



Roman Civilization

*All of the activities in the notebook are designed for whole class lecture, discussion, and interaction or individual self-discovery learning.

Teacher's Guide

CHAPTER CHECK-UP

For the INSPECT chart, have students think about these questions in order to complete it.

I – Ideas – What ideas had the biggest impact during this time? What factors led to the emergence of these new ideas?

N – Natural/Geographic – How did the environment and surroundings play a role in shaping the time period or event?

S – Social – How did societies arrange themselves? What are the roles of men, women, enslaved people, ethnic groups, and so on?

P – Political – How did the economy and society influence politics? What is the role of government? What groups are the most powerful? Is there effective leadership?

E – Economic – How did money drive decisions? What is valued? Who has economic power?

C – Cultural – How do the elements of culture influence a group?

T – Technological – Why do people create new products? Does technology lead to social progress? What motivates people to pursue science?

I Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – gods controlled all parts of life; protected the empire – adapted ideas from Greeks
N Natural/Geographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – heart of empire was in Rome – Rome was largest city
S Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – forum
P Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – bread and circuses – after rule of Five Good Emperors, government grows weak and army strengthened – attacks by Germanic groups – Diocletian divides the empire
E Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – use of slave labor – after rule of Five Good Emperors, Roman soldiers/invasers attack farms, disrupt trade – inflation increases
C Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – satires, odes – wealthy were educated – wealthy women had more freedom – Latin spoken – after rule of Five Good Emperors, traditional values no longer honored
T Technological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – engineering skills – Appian Way – arches

SPOTLIGHT ON CONTENT VOCABULARY

Answers will vary.

LESSON 1: LESSON KICKOFF ACTIVITY

Maps should show how cities are carefully planned. Leaders tend to build all of their important buildings and agencies in the center of town, much like the Romans did.

REFLECTION:

Answers will vary but students should make the connections to the planning involved in the design of the city. Important buildings and agencies are not placed near the outside of town; rather, they are in the center where they are accessible to all citizens.

LESSON 1: ACTIVE NOTE-TAKING ACTIVITY

The Roman Family: was the center of Roman life

Roman Women: Wealthy women had more freedoms than poorer women.

Rome & Slavery: Slavery was common in Rome.

Religion & Philosophy: The gods, whom Romans believed controlled all aspects of life, were important to the Romans.

Science: The Romans adapted many Greek ideas and developed practical engineering skills.

Art & Architecture: The Romans used concrete to create sturdy structures.

Literature: Characters in Roman literature displayed human strengths and weaknesses.

Theater & Language: The Latin language influenced Europe's languages until around the 1500s.

LESSON 1: PROCESSING ACTIVITY

Science

Ancient Rome: study of anatomy; mapping of stars and observing planet movement; used practical engineering skills and the creation of roads

Today: The study of human anatomy has influenced our study of medicine and diagnostic practices. Ptolemy's study of the sky, stars, and planets influenced the science of astronomy. The Roman's practical engineering skills and road systems revolutionized the way cities and towns were connected to each other. The Roman aqueduct system is still used in Spain today as a way of getting water into cities.

Art & Architecture

Ancient Rome: sculptures reflect human flaws; use of arches; mastered the use of concrete

Today: Many buildings, especially in Washington, D.C., reflect Greek and Roman architectural ideas.

Literature

Ancient Rome: Roman stories reflected humor, failure, and a moral story.

Today: Students in school are still reading the famous Roman writings of Virgil, Horace, Livy, and Tacitus.

Theater & Language

Ancient Rome: plays a popular pastime in Rome; actors used masks to play different roles

Today: Attending plays is a popular pastime in American culture.

Law & Government

Ancient Rome: everyone is equal under the law; a person is innocent until proven guilty

Today: Many of the beliefs about our law and justice in the American legal system are Roman ideas, including "everyone is equal under the law" and "innocent until proven guilty." In addition, the United States has a republican form of government, which was developed in ancient Rome.

Religion & Philosophy

Ancient Rome: Romans worshiped many gods and believed gods controlled all aspects of life; Greek philosophies were adapted by the Romans.

Today: We study about many of the Roman gods and goddesses in our schools, as well as their philosophies.

REFLECTION:

Answers will vary, but students should use the information from the text to explain and defend their positions.

LESSON 2: ACTIVE NOTE-TAKING ACTIVITY

There are no specific answers for this activity. This is a reading strategy called “CAR-PD”, which really forces students to read and re-read the text for evidence to support their position on an issue. In this case, the focus question is “Why did the Roman Empire Fall?” Student responses will vary depending on the evidence they collected in the lesson and how they organize it in their writing.

LESSON 2: CROSS-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

Students will be developing a design or symbol that they think accurately portrays Roman civilization. This is an opportunity for students to digest all of the information they have learned in this chapter and creatively show and explain the success and decline of the Roman Empire.

Suggestion: it might help to pre-cut the colored squares and place them into bins. Using a paper cutter would be easier and faster than having students measure out 1/2-inch squares.