emperors” did not abuse their power, however. They were

among the most devoted and capable rulers in Rome’s history.

Among the achievements of these emperors were programs to help ordinary people. Trajan gave money to help poor parents raise and educate their children. Hadrian made Roman law easier to interpret and apply. Antoninus Pius passed laws to help orphans. All the emperors supported public building projects. They built arches and monuments, bridges and roads, and harbors and aqueducts. An **aqueduct** (A•kwuh•DUHKT) is a human-made channel for carrying water long distances.



A Unified Empire Later emperors continued to conquer new territory for Rome. The empire reached its largest size under Trajan. It spread well beyond the Mediterranean, including Britain in the north and part of Mesopotamia in the east.

Trajan's successors, however, realized that the empire had grown too big to rule effectively. Hadrian began to pull back. He removed troops from most of Mesopotamia. In Europe, he set the empire's eastern boundaries at the **Rhine River** (RYN) and **Danube River** (DAN•YOUB). He also built Hadrian's Wall across northern Britain to

keep out the Picts and Scots—two warlike people who lived in northern Britain.

In the A.D. 100s, the Roman Empire was one of the greatest empires in history. It included about 3.5 million square miles (9.1 million square km). Its people spoke different languages—mostly Latin in the west and Greek in the east. They also practiced different local customs. What unified the empire, though, were Roman law, Roman rule, and a shared identity as Romans. The Romans were also generous in granting citizenship. In A.D. 212 every free person was made a Roman citizen.

The Way It Was

Science and Inventions

Roman Aqueducts Transporting water is a complex problem. Roman engineers solved it by building aqueducts. Roman aqueducts carried water across a valley or hillside using gravity, aboveground stone arches, and underground pipes made of stone or clay. Between 312 B.C. and A.D. 226, 11 aqueducts were built to bring water to Rome from as far away as 57 miles. Once the water made it to Rome, it was held in collecting tanks. Most people gathered water from these public tanks. Only the rich and high-ranking officials had private water tanks in their homes.

Many Roman aqueducts still stand and are used today. Engineers in ancient Persia, India, and Egypt built similar water systems hundreds of years before the Romans. However, historians agree that the Romans were the greatest aqueduct builders of the ancient world.



▲ Roman aqueduct

Connecting to the Past

1. How did the Romans transport water to the city of Rome?
2. Why do you think that only the rich and powerful had private water supplies?

A Booming Economy Most people in the Roman Empire made a living from the land. Small farms dotted northern Italy. In southern and central Italy, *latifundia*, or large estates worked by enslaved people, were common. On these estates and in the provinces of Gaul and Spain, farmers produced grapes, olives, wine, and olive oil. In Britain and Egypt, the chief crops were grains. Bountiful harvests from these regions kept Rome's people well fed.

Agriculture was the most important part of the economy, but industry was important too. Potters, weavers, and jewelers produced goods, and cities became centers for making glass, bronze, and brass.

Traders came from all over the empire—and beyond—to ports in Italy. Two of the largest port cities were **Puteoli** (pyu•TEE•uh•ly) on the Bay of Naples and **Ostia** (AHS•tee•uh) at the mouth of the Tiber. The docks were lively places. Luxury items, including silk goods from China and spices from India, poured in to satisfy the rich. Raw materials, such as British tin, Spanish lead, and iron from Gaul, went to the workshops of Roman cities.

Roads and Money A good transportation network was vital to the empire's trade. During the *Pax Romana*, Rome's system of roads reached a total length of 50,000 miles (80,000 km). On the seas, the Roman navy helped to rid the Mediterranean of pirates, allowing goods to be shipped more safely.

Rome's trade was helped by a common **currency** (KUHR • uhn • see), or system of money. For many years, Romans had minted coins so that merchants, traders, and others could buy and sell products with money rather than bartering.

Roman coins were accepted throughout the Mediterranean region by A.D. 100.

Merchants could use the same money in Gaul or Greece as they did in Italy. The Romans also created a standard system of weights and measures. This made it easier for people to price goods, trade, and ship products.

