

Lesson 87. THE ROMAN ART OF WAR

ARMY UNITS

A. ROMAN LEGIONARY SOLDIERS

These were the *peditēs* (infantry), who formed the backbone of the Roman army. This group consisted of Roman citizens between the ages of seventeen and forty-six, most of whom volunteered to serve for twenty years as professional soldiers. Infantry units were organized as follows:

1. *legiō* (legion), the largest unit, often compared to a division or brigade in the United States Army. Originally consisting of 6000 men, the legion in Caesar's army averaged 3600 men, divided into ten cohorts. In the Gallic War Caesar had as many as ten legions. His favorite one was the Tenth (Decima), commanded by Labienus.




2. *cohors* (cohort), a tenth of a legion, or 360 men, divided into three maniples. A cohort is roughly the equivalent of a battalion in the United States Army.




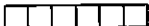
3. *manipulus* (maniple), a third of a cohort, or 120 men, divided into two centuries.

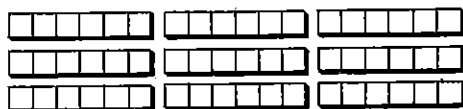
4. *centuria* (century), the smallest unit. It consisted of 60 men, or one-half of a maniple. As the name implies, it originally had 100 men.

Composition of a Roman Legion

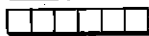
1 century (*centuria*)  60 soldiers

2 centuries   =  1 maniple (*manipulus*) 120 soldiers

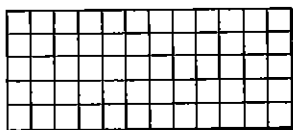
3 maniples    =  1 cohort (*cohors*) 360 soldiers



10 cohorts



=



1 legion (*legiō*) 3600 soldiers

B. AUXILIA (AUXILIARY TROOPS)

Peditēs (infantry troops). These were soldiers drawn from allied and subject peoples, or hired as mercenaries from independent nations. They included:

1. *levis armātūrae peditēs* (light-armed foot soldiers), mostly from Gaul and Germany.

2. *funditōrēs* (slingers), from the Balearic Islands.

3. *sagittārii* (bowmen or archers), from Crete and Numidia.

Equitēs (cavalry). A contingent of cavalry generally accompanied each legion. These horsemen were noncitizens from Gaul, Spain, and Germany who served for pay. Caesar used about four or five thousand cavalry in the Gallic War for purposes of scouting, starting battle, and pursuing the enemy, as well as for surprise attacks. The cavalry was organized as follows:

1. *āla*, a squad of about 300 men.

2. *turma*, a squad of about 30 men, or one tenth of an *āla*.

3. *decuria*, a squad of 10 men, or one-third of a *turma*.

C. NONCOMBATANTS

1. *cālōnēs*, slaves who performed menial tasks for the camp and the officers.

2. *mercātōrēs*, traders who conducted canteens outside the camp, selling the soldiers extra provisions and buying booty from them.

3. *mūliōnēs*, muleteers who took care of the pack animals and the heavy baggage.

4. *fabri*, engineers or mechanics who were employed to construct bridges, ships, engines of war, etc.

5. *explōrātōrēs* (scouts) and *speculātōrēs* (spies) who were sent ahead of an army on the march to reconnoiter and secure information about the enemy and the terrain. They were usually mounted.

ARMY OFFICERS

1. *Dux* (commanding officer or general). After his first important victory he had a right to the title *imperātor* (commander-in-chief). Caesar used the title *imperātor* from the time he defeated the Helvetians in 58 B.C. until his death.

2. *Lēgātī* (staff officers). The *lēgātus* was next in rank to the *dux*, equivalent to the lieutenant general in the United States Army. *Lēgātī* were men of senatorial rank appointed by the Roman Senate. Their duties were to command one or more legions, to advise the general, to serve as envoys or ambassadors on special missions, and to be in charge of *hiberna* (winter quarters).

3. **Quaestōrēs** (quartermasters). They were also of senatorial rank, elected for one year by the Roman people. The quaestors handled pay, military equipment, and the food supply. Sometimes a quaestor commanded a legion in battle.

4. **Tribūnī militum** (military tribunes). They were the lowest-ranking commissioned officers, and numbered six to a legion. They were men of good families, without previous military experience, who gained appointment for political or personal reasons. Their duties included: command of a legion in camp or on the march, supervision of drill exercises, and muster and discharge of soldiers.

5. **Centuriōnēs** (centurions or captains). They were noncommissioned officers of plebeian origin, equivalent in rank to sergeants in the United States Army. Unlike military tribunes, centurions were experienced soldiers who rose from the ranks by virtue of courage and ability on the battlefield. There was one centurion in each century, and sixty in a legion.

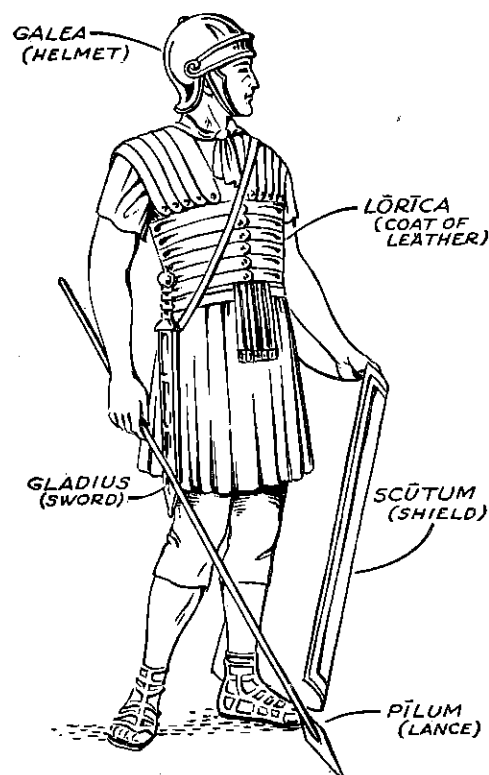
6. **Praefectī** (prefects). They were in command of the auxiliaries of cavalry.

