



Grade 3

Unit 4 | Reader

**Stories of Ancient Rome**

Grade 3

Unit 4

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# Stories of Ancient Rome

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**Reader**

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**Unit 4 Reader**


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## Chapter

# 1 Rome, Then and Now

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“This is Rome,” said Mrs. Teachwell, pointing to a black dot on the classroom map.

“But this is Rome too,” she added, as she traced a circle that was so large it seemed to touch all four sides of the map.

The students looked confused.

“How can it be both?” Charlie Chatter shouted out.

“I’ll explain,” Mrs. Teachwell said, “but please raise your hand if you would like to speak.”

Charlie Chatter nodded. It was not the first time he had heard this. In fact, Mrs. Teachwell had asked him to raise his hand many times, but it was hard for Charlie. His mouth seemed to be faster than his hand.

“Rome started out as a little town along the Tiber River,” Mrs. Teachwell explained.



*Mrs. Teachwell and her students, looking at a map showing Rome*



“Like Egypt on the Nile?” Charlie asked.

“Yes,” said Mrs. Teachwell, “but let’s see that hand!”

The students giggled.

“As Charlie has just reminded us,” Mrs. Teachwell said, “many **civilizations** spring up along the banks of a river. Rome was no exception. It sprang up here, on the banks of the Tiber River, among seven hills. At first, Rome was just a few houses on a hill. Then, it grew and grew and grew. After a while, people started building houses on other hills nearby. Then, the little towns on the hills grew together to make a big city. In fact, to this day, Rome is known as the ‘City of Seven Hills’.

“Then, the Romans fought wars with their neighbors. The Romans won most of these wars. They **defeated** the Etruscans, who lived north of them. They **conquered** the Greeks, who had settled to the south, as well. It wasn’t long before they controlled most of this piece of land that we call Italy.”

Mrs. Teachwell traced the outline of Italy with her finger.



*Present-day Rome and the Tiber River*

“Check it out!” Charlie Chatter shouted. “Italy looks like a boot!”

“Yes,” said Mrs. Teachwell. “Italy does look like a boot, but please, Charlie, raise your hand! This is your last warning. Now, does anyone know what this body of water that the boot of Italy sticks out into is called?”

Rachel Readmuch, who always had her nose in a book, raised her hand. Mrs. Teachwell called on her.

“It’s called the **Mediterranean**,” said Rachel.

“That’s right!” said Mrs. Teachwell. “This is the **Mediterranean** Sea. Rome grew so much that, at its **peak**, the Romans controlled all the land around the **Mediterranean** Sea. They took over most of Spain and France. They took over this area that we call the Balkans. They took over Greece and much of Turkey. They took over the Middle East, Egypt, and the coast of North Africa.”

Tim Timetable, who loved to learn about when things happened, put up his hand.

“When was all this happening?”



*A map of the ancient Roman **civilization***

“Rome started growing about two thousand five hundred years ago,” Mrs. Teachwell explained. “It started growing about five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, in the years we call **BCE**. It was still growing when Jesus was born. In fact, Jesus was born here, in a part of the Middle East that was controlled by the Romans,”

Tim Timetable made a note of the date.

Mrs. Teachwell went on: “We will be studying Rome for three weeks or so. Each day, we will have a report on a topic connected to ancient Rome. I’ll give the first few reports. Then, each of you can do some research and give the next few. How does that sound?”

The kids cheered. They were **eager** to learn more about Rome. Rachel Readmuch already knew quite a lot. Tim Timetable had lots of questions about what happened when. As for Charlie Chatter, he was looking forward to the day when he would get to give his report. Then, he would get to talk without having to raise his hand first!



*Parts of Roman buildings still remain today, even though they were built over two thousand years ago.*

# The Legend of Romulus and Remus



We learned last time that Rome started as a small town and grew to become a big city. Then, it grew some more until it became a great **empire**. That's what **historians** tell us.

The Romans themselves have a story about how their city got started that they like to tell. They say that Rome was founded by twins who had been saved by a wolf.

The twins were named Romulus and Remus. They were the children of a woman named Rhea Silvia and the god Mars. Their mother loved them, but her brother, the king of Latium, did not. He saw the boys as a **threat**. He thought they might grow up and take his crown from him. The king told one of his servants to find the twins and drown them in the Tiber River.



*The king of Latium told one of his servants to drown Romulus and Remus.*



The servant found the twins, but he could not bring himself to drown them. Instead, he put the boys in a basket. Then, he set the basket in the river. The basket floated downstream. It drifted and drifted until, at last, it washed up on the banks of the river.

A she-wolf found the twins. She saw that they were hungry. She took them to her cave. There she gave them the same milk she fed to her wolf pups.



*The servant set the twins in a basket, which he put in the Tiber River.*

Later, the twins were adopted by a shepherd. The shepherd raised them well. They grew up to be smart and strong.

When they were 18, Romulus and Remus decided to create a city of their own. They wanted to build a city on the banks of the Tiber, somewhere among the seven hills, not far from where they had washed ashore as babies.



*Romulus and Remus were saved by a kind she-wolf and later raised by a shepherd.*

Soon, however, the brothers began to fight.

“Let’s build our city here!” said Romulus, pointing to a hill.

“No!” said Remus. “This hill over here is a much better spot.”



*Romulus and Remus argued about where to build their city.*

So each brother started building his own city on a different hill. Each knew that it would be important to have a strong wall to protect the city he was building. After a few days, Remus decided to visit Romulus to see how his city was coming along. It takes a long time to build a city, so Remus did not expect Romulus's city to be finished. He decided, however, to **taunt** his brother and made fun of his unfinished wall. "You call that a wall?" he said. "That wall would not keep anyone out!" Then, to make his point, he stepped over the wall.

That made Romulus angry. He and Remus started to fight. No longer remembering that they were fighting one another, Romulus and Remus battled with all their might. Suddenly, Remus **collapsed**, fell to the ground, and died. When Romulus saw what he had done, he began to cry. He had not wished to kill his brother. He dug a grave for Remus.

Romulus went on building his city. He named it Rome after himself.

The rest, as they say, is history. Rome grew and grew. It became a great city, the center of a mighty **empire**.



*Remus **taunts** Romulus and steps over his wall.*

The government of Rome made coins. The coins showed two young boys reaching up to touch a she-wolf. The people of Rome handed these coins back and forth. They used them to buy food and drinks. They used them to pay bills and buy clothing. And all of them knew who the two boys on the coin were: they were Romulus and Remus, the **legendary** founders of Rome.



*An ancient Roman coin showing Romulus and Remus with the she-wolf*



Let's learn about the gods and goddesses of Rome.

The ancient Romans did not believe in one God who ruled the entire world. They believed in many gods.

In many ways, the Roman gods acted like human beings. They ate and drank. They played tricks on each other. They fell in love and got into fights. But there was one main way in which the gods were not like human beings: the gods were **immortal**. Human beings might live for many years. Some might even live to be one hundred. Eventually, though, they would die. The gods, on the other hand, lived forever. They did not—and could not—die.

The Romans' ideas about their gods were similar to the ancient Greeks. In fact, they worshipped many of the same gods as the Greeks, but they called those gods by different names. The chart shows the Roman names for some Greek gods you may already know.

# Greek and Roman Gods

GREEK NAME		ROMAN NAME	GREEK NAME		ROMAN NAME
ZEUS		JUPITER	ARES		MARS
HERA		JUNO	HERMES		MERCURY
POSEIDON		NEPTUNE	DIONYSUS		BACCHUS
APHRODITE		VENUS	ATHENA		MINERVA
EROS		CUPID	APOLLO		APOLLO



The top god, sometimes called the father of the **immortals**, was a strong, bearded figure. The Greeks called him Zeus. The Romans called him Jupiter.

Jupiter was a mighty god. He carried a thunderbolt that he could throw at anyone who angered him. If Jupiter threw his thunderbolt at you, that was the end of you.

Jupiter lived on Mount Olympus, with the other gods.

*Jupiter was the father of the immortals.*



Juno was Jupiter's wife. She was the goddess of marriage and the protector of wives.

The Roman gods were all related. They were like a big family. Jupiter's brother Neptune was the god of the seas and oceans.



*Juno, Jupiter's wife, was the goddess of marriage.*

There are many statues of Neptune. In most of them, he is holding a special, three-pronged spear called a trident. Neptune's trident had magical powers. The god could use it to stir up storms and waves. He could also wave it over the stormy seas and make the **rough** seas smooth.

Roman sailors prayed to Neptune. "Great Neptune!" they prayed. "Send us good weather and smooth sailing!"



*Neptune, the god of the seas, with his magical trident*

Mars was the god of war. Soldiers would pray to him before a big battle. The Romans fought a lot of wars, so they spent a lot of time praying to Mars.



*Mars was the god of war.*

Mercury was one of Jupiter and Juno's sons. He was the **messenger** of the gods. He was as fast as a flash. In paintings, he is often shown with wings on his hat and his shoes, to show how fast he was.



*Mercury was the messenger of the gods.*

Venus was the goddess of love. She was very beautiful.

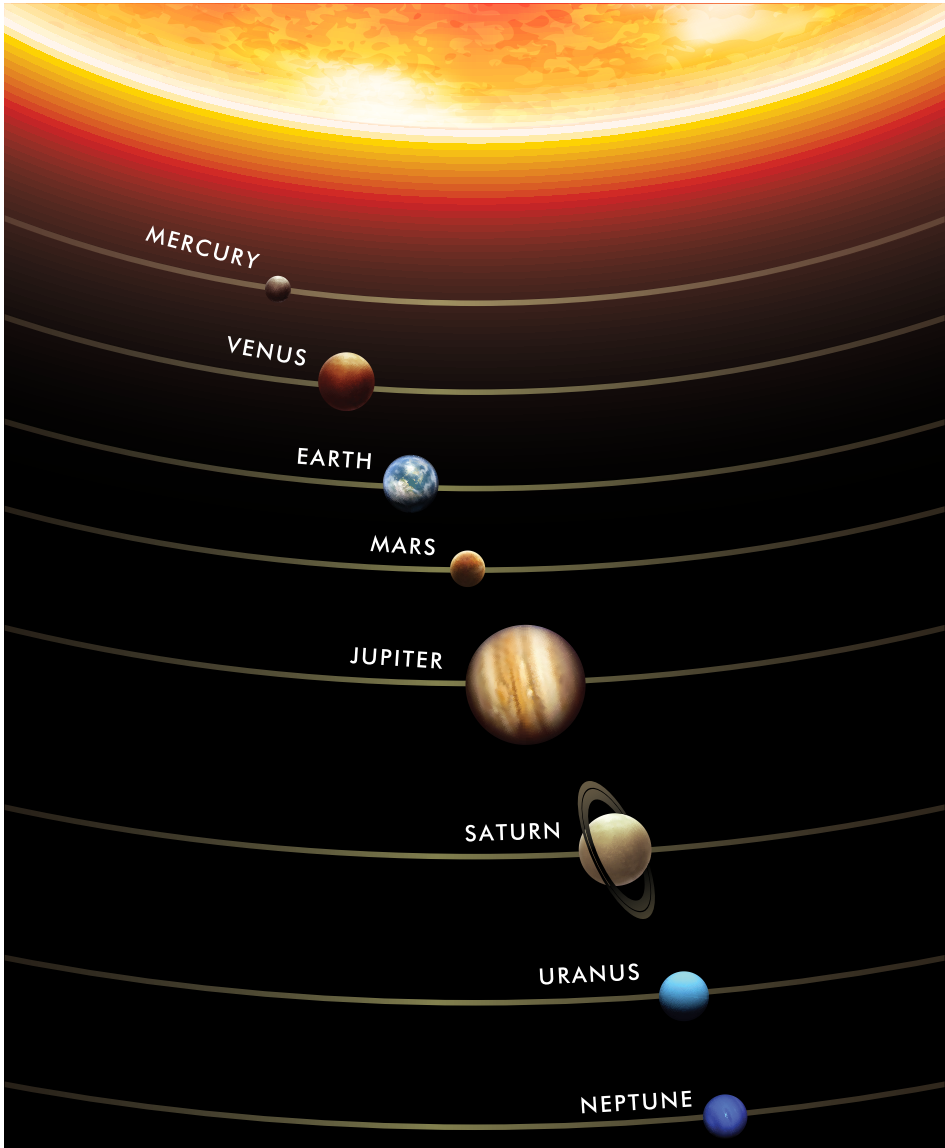
If Venus wanted someone to fall in love, she could send her son Cupid on a mission. Cupid would shoot the person with one of his magic arrows. The person would then fall in love with the first person he or she saw.

Cupid is still with us today. You will see little Cupids all over the place on Valentine's Day, when we celebrate love.