The Romans also stamped images on coins as a way to share a message. For example, Augustus had coins made with images of himself and references to Julius Caesar or images of his military victories. He wanted people to believe that he was a good leader.

Ongoing Inequality Roman culture had been carried into every province by Roman soldiers and officials sent to govern. However, the Roman Empire's prosperity did not reach all of its people. Shopkeepers, merchants, and skilled workers benefited



▲ Roman coins could be used throughout most of the empire, making trade much easier. **How else did Rome improve trade during the empire?**

and rich Romans lived in luxury. However, most city dwellers and farmers were poor, and many were enslaved.

Reading Check Identify Who were the "good emperors," and what did they accomplish?

Section 4 Review

History online

Study Central Need help understanding the prosperity of the empire? Visit ca.hss.glencoe.com and click on Study Central.

Reading Summary

Review the Ideas

- Augustus conquered new lands and created a professional military and a system of proconsuls. He improved the tax system and the legal system, ushering in the *Pax Romana*.
- Under Vespasian, his sons, and the five good emperors, Romans continued to be prosperous. They built an elaborate system of roads and developed a common currency that promoted trade and economic growth.

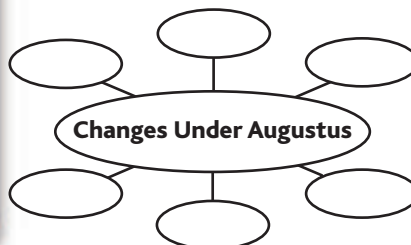
What Did You Learn?

1. What was the *Pax Romana*?
2. What products came from the farms of Italy, Gaul, and Spain?

Critical Thinking

3. **Organizing Information** Draw a diagram like the one below. Add details about the improvements and changes Augustus made to the Roman Empire during his reign.

CA 6RC2.4



4. **Sequencing Information**

Describe the sequence of emperors who ruled Rome, from Augustus through the "good emperors." CA CS2.

5. **The Big Ideas** Why was Rome's creation of a common currency important? CA HI.6.

6. **Creative Writing** Write a short play in which several Roman citizens compare the accomplishments of Rome's emperors. CA 6WA2.1

7. **Analysis Reading Maps** Look at the maps on pages 448 and 449. What natural features shaped the growth of the Roman Empire and its trade?

CA CS3.

Analyzing Primary Sources



WH.6.7.4 Discuss the influence of Julius Caesar and Augustus in Rome's transition from republic to empire.

Roman Propaganda

The Romans knew the power of the written word. They believed that history could be preserved by written records. Because of this, they often wrote their letters, histories, and other documents in a way to make themselves look good. For example, after Cicero had given some speeches, he rewrote the text of those speeches so that they were even better than the original. Each of the following passages is about a great Roman person.

Read the passages on pages 452 and 453, and answer the questions that follow.



▲ Cicero

Reader's Dictionary

posterity (pah•STEHR•uh•tee): future time

allay: calm

detention: imprisonment

expenditures (ihk•SPEHN•dih•chuhrs): the spending of money

princiate: rule or reign

excel: be better than

magistracy (MAH•juh•struh•see): official duty

A Heroic Rescue Attempt

Pliny the Elder—a Roman admiral and well-known author and scientist—died attempting to rescue people after Mt. Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79. His nephew, Pliny the Younger, recorded his uncle's death in a letter written to a Roman historian named Tacitus.

Thank you for asking me to send you a description of my uncle's death so that you can leave an accurate account of it for **posterity**; . . .

As he was leaving the house he was handed a message from Rectina, . . . whose house was at the foot of the mountain, so that escape was impossible except by boat. She was terrified by the danger threatening her and implored him to rescue her. . . . For

a moment my uncle wondered whether to turn back, but when the helmsman advised this he refused, telling him that Fortune stood by the courageous. . . .

. . . My uncle tried to **allay** the fears of his companions. . . . They debated whether to stay indoors or take their chance in the open, for the buildings were now shaking with violent shocks. . . .

. . . Then the flames and smell of sulphur which gave warning of the approaching fire drove the others to take flight. . . . He stood . . . and then suddenly collapsed, I imagine because the dense fumes choked his breathing.