7. **Decuriōnēs** (decurions). They were in command of the decuriae.



Centurion

A centurion in the Roman army was a non-commissioned officer in command of a century (originally 100 men). Usually of humble origin, the centurion rose from the ranks through sheer bravery and ability. His pay was double that of an ordinary soldier. The rank of sergeant in a modern army corresponds to the Roman centurion.



EQUIPMENT OF THE LEGIONARY

CLOTHING

1. **tunica** (tunic), a short-sleeved woolen undergarment, reaching almost to the knees.
2. **sagum**, a woolen cloak for severe weather, which could also serve as a blanket.
3. **caligae**, leather shoes with heavy hobnailed soles, fastened on by straps.

DEFENSIVE ARMOR

1. **lōrica**, a cuirass, or breastplate, made of leather and strengthened with metal bands.
2. **galea**, a helmet of leather or metal, often ornamented with a crest.
3. **scūtum**, a curved, rectangular shield, made of wood. It was strengthened with leather on the outside and with a rim of metal at the edges. It was about 4 feet long and 2½ feet wide, and weighed about 20 pounds.

OFFENSIVE WEAPONS

1. **pilum**, a javelin, or pike, about 6 feet long, weighing approximately 10 pounds. It consisted of two parts, a wooden shaft about 4 feet long, into which was fitted a 2-foot iron shaft with pointed head. A pilum could be hurled a distance of about 75 feet with deadly effect.

2. **gladius**, a heavy, pointed, two-edged sword, about 2 feet long. It was used in close combat and was very effective for stabbing.

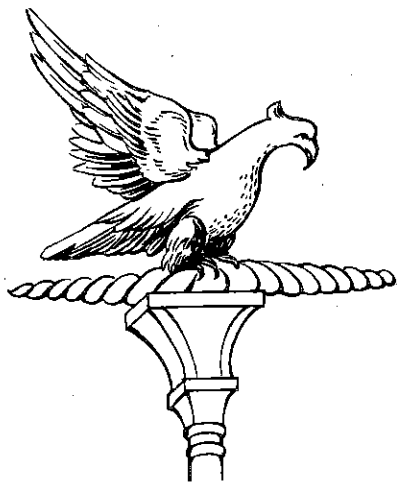
PROVISIONS AND PAY

Frumentum (grain) was the main food ration of the legionary. It consisted mostly of wheat, which the soldier ground in a hand mill for making bread or cereal. About thirty pounds of frumentum were portioned out every fifteen days. Thus, a soldier consumed about two pounds a day. This diet was supplemented with meat and vegetables.

Army pay was very small, equivalent to about \$45 a year. However, a soldier could increase his income by receiving bonuses, gifts of money, and a share of the booty (*praeda*).

MILITARY STANDARDS

1. **aquila** (eagle), the standard of the legion. It was made of silver or bronze, mounted on a pole, and carried by the eagle-bearer, the *aquilifer*. The loss of the eagle was considered a catastrophe.

*Aquila*

The **aquila** (eagle) was a favorite figure on Roman military standards. It was made of silver or bronze, with outstretched wings, and was perched on top of the standard. The eagle, still a popular bird, appears on the official seal of the United States of America.

2. **signum**, the standard of the cohort or maniple, also mounted on a pole. Its bearer was called the **signifer**.

3. **vexillum**, a rectangular banner or flag, attached to a staff. *Vexilla* served as standards for the auxiliaries. A red *vexillum* over the commander's tent was the signal to prepare for battle.

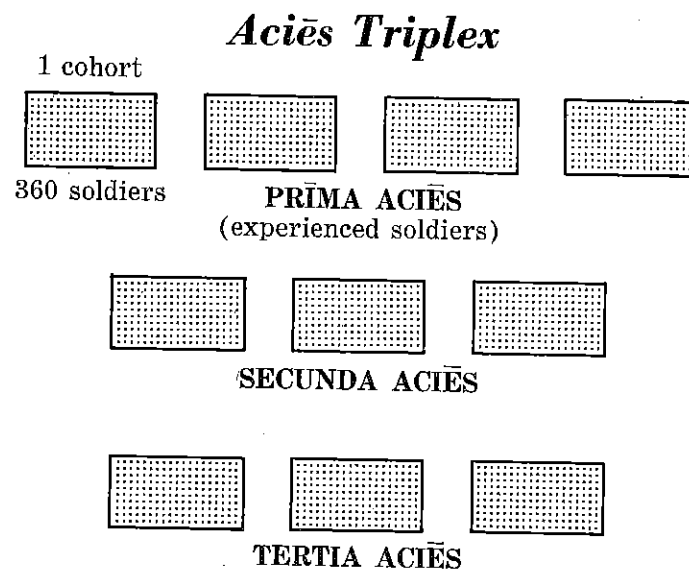
BATTLE FORMATION

The usual battle formation of a Roman legion (10 cohorts) was the **aciēs triplex** (triple line), arranged as follows:

1. **prīma aciēs** (first line), consisting of 4 cohorts of experienced soldiers. These were the first to engage in battle.

