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Ancient Rome: Government and Economy

You are about to go back in time to a place called Ancient Rome! As you move back in time, you'll get to experience the birth of a government that still has an impact on many nations of the world today!

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Find It!

The legend of the founding of Rome is a brutal one. While the beginning was filled with greed and deception, the result was one of the greatest empires the world has ever known. Find the World Book article on the founders of Rome, "Romulus and Remus," to learn the story of how it all began.

1. Where were Romulus and Remus born?

2. Why did Amulius force Rhea Silvia to become a Vestal Virgin?

3. According to legend, who was the father of the twins?

4. What animal found the twins on the shore of the Tiber River?

5. How did the brothers choose the site of their new city?

6. Why was Remus killed?

7. Since Rome began as a city of men, how did Roman men find wives?

***Users of the *Advanced* database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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Use the "Search" tool to find the answers below. Since this activity is about Ancient Rome, it is recommended you start by searching the key words "Ancient Rome." Write the answers below each question.

8. Put the events in the correct order on the timeline below. Include the dates for each event.

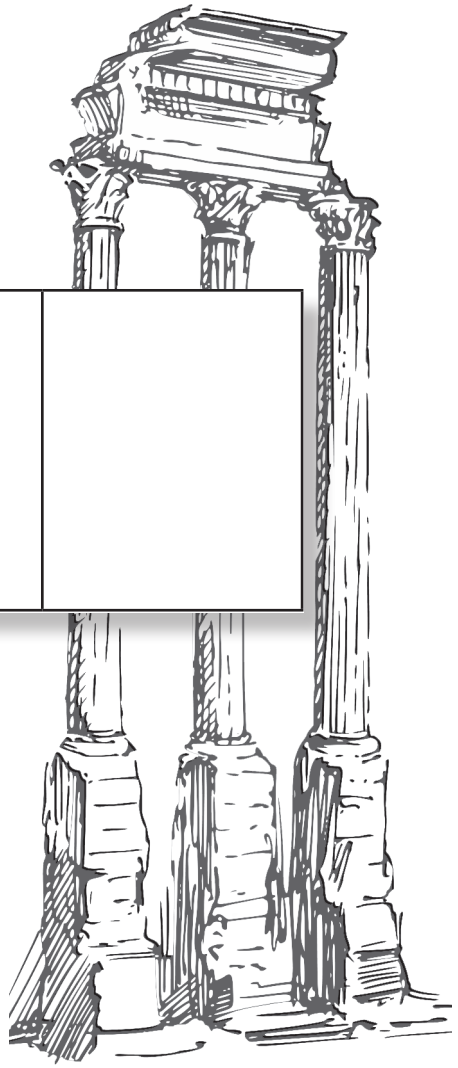
   a. Date when Rome was founded

   b. Date when Rome reached its peak

   c. Date when Rome fell to Germanic invaders

   d. Date when Rome controlled most of the Italian Peninsula

   e. Date when the Roman Empire split into two parts



9. According to the article, what caused the eventual downfall of Rome?

10. Name at least three ways the culture of Ancient Rome has had long-lasting effects on Western culture and civilization.

    1.

    2.

    3.

The Government

11. What was the most powerful governing body in Rome starting around 509 B.C.?

12. To succeed politically, Romans had to follow *cursus honorum*. Describe the steps to obtaining the top position of consul.

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13. What would a magistrate do if he served a year in office and decided that he wanted to run for office again?

14. Explain the root issue in the Conflict of the Orders.

15. What were the main differences in values between the *optimates* and the *populares?*

16. After the republican government collapsed in 27 B.C., who held supreme authority in Rome?

17. What was the name of history's first known law code, established in 451 B.C.?

18. How did the code of law (from question 17 above) create the first known lawyers?

19. Each of the three groups within the Roman army had very special purposes. Describe the strengths of the legions, the auxiliaries, and the Praetorian Guard.

    Legions:

    Auxiliaries:

    Praetorian Guard:

Economy

20. The majority of Romans did what job for a living?

21. Who primarily worked in mines in Ancient Rome?

22. What two methods of transportation facilitated Ancient Roman trade?

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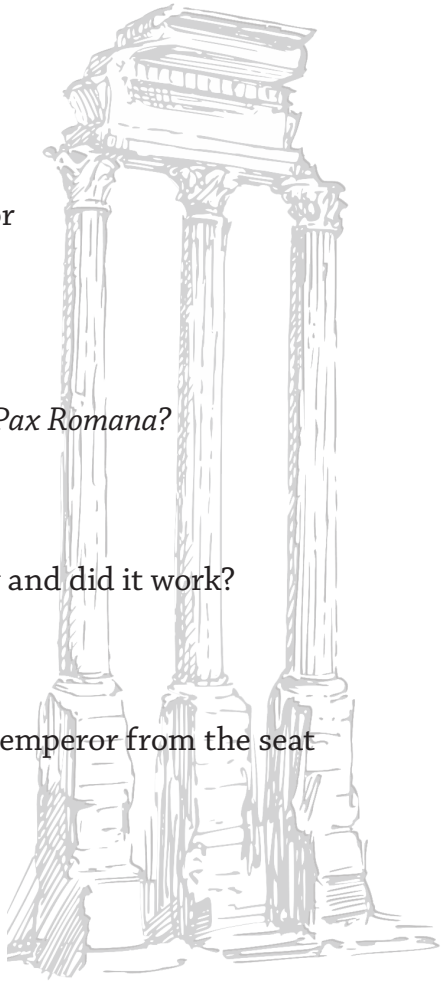
23. How was the Roman Republic intended to benefit the people?



24. What caused the economic gap to widen between the rich and the poor during the Roman Republic?

25. How might common Romans describe the ruler Augustus during the *Pax Romana?*

26. How did Diocletian use *tetrarchy* (rule of four) to stabilize the country and did it work?

27. Who caused the final collapse of Rome in 476 when he forced the last emperor from the seat of power and where was he from?

Learning about Rome Today

28. The article on Ancient Rome describes ways that historians learn about Ancient Rome. If you were a scholar on the history of Rome, explain at least three different types of sources you could use to discover information about these ancient people.

Click on the link "Emperors of Rome" located in the left column of the "Ancient Rome" article. This link lists all of the emperors who reigned over Rome, as well as information about their lives.

Choose one emperor and research the following:

29. Name:

30. Life dates:

31. Two or more major accomplishments and/or interesting facts:

32. Based on the information, would you consider this emperor to be a successful ruler? Why or why not?

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Extension Activity: Letter from the Past

Imagine that you are a typical ancient Roman man or woman writing a letter to a friend describing your political aspirations. Tell your friend how to you plan to climb the political ladder to become emperor.

Give specific details that are true to history, and then explain how you imagine your character would feel about each aspect of the journey. Infer what types of dreams and aspirations a typical ancient Roman might want to convey, based on information in the article.

Make sure you properly address your letter with a salutation and a complimentary close. Your letter should be at least 1-2 full pages.

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Ancient Romans. Chicago: World Book, 2013. Early Peoples. *World eBook*. Web. 15 Oct. 2015. <http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/ebooks/mall/instt/catalog/urn:ISBN:978-0-7166-2333-5/detail.do>.

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