*Venus was the goddess of love. She was also Cupid's mother.*

Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune are the names of planets in our solar system. These planets are named after the Roman gods. For example, the planet Mars is named after Mars, the Roman god of war.



*The planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Neptune are named after Roman gods and goddesses.*

Vulcan was the blacksmith of the gods. He melted iron and other metals. Then, he shaped the metal to make a sword, a helmet, or a shield.

Vulcan was the god of fire and volcanoes.



*Apollo, the god of the sun (right), talking to Vulcan, the god of fire (left)*



Apollo was the god of the sun. He was also the god of music and poetry.

Apollo is another god who was worshipped by both the Greeks and the Romans. He had a famous shrine at Delphi, in Greece. When the Greeks and Romans wanted advice, they would send **messengers** to Delphi. The priestess of Apollo would give them an answer. It was almost never a clear answer, though. Often, it was more like a riddle that they had to figure out on their own.



Minerva was the goddess of **wisdom**. She was also the goddess of crafts and weaving.

According to legend, Minerva was not born in the usual way. One day, Jupiter complained of a headache. Then—presto!—Minerva sprang, fully grown, from his head.

Minerva's special animal was the owl. Sometimes she was painted with an owl perched on her shoulder.



*Minerva springing forth from Jupiter's head*

Diana was the goddess of the moon. She was also the goddess of the hunt. In statues, she is often shown as a young girl, with a bow and arrow. Sometimes, the sculptor will also show one of her dogs or a deer.



*Diana was the goddess of the moon and the hunt.*

Bacchus was the Roman god of grapes and wine. He was followed by women and satyrs, who were half man and half goat.

A famous story tells how pirates tried to kidnap Bacchus. That was a big mistake. The god transformed himself into a lion. He turned the boat into a lush garden. As for the pirates, he changed them into dolphins and sent them splashing away in the ocean.



*Bacchus, the Roman god of grapes and wine*

# Chapter 4 The Punic Wars



## Read-Aloud

Imagine you are a soldier in the Roman army. Your army is called the Roman Legion, and you are a legionary. You are wearing heavy, thick armor and a helmet with flaps to protect your head and face during fights. If you are one of Rome's finest soldiers, you are wearing a helmet with a furry strip on top. Besides your armor, you have a shield, a spear, and a short sword.



You have learned to march in perfect step with hundreds of other legionaries. You have faced many enemies in battle, and you are prepared to fight for Rome. Since the founding of the Roman Republic, you and other legionaries have proudly fought to expand Rome's power and **influence**.

*Legionary*



### *Roman territory and Carthaginian territory*

Rome is no longer just a city. Through the years it has expanded to include the majority of the area known as present-day Italy. Dozens of kingdoms and other areas have been absorbed by the Roman Republic. Some have resisted and fought Rome's growing power, only to fall before the mighty Roman legions. Other kings have accepted Roman rule and have become wealthy patrician citizens.

Now you are preparing to fight a new enemy. This enemy is not an old king desperately clinging to an old way of life. This enemy comes from across the **Mediterranean**. They are called the Carthaginians, and their goal is to destroy Rome itself! The Carthaginians, or the people of Carthage, are from North Africa. There, they have built a **vast civilization**, even larger and richer than the Roman Republic.



### *City of Carthage*

Carthage is the trading center of the known world. By land and by sea, most traded goods from the **exotic**, or unfamiliar, lands to the East—Mesopotamia, Persia, India—pass through Carthaginian territory on their way to Rome or wherever else they may be headed. Perhaps a **conflict** between the powers of Rome and Carthage is unavoidable. Two growing **civilizations** may only share the same sea and land for so long. As Rome has expanded through Italy, Carthage has expanded throughout North Africa and across the sea to present-day Spain. This rivalry between these two expanding **civilizations** has led to several battles which have become known as the Punic Wars.

Imagine you and your legion are preparing for a battle with the Carthaginians. You are practicing a formation called the *testudo* [tess-too-doh], or turtle. You and your fellow legionaries gather closely and lock your shields together. Hopefully, this will give you some protection from the hundreds of Carthaginian arrows that are sure to come your way in battle.

You have not had much time to prepare. Two days ago you and your legion were preparing to be shipped off to fight on the island of Sicily, just off the shores of Italy, which the Carthaginians are trying to claim as their own. Then, out of nowhere, your general announced that a mighty army was invading Rome from the north, something you and your fellow soldiers believed to be impossible!



*Roman soldiers training in fighting formation (testudo)*



This mighty invading army of soldiers from Carthage is led by a general named Hannibal. Hannibal and his troops are coming from Spain. In order to **invade** Italy from the north, Hannibal and his army would need to cross the Alps. These mountains stretch throughout northern Italy, and you and the other Romans have always felt safe believing that no invading army could possibly cross these **peaks**. You and your fellow soldiers were wrong, and now you and the Roman Legion must prepare to defend your homeland.

It is not going to be easy. You believe you are a better soldier than any Carthaginian, but you don't really know because you have never faced one in battle. You have no idea what this army from Carthage will look like, but you know they must be strong if they were able to climb



*Italian Alps*



### *Hannibal with elephants*

those mountains. You have heard rumors that, aside from many thousands of soldiers, the Carthaginians are bringing some kind of terrible monsters to the fight!

Okay, let's take a break now from pretending to be a Roman legionary. It is actually a bit frightening to imagine what happened in battle. Hannibal, the Carthaginian general, really did cross the frozen Italian Alps with a huge army. And he really did bring monsters! Well, the Romans thought they were monsters, but do you see what they actually were? Elephants! The Romans had never seen elephants before. Elephants are not only very big and very strong—they are also very smart. The Carthaginians used that size, strength, and intelligence to their advantage in war.

One of the reasons the Romans had been able to expand so quickly through Italy and beyond was because they were excellent fighters. Roman soldiers were highly **disciplined**, meaning that they obeyed orders and were more determined to win for Rome than to survive. The main part of the Roman army consisted of heavily-armored soldiers. They were the foot soldiers, or infantry. The infantry was supported by cavalry, soldiers on horseback like the ones in this image. They marched shoulder-to-shoulder toward the enemy and won because they stayed together instead of panicking and running away.



*Roman army units, infantry supported by cavalry bracing for attack*



### *Romans losing to elephants*

At least, they didn't usually run away scared, but that's exactly what they did the first time they encountered Hannibal and his war elephants! The Roman legions were terrified by the elephants, in addition to the thousands of soldiers Hannibal had marched through the mountains. The Roman cavalry was no match for Hannibal's elephants, which stomped and trampled everything in sight. In fact, the horses were too smart to even try to attack the elephants, no matter what the soldiers did!



*Hannibal frustrated with failed attacks, hearing news that some Romans are going to Carthage*

At first, it seemed as though Hannibal would have no problem marching his army and elephants all the way to Rome. Unfortunately for Hannibal, the Romans were clever. Instead of trying to **defeat** Hannibal's army in an open battle all at once, the Romans **harassed**, or repeatedly attacked, them in small groups, escaping before the rest of the Carthaginians knew what was happening.

Hannibal had hoped to crush the Roman army in an attack on northern Rome in one easy battle, but instead he found himself roaming around the Italian countryside trying to find enough food to feed thousands of hungry soldiers and a couple dozen elephants. Believe it or not, this went on for nearly sixteen years! Toward the end of

this war, the Romans put together another army and set sail for Carthage to fight the Third Punic War. When Hannibal heard the news that some of the Romans were headed to Carthage, he was forced to hurry home. Instead of destroying Rome, he ended up racing home to try to defend Carthage from the Romans.

During these three Punic Wars, which lasted more than one hundred years, Rome and Carthage fought for ultimate control of the **Mediterranean** Sea and all the land surrounding it. The Punic Wars did not turn out well for the Carthaginians. Eventually, the Romans sacked Carthage, meaning they took everything of value and destroyed the rest. They also took many Carthaginians as enslaved people. As a result of winning the Punic Wars, Rome gained control of nearly every bit of land around the **Mediterranean**. This was the beginning of one of the most powerful **empires** in all of history.

*Romans **defeating**  
Carthaginians at  
Carthage*



Chapter

5

# Hannibal Crosses the Alps



Tim  
Timetable's  
Report

The Romans faced many enemies, but the strongest and most determined enemy they ever faced was an African general named Hannibal.

Hannibal came from Carthage, a city on the coast of Africa. Carthage was home to many merchants and traders. Carthage also had an army and a navy. The Carthaginians took over much of North Africa and Spain. They even took over islands off the coast of Italy.

The Romans saw Carthage as a **rival**. They fought three wars against Carthage. These wars are known as the Punic Wars and are thought to have been fought during the years 264–146 BCE.



*Map of Roman and Carthaginian territories*



Hannibal's father fought against Rome in the First Punic War, 264–241 BCE. He made his son swear he would carry on the fight against Rome. Hannibal swore he would and kept his promise. It was Hannibal who led the fight against Rome in the Second Punic War, 218–201 BCE.

Hannibal gathered an army in Spain. He had tens of thousands of foot soldiers. He had thousands more who fought on horseback. Best of all, he had his special forces: a squad of elephants. Hannibal had learned that few men are brave enough to stand and fight when they see a thundering herd of elephants coming their way.

Hannibal wanted to attack Rome. However, to **invade** Italy, he would have to march his army over a range of mountains called the Alps. The Alps were tall. The **peaks** were covered with snow and ice. There were no big roads that led across. There were only a few slippery paths.



*Hannibal gathering his army to cross over the Alps*

Most men would not have tried to cross the mountains, but Hannibal was not like most men. He marched his army over the mountains. His men suffered terribly. Some died from rockslides or avalanches. Others froze to death. Many of the elephants did not make it across. In the end, though, Hannibal got his army across the mountains and into Italy.

In Italy, Hannibal went on the attack. He beat the Romans at Trebbia [TREB-bee-ə] in 218 BCE. Then, he wiped out an entire Roman army at the Battle of Trasimene [TRAZ-i-meen] in 217 BCE. The Romans lost 15,000 men. The Battle of Cannae [CAN-ie] was even worse. The Romans lost at least 50,000 men, including 80 of their 300 senators.



*Hannibal and his troops won several battles against the Romans.*

People thought that might be the beginning of the end for Rome. They did not see how the Romans could go on. But the Romans did go on. They raised another army and sent it out to stop Hannibal. This time, the Romans avoided big battles. Instead, they fought a lot of little battles. They attacked Hannibal's army here and there. They blocked his troops and slowed down his marches. They also launched a **counter-attack**. A Roman general named Scipio [SKIP-ee-oe] took Roman troops to Africa. The leaders of Carthage wrote to Hannibal. They told him to come home and protect Carthage.

Hannibal did as he was told. He left Italy and returned to Carthage. At the Battle of Zama, he **confronted** Scipio. This time, the Romans were **victorious**. Hannibal won most of the battles in the Second Punic War but he lost the war.

After the Battle of Zama in 202 BCE, Carthage was never quite the same. They fought another war against Rome—the Third Punic War in the years 149–146 BCE—but it was clear that Carthage was sinking and Rome was on the rise.



*Hannibal surrendered to Scipio in Zama.*

# Daily Roman Life in the City, Part I



## Read-Aloud

With Carthage **conquered** and the Punic Wars finished, there was nothing to stop the spread of Roman power. Rome became the heart of the **Mediterranean** world. The Romans realized that they no longer needed to worry about growing and producing all their own food. Instead, they could **import** wheat, olives, and other basic foods from other countries. Then, Roman farmers could focus on raising only the crops they wanted.

Ancient Rome became a major center of trade. Goods from all over the known world flowed through its Roman ports, and in the process Rome became rich beyond compare. The city grew at a rapid rate. It must have been astonishing to be there, to witness all the workers who were involved in building the Colosseum, the Forum, the temples, and all the other buildings you see in this picture.

Someone built this model out of clay, and some of the buildings are probably about as big as a pencil eraser. This model is based on what we estimate Rome would have looked like two thousand years ago, based on old Roman maps, drawings, and writings, as well as the hard work of archaeologists in discovering these items. To the right of the center of the image, you can see the Colosseum. The long, oval structure in lower left of the image is called the Circus Maximus. This model gives you a good idea of some of the places a Roman child might have seen as he or she explored the city.



*Model of Rome*

So, what would it have been like to be born and raised in the city of Rome? Let's imagine that you are a



*Roman family in their apartment*

child born into a plebeian family. You live with your mother, father, sister, and brother in a small apartment near the center of the



city, not far from the great Colosseum. Your apartment building is crowded and noisy. There is always someone yelling or crying or laughing. There is smoke from ovens and open fires in the courtyards where women bake and cook. They are not allowed to cook in their apartments for fear of burning down the whole building.

On warm summer mornings, you and your friends like to go to the bridge across the Tiber River and wave to your father and the other merchants as they return from the docks on their way back into the city.