2. **secunda aciēs** (second line), consisting of 3 cohorts stationed about 150 feet behind the first line. Their duty was to relieve the wounded or fallen soldiers of the first line.

3. **tertia aciēs** (third line), consisting of the remaining 3 cohorts stationed farther back. They were used as a reserve and as a defense against an attack from the rear.

Battle Formation of a Roman Legion

To give signals in battle, the Romans used the following:

1. *tuba* (trumpet), a straight instrument, about three feet long, made of metal.
2. *cornū* (horn), a large curved instrument, also made of metal.

MARCHING FORMATION

The army on the march comprised three sections:

1. *primum agmen*, the vanguard, consisting of scouts, cavalry squads, and light-armed infantrymen.
2. *agmen*, the main column of legionary troops.
3. *novissimum agmen*, the rear guard, consisting of the least experienced legionaries.

The *impedimenta* (heavy baggage) usually followed each legion. It was carried on pack animals (horses and mules) or in wagons, and consisted of extra weapons, food, clothing, artillery, tools, tents, etc.

The *sarcina* (personal pack of a soldier) was carried over the left shoulder in a bundle tied to a forked pole. It contained clothing, cooking utensils, rations, tools, rampart stakes, and other personal equipment. When carrying his *sarcina*, the soldier was referred to as *impeditus* (encumbered); without his pack, he was *expeditus* (unencumbered).

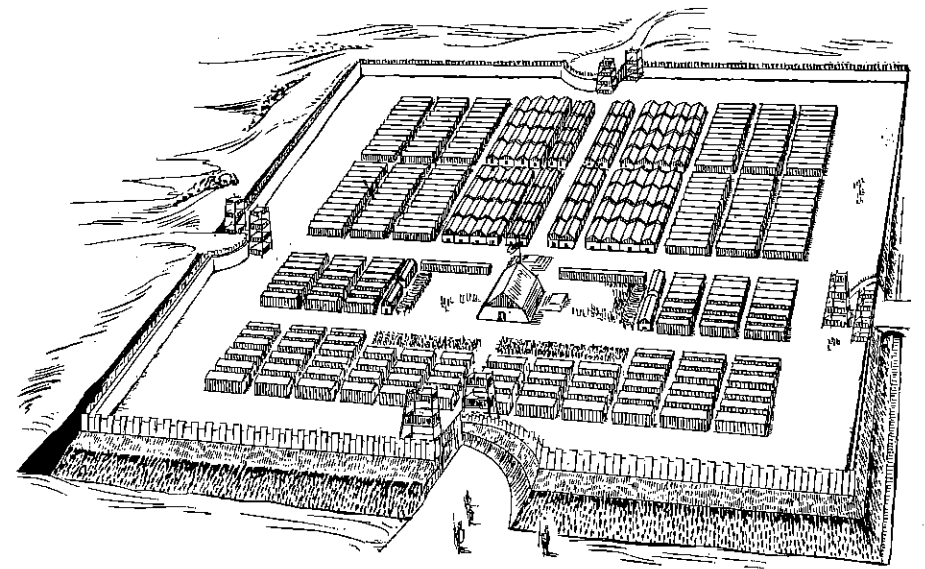
An average day's march (*iter*), from sunrise to noon, covered about 15 miles. An *iter magnum* (forced march) covered approximately 25 miles.

THE ROMAN CAMP

The *castra* (camp) was built after a day's march as a protection and place of retreat. The location, selected by an advance party, was preferably on the slope of a hill, near an ample supply of wood and water. The camp, usually in the shape of a rectangle, had two *viae principālēs* (main streets) at right angles to each other. At opposite ends of each street were *portae* (gates), four in all.

In the fortification of a *castra*, the following terms were used:

1. *fossa*, a ditch or trench dug around the camp, from 7 to 10 feet deep and from 12 to 18 feet wide.
2. *agger*, an embankment constructed from the earth of the *fossa*, about 10 feet high and 10 feet wide, surrounding the entire camp.
3. *vallum* (rampart), the entire defensive wall, composed of the *agger* and a row of strong wooden stakes or palisades firmly driven in at the outer edge of the *agger*.
4. *praetorium*, the general's tent or quarters, situated near the middle of the camp.



Castra

5. *tabernacula*, the tents of the soldiers, made of leather. Each *tabernaculum* was occupied by ten men.

The camp was carefully guarded by sentries day and night. For patrols the night was divided into four *vigiliae* (watches), from sunset to sunrise. Watches lasted three hours each, and were distributed as follows:

1. *prima vigilia* (first watch): from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
2. *secunda vigilia* (second watch): from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight.
3. *tertia vigilia* (third watch): from 12 midnight to 3 a.m.
4. *quarta vigilia* (fourth watch): from 3 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Many a Roman camp often became the center around which a permanent settlement sprang up. Thus, the word *castra* survives today, in one form or another, in names of English cities. Examples are Chester, Manchester, Lancaster, Worcester, etc.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

An attack (*oppugnātiō*) upon a fortified place, such as a walled town, and a siege (*obsidiō*) involved the following devices and tactics:

1. *agger* (same term used in the construction of a camp), a sloping plane made of earth, stones, and logs, begun at a distance from the enemy's

wall, and gradually lengthened and raised until the top was on a level with the top of the wall. The agger was used as a means of approach and for moving up siege machines.