—Pliny, *Letters and Panegyricus*

Caesar's Story

Julius Caesar's military victories helped to bring him to power. In the following passage, Caesar explains why he thought it was important to keep the people of Gaul under control.

"In spite of the difficulties, Caesar had several strong reasons for undertaking this campaign: the unlawful **detention** of Roman knights, the revolt and renewal of hostilities by enemies who had submitted and given hostages, the large number of tribes leagued against him, and above all the danger that if these were left unpunished others might think themselves entitled to follow their example."

—"Julius Caesar in Gaul," J.M. Roberts,
Rome and the Classical West



▲ Caesar crossing the Rubicon River

The Emperor Augustus

Shortly before his death in A.D. 14, Augustus wrote a document called the *Res Gestae* to summarize his career.

5. . . . In the midst of a critical scarcity of grain I did not decline the supervision of the grain supply, which I so administered that within a few days I freed the whole people from the imminent panic and danger by my **expenditures** and efforts. The consulship, too, which was offered to me at that time as an annual office for life, I refused to accept. . . . I refused to accept any office offered me which was contrary to the traditions of our ancestors.
13. The temple of Janus Quirinus, which our ancestors desired to be closed whenever peace with victory was secured . . . which before I was born is recorded to have been closed only twice since the founding of the city, was during my **principate** three times ordered by the senate to be closed.
34. . . . I transferred the state from my own power to the control of the Roman senate and people. . . . After that time I **excelled** all in authority, but I possessed no more power than the others who were my colleagues in each **magistracy**.

—Augustus, "Res Gestae:
The Accomplishments of Augustus"

DBQ Document-Based Questions

A Heroic Rescue Attempt

1. Why did Pliny the Elder sail to Mt. Vesuvius?
2. Does Pliny the Younger consider his uncle a hero? Why or why not?

Caesar's Story

3. How does Caesar justify his attack on the Gauls?
4. How does this passage show Caesar's abilities as a leader?

The Emperor Augustus

5. Why was it important that the temple doors be closed?

6. Do you think Augustus was being honest? Why or why not?
7. Think about what you have read in this chapter about Augustus's authority. Why do you think he declined to be the consul? How did he transfer all power back to the Senate but still excel others in authority?

Read to Write

8. Use all of these passages to answer the following question: How are the stories of Pliny, Caesar, and Augustus exaggerated? Give examples of words and sentences that create the impression these three men had good character. **CA HR5.**

Chapter 9 Assessment

Standard WH6.7

Review Content Vocabulary

Each of the following statements is false. Replace each word in *italics* with a word that makes the statement true. Write the correct words on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. A *legion* is a form of government in which the citizens choose their leader.
- 2. *Patricians* included artisans and shopkeepers.
- 3. The judge in a Roman court case was a *consul*.
- 4. In early Rome, the role of *praetor* lasted only until a crisis had passed.
- 5. Large farming estates that used enslaved people to tend crops were called *aqueducts*.
- 6. A *veto* was a human-made channel for carrying water.

Review the Ideas

Section 1 • Rome's Beginnings

- 7. Describe the role geography played in the rise of Roman civilization.
- 8. How did treating people fairly help Rome to increase its power?

Section 2 • The Roman Republic

- 9. How did the roles of patricians and plebeians differ in Roman society?
- 10. Explain how Rome gradually defeated the Carthaginians.

Section 3 • The Fall of the Republic

- 11. How did slavery weaken the Roman Republic?
- 12. Who were the members of the First Triumvirate?
- 13. How did Augustus change the Roman Republic?

Section 4 • The Early Empire

- 14. Was Augustus a successful ruler? Explain your answer.
- 15. What advances helped make Rome wealthy and prosperous?