Your father dreams of becoming a wealthy merchant one day, but right now he only owns one little boat. Each morning, he and his partners row out to the docks, where the big ships unload their **exotic** goods. Your



*Children watching their father captain his boat up the Tiber*

father buys goods from the merchants on the ships and then he resells the goods in other places in the city. He is a good businessman: He buys goods at the wharf at a low price and then sells them for a higher price to the rich people in the city who are too busy, or lazy, to come out to the wharves themselves. He doesn't care what kinds of merchandise he gets—pottery, fabric, dried fruits, or whatever else he can find—as long as he gets a good price. After the boats pass, you and your friends hurry home for your daily lessons.

Like most other plebeian children, you are educated at home by your family instead of going to school. You are taught to read and write in **Latin**. You are taught good manners and proper behavior. You learn about Roman gods, Rome's history, and what it means to be a proud Roman citizen. You also learn about your culture: the traditional songs, dances, and recipes.

*Roman children  
at their lessons*



Your sister often goes to music lessons. Your aunt sometimes takes her and other girls for a flute lesson near the temple of Minerva, built to honor the goddess of **wisdom** and creator of music. The boys exercise and play **rough** games to become stronger. The parents are responsible for making sure their young boys are strong enough to serve in the Roman army when they are old enough.



*Mosaic of Virgil*

You like learning about Roman history and poetry, especially the work of a poet named Virgil. You heard a poem by Virgil one time, and this line stuck in your head: “Fortune **favors** the brave.” This line is very important for Romans. It means that you need to be brave—willing to take risks and try new things—if you want to have good fortune, or luck. You know from the stories your mother and father have told you that Rome became successful because of many brave Roman citizens who came before you.

Some days,  
when you walk  
through the city,  
you can hear  
the cheers of the  
crowd in the  
Colosseum echoing  
through the city  
whenever fights  
are occurring.



*Charioteers racing in the Circus Maximus*

The Colosseum is a huge amphitheater that seats 50,000 people. Your parents will not let you go see the fights in the Colosseum, but you know what goes on there because you have heard many stories.

Not too long ago, however, your father took you to see your first **chariot** race at the Circus Maximus. The Circus Maximus is a great big racetrack in the middle of the city. You sometimes see **chariots** in the city, but mostly they are used by soldiers in battle. When you see them **sauntering** down the city street, you don't think anything of it—they're just men standing on two-wheeled wagons being pulled by horses at a slow and relaxing pace. But these **chariots** seem completely different when you see them racing around the track at the Circus Maximus!



*Children running through a Roman street*

**Chariots** pulled by horses can move incredibly fast. They can also be incredibly dangerous! The driver, called a charioteer, stands on a wheeled platform and clings to the reins, hoping that he can keep control. Most of the Roman charioteers are men, but there are a few women, too. As they quickly round the curves in the racetrack, the **chariots** often look as though they will crash at any moment—and sometimes that is exactly what they do!



*Children admiring the **aqueduct***

Rome is a huge, crowded city. You never know what you are going to see on any given day. Just the other day, you saw a man leading lions down the street. You have no idea where he got them, or what he was planning to do with them, but seeing lions in the street is not that **unusual** in Rome. People from all over the world live here, and many of them follow this saying: “When in Rome, do as the Romans do.” Of course, many of the people living here are enslaved people who have been captured as the Roman legions **conquered** new lands. But many others are merchants, travelers, or just people who have moved here to try to make a better life.

The city is full of opportunities for acquiring wealth, new knowledge, and new experiences. Even though you were born and raised in the vibrant city of Rome, you are still amazed every day by all the things you see and do.

Sometimes, you need to relax and get away from the bustle of life in the city. Fortunately, there are quiet places in the city to relax. Your **favorite** place is on a little patch of grass near the Temple of Apollo on one of the seven hills where Rome got its start. There, you sit and admire the **aqueduct**. This beautiful structure supported by arches carries fresh, clean water from the mountains into the city. Your father has explained to you that **aqueducts** depend on gravity and pressurized pipes to help the water flow through them. The water comes from nearby mountains, and because the water source is higher than the location of the city, the water flows downhill through the channels of the **aqueducts** with the help of gravity. Romans use a lot of water—for fountains, public baths, waterwheels, sewers, and faucets in the streets.



### *Roman **aqueduct***

This is one of the structures that your father has seen in his travels and has told you about—an impressive bridge and **aqueduct** called the Pont du Gard. The **aqueduct** is just one of many **ingenious** accomplishments—in addition to road networks, sewer and heating systems, and beautiful structures such as the Colosseum and Pantheon—that surround Rome and make you proud to be a Roman citizen.



Chapter

7

# Cupid and Psyche



The Romans, like the Greeks, had many myths they liked to tell. Some of these were stories about the gods. Some were stories about heroes. Some were love stories. The myth I am going to share with you is a love story.

Once there was a king who had three daughters. All three were lovely, but the youngest, whose name was Psyche [SIE-kee], was so beautiful that words could not describe her. She was so beautiful that people began to say she was more beautiful than the goddess Venus.

Venus heard about Psyche. She was mad with **jealousy**. Was she, a goddess, to be forgotten on account of some young, pretty girl? She swore that would never happen!

Venus went to her son, Cupid.

“My son,” she said, “punish that girl! Shoot her with one of your arrows. Make her fall in love with the ugliest man on Earth.”



*Venus, the goddess of love, was **jealous** when she heard others talking of the beautiful, young Psyche.*

Cupid set off to do his mother's bidding. He took his bow and arrow and flew down to Earth. He took aim at Psyche. At the last minute, though, his finger slipped. Instead of shooting Psyche, he **pricked** himself. So Cupid fell in love with Psyche.



*Cupid aimed his arrow at Psyche. Instead of shooting Psyche, Cupid **pricked** himself.*

Cupid came up with a plan that would let him visit Psyche in secret. He sent a message to Psyche's family. It said that the gods had chosen a husband for Psyche. Psyche was ordered to climb to the top of a mountain, where she would meet her husband. She was also told that her husband was not a man, but a terrible monster.

Psyche was brave. She began to climb the mountain. Halfway up, she felt a warm wind surround her. Suddenly, she found herself in a **magnificent** palace, with fountains and gardens all around.

At first, Psyche was alone. When night fell, she lay down on a bed. During the night, Cupid visited her. He told her he was the husband the gods had chosen for her. Cupid stayed all night. He treated Psyche tenderly but he left before the sun rose.

Night after night, Cupid came to visit Psyche. He came only at night and he always left before the sun rose.

Psyche knew him only in the darkness, but she accepted him as her husband.

One night, Psyche asked her husband why he came only at night, when she could not see him.

“Why do you wish to see me?” Cupid replied. “What does it matter what I look like? I love you. I treat you well. All I ask is that you love me.”

Psyche understood her husband’s words. Still, she was curious. Who was her husband? What did he look like? Why did he hide? Was he really a terrible monster? She felt that she had to find out.



*Night after night, Cupid visited Psyche in the magnificent palace.*

One night, Psyche waited until her husband fell asleep. Then she got up and lit a lamp. She carried the lamp to the bed and lifted it up. What she saw was no monster, but the lovely face of Cupid himself. Her hand trembled with delight and a drop of hot oil fell from the lamp. The oil landed on Cupid's shoulder and awoke him.

Cupid looked up at Psyche with sad eyes. "I asked only for your trust," he said, "but this act of yours shows that you do not trust me. When trust is gone, love must depart."



*Psyche trembled when she saw Cupid, dropping hot oil on his shoulder.*

Then, Cupid flew away. The palace vanished into thin air and Psyche was left alone.

When Cupid left Psyche, Psyche was very sad. She tried to find Cupid. She wandered night and day. But she could not find her lost love.

At last, Psyche went to the temple of Venus. She begged the goddess to help her find Cupid.

Venus was not **eager** to help. She was still **jealous** of Psyche and her beauty. She gave Psyche a task, confident the girl could never complete it. She led Psyche to a huge



*Psyche begging Venus to help her find Cupid*

pile of grain. In the pile were wheat, millet, barley, and lentils, all mixed up.

“Sort the grains into stacks by morning,” Venus ordered. Then, with a laugh, she disappeared.

Psyche saw that there were millions of seeds. She knew there was no way she could finish the task. She sat down and began to cry. Then, something wonderful happened. Through her tears, Psyche noticed a seed moving, then another, and then many more. An army of ants had come to **aid** her. Each ant was carrying a seed. Together, they sorted seeds into separate piles.



*An army of ants comes to **aid** Psyche.*



In the morning, Venus was surprised to find the work done.

“Your next task will not be so easy!” she said. “Take this box to the underworld and ask the queen of that realm, Proserpina [pro-SER-pee-nə], to send me a little of her beauty.”

Psyche’s heart sank. No human had ever visited the underworld and returned to tell the tale. Just then, a voice spoke to her.

“Take a coin for the boatman,” the voice said. “If you pay him, he will carry you across the river to the underworld. Take a cake, as well. If you give the cake to the three-headed dog who guards the underworld, he will let you pass. Above all, once Proserpina has placed beauty in the box, do not open it!”



*Psyche was told to take a coin for the boatman and a cake to the three-headed dog to enter the underworld. There, she received the box of **beauty** from Proserpina.*

Psyche obeyed the mysterious voice. She traveled safely to the underworld and Proserpina gave her the box of beauty for Venus.

Psyche could not help wondering what was inside the box. She lifted the lid and peeked inside. A deep sleep came over her. She fell senseless to the ground.

Luckily, Cupid was watching. Although he was disappointed in Psyche, he was still very much in love with her. When he saw her lying on the ground, he took pity on her. He lifted the sleeping spell and Psyche awoke.

“See what curiosity gets you?” Cupid said. He smiled at Psyche. Psyche smiled back.

Psyche delivered the box to Venus.

Cupid went to Jupiter and begged to marry Psyche with Jupiter’s blessing. Jupiter agreed. He allowed Psyche to drink **ambrosia**, the drink of the gods. Psyche became **immortal**. So Cupid and Psyche were married and lived happily ever after.



*Psyche became **immortal** after drinking **ambrosia**, the drink of the gods.*

Chapter

# 8

## Daily Roman Life in the City, Part II



### Read-Aloud

Let's imagine that you are a child in a wealthy patrician family. Like most patrician families, you live in a large house known in **Latin** as a *domus* [doh-moos]. The *domus* has several stories with enough rooms for your large household: mother, father, children, grandparents, dozens of enslaved people, and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. It is common to find the

*Patrician family in atrium*



family gathered in the atrium, a large open space in the middle of the *domus*. An atrium features a skylight, or hole in the roof, which creates a bright atmosphere and helps air circulate through the house. If you look closely at the floor, you can see a shallow pool of water in the middle of the atrium. This pool is there to collect rainwater, because there is no way to close the skylight. The little pool is also a good place to rinse your feet if they are dusty from the streets.

Whether they were plebeians or patricians, all Roman families were organized in a similar way. While many families consisted only of parents and children, it was also very common to find many relatives living together in the same apartment building, if not in the same house. The oldest man in the family was called in **Latin** the *pater familias*, [*paw-tare fah-meel-ee-yas*], and he was in charge. By law, the *pater familias* had control over the family's property and money, and he made all the family decisions. He might have arranged whom his children would marry before they were even adults!



*Pater Familias*



### *Roman patrician woman*

Roman women were not allowed to vote or run for the Senate or other offices. Women were expected to do whatever the *pater familias* told them to do. Nevertheless, Roman women did have some rights that women in many other **civilizations** did not have at the time. Roman women were allowed to own property, so there were many women involved in business. Roman women were usually deeply involved in important decisions involving the home. Patrician women were often moneylenders or landlords, meaning they owned and managed properties in which others paid to live.

Most plebeian women had their hands full with domestic duties, which included raising children, cooking, and cleaning. They may have also carried on a trade, such as selling food in the market. Wealthy plebeian and patrician women had enslaved people to do the work for them. Much of their time was spent managing their enslaved people. The richest families sometimes had hundreds of enslaved people to manage.

Patrician families and friends loved to gather for long, relaxing meals. They would sometimes eat for hours, nibbling at their food, drinking wine, and sharing all the latest stories they had heard around town. Rich patricians liked to recline on dining couches during meals. Sometimes they would lie on their stomachs; at least they didn't have to worry about spilling food on their laps! People often ate with their fingers—no need for a fork or spoon (unless they were eating soup).



*Roman dining and reclining*



On an average night, however, most plebeian families usually did not have time for long suppers. They probably sat around a table on stools, and their food usually wasn't very elaborate. A typical plebeian family would eat bread and porridge made of grain, along with small helpings of meat and whatever vegetables they had on hand.