2. **ariēs**, a battering ram made of a heavy log with a metal head, used for battering down the enemy's wall or making a breach in it. The *ariēs* (literally *ram*) derived its name from the metal head that was usually in the form of a ram's head.

3. **pluteus**, a small, movable, wooden screen, used as a protection for a group of soldiers advancing under attack.

4. **scāla**, a ladder for scaling walls.

5. **testūdō**, a protective screen formed by the overlapping of shields held above the heads of soldiers as they moved forward in close formation. The term was also applied to a wooden shed with a slanting roof, used to cover soldiers near the enemy wall. The *testūdō* (literally *tortoise*) derived its name from its resemblance to the shell of a tortoise.

6. **turris ambulātōria**, a huge, movable, wooden tower, several stories high, with a platform for the besiegers to reach the top of the enemy wall. The *turris*, the height of which varied from 50 to 180 feet, was moved forward on rollers.

7. **vīnea**, a heavy, movable shed, mounted on rollers. Several were often placed together along the agger to protect the men fighting close to the walls of the enemy. The *vīnea* (literally *vineyard*) derived its name from its resemblance to a grape arbor.

In storming a town, the Romans made use of **tormenta** (artillery), of which there were three common types:

1. **ballista**, a machine for hurling heavy stones and blocks of wood.
2. **catapulta** (catapult), a machine for hurling large arrows and javelins.
3. **scorpiō**, a light catapult for hurling stones and darts.

ROMAN SHIPS

In his naval campaigns, Caesar used the following types of ships:

1. **nāvis longa**, a battleship or war galley, propelled by oars and sails. It had a sharp metal beak (**rōstrum**) at the prow, which was used to ram enemy ships. The most common type of battleship was the **trireme**, a vessel with three banks of oars.

2. **nāvis onerāria**, a transport, broader and slower than the battleship. It was used to carry soldiers, horses, and provisions, and was propelled chiefly by sails.

EXERCISES

A. For each number connected with Roman warfare in column A, write the letter of the matching item in column B.

Column A

1. 2
2. 3
3. 4
4. 10
5. 15
6. 25
7. 120
8. 360
9. 3600
10. 6000

Column B

- a. men in a cohort
- b. men in Caesar's legion
- c. main streets of a camp
- d. watches in a night
- e. cohorts in a legion
- f. original strength of a legion
- g. miles covered on a forced march
- h. hours in a watch
- i. men in a maniple
- j. miles covered on an average day's march

B. Each item below is followed by four words or expressions. In each group select the word or expression that does *not* belong.

1. Roman siege terms: agger, vigilia, catapulta, ariēs
2. noncombatants: auxilia, mercātōrēs, explorātōrēs, fabri
3. unit of a Roman legion: cohors, manipulus, centuria, equitēs
4. defensive armor: lorīca, pilum, scūtum, galea
5. articles of clothing of the legionary: toga, tunica, sagum, caligae
6. auxiliary infantry troops: sagittārii, funditōrēs, speculātōrēs, levis armātūrae peditēs
7. Roman artillery: ballista, vīnea, scorpiō, catapulta
8. military standards: aciēs, signum, aquila, vexillum
9. divisions of the cavalry: turma, āla, decuria, tuba
10. parts of a camp: vāllum, fossa, pluteus, tabernācula

C. Complete the following statements:

1. The vanguard in a marching formation was called
2. The general term for a Roman battleship was
3. After his first important victory, a *dux* had a right to the title
4. Two important offensive weapons were the *gladius* and the
5. A protective trench built around a camp was called a
6. There was one centurion in each century, but each legion had centurions.
7. The main food ration of the legionary soldier was called in Latin
8. Army pay was very small, amounting to about dollars a year.
9. A red *vexillum* over the general's tent was the signal to
10. To give signals in battle, the Romans made use of musical instruments, such as the *tuba* and the

D. If the italicized term in each of the following statements is correct, write *true*. If the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term.

1. The Latin name for a line of battle was *aciēs*.
2. Slingers and bowmen were part of the *auxilia*.
3. Traders who sold provisions to the soldiers were called *cālōnēs*.
4. Military tribunes were the lowest-ranking *noncommissioned* officers.
5. *Caligae* were heavy leather shoes worn by Roman soldiers.
6. A soldier burdened with his *sarcina* was referred to as *expeditus*.
7. A castra was generally built with *two* portae.
8. The *tertia vigilia* lasted from *12 midnight to 3 a.m.*
9. A battering ram used in an assault was called a *pluteus*.
10. The metal beak on the prow of a Roman battleship was called a *scorpiō*.

E. Each incomplete statement below is followed by four words or expressions in parentheses. Write the word or expression that will complete the statement correctly.

1. The officer who was often sent as envoy on a special mission was the (*quaestor, lēgātus, praefectus, centuriō*).
2. *Tormenta* were used to (punish deserters, guard the artillery, hurl missiles, signal a battle).
3. A *nāvis onerāria* was a Roman (transport, war galley, cavalry squad, standard).
4. The branch of the armed forces on which Caesar chiefly relied was the (*auxilia, equitēs, sagittārii, peditēs*).
5. The smallest division of the Roman army was the (maniple, legion, century, cohort).
6. Caesar's favorite legion, commanded by Labienus, was the (5th, 7th, 10th, 12th).
7. *Explōrātōrēs* were used chiefly to (perform camp services, conduct drills, care for the baggage, reconnoiter the terrain).
8. The name given to the heavy, movable shed, mounted on rollers, and used in a siege was (*agger, vinea, testūdō, scāla*).
9. The officer in charge of pay, supplies, and equipment in the Roman army was the (*tribūnus, lēgātus, quaestor, praefectus*).
10. The winter camp used by the Roman army was known as (*lōrica, hiberna, pila, praeda*).