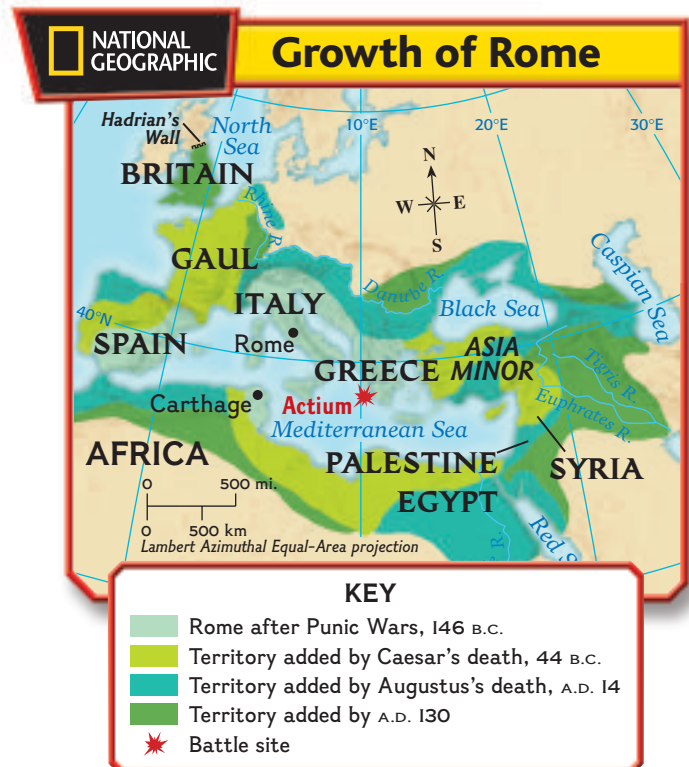
Critical Thinking

- 16. **Compare** Cincinnatus is often compared to George Washington. Think of another person who is similar to Cincinnatus. Explain how they are similar. **CA 6RC2.2**
- 17. **Explain** Why did Caesar fight Pompey? **CA 6RC2.0**
- 18. **Predict** What do you think would have happened if Hadrian had tried to further expand the Roman Empire? **CA HI2.**

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

- 19. **Place** Which areas did Rome control after the Punic Wars? **CA CS3.**
- 20. **Human/Environment Interaction** What does Hadrian's Wall reveal about the people north of it? **CA CS3.**
- 21. **Region** Why was control of the Mediterranean important to Rome? **CA CS3.**



Read to Write

22. **The Big Ideas** **Persuasive Writing** Suppose you were working with Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus to reform Rome. Prepare a speech that explains why reform is needed, what types of reforms should occur, and why Rome needs strong leaders like the Gracchus brothers. **CA 6WA2.5**
23. **Using Your FOLDABLES** Use your foldable to write a series of questions about the chapter. With a partner, take turns asking and answering questions until you have reviewed the entire chapter. **CA HR1.**

Using Academic Vocabulary

24. Match the word in Column A with its opposite in Column B.

A	B
challenge	unable
capable	many
sole	together
isolate	easy

Building Citizenship

25. **Making Connections** Use the Internet and your local library to research the Twelve Tables. Work with your classmates to design a similar series of laws, and record them, using modern language. How is your law code similar to and different from the Twelve Tables? **CA 6WA2.3**

Reviewing Skills

26. **Analysis Skill** **Analyzing Primary Sources** Reread the Primary Source feature on page 440. Write a paragraph that answers the following questions. Is this a speech of fact or opinion? Who is Cicero attacking in his speech? How might the speech be different if Cicero were a friend of Antony? Is the speech effective in changing your opinion of Antony? **CA HR5.; HR2.**

27. **Reading Skill** **Making Inferences** Read the following passage from page 439:
 "... Caesar knew that reforms were needed. He granted citizenship to people living in Rome's territories. ... He started new colonies to provide land for the landless and created work for Rome's jobless people. He ordered landowners using slave labor to hire more free workers."

What can you infer about Caesar's leadership from these sentences? Write an essay describing his leadership. **CA 6WA2.2**



Standards Practice

Select the best answer for each of the following questions.

28. One of Rome's most significant influences on the world is its _____.
- A invention of paper.
 - B creation of democracy.
 - C establishment of the Silk Road.
 - D system of law.
29. Caesar granted Roman citizenship to _____.
- A people living in Rome's territories outside the Italian peninsula.
 - B people living in the eastern provinces only.
 - C just the people who lived in Italy.
 - D members of the Senate.