As the population living in Rome grew, the city became more and more crowded. Although plebeians had opportunities to make money and own property,



*Romans waiting for grain ships*

life was not easy for most of them. Because Rome relied so much on grain shipments being **imported** from across the sea, sometimes there was a food **shortage**. War and bad weather sometimes delayed those food shipments from arriving at the wharves, and Rome would suddenly become an angry city of thousands of hungry people. Disease was a big problem, too. Romans worked hard to try to keep the city clean, but it was an impossible situation with so many people. As a result, horrible diseases sometimes spread throughout the population.

The life of patricians might have seemed easy compared to the lives of plebeians and enslaved people, but that doesn't mean the patricians didn't have worries. Patricians were the wealthy elite in Roman society, but there were not as many of them as there were plebeians. As time passed, the ordinary people of Rome—or the “mob” as the patricians called them—began to understand that they had power in their numbers.

**Riots** became common. People would rampage through a city, burning and trashing buildings, and generally creating **chaos**. People rioted most often when there were food **shortages**. Not surprisingly, this always made the patricians very nervous. The patricians always had plenty of food, and the plebeians knew it! The patricians valued their high position in society and felt



*Worried patrician watching an angry mob*

**threatened** that the protests of the many plebeians could eventually change their status.

So, the wealthy Romans came up with a plan that is sometimes called “bread and circuses.” The idea was basically to distract people from their problems by staging amazing spectacles. This was part of the reason why buildings like the Circus Maximus and the



### *Gladiators and venatore*

Colosseum were built. Just when the mobs were starting to get restless and wanting to start a **riot**, the Senate and other patricians would pay for a couple weeks of games to distract unhappy citizens. Usually these games involved **chariot** races, fights among people and animals, and circus tricks involving trained animals, acrobats, jugglers, and other entertainers. If you have ever been to a circus under a “big top” tent, you can thank the Romans, because they were one of the first to do it. Of course, our circuses are far tamer than the Roman circuses. Instead of having a lion jump through a hoop, they had lions fighting people!



### *Mosaic of gladiators*

The ultimate spectacles took place in the great amphitheater you have heard about called the Colosseum. Here, **gladiators** would fight each other for the public's entertainment. **Gladiators** were often criminals or soldiers that had been captured from enemy armies. Though rare, there were also women fighters called gladiatrices. Believe it or not, some people chose the life of a **gladiator** for the fame. **Gladiators** were sometimes forced to fight each other to the death in front of thousands of people. Many **gladiators** did not live very long; one appearance in the **arena** was all they got. Roman games were not for the faint of heart!

Think about life in Rome from a Roman's perspective. They lived in an incredible city, and they



*Mosaic of a lion*

had all kinds of opportunities, but life was still very hard. War, disease, and hunger were always life's obstacles. Medicines and medical care such as we know today did not exist in ancient Rome. The Roman legions marched all over the world, with countless Roman soldiers never to be seen or heard from again. At any moment, a foreign army could **invade** Roman homes, carrying citizens away to a life of slavery.

Life for most people during Roman times was short and **brutal**. They loved their families, but many Romans did not really expect to live a very long life. For all their inventions and immense power, the Romans could not change the fact that their lives were uncertain and dangerous.

# The Sword of Damocles



Have you ever wished you were a king? Does that seem like the best job a person could have? Well, before you decide for sure, listen to this legend that was made famous by the Roman writer Cicero [SIS-er-oe] more than two thousand years ago.

Damocles [DA-mə-kleez] was a friend of Dionysius [die-ə-NIS-ee-us], the king of Syracuse, a city in southern Italy. Damocles **envied** his friend. He believed that the king had a very good life. He had all the riches and power he could want. What could be better?

“You think I’m lucky?” Dionysius said to him one day. “If you think so, let’s trade places. You sit here, on the throne. Try it for just one day. Then, tell me if you still think I’m lucky.”

Damocles accepted his friend’s invitation. He was **eager** to live the life of a king.



*Damocles accepting Dionysius's invitation to be king for one day*



When the day came, Damocles ordered servants to bring him fine robes. He had them set out a great **banquet** of food. He ordered expensive wine and fine music. He sat back, sure that he was the happiest man in the world.

Then, he looked up. He caught his breath in fear. Above his head was a sword. It was **dangling** from the ceiling, held by a single strand of horse's hair. Damocles could not speak. He could not eat. He could not enjoy the music. He could not even move.

“What is the matter, my friend?” asked Dionysius.

“How can I **conduct** my life with that sword hanging above me?” Damocles asked.

“How indeed?” answered Dionysius. “Now you know how it feels to be king. That sword hangs over my head every minute of every day. There is always the chance the thread will break. An **advisor** may turn on me. An enemy spy may attack me. I might make an unwise decision that brings my **downfall**. You see, my friend, with power comes danger.”



*Damocles sits on the throne of King Dionysius, with the sword dangling from the ceiling.*

# 10 Julius Caesar:

## Great Fighter, Great Writer

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After the Punic Wars, generals started to play a big part in Roman history. Roman generals went all around the **Mediterranean**, fighting battles and **conquering** new lands. Some of these generals became heroes. Some of them got to be so famous and so popular that they **threatened** to take over the republic. That's what happened with Julius Caesar.

Julius Caesar came from an old Roman family. He was proud and ambitious, with a high opinion of himself.

When he was a young man, Caesar was captured by pirates. The pirates told him they would kill him unless he could pay a **ransom** of twenty **talents**. Caesar laughed at them. He told them they clearly didn't know what sort of man they had captured. He was Julius Caesar. He was not a man to be **ransomed** for just twenty **talents**! Caesar told the pirates he would not allow himself to be **ransomed** for less than fifty **talents**!



*Caesar told the pirates he was worth a larger **ransom**.*

Caesar told his friends to raise the money. He stayed with the pirates, writing poems. He read some of his poems to the pirates. They shrugged. They didn't care much for poetry. They were pirates, not poets. They just wanted to collect the **ransom** money. Caesar got angry at the pirates. He scolded them for not liking his poems. He told them they had no taste. He told them they were **barbarians**. He told them someday he would come back and punish them for their bad taste. The pirates thought Caesar was joking. Maybe they thought he was crazy. At any rate, as soon as they got the **ransom** money, they quickly forgot about him. But Caesar did not forget about them. He went back to Rome, got some ships, and hired some good fighters. Then, he tracked down the pirates and killed them.

Caesar quickly established himself as a man who knew what to do with his sword and also with his pen. Once, he was sent to Asia. The people there were in **revolt**. Caesar led a Roman army there and put down the **revolt**. Then, he got out his pen to write his report. The normal thing would have been to write a long report, filling several pages, but that was not Caesar's style.



*Caesar quickly became known as a brave and determined soldier.*

This is the report Caesar sent back to Rome:

Veni, vidi, vici. [wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE]

That's the whole report. Those three words—written in **Latin**, the language of ancient Rome—mean, “I came, I saw, I **conquered**.” What else was there to say? Mission accomplished!

Caesar led an army into the land the Romans called Gaul. Today, we call it France. Gaul was not part of the Roman **civilization** when Caesar marched in, but it was when he marched out a few years later. Caesar **conquered** it. Then, he wrote a book about how he did it. The first sentence in his book is famous.

It is written in **Latin**. In English, the words mean, “The whole of Gaul is divided into three parts.”

If you ever study **Latin**, you may have a chance to read Caesar's book on the Gallic Wars. It's so clear and so well-written that teachers all around the world still use it to teach **Latin** to students.



*Caesar writing about his conquest of Gaul*



# 11 Julius Caesar



## Read-Aloud



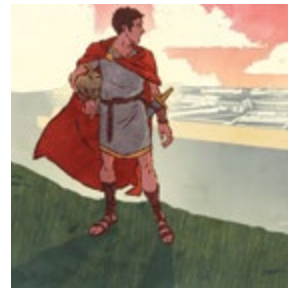
*Statue of Julius  
Caesar*

You will hear the name Julius Caesar, or just Caesar, throughout your life. You may have already heard this name many times. Julius Caesar is one of the most famous Romans who ever lived. His full name was Gaius [guy-es]

Julius Caesar, and he was born in 100 BCE, when the Roman Republic was a little more than 400 years old.

Julius Caesar became a soldier at a young age. Originally, he was nominated to become a priest of Jupiter, which was a very powerful religious position in Rome. However, a family **feud** erupted between his family and another important patrician family. As a result, Julius Caesar left Rome and joined the army instead.

*Young Julius Caesar  
as a soldier*



Julius Caesar was a fine soldier, and he soon became well known throughout the army. For his bravery, he was awarded a Civic Crown, which was a simple crown made of oak leaves. A Civic Crown was a very important honor, and represented a soldier's bravery. Only very important Romans earned the right to wear one.



*Young Julius Caesar wearing the Civic Crown*

After a few years in the army, Julius Caesar returned to Rome and became involved in politics. The word *politics* refers to the activities involved in running a government. In a republic, making laws, going to war, collecting taxes, and other government actions all require agreement between various people in the government. In Rome, the consuls, senators, and other Roman officials all had to work together to try to solve problems.

However, when it came to governing the areas Rome controlled, there were always disagreements about what the role of government should be. In order to get things done, politicians formed an **alliance** with other politicians who agreed with them. In Roman politics,



*Young Julius Caesar in politics*

there was power in numbers. If a group of politicians formed an **alliance**, then together they had an easier time convincing other people to go along with them.

Julius Caesar formed a political **alliance** with another soldier, a very rich man named Pompey [*pom-pee*]. Together, they set out to gain the things they wanted, such as land and power. Julius Caesar was elected to a number of special political offices, even though he had as many enemies as he had friends. He worked his way up the political ladder until he finally became one of the two consuls at the top of the government.

Remember, the consuls had a great deal of power. To keep some of that power under control, the two consuls worked together with a process of checks and balances: They could not take any action until both consuls agreed. If one consul wanted a new law to be passed, and the other consul did not like the law, then the two of them would have to **negotiate** and **compromise** and make whatever changes were necessary in order to come to an agreement.

Consuls served for just one year. After that, they often became proconsuls. Proconsuls were often governors of provinces, the lands beyond Italy that the

### *Consuls*



Roman army had **conquered**. The red areas on this map show Roman territory around the time of Julius Caesar's birth in 100 BCE, shortly after the end of the Punic Wars. You can see that after the Punic Wars, Rome controlled most of the land around the **Mediterranean** Sea.

After his term as consul, Julius Caesar became proconsul of a number of provinces to the north and east of Italy. Julius Caesar was in charge of Rome's northern frontier. As proconsul, he had a number of Roman legions at his command, and decided that his job was



*Map of Roman expansion during Caesar's rule*

to use his armies to expand Roman territory farther to the north. In these northern provinces, the Romans built roads, towns, and temples. One of Caesar's jobs as proconsul was to protect Roman property in these areas. Julius Caesar decided it would be a good idea if he went out and **conquered** these lands for Rome.

The only problem was that the areas he wanted to **conquer** were full of what were considered by some as **barbarians**. That is what many Romans called some of the people who didn't speak their language and who had a different culture than theirs. The Romans did not consider these people to be an advanced society because they did not have roads, **aqueducts**, massive marble **arenas**, or temples. The Romans considered these people

*Proconsul Julius Caesar looking over northern territory making plans, map of areas visible*



to be uncultured. To someone accustomed to the sights and sounds of the vibrant city of Rome and all that Roman **civilization** had to offer, the homes and lifestyles of those outside of Rome may have seemed **crude**, or unpolished. To the common Roman mind, they would be doing these “**barbarians**” a **favor** by **conquering** them and forcing them to adopt Roman ways and culture.

The people to the north of Rome that the Romans considered **barbarians** could basically be put into two categories: the Gauls and the Germanic tribes. The Gauls lived in the area of present-day France, and the Germanic tribes were spread across a large area of central and northern Europe. Julius Caesar first turned his attention to the Gauls. He spent much of the next ten years fighting to **conquer** and control Gaul, but it seemed there was always another Gallic or Germanic



*Gauls*



tribe ready to rise up and fight Roman expansion. There were many Gallic tribes, each following its own king, or chieftain, and its own set of laws and customs. The Gauls’ way of



*Caesar writing his memoirs of Gallic victories*

life was more sophisticated than the Romans expected. The Gallic tribes often traded and cooperated with each other; they had their own money, their own religion, and their own traditional stories, songs, and dances.

At the time when Julius Caesar was given the province of Gaul as a proconsul, he needed money to make things happen and to become further recognized. He also needed to show that he was not someone to be pushed around by his enemies. He looked at Gaul as a wonderful opportunity—a massive area of land and people to **conquer!** He hoped that because they all answered to their own chieftains, the Gauls would be easy to divide and **conquer.**



# 12 Julius Caesar: The Later Years



## Read-Aloud

As you heard in the previous read-aloud, Gallic soldiers were not able to put up much of a fight in some areas, and so Julius Caesar thought he was going to be able to **conquer** Gaul quite easily. The Romans thought the people in Gaul were **uncivilized**, and they wanted to **conquer** them so they would adopt Roman ways and culture. But the Gauls, led by a powerful Gallic chieftain named Vercingetorix [ver-sin-*gett*-oh-ricks], rose up and rebelled against him. Vercingetorix united several powerful Gallic tribes, and for a few months it appeared as though the Gauls might be able to succeed against this Roman **conqueror**.