F. In the following passage, ten words or expressions are italicized and repeated in the questions below. Write the number of the alternative that best explains each of these ten words or expressions as it is used in the passage.

Upon reaching the *required age*, Lucius, the son of a prominent Roman *lēgātus*, enlisted in the army. Through political connections he received an appointment as a *commissioned officer*, even though he lacked military experience. His legion, headed by Caesar's *most trusted lieutenant*, was preparing for a *forced march* into enemy territory. The soldiers were adjusting their *personal packs* prior to setting out. They had each been given their *proper allotment* of frumentum distributed every 15 days. The bearer of the *eagle* was assigned a safe position near the *baggage*. The signal was given at the *beginning of the second watch*, and the march was on.

1. *required age*
1 17 2 21 3 25 4 30
2. *lēgātus*
1 quartermaster 2 captain 3 lieutenant-general 4 commander-in-chief
3. *commissioned officer*
1 centuriō 2 quaestor 3 praefectus 4 tribūnus militum
4. *most trusted lieutenant*
1 Cicero 2 Pompey 3 Labienus 4 Sabinus
5. *forced march*
1 10 miles 2 15 miles 3 25 miles 4 40 miles
6. *personal packs*
1 *sarcinae* 2 *ālae* 3 *galeae* 4 *turmae*
7. *proper allotment*
1 10 pounds 2 20 pounds 3 30 pounds 4 40 pounds
8. *eagle*
1 *lōrica* 2 *vexillum* 3 *aquila* 4 *caliga*
9. *baggage*
1 *expedita* 2 *impedimenta* 3 *agmina* 4 *itineria*
10. *beginning of the second watch*
1 9 p.m. 2 12 midnight 3 3 a.m. 4 6 p.m.

Lesson 89. ROMAN HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND SOCIETY

IMPORTANT EVENTS BEFORE JULIUS CAESAR

FOUNDING OF ROME

April 21, 753 B.C., is the traditional date for the founding of Rome by Romulus, a descendant of Aeneas, the Trojan hero. As an infant, Romulus, with his twin brother Remus, was said to have been cared for by a she-wolf.

THE MONARCHY (FROM 753 B.C. TO 509 B.C.)

According to legend, there were seven kings, beginning with Romulus and ending with Tarquinius Superbus (Tarquin the Proud). Supreme authority of the king was symbolized by a bundle of rods with an ax, called *fascēs*, which is the origin of the modern term *fascism*. The *fascēs* were carried by the king's *lictors*, or attendants. The cruel despotism of Tarquin drove the Romans to overthrow the monarchy and establish a republic.

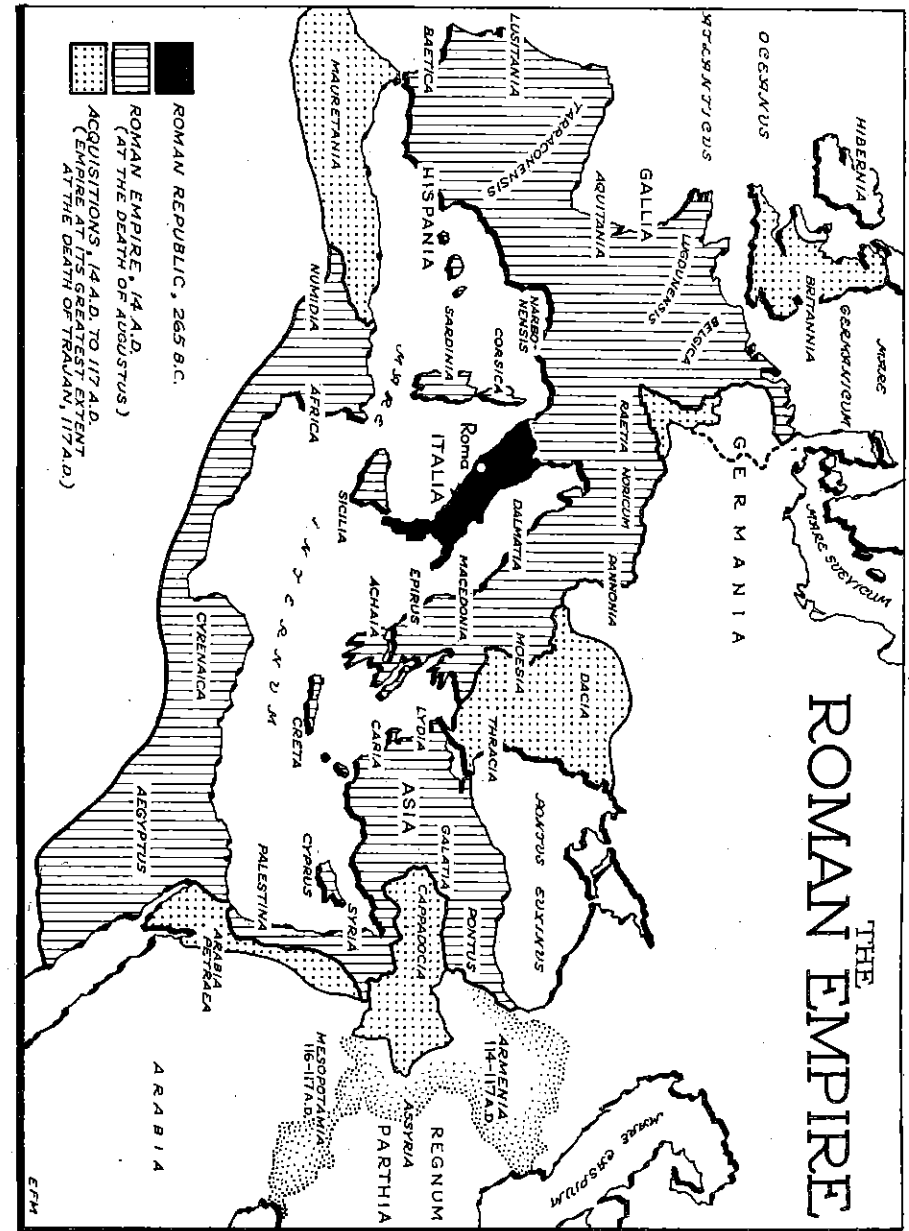
THE REPUBLIC (FROM 509 B.C. TO 27 B.C.)

