

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 3 The End of the Republic

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why does conflict develop?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What factors led to the decline of the Roman Republic?*
2. *How did Julius Caesar rise to power in Rome?*
3. *How did Rome become an empire?*

Terms to Know

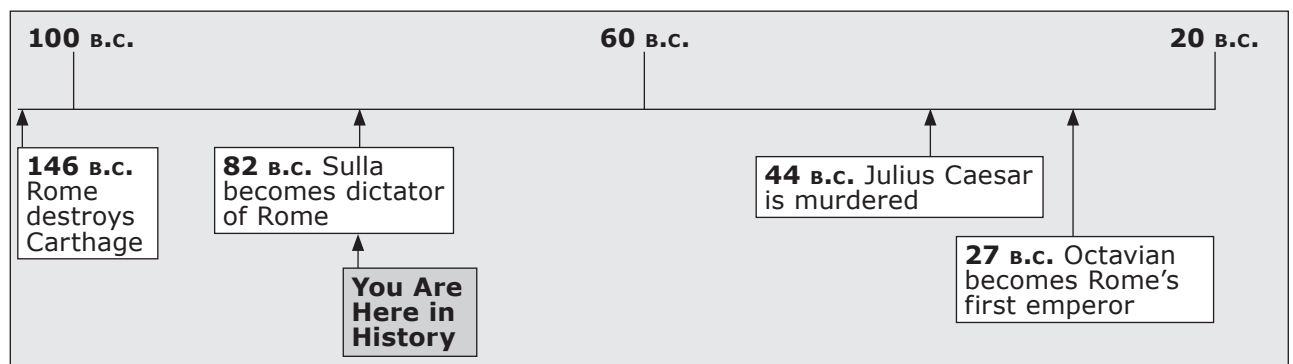
latifundia large farming estates

triumvirate three rulers who share equal power

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 3 The End of the Republic, *Continued*

Problems in the Republic

Even though Rome's armies were doing well in other parts of the world, Rome had problems at home. By 100 B.C., many plebeian farmers could not work on their farms because they were in the army. Others had watched the Carthaginian army destroy their small farms.

At the same time, rich Romans were buying land. They formed large farming estates called **latifundia**. Enslaved people from Carthage worked the land. As a result, the rich charged less for their crops than the plebeian farmers did. This caused plebeian farmers to go out of business.

Many farmers went to Rome's cities for work. Jobs were hard to find and did not pay much. Roman politicians feared that the plebeians might riot. To prevent a revolt, they offered poor people cheap food and free shows, called "bread and circuses."



Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus

- Brothers
- Wanted to stop rich people from taking small farms
- Asked the senate to return some of the land to the poor
- 133 B.C.—some Senators killed Tiberius
- 145 B.C.—Gaius was killed

Two brothers—Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus—wanted to stop the rich from taking small farms. They asked the Senate to return some of the land to the poor. Many Senators were against the idea.

In 107 B.C., a military leader named Marius became consul. Until then, only men who owned property served in the military. They did not get paid. So Marius paid the men who had no land to serve as soldiers. He also promised to give them land. This weakened the government. The soldiers felt more loyalty to the general who paid them than to the republic. This gave generals a lot of power.

In 82 B.C. General Sulla forced Marius and other generals out of Rome. He made himself dictator. Sulla had shown other generals how to use their armies to grab political power. For the next 50 years, civil war tore Rome apart.



Defining

1. What is a *latifundia*?



Identifying

2. What change did Marius make to the army?



Drawing Conclusions

3. Why do you think the Gracchus brothers were killed?



Reading Check

4. What was the purpose of "bread and circuses?"

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 3 The End of the Republic, *Continued*



Defining

5. What is a *triumvirate*?



Cause and Effect

6. What did Caesar do after he made himself dictator for life?



Reading Check

7. Why did some Romans oppose Caesar?

The Rise of Julius Caesar

By 60 B.C., three men emerged as the most powerful in Rome. They were three generals: Crassus, Pompey, and Julius Caesar. They formed the First Triumvirate. A **triumvirate** is a political partnership of three people.

After Crassus died in battle, the Senators thought that Caesar was becoming too popular. The Senators ordered Caesar to give up his army. Instead, Caesar and his soldiers captured all of Italy.

In 44 B.C. Caesar made himself dictator for life. He also filled the Senate with people who supported him. Caesar knew many reforms were needed. He started new colonies so that farmers and soldiers would have land. He forced patricians to hire free workers instead of using slave labor.

60 B.C.—Three generals formed the First Triumvirate: Crassus, Pompey, and Julius Caesar.



The Senators thought Caesar was too popular.



The Senators ordered Caesar to give up his army.



Caesar and his soldiers captured all of Italy.



44 B.C.—Caesar made himself dictator for life.

Caesar's supporters thought he was a strong leader who brought peace to Rome. His enemies thought that he wanted to be king. On March 15, 44 B.C., his enemies, led by Cassius and Brutus, stabbed him to death.

From Republic to Empire

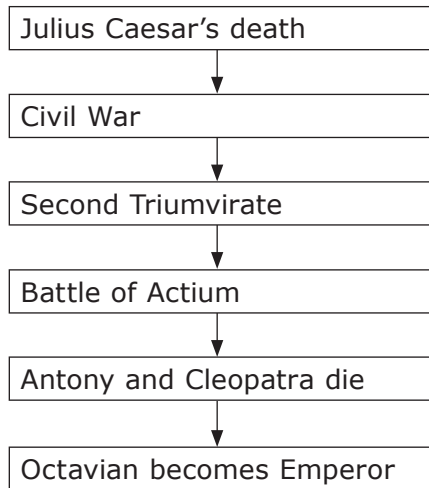
After Caesar was killed, civil war broke out. Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus won the civil war. Octavian was Caesar's 18-year-old grandnephew. Antony and Lepidus had been Caesar's best generals. In 43 B.C. they formed the Second Triumvirate.

The Second Triumvirate did not last long. Lepidus retired from politics. Antony fell in love with the Egyptian queen, Cleopatra. The two made an alliance. Octavian thought they wanted to take over Rome. Many Romans were upset by this news. Octavian declared war on Antony.

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 3 The End of the Republic, *Continued*

In 31 B.C. the navies of Antony and Cleopatra fought those of Octavian at the Battle of Actium. Octavian's forces crushed the couple's army and navy. Antony and Cleopatra later killed themselves. Octavian became Rome's only ruler.



Cicero, a writer, political leader, and speaker, strongly supported the republican government. Octavian, however, believed that a republic was too weak to solve Rome's problems. He wanted power for himself. The Senate finally agreed to his wishes and declared Octavian commander-in-chief.

Octavian took the title of Augustus. *Augustus* means "the majestic one." In 27 B.C. Caesar Augustus became Rome's first emperor.

Check for Understanding

Number the events in the order that they happened.

- _____ 1. Octavian became emperor.
- _____ 2. Marius reformed the military.
- _____ 3. Julius Caesar was murdered.
- _____ 4. Julius Caesar declared himself "dictator for life."
- _____ 5. The First Triumvirate was formed.
- _____ 6. Octavian fought a civil war against Antony and Cleopatra.



Explaining

8. What happened at the Battle of Actium?



Reading Check

9. How do you think Cicero might have reacted when the Senate named Octavian the first emperor of Rome?



10. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Label the anchor tab *Conflict and Change*. Label the two tabs—*Rome as a Republic* and *Rome as an Empire*. On both sides of the tabs, list events that you remember occurring during each time period. Use your notes to help you with the activity under the tabs.