*Vercingetorix leading  
the rebellion against  
Caesar*





### *Roman military technology*

Unfortunately for the Gauls, Julius Caesar and his legions would not be easy to **defeat**. Caesar's men would follow him anywhere. Julius Caesar was loved by soldiers because he **avored** being out in front of his army, fighting alongside the common soldiers. His men respected him for it, even though it may have terrified them to see their leader so close to danger.

Aside from being courageous, Julius Caesar was a brilliant commander. He kept up with the latest in Roman technology, and his armies fielded weapons that the Gauls had never imagined. Julius Caesar **avored** the ballista in battle, which was like a giant catapult or crossbow used to throw weapons. The Gauls were terrified when they faced the ballista on the battlefield.

Julius Caesar put all his technology to use during one particular **siege**, the battle in which he finally **defeated** Vercingetorix. A **siege** is a long, drawn-out battle in which one army has retreated behind the fortress walls of its city, and the other army surrounds the fortress and tries to break in. A **siege** could take months or even years to **resolve**. If the one army could not break down the city walls or climb over them, then they would wait until the defenders in the city ran out of food or water.

Thanks to the ballista and other weapons used in battle, Julius Caesar was able to force the Gallic chieftain Vercingetorix to surrender. Vercingetorix spent several years in jail, and was killed when Caesar finally returned to Rome.

*Statue of Vercingetorix*





*Caesar's triumphant procession into Rome*

When he returned to Rome, Julius Caesar threw a military parade for himself called a triumph. In this parade, Gallic warriors were in chains. Commander Julius Caesar and his soldiers marched around Rome, showing off prizes and basking in cheers and applause from the citizens of Rome. While Julius Caesar had many admirers, he still had many enemies. To his enemies' horror, Julius Caesar had returned to Rome more powerful than ever!



*Caesar at  
the Rubicon*

Before marching his army into Rome, Julius Caesar had led his legions across the Rubicon River in northern Italy and then south into the city of Rome. Marching an army into Rome was against an old Roman law. By crossing the Rubicon River, Caesar was perceived as a **threat** who might try to take over the government. Julius Caesar knew that what he had done would start a **civil war**. This meant that Romans were going to fight against each other. When Caesar crossed the Rubicon River, Caesar said, “The die is cast,” meaning that he knew exactly what would happen if he crossed the Rubicon, and he was ready to see if Fortuna would **favor** his bravery.

Caesar’s old ally Pompey was now his greatest enemy. Pompey did not like all the power and glory Caesar had. Pompey raised an army of his own to fight Caesar. It was a bloody



*Pompey*

**civil war** that lasted several years. Through it all, Julius Caesar remained a hero to most plebeians. During his time in Roman politics, Caesar preferred passing laws that **avored** the lowly over the rich in Roman society and members of the Senate. In the end, Caesar's army won the **civil war**, and Pompey was killed. Caesar unexpectedly had mercy on many of his other enemies within Rome. Rather than kill all of his enemies, as most ancient Roman leaders would have done, Caesar tried to heal the wounds of **civil war** by trying to unite Romans.

Caesar was now the **dictator** of Rome, meaning he was the main ruler who could make decisions without needing the approval of consuls. This was very different from the process of checks and balances which the Romans had relied upon to control the power of the consuls! Julius Caesar and his armies continued to **conquer** other lands, extending Rome's **influence** throughout nearly all of the **Mediterranean**. After one battle, Caesar famously claimed, "*Veni, vidi, vici*," [pronounced in Caesar's day as *way-nee, wee-dee, wee-kee*] meaning in **Latin**, "I came, I saw, I **conquered**."

Julius Caesar wanted to **import** wheat, among other things, from Egypt into Rome. Thanks to the lush farmland along the Nile, there was enough wheat



### *Caesar in Egypt with Cleopatra*

in Egypt to feed all of Rome. Julius Caesar crossed the **Mediterranean** Sea to seize Egypt's wealth. Once there, however, Caesar met Queen Cleopatra and instead, he fell in love! Cleopatra was considered to be an extraordinary person. She was incredibly smart and clever. When Cleopatra walked into a room, everyone wanted to hear what she had to say.

Cleopatra was involved in her own political problems and **civil war** in Egypt. She was fighting her brother, Ptolemy [*tol-uh-mee*], for control of the Egyptian throne. Caesar helped her settle her problem by having Ptolemy killed. After Ptolemy's death, Cleopatra became queen of Egypt, and much-needed shipments of Egyptian wheat were soon exported to Rome.

Eventually, Caesar's enemies gained the upper hand. They worried that as Caesar became more powerful, he might declare himself king. Many members of the Senate became jealous and wanted to remove Caesar from power. In one of history's most famous deaths, Caesar was killed on the floor of the Roman Senate. It was the Ides of March—March 15, 44 BCE.

Sixty Roman senators, led by Junius Brutus, secretly plotted to murder Caesar in the Roman Senate. According to legend, Julius Caesar's last words were "*Et tu, Brute?*" This means, "And you, Brutus?" Caesar was surprised to discover that Brutus, someone he considered an ally, was a part of the plan to murder him. For all the troubles he faced during his time as **dictator** of Rome, Julius Caesar died a hero in the eyes of most Roman people.

### *Caesar's assassination*





Chapter

# 13 Julius Caesar: Crossing the Rubicon

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After he **conquered** Gaul, Caesar started marching back to Rome. By this time, the Roman senators were very nervous about Caesar. They thought he might march into Rome and take over. The senators sent Caesar a message. They told him to stop and send his soldiers home. They ordered him not to cross the Rubicon River. If he did, they said he would not be treated as a hero. Instead, he would be treated as a **traitor** and an **invader**.

In the year 49 **BCE**, Caesar crossed the Rubicon. He is said to have remarked in **Latin**, “The die is cast.” That was his way of saying he knew he was taking a big risk. Crossing the Rubicon meant there was no turning back.



*Caesar crossing the Rubicon with his troops*

Caesar's actions led to a **civil war**—a war in which Romans fought against Romans. Caesar was the leader on one side. Pompey [POM-pee], another famous Roman general, was the leader on the other side. Caesar **defeated** Pompey and chased him to Egypt, where Pompey was killed.

When Caesar got to Egypt, he found another country tangled up in a **civil war**. The princess Cleopatra was trying to take power from her brother. Caesar sided with Cleopatra. He helped her become Queen of Egypt.

Caesar had big plans. He didn't think Rome was run the way it should be. He wanted to change a lot of things. He had the Senate pass new laws. He replaced the old calendar with the one we still use today. (Did you know that the month of July is named for Julius Caesar?)



*Caesar met Cleopatra in Egypt and helped her become queen.*

Caesar wanted to do more, but he felt he needed more power. He got himself appointed **dictator**. At first, he was appointed **dictator** for only one year. That was not so **unusual**. The Romans had chosen **dictators** in the past. A **dictator** could be put in power during times of trouble. But the **dictator** was only supposed to rule for a little while, until the troubles passed. That was not what Caesar had in mind. He had himself appointed **dictator** for ten years. That upset a lot of people. How do you think those people felt a little later, when Caesar had himself appointed **dictator** for life? That was really too much for some people. For hundreds of years, Rome had been a republic. Now, Caesar was setting himself up as a **dictator**. Perhaps, he even wanted to be a king. That was even more upsetting. The Romans had driven out the kings hundreds of years earlier.



*Caesar became **dictator** of Rome for life.*

A group of Romans agreed that Caesar was a **threat** to the republic. They stabbed him to death in the Senate.

Some of the men who stabbed Julius Caesar were men he considered friends. One of them, Brutus, was a man Caesar had treated almost like a son. How could these men kill Caesar? Brutus explained that it was not that he loved Caesar less, but that he loved Rome—and the Roman republic—more. Brutus and the other **conspirators** killed Caesar to save Rome. At least, that was the plan.



*The senators who stabbed Caesar thought they were saving the Roman republic.*



# Chapter 14 Augustus Caesar and the Roman Empire



## Read-Aloud

During his life, Julius Caesar had a few close friends, the closest of which was Marc Antony. Marc Antony was a general under Julius Caesar and helped in the **conquering** of Gaul. Julius Caesar did not have any sons that could take over his position as ruler of Rome. In his will, Julius Caesar adopted his eighteen-year-old great-nephew, Octavian, as his own son. After Caesar's death, Marc Antony and Octavian worked together to fight against Julius Caesar's enemies and **resolve** some of the **conflict** in the **empire**, at least for a while.



*Marc Antony and Octavian busts*

Marc Antony took it upon himself to make sure Rome and Egypt continued to be allies, because Rome needed to keep importing Egypt's wheat. Plus, Cleopatra's Egypt was a rich and powerful country with a strong



### *Cleopatra with Marc Antony*

army—not as powerful as Rome, but still an important force in the **Mediterranean** area with which to have an **alliance**. Just as Julius Caesar had done, Marc Antony fell in love with Cleopatra, and she fell in love with him. In fact, they became one of the most famous couples in history. William Shakespeare, the playwright you heard about earlier who wrote the play *Julius Caesar*, wrote a play about this couple titled *Antony and Cleopatra*.

Marc Antony and Cleopatra became allies in a struggle for power with Octavian. Even though Marc Antony and Octavian had worked together in an **alliance** to end Rome's **civil war**, they eventually became enemies.

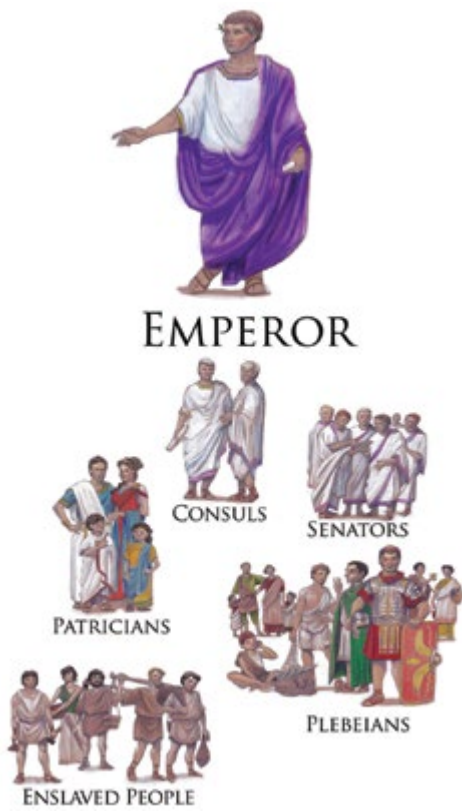
Octavian won the war against Marc Antony and Cleopatra. He went on to become the most powerful Roman leader at the time, with **influence** over most of the senators and generals. Octavian served as consul, proconsul, and in a number of other important roles, becoming a true Roman war hero just like his **predecessor**, Julius Caesar. Octavian managed to make more friends than enemies, unlike Julius Caesar. He was so popular and powerful that the Senate gave him a new name: Augustus, which in **Latin** means “**Illustrious One.**” Augustus Caesar was presented the same award as his **predecessor** for his bravery, the Civic Crown. Today, Augustus is remembered as **Emperor** Augustus Caesar. He took the name *Caesar* in honor of Julius Caesar, his **predecessor** and adoptive father.



*Octavian as emperor*

Augustus Caesar was considered the first Roman **Emperor**, which means he had a lot of power and **influence** over Roman politics. Under his leadership, Rome was no longer called the Roman Republic. Instead, from the time of **Emperor** Augustus Caesar onward, it would be called the Roman **Empire**.

Whether he was called a consul, **dictator**, king, or **emperor** did not matter; the fact was that Augustus Caesar was the most powerful man in Rome. Many soldiers and generals throughout most of Rome's



*Diagram of power in Roman **Empire***

provinces were loyal to Augustus Caesar. They respected him and would do anything for him. This alone gave Augustus Caesar great power. He was also incredibly rich, and he had the power to make other people incredibly rich if they would do what he wanted them to do. Under the Roman **Empire**, the basic structure of government was similar to the structure of the Roman Republic: There was a Senate with two consuls, as well as proconsuls, or governors, and many of the same laws. The **emperor** of the Roman **Empire** was most powerful.