During the period of the Republic, which lasted almost 500 years, Rome made most of her great conquests and expanded her territory until she became the dominant world power. During this period Rome's chief executives were called consuls.

The first period of the Republic, extending to 265 B.C., was the period of conquest in the Italian peninsula itself. It ended with the defeat of Pyrrhus, the Greek king of Epirus, who was aiding the resistance in southern Italy.

Rome then engaged in wars of conquest outside Italy. In the course of the three Punic Wars of the third century B.C., the Romans under Scipio defeated the brilliant Carthaginian general, Hannibal, thus establishing Rome as the only power in the western Mediterranean. Macedonia was subjugated in 168 B.C., and in quick succession Greece, Africa, and Spain became provinces of Rome. With victories in Asia Minor, Roman territory now encircled the Mediterranean, and that sea became known as *Mare Nostrum* (Our Sea).

The final phase of the Republic was marked by civil strife. The social reformers, Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus, were murdered. Civil war between Marius and Sulla shook the Roman state, ending in the dictatorship of Sulla and the establishment of the aristocracy as the ruling class in 82 B.C.



IMPORTANT EVENTS AFTER JULIUS CAESAR

THE EMPIRE (FROM 27 B.C. TO 476 A.D.)

The assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. found Rome in a state of utter confusion. Soon new actors appeared upon the scene, men struggling to fill the void as leader. Among them were Gaius Octavius, Caesar's adopted son and heir, and Marcus Antonius and Marcus Lepidus, friends of Caesar. These three formed the Second Triumvirate in 43 B.C., an alliance that lasted twelve years. Lepidus was eventually deposed from his position as triumvir, and relations between the remaining two soon came to a breaking point. In 31 B.C., in the Battle of Actium in Greece, Octavius gained a decisive victory over Antony. Later he returned triumphant to Rome, master of the world. In 27 B.C. the Roman Senate bestowed upon him the name of Augustus, and the Empire was born.

Augustus reigned from 27 B.C. until 14 A.D., a period marked by the flowering of Roman genius in art and literature. It has truly been said that Augustus "found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble." Rome had more than twenty-five emperors before its fall in 476 A.D. The last of the emperors was Romulus Augustulus.

THE FALL OF ROME

Many reasons have been advanced for the fall of Rome and, with it, the collapse of civilization and social order. Among them are: (1) the system of slavery and serfdom that demoralized a large segment of the population, (2) the decay and corruption of the ruling class and the imperial court, (3) heavy taxation, and (4) the incursions into Italy made by the enemies of Rome, such as the Visigoths and the Vandals.

ROMAN GOVERNMENT

The Senate. The most powerful body in ancient Rome was the Senate. It consisted of about 600 members, mostly former officials, who held office for life. It managed foreign affairs, declared war, and controlled taxation. The power of the Senate was symbolized by the abbreviation S.P.Q.R. (*Senātus Populusque Rōmānus*), found on buildings, coins, and standards. The senators usually held their meetings in the *cūria* (senate house).

Popular Assemblies. Two assemblies administered the elective and legislative business of the Roman state. One assembly, called the *Comitia Centuriata*, elected the higher magistrates—consuls, praetors, and censors. The other assembly, called the *Comitia Tributa*, elected the tribunes, quaestors, aediles, and minor officials.

Cursus Honōrum. This was the order in which the various important offices might be held according to law. The highest official was the consul. Before one could become consul, he had to serve as praetor. Before being praetor, he had to serve as quaestor.

Consul. Two consuls, elected annually, held office for one year only. They were the chief executives during the Republic, and each served as a check upon the other.

Praetor. Eight praetors were elected annually for one year. Their chief duty was to serve as judges in court.

Quaestor. Twenty quaestors were elected annually for one year. They served as public treasurers.

Aedile. Although not in the *cursus honōrum*, the aedile used his position to gain popularity for election to higher office. He was in charge of public games and amusements, public works, markets, streets, etc. There were four aediles in Rome, elected annually for one year.

Tribune of the People. Ten tribunes were elected annually for one year. They had the extraordinary right to veto any decree or law passed by the Senate or the assemblies.