During his first several years as **emperor**, Augustus Caesar worked to make Rome's borders and provinces



*Map of Roman border **threats**, the Pax Romana*

secure and safe from attack. The Roman **Empire** was huge, stretching over thousands of miles including large cities, **vast** forests, mighty mountains, and **parched** deserts. The land of Gaul had been **conquered**, but there were still tribes in the deep forests determined to fight the Romans that called them **barbarians**. To the north of Gaul there were countless other Germanic tribes that were angry and nervous that Rome would try to take their land next. In the Alps, just north of Italy, there were still many ancient tribes unwilling to submit to Roman rule. There were also enemies in Spain and throughout various parts of Africa and western Asia. Individually, none of these enemies were a real **threat** to Roman power, but all together they posed a real problem. It seemed as though the wars and fighting would never end.

Augustus Caesar wanted to put an end to the continuous warfare once and for all. He spent more than twenty years fighting these enemies of Rome and expanded Roman territory to reduce the amount of surrounding **threats**. Thus began an important two- hundred-year period in Roman history known as the *Pax Romana*, which means Roman Peace in **Latin**. In truth, things weren't entirely peaceful; Roman armies still had to do some fighting here and there, but there



*Roman art (**mosaics**, fresco, sculpture)*

were no serious **threats** to Roman power. Augustus Caesar preferred to win wars without fighting at all, and many enemies surrendered to Roman rule rather than face Roman legions in battle. The mere thought of fighting the Romans was enough to make most kings shudder with fear.

Wherever they **conquered**, the Romans built their roads, bridges, temples, **aqueducts**, and fortresses. Wherever they went, the Romans also brought their

language, laws, money, and arts. Augustus Caesar loved art, and he knew how important it was to all Romans. He paid artists to create some of the finest and most beautiful sculptures, **mosaics**, frescoes, and temples. There are fewer frescoes today because they have not held up as well as **mosaics** and sculptures over time. Frescoes and other art from ancient Rome show us that Romans were talented artists. Ancient Roman art provides important clues about daily Roman life.

Augustus Caesar convinced Romans that peace was better than war. This idea was difficult for many Romans to accept at first, because they were used to constant warfare and expansion as the way to sustain the Roman **Empire**. Roman boys were expected to join the army as adults, and when necessary, die in battle for Rome. Roman mothers, wives, and children expected their sons, husbands, and fathers to march away to wars, often never to return. The idea of *Pax Romana* was something most Romans had never even dreamed of! Over the next hundreds of years, the Roman **Empire** had many, many **emperors**, but none would ever be as powerful or as **illustrious** as Augustus Caesar.



# After Caesar: Augustus and the Roman Empire



The men who killed Julius Caesar were trying to save the republic. They did not succeed. After Caesar was killed, another **civil war** broke out. The man who came out on top at the end of the war was a man known as Augustus Caesar, or just Augustus.

Augustus was an adopted son of Caesar and he agreed with Caesar that Rome needed to change. But he was smart. He knew that the Romans cared about their history. They would not be happy if he came to power and changed everything all at once. What he did instead was very clever. He made himself **emperor** and he made it clear that he intended to serve until he died. That meant Rome was no longer a republic. But Augustus did not sweep away all of the old **traditions**. He let the Romans keep the Senate and consuls. Still, everybody knew that it was Augustus who was really in charge.

Augustus brought peace to a country that had been fighting **civil wars** for many years. He **reformed**



*A statue of Augustus Caesar*

the government and **conquered** new lands. He set up monuments. He built **magnificent** new buildings, including temples, theaters, and bath houses. He also repaired old buildings and decorated them with fancy stone, like marble. He once boasted that he “found Rome brick and left it marble.”

One of the most famous buildings built during the **reign** of Augustus is the Pantheon. The Pantheon was built as a temple to all the Roman gods. (*Pan-* means all and *theo-* means gods.) The Pantheon is a beautiful building with a dome roof. While the original building was destroyed in a fire, the Pantheon still standing today was built to replace it. Thousands of tourists visit it every day.



*The Pantheon as it appears in Rome today*

The Pantheon is only one of many examples of great Roman architecture. Another one is the Colosseum. The Colosseum, built not long after the **reign** of Augustus, is a huge, oval stadium. The Romans went to the Colosseum to see people and animals fight. The Colosseum would hold fifty thousand people. Today the Colosseum is in ruins, but some of it is left to give us a good idea of what it would have looked like.



*The ruins of the Colosseum as it appears today. In ancient times, the Romans came to the Colosseum to see battles between people and animals.*

The Romans also enjoyed watching **chariot** races. These were held in an even larger stadium, called the Circus Maximus. For the Romans, a **chariot** race or a fight was good entertainment, the way a football game or a movie is for us today.



*The Romans enjoyed watching **chariot** races at the Circus Maximus.*

The Romans also built roads and **aqueducts**. The roads brought people from all around the **Empire**. The **aqueducts** were used to bring water from the country into the city. Some of the **aqueducts** are also very beautiful.



*An example of a Roman **aqueduct** as it appears today*

# 16 The Western and Eastern Empires



## Read-Aloud

In the previous lesson, you learned about the many invasions that led to the decline of Rome. You learned that the Roman armies had become weak, compared to the days of Julius and Augustus Caesar, and that they relied on paid soldiers, or mercenaries, to protect Rome. You also learned about how the Roman **emperors** and senators wasted lots of money on “bread and circuses”—**gladiator** games, **chariot** races, and other luxuries—but did not spend money on the things that would keep Rome safe.



*Mercenary  
soldiers*



*Map of Rome at its largest extent*

The Roman **Empire** simply became too **vast** to handle. It was impossible for a single **emperor** working with senators and proconsuls to control everything that was happening over thousands of miles of Roman territory. And there were many selfish **emperors** as well! The governors and generals in charge of the Roman provinces could do as they pleased. Over the course of many years, Rome itself became less and less important to the people who lived in and ruled the Roman provinces, which stretched from Italy to the surrounding areas of England, France, Spain, North Africa, and the Middle East.





*Map of Roman **Empire** divided into the East and West*

Roman culture changed in important ways, as well. We know that the Romans always tried to bring their own laws, lifestyle, and culture to the countries or tribes they **conquered**. At the same time, the Romans ended up adopting, or taking on, parts of the cultures that they **conquered**. In other words, even though the Romans had their own culture and **traditions**, they also picked up new ideas and customs from the people they met in faraway places.

Around this same time, the **empire** itself was going through another big change. The Roman **Empire** was so **vast** and so **complex** that it needed to be divided into two parts: the Western Roman **Empire**, with Rome as its capital; and the Eastern Roman **Empire**.

The Eastern Roman **Empire** would be ruled from a new capital city, called Constantinople. Constantinople was named after an important Roman leader. His name was Constantine the Great.



*Constantine the Great*

Constantine brought new hope and confidence to many Romans. His new city of Constantinople was a chance at a fresh start. Even with this new start, politics were just as difficult in the Eastern Empire as they had been in Rome. Under Constantine's rule, there was still **conflict** and warfare. Meanwhile, the city of Rome remained the center of the Western Roman **Empire**, as well as the center of Christianity. The political situation in Rome was worse than ever. **Emperors** came and went, and many politicians could hardly agree on anything. Worst of all, wars were breaking out in the north, as more and more surrounding tribes started looking for new homes on Roman land.



## *Hagia Sophia*

Eventually, the Eastern Roman **Empire** completely separated from the Western Roman **Empire**. Once separated, it wasn't called the Eastern Roman **Empire** anymore. By 410 **CE**, the **Eastern Empire** was known as the Byzantine **Empire**. This photo shows the most famous Byzantine church, the *Hagia Sophia*. The Byzantines built many churches, but none compared to the *Hagia Sophia*, which is still standing today after more than 1600 years.

By 500 **CE**, the Western Empire had fallen apart, with most of the provinces falling to one **barbarian** tribe or another. A Byzantine **emperor**, Justinian, raised a mighty army and marched west to **reconquer**

the western province, thus waging new wars in the same areas Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar had been hundreds of years earlier. As **emperor**, he developed a body of Roman laws called the Justinian Code. The Justinian Code was a collection of past laws from previous **emperors**, in addition to laws he developed himself. The Justinian Code is one of Justinian's major accomplishments as **emperor**. Justinian appears in the center of this **mosaic**, which you can see today in an Italian church. The Western Empire in Europe—from Italy across France and Germany and all the way to Britain—drifted into a long, sad period without leadership and **vision** from the powers of Rome. The glorious Roman **Empire** finally came to an end.



*Justinian*

## Chapter

# 17 The Second Rome: From Constantine to Justinian

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Constantine was the first Roman **Emperor** to support Christianity. He issued an order that made it **illegal** to put Christians to death, or even throw them in jail.

Constantine built churches all over the **empire**. He built one in Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. He built another in Jerusalem, where Jesus died. He built churches in Rome and in the ancient city of Byzantium, in present-day Turkey. Byzantium was Constantine's favorite city. He adopted it and renamed it Constantinople. His goal was to turn the city into a "new Rome," a sort of Rome away from Rome.



*This church in Bethlehem is built where Jesus is said to have been born.*

Constantine did not want Constantinople to replace Rome. He hoped that Constantinople would take its place beside Rome and that the two cities would survive, side by side, for many years. He wanted Rome and Constantinople to be like two mighty **pillars** supporting the Roman **Empire**. But, in the end, one of those **pillars collapsed**.

One of the **emperors** who ruled after Constantine decided his job was just too big. He felt that the Roman **Empire** was too large to be ruled by any one man. So he split the **empire** into two parts. He declared that the western half of the **Empire** would be ruled by one **emperor**, based in Rome; the eastern half would be ruled by a second **emperor**, based in Constantinople.

Not long after the **empire** was divided, **invaders** from the North began attacking the Western **Empire**. Things got worse and worse. The **invaders** even attacked Rome itself. Finally, the western part of the Roman **Empire collapsed**.

The Eastern **Empire**, based in Constantinople, had better luck. It lived on, and for a while, even got stronger.



*A map showing the divided **empire***



Most **historians** agree that the Eastern **Empire** was at its best during the **reign** of Justinian. Justinian came into power in the year 527 CE. That is, he became **emperor** 527 years after the birth of Jesus and about two hundred years after Constantine decided to support Christianity.

Like Constantine before him, Justinian was a Christian. He spent lots of money building churches. In Constantinople, he built the church of Hagia Sophia [ho-GEE-ə Soe-FEE-yə], with its **magnificent**, soaring dome.



*The inside of the Hagia Sophia in Constantinople*

Justinian also completed an important book project. He had scholars gather up all of the laws that had been passed in the Roman **Empire** over the years. What the scholars found was a big mess. There were so many laws, nobody could possibly keep track of them all. There were old laws that no longer made sense. There were even laws that seemed to be the opposite of one another. One law might say “it is **illegal** to do X.” Then another law might say “it’s perfectly fine to do X.” Justinian had his scholars gather up all the laws, sort them out, and organize them. When they were done, they published the laws. The new, organized laws filled several books. The new organized laws were known as **Justinian’s Code**.



*A mosaic of Justinian from the Hagia Sophia*

Chapter

# 18 Androcles and the Lion

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Charlie  
Chatter's  
Report

The ancient Romans liked to watch **gladiator** fights. They liked to watch a **gladiator** fight against other **gladiators** or against wild animals. As mentioned in a previous chapter, the Romans even built the Colosseum for these fights. The Colosseum was so big it could hold fifty thousand people!

This is a **gladiator** story and it ends in the Colosseum. You may be surprised by the ending!



*Gladiators fighting*

Once there was a Roman enslaved person named Androcles [AN-droe-cleez]. Androcles escaped from his master and ran away. One night he hid in a cave. He crept into the cool darkness, lay down, and fell asleep.

In the middle of the night, Androcles was awakened by a loud roaring noise. He got up and squinted in the darkness. What he saw scared him half to death. It was a lion returning to his den!

Androcles shrank back, fearful for his life.

Then, he saw that the lion was suffering. It was roaring in pain. The great beast limped into the cave and flopped down. It lifted its right front paw and licked it.

Androcles took a step toward the lion. The big cat spotted him, but he did not seem angry. Instead, he gave Androcles a sad look, as if asking for help. Androcles **crouched** next to the lion. He looked and saw a thorn stuck in the lion's paw. He put out his hand. The lion did not try to bite him. He touched the lion on the paw. The lion sat still. Then, very gently, Androcles took hold of the thorn and pulled it out.



*The lion gave Androcles a sad look, as if asking for help.*



The lion looked Androcles in the eye and purred. That was the beginning of a warm friendship between Androcles and the lion. They lived together in the cave. They slept side by side, keeping each other warm.

Then, one day Roman soldiers discovered Androcles. The law of Rome said that runaway enslaved people must be punished. So, Androcles was captured and taken to the city of Rome.

For ten days, Androcles sat alone in a jail cell. The jailors fed him nothing but water and crusts of stale bread. Then, one of them told him he was to meet his death in the Colosseum.

Androcles knew what that meant. Runaway enslaved people were often forced to fight in the Colosseum. Androcles knew he would be forced to fight against **gladiators**, or perhaps against **vicious**, hungry wild animals.



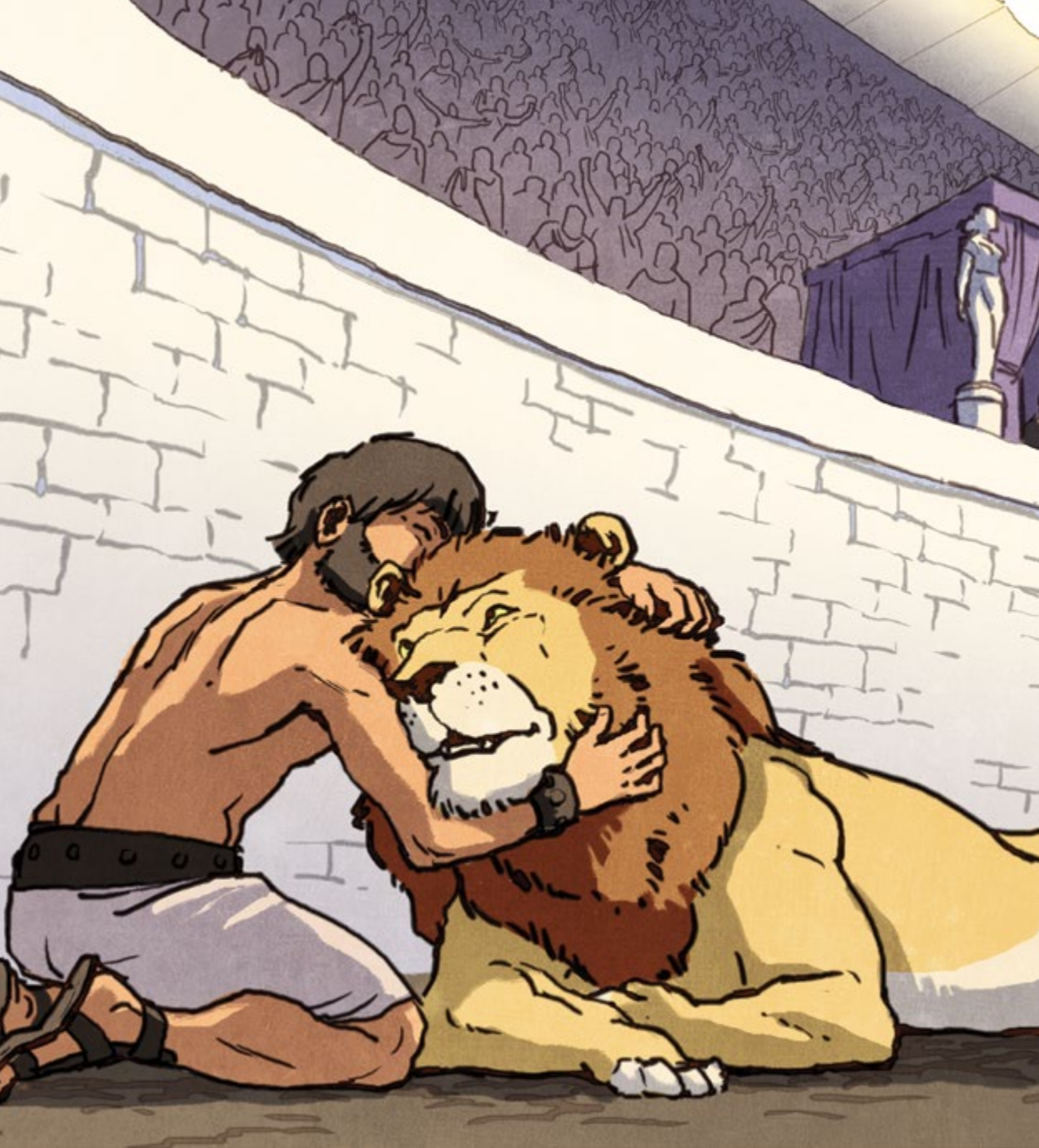
*Androcles waiting in the cell to enter the Colosseum*

Androcles was led out of his cell. As he walked into the Colosseum, he knew that he would soon die. Androcles was brave. He stepped into the **arena** and prepared himself for the fight, and for death.

The crowd cheered as Androcles stepped into the **arena**. They cheered even more loudly when a lion appeared on the other side of the **arena**.

Then, something strange took place. This was not just any lion. It was the lion Androcles had **befriended**. The lion recognized his friend. Instead of attacking, the beast ran up to Androcles and began licking his face. Androcles stroked the lion and rubbed his belly.

The crowd was amazed. They had never seen anything like this. They cheered loudly.



*Androcles and the lion*

“Free the enslaved!” one of the men in the crowd shouted.

“Free the lion!” another shouted.

Soon, the whole crowd was yelling and shouting.

The **emperor** was the one who made the decision. He held out his hand, with his thumb to the side. Then, he tilted it so that his thumb pointed up. Thumbs up! That was the sign! It meant that Androcles and the lion had pleased the **emperor**. They would be saved!

So Androcles and the lion were set free. They lived a long life and their friendship never faltered.



The **emperor** signaled “Thumbs up!” Androcles and the lion were set free.

Chapter **Androcles**  
**19** and the **Lion:**  
Reader's Theater

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**Cast**

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**Narrator 1**



**Narrator 2**



**Androcles**



**Lion**



**Crowd**



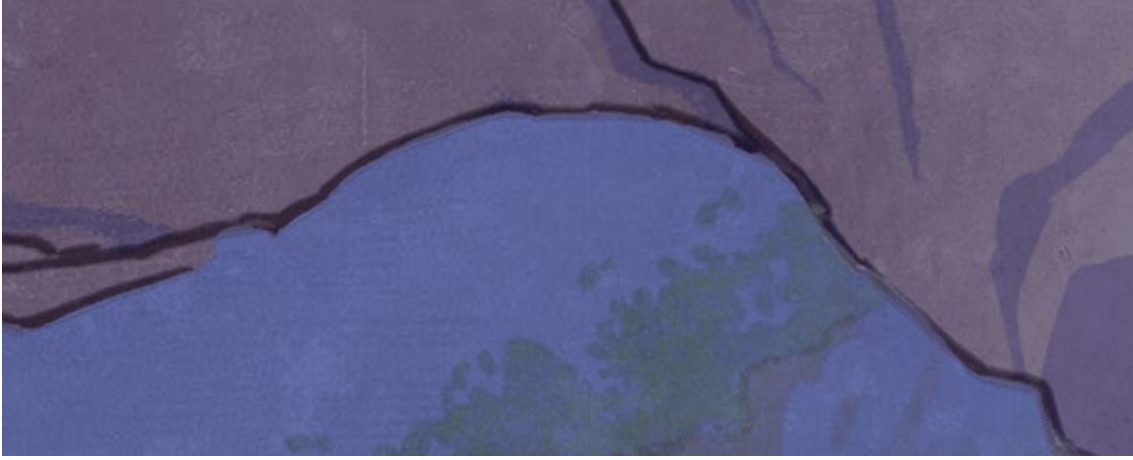
**Man (in the Crowd)**



**Woman (in the Crowd)**



**Emperor**



## Scene 1—In a cave in the forest

### **Narrator 1**

Thousands of years ago, there was an enslaved person named Androcles who lived in ancient Rome. Every day, Androcles was sent by his master out to the fields with the other enslaved people. There they spent the entire day in the blistering hot sun, tending the master's crops. Only when dusk fell at the very end of the day did they return to the enslaved quarters where they lived. Each night, after a meal of stale bread and water, they fell exhausted on the hard floor and went to sleep.

### **Narrator 2**

One day when it was time to return from the fields, Androcles did not follow the other enslaved people. As the others went back to their quarters, Androcles hid at the edge of the field. When it was dark, he ran as fast as he could, far into the forest. When he could run no more, he happened upon a small cave. He





crept inside into the cool darkness and fell asleep.

**Lion** (*roaring several times, but then whimpering in pain*)

Rrrrrroarrrr..... Rrrrrroarrrr.... Rrrrrroarrrr ...  
owowowowow....

**Androcles** (*voice shaking*)

Who's there? Where are you?

**Lion** (*roars two more times in pain*)

Help me! Help me—here!

**Androcles** (*voice still shaking*)

Whoa! How can I help you?

**Lion** (*limps towards Androcles and lifts his front paw*)

Just help me. My paw, my paw—please help me.



**Androcles** (*crouches carefully next to the lion, lifting its paw*)

Well, let me take a look. Aha! I see what the problem is. There is a very large thorn stuck in your paw. Hold very still and I will pull it out.

*(Androcles gently pulls the thorn out of the lion's paw.)*

**Lion**

Oooooowww...ahhhhhhh—that's much better. Thank you.

*(Lion rubs up against Androcles and purrs.)*

**Narrator 1**

That was the beginning of a warm friendship between Androcles and the lion. They lived together in the cave. They slept side by side, keeping each other warm.



## **Narrator 2**

Then one day, a group of Roman soldiers on patrol stumbled upon the cave where they discovered Androcles. Roman law said that runaway enslaved people must be punished. So the soldiers dragged Androcles out of the cave and back to the city of Rome.

## **Narrator 1**

Androcles was taken to jail. He was left alone in a cell for ten days with little to eat or drink. On the tenth day, the jailer came to tell him that he would be taken to the Colosseum that afternoon. Androcles knew that could mean only one thing. He would be forced to fight to death against **gladiators** or **vicious**, wild animals.



## Scene 2—The Colosseum

*(The emperor and crowd stand in a circle as if seated at the Colosseum. Androcles enters the center of the circle from one side.)*

**Crowd** *(chanting Androcles' name as he enters the circle)*  
Androcles! Androcles! Androcles!

**Lion** *(shakes mane and roars loudly as he enters the circle from the other side)*

Rrrrrroarrrr..... Rrrrrroarrrr..... Rrrrrroarrrr

**Crowd** *(turns and looks at the lion and cheers loudly)*

**Emperor**

Let the games begin!

*(Androcles and the lion approach each other with heads down, ready to fight. Then, both look up and stare into each other's eyes.)*



**Lion** (*purrs loudly and rubs up against Androcles' leg*)

Purrrrrr...rrrrrr....rrrrr

**Androcles** (*bends forward to hug the lion*)

My friend, my friend—it's you!

**Crowd** (*cheers loudly*)

**Man in the crowd**

Free Androcles! Free Androcles!

**Woman in the crowd**

Free the lion! Free the lion!

**Crowd (all chanting)**

Free Androcles! Free the lion! Free Androcles! Free the lion!



**Emperor** (*waves both arms to quiet the crowd; holds out his right hand with his thumb to the side and then tilts his thumb up*)

**Crowd** (*all chanting*)

They're saved! They're both saved! Hooray!

**Narrator 1**

So Androcles and the lion were both set free. They lived a long life and their friendship never faltered.

## Chapter 20 The Roman Republic



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For many years, Rome was governed by kings. Some of these kings were good men who ruled well. Some were bad men who treated the Romans poorly.

One of the kings was so bad he convinced the Romans that they should get rid of kings altogether. His name was Tarquin. The Romans called him Tarquin the Proud. Tarquin was a tyrant. He was a cruel ruler who treated the people badly. In the end, the people got so mad at Tarquin that they joined together and drove him out.

Once King Tarquin had been driven out, the Romans set up a different sort of government. They set up a republic—a kind of government with no kings.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES?	MONARCHY	REPUBLIC
<i>Who rules?</i>	 <p data-bbox="501 666 730 709">The king rules.</p>	 <p data-bbox="803 649 1111 691">Elected officials rule.</p>
<i>How long is the rule?</i>	<p data-bbox="481 853 753 941">The king usually rules until he dies.</p>	<p data-bbox="808 853 1106 941">Officials serve for a set length of time.</p>
<i>Who replaces the ruler?</i>	<p data-bbox="493 1195 740 1330">A king is usually succeeded by his oldest son.</p>	<p data-bbox="808 1195 1106 1330">A new official is elected to replace the previous official.</p>

*How is a monarchy different from a republic?*



One of the most important parts of the Roman republic was the Senate. The Senate was a group of older men who met to make decisions and pass laws. Many of the senators were from old, wealthy families. Almost all of them had fought in the army and earned the trust of their fellow Romans.

Each year, the people would elect two men to serve as consuls. To be chosen as a consul was a great honor. It was the most powerful position in the Roman republic.

Rome was a republic, but it was not a democracy. Some people played a role in the government, but many more played no role at all.