Censor. There were two censors elected every five years for a term of eighteen months. Their duties were to assess property, determine the order of society to which each citizen belonged, fix the eligibility of senators, raise revenue for public works, and maintain high standards of morality.

Dictator. In times of extreme public danger, a dictator was appointed with supreme power for a period of six months.

CLASSES OF SOCIETY

The Senatorial Order, also called the *Patricians* or *Optimātēs*, consisted of officeholders (magistrates) and their descendants.

The Equestrian Order, or *Equitēs*, was the wealthy class, consisting of those whose possessions were equivalent to at least \$20,000.

The Plebeian Order, the working class embracing the vast majority of the population, consisted of those freeborn citizens who possessed less than \$20,000.

Below these three orders of society were the *slaves*, who had no rights whatsoever; and the *freedmen* (former slaves), who had the right to vote and own property, but not to hold office.

EXERCISES

A. If the italicized term in each of the following statements is correct, write *true*. If the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term.

1. Supreme authority of the kings of Rome was symbolized by a bundle of rods with an ax, called *lictors*.
2. In times of emergency in Rome, a dictator was appointed for a period of *two years*.

3. Caesar's adopted son and heir was *Gaius Octavius*.
4. *Antonius* found Rome "a city of brick and left it a city of marble."
5. *Quaestors* in ancient Rome served as public treasurers.
6. The Roman senate house was called the *comitia*.
7. The traditional date given for the founding of Rome is 753 B.C.
8. *Tiberius* and *Gaius Gracchus* were social reformers in ancient Rome.
9. The Battle of *Pharsalus* in Greece in 31 B.C. made Octavius virtual master of the world.
10. The *Equestrian Order* represented the wealthy class of ancient Rome.

B. Complete the following statements:

1. The Roman Republic lasted from 509 B.C. until
2. With the Roman conquest of all the territory encircling the Mediterranean, the sea became known as
3. Octavius in later life received the title of Emperor
4. Rome had over twenty-five emperors before its fall in the year A.D.
5. The abbreviation S.P.Q.R. stood for *Senātus*
6. The two popular assemblies were called *Comitia Centūriāta* and *Comitia*
7. The *Equestrian Order* consisted of citizens whose possessions were equivalent to at least dollars.
8. The tribunes of the people had the right to any decree or law passed by the Roman legislature.
9. The civil war between Sulla and ended in victory for the former.
10. The Second Triumvirate, formed in 43 B.C., lasted years.

C. For each proper name in column A, write the letter of the matching item in column B.

Column A

1. Gaius Gracchus
2. Romulus Augustulus
3. Marcus Lepidus
4. Remus
5. Pyrrhus
6. Aeneas
7. Hannibal
8. Sulla
9. Tarquinius
10. Scipio

Column B

- a. Trojan hero
- b. brother of Romulus
- c. hero in the Punic Wars
- d. Roman dictator
- e. last of the emperors
- f. last of the kings
- g. social reformer
- h. Carthaginian general
- i. king of Epirus
- j. triumvir

D. Write the word or expression that will complete the sentence.

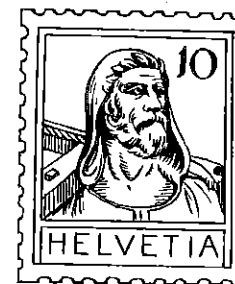
1. An important factor contributing to Rome's fall, besides slavery, corruption, and taxation, was (poor roads, barbaric invasions, lack of generals).
2. The Senatorial Order was the order of the Patricians or (*Optimātēs*, *Equitēs*, *Quaestōrēs*).
3. The higher magistrates in Rome were elected by the (*Senātus*, *pontifex maximus*, *Comitia Centūriāta*).
4. The members of the Second Triumvirate included Octavius, Lepidus, and (*Augustus*, *Antonius*, *Caesar*).
5. The office not included in the *cursus honorum* was the (*aedileship*, *praetorship*, *quaestorship*).
6. Augustus reigned until the year (31 A.D., 27 A.D., 14 A.D.).
7. The Roman Senate managed foreign affairs, declared war, and (elected minor officials, assessed property, controlled taxation).
8. Freedmen were not permitted to (vote, hold office, own property).
9. Roman censors were elected every (year, three years, five years).
10. The chief duty of a praetor was to (manage finances, serve as judge, supervise public works).

E. Indicate the proper chronological sequence of the following events by numbering them from 1 to 10:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. assassination of Caesar | 7. war with Pyrrhus |
| 2. Punic Wars | 8. rule of Tarquinius Superbus |
| 3. founding of Rome | 9. conquest of Macedonia |
| 4. Battle of Actium | 10. formation of Second Triumvirate |
| 5. reign of Augustus | |
| 6. dictatorship of Sulla | |

Postage Stamps

Roman names and figures appear on the stamps of various countries. **Helvetia**, the ancient name for Switzerland, is found on many Swiss stamps. The figures of **Romulus** and **Remus** being nursed by a wolf frequently appear on Italian stamps.



Lesson 90. ROMAN LIFE

Much of our knowledge of Roman life has come from the excavations at Pompeii, a city near Naples that was a favorite resort of wealthy Romans. In 79 A.D. an eruption of Mount Vesuvius buried the city, at the same time preserving it with volcanic ash. Most of Pompeii has already been excavated.

THE CITY OF ROME

LOCATION

Situated on the Tiber River near the west central coast of Italy, Rome encompassed seven hills, of which the two most celebrated were the **Capitoline** and the **Palatine**. The area in which Rome was situated was called **Latium**, the origin of the word *Latin*. Rome's outlet to the sea was at **Ostia**, a seaport about sixteen miles away. The marketplace and the center of civic life in Rome was the **Forum**. Here were located shops (*tabernae*), temples (*templa*), law courts (*basilicae*), other public buildings, and the speaker's platform (*rōstra*).

STREETS AND ROADS

Streets were narrow and crooked, often unpaved. At corners, stepping-stones were placed at intervals to assist in crossing to the other side. Streets were unlighted, and *vigilēs* (policemen-firemen) carrying small lanterns walked the dark alleys to afford protection.

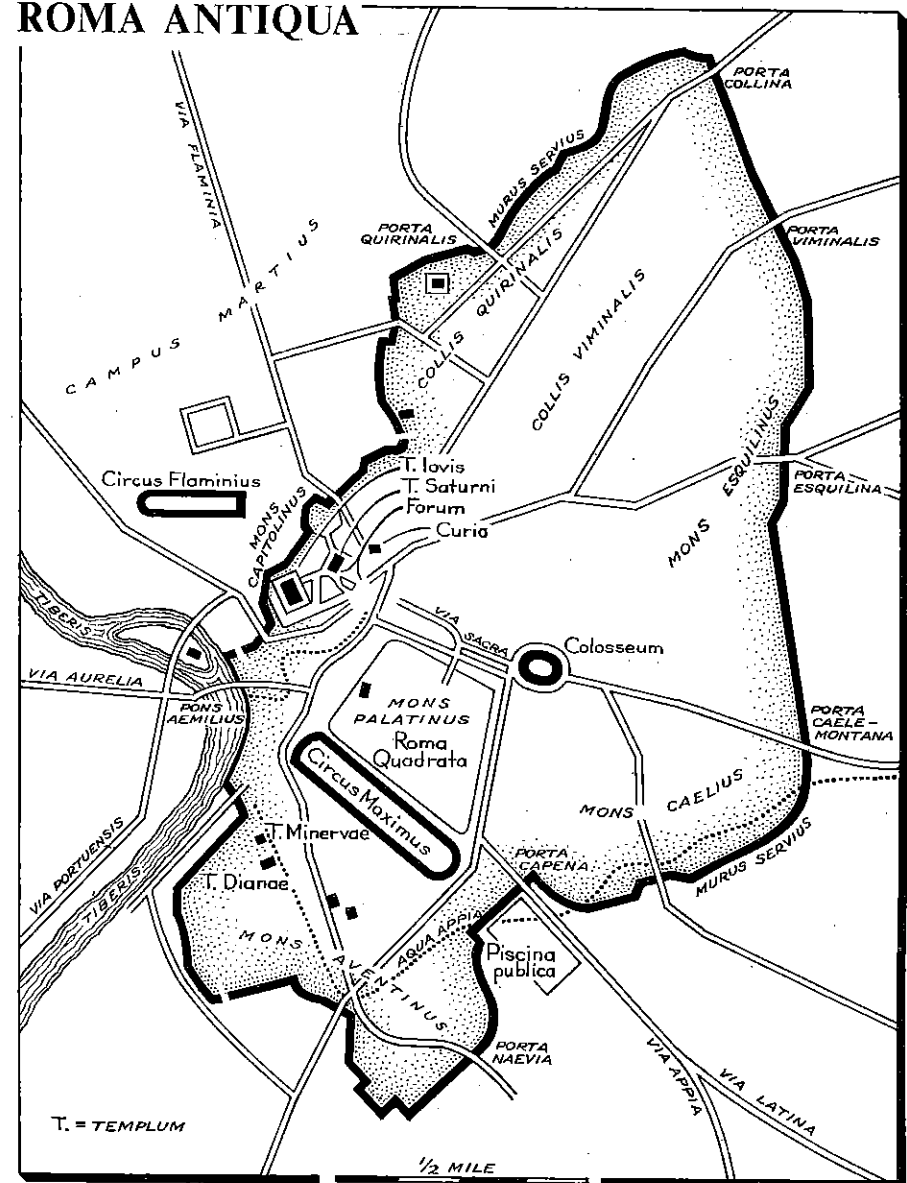
The Romans constructed an extensive system of highways connecting the principal cities of Italy with Rome. Hence the expression, "All roads lead to Rome." The most famous road was the **Via Appia** (the Appian Way), also called *Rēgīna Viārum*, connecting Rome with Brundisium on the southeastern coast of Italy. Other roads were the **Via Flāminia**, leading northeast toward Umbria; and the **Via Aurēlia**, a military road running along the west coast toward Gaul.

FAMILY LIFE

THE FAMILY

The basic unit of Roman society was the *familia* (household). It consisted of the *paterfamiliās* (father), mother, unmarried daughters, sons with their wives and children, and slaves. The father was supreme in his own home. He had unlimited power over his children and could command absolute obedience.

ROMA ANTIQUA



The mother, who was held in high esteem, was mistress of the home. She managed the household affairs and advised her husband in business and politics.

Families descended from a common ancestor often formed a clan, called *gēns*. Like the family, the *gēns* was united by common religious rites and was governed by a common ruler.

NAMES

A Roman citizen generally had three names: a *praenōmen*, a *nōmen*, and a *cognōmen*.

praenōmen—corresponded to our given name. The Romans had very few given names and often abbreviated them in writing. Some common abbreviations were:

A. Aulus	D