In the early years of the Roman republic, one group held most of the power. These were the patricians. The word *patrician* comes from the **Latin** word *pater*, or father. The patricians thought of themselves as the fathers of the people. They felt that it was their job to take care of the people in the same way that parents take care of their children. The patricians were from wealthy, old families. All of the men in the Senate were patricians. In the early days of the republic, the men selected to be consuls were also patricians.



*In the early days of the republic, the consuls and the senators were patricians from wealthy Roman families.*

The rest of the people—the ones who were not patricians—were called plebeians. The plebeians were the poorer people. In the early years of the republic, they had very little power.

The Roman republic lasted for more than five hundred years. Many Romans loved the republic. They thought it was the best kind of government a country could have. They were, however, not the only ones who thought so.

The Founding Fathers of the United States also believed a republic was the best kind of government. When the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776, they broke away from a king (King George III) and set up a republic. They created a Senate that was modeled on the Roman Senate. They created a president who was a lot like the Roman consuls. They even built government buildings that looked like ancient Roman buildings. So you can see that Roman ideas about government have had a big **influence** all around the world.



*This is the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C. Many American government buildings look like ancient Roman buildings.*

# Glossary for *Stories of Ancient Rome*

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## A

**advisor**—a person who offers advice and help

**aid**—to offer help

**alliance**—a group of people who share common goals and agree to work together (**alliances**)

**ambrosia**—the drink of the gods; Those who drank it became immortal.

**aqueduct**—a stone structure built to carry water from the country into the city (**aqueducts**)

**aqueduct**—a channel or pipe built to carry water over a long distance (**aqueducts**)

**architecture**—design or style of buildings

**arena**—the area of a stadium where the events actually take place

**armor**—a protective covering, usually made of metal, worn by soldiers in battle

**Augustus**—Julius Caesar's adopted son who changed ancient Rome from a republic to an empire by becoming the emperor

**avalanche**—snow, ice, and rocks that suddenly fall down the side of a mountain (**avalanches**)

# B

---

**BCE**—Before the Common Era

**banquet**—a large feast to celebrate something

**barbarian**—a person who is wild, sometimes violent, and does not behave the right way (**barbarians**)

**beautiful**—very pretty, lovely

**beauty**—being pretty

**befriend**—to become friends with (**befriended**)

**blacksmith**—a person who molds hot iron into metal objects

**brutal**—very harsh and unpleasant (**brutality, brutally**)

**Byzantium**—ancient city in the eastern part of the Roman Empire, later called Constantinople

# C

---

**Carthage**—city on the coast of Africa that Romans saw as a rival city (**Carthaginians, Carthaginian**)

**CE**—the Common Era

**chaos**—complete confusion or disorder

**chariot**—a cart with two wheels and no seats that is pulled by horses; The driver stands up in the cart to hold the horses' reins.

**Christianity**—a religion based on the teachings of Jesus (**Christian**)

**Circus Maximus**—a large stadium where **chariot** races were held

**civil war**—a war between groups within the same country

**civilization**—a group of people living together, often in cities, with the same laws, leaders and form of government, language and writing system (**civilizations**)

**Cleopatra**—the Queen of Egypt; She became queen with help from Julius Caesar.

**collapse**—to suddenly fail (**collapsed**)

**Colosseum**—a huge **arena** in Rome where people would go to watch events, mainly gladiator fights, that is one of the most recognizable buildings from the Roman Empire

**complex**—difficult to understand; made up of many different parts (**complexity**)

**compromise**—to settle a disagreement by both sides giving up something they want (**compromises, compromised, compromising**)

**conduct**—to carry out, such as an activity

**confident**—sure, certain

**conflict**—a fight or argument (**conflicts**)

**confront**—to meet face-to-face (**confronted**)

**conquer**—to take control of something by force (**conquered**)

**conqueror**—someone who **defeats** others and takes over their land (**conquerors**)

**conspirator**—a person who has secretly planned to do something harmful (**conspirators**)

**Constantine**—the Emperor who ended the war between the Romans and Christianity; the first Roman Emperor to convert to Christianity

**Constantinople**—new name for the city of Byzantium and Constantine’s favorite city, which he wanted to turn into a “new Rome”

**consul**—one of two top officials elected to govern the Roman republic (**consuls**)

**counter-attack**—a military response to an attack

**crouch**—to stoop or squat (**crouched**)

**crude**—uncivilized; not knowing how to act appropriately (**crudeness, crudely**)

**cruel**—mean, causing pain on purpose

**curious**—wanting to know more

## D

---

**Damocles**—a friend of Dionysius who wanted to be king and have Dionysius’s life

**dangle**—to hang loosely (**dangling**)

**defeat**—to win a victory over (**defeated**)

**democracy**—a kind of government in which people are elected as representatives freely and equally by all people of voting age

**depart**—to leave

**dictator**—a person who rules a country with total control, often in a cruel way; A **dictator** is not elected (**dictators**)

**dictator**—a ruler who has all the authority but is not chosen by the people (**dictators**)

**Dionysius**—the king of Syracuse, a part of the Roman Empire, and friend of Damocles

**disciplined**—obeying the rules; controlled

**divine**—relating to God

**do his mother's bidding**—follow orders from his mother

**downfall**—a sudden fall from power

## E

---

**eager**—showing great interest in something

**Eastern Empire**—the eastern half of the Roman Empire

**elect**—to choose through votes (**elected**)

**emperor**—the male ruler/head of an **empire**

**empire**—a group of nations or territories ruled by the same leader, an emperor or empress; like a kingdom

**envy**—to want what someone else has (**envied**)

**establish**—to gain recognition for doing something well (**established**)

**Etruscan**—a person who was part of a civilization to the north of Rome who the Romans defeated (**Etruscans**)

**exotic**—unfamiliar and mysterious



# F

---

**faith**—strong religious beliefs

**favor**—to prefer; to like more than others (**favours, favored, favoring**)

**feud**—a fight between people or families that lasts for a long time (**feuds**)

**foe**—an enemy

**Founding Fathers of the United States**—men who played important roles in creating the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington

# G

---

**gladiator**—a man in ancient Rome who fought other men or animals to entertain an audience (**gladiators**)

**govern**—to rule or control (**governed, government**)

# H

---

**Hagia Sophia**—a large Christian church with a magnificent dome built by Justinian in Constantinople

**Hannibal**—general from Carthage who led the fight against Rome during the Second Punic War; He won many battles but lost the war.

**harass**—repeatedly attack or bother (**harassed, harasses, harassing**)

**hew**—to cut something with a sharp tool

**historian**—a person who writes about history (**historians**)

**honor**—a privilege or special opportunity to do something

**Horatius**—a Roman soldier who became a hero by fighting the Etruscan army with two other men so that the other Romans could escape; He jumped in the river during the fight and drifted downstream to Rome

## I

---

**illegal**—against the law

**illustrious**—famous and well-known (**illustriously**)

**immortal**—able to live forever

**import**—to bring in from another country to sell (**imports, imported, importing**)

**influence**—the power to change how people think or act (**influences**)

**ingenious**—clever and creative (**ingeniousness, ingeniously**)

**invade**—to attack or enter a place in order to take control of it

## J

---

**jealousy**—wanting what someone else has, wanting complete attention (**jealous**)

**Jesus**—a religious teacher born in the Palestine region of the Roman **Empire**, also called Jesus Christ; Christianity is based on his teachings

**Julius Caesar**—a Roman general who conquered many lands and expanded the Roman republic; After serving as a consul, he decided he did not like the way the republic was run. He became a dictator, was then seen as a threat, and was killed

**Justinian**—great emperor of the Eastern Empire who built the Hagia Sophia and organized laws into Justinian's Code

**Justinian's Code**—the laws organized and published by Justinian

## L

---

**Latin**—the language of ancient Rome

**laugh**—to giggle or chuckle at something that is funny

**legendary**—well-known or stemming from an old story passed down from long ago that is usually not true

## M

---

**magnificent**—impressive and beautiful

**marriage**—the committed partnership between two people to make a home and raise a family

**Mediterranean**—the sea around which the Romans created their empire; an important body of water for trade, war, and transportation

**messenger**—someone who delivers messages back and forth

**miracle**—an amazing event with no explanation, believed to be an act of God (**miracles**)

**mission**—a very important job

**monarchy**—a kind of government in which a king or queen rules and selects who will rule after his/her death, usually the oldest son

**mosaic**—art made by putting small pieces of glass or tile together to form a picture (**mosaics**)

**Mount Olympus**—the home of the Roman gods and goddesses

**Mount Vesuvius**—a volcano that erupted in AD 79 and wiped out the city of Pompeii

## N

---

**negotiate**—to bargain or to come to an agreement (**negotiates, negotiated, negotiating, negotiator**)

## O

---

**official**—a person who holds an office and has authority (**officials**)

## P

---

**Pantheon**—a temple built to honor all of the Roman gods

**parched**—extremely dry

**patrician**—a person from an old, wealthy, powerful family in the Roman republic who held government positions (**patricians**)

**peak**—the top of a mountain; the highest point (**peaks**)

**pillar**—a column that supports a building or a supporting part of something (**pillars**)

**pity**—to feel sorry or unhappy for someone

**plebeian**—an ordinary person who was poor and had little education or power in the Roman republic (**plebeians**)

**plume**—a cloud of smoke that rises into the air in a tall, thin shape

**Pompeii**—a city in the Roman Empire that was wiped out when Mount Vesuvius erupted

**predecessor**—someone who comes before (**predecessors**)

**preserve**—to save in its original form so that it remains the same (**preserved**)

**prick**—to make a small hole with something sharp (**pricked**)

**priestess**—a woman who performs special duties to honor and communicate with the gods

**pumice**—gray volcanic rock

**Punic War**—one of the three wars fought between the Romans and the Carthaginians over control of the Mediterranean (**Punic Wars**)

# R

---

**ransom**—money paid to free someone who has been captured or kidnapped

**reform**—to change the way things are done to make them better (**reformed**)

**reign**—period of time during which a ruler is in charge

**religion**—the belief in a god or many gods

**Remus**—one of the brothers who started Rome according to legend; He was killed by his brother Romulus in a fight over where to build the city

**republic**—a kind of government in which people are elected as representatives to rule

**resolve**—to settle or solve a problem (**resolves, resolved, resolving; resolution**)

**revolt**—riot or revolution against a ruler or government

**riot**—a protest by a large number of people (**riots**)

**rival**—an enemy

**Romulus**—one of the brothers who started Rome according to legend; He killed his brother Remus in a fight over where to build the city and then built Rome and named it after himself

**rough**—not calm

**Rubicon**—the river Julius Caesar crossed even though the Roman senators warned him not to, leading to a civil war

**ruins**—the remains of something that has fallen or been destroyed

## S

---

**satyr**—a creature who was half man, half goat and was often found with Bacchus (**satyrs**)

**saunter**—to walk in a slow and relaxed way (**saunters, sauntered, sauntering**)

**scholar**—a person with a lot of knowledge about a certain subject (**scholars**)

**Senate**—a group of men (senators) who were elected to represent the people who voted for them and met to make decisions and pass laws for the Roman republic; American government today also has a Senate of elected men and women

**siege**—a closure of a city, fort, or base by surrounding it and cutting off supplies into that area (**sieges**)

**she-wolf**—a female wolf

**shortage**—a lack of something, such as food, money, or water (**shortages**)

**shrine**—a place where people pray to or worship gods and goddesses

**subjects**—people who are ruled by a king or emperor

# T

---

**talent**—a unit of measurement in ancient Rome, equal to about 71 pounds, used to measure gold and silver (**talents**)

**taunt**—to tease or make someone upset by making fun of or being mean to the person

**thou**—old fashioned way of saying “you”

**threat**—someone or something that is or may be dangerous

**tradition**—custom (**traditions**)

**traitor**—someone who is not loyal

**trial**—a meeting in court to determine if someone has broken the law

**trident**—Neptune’s magical, three-pronged spear that was shaped like a fork

**tyrant**—a ruler who is mean, harsh, and acts without regard for laws or rules

# U

---

**uncivilized**—wild and barbaric

**underworld**—underground place where dead people’s spirits go

**unusual**—rare



## V

---

**valiantly**—in a brave and courageous manner

**vast**—very big in size (**vaster, vastest, vastness, vastly**)

**Veni, vidi, vici** [wae-NEE, wee-DEE, wee-KEE]—I came, I saw, I conquered, Julius Caesar’s report about his efforts in Asia

**vicious**—dangerous, violent, mean (**viciousness, viciously**)

**victorious**—having won a battle, war, or contest

**vision**—an idea or picture in your imagination

**volcano**—a mountain with openings through which melted rock, ash, and hot gases explode

## W

---

**Western Empire**—the western half of the Roman Empire

**wisdom**—knowledge and good judgment gained over time

## Y

---

**ye**—old fashioned way of saying “you”

**yon**—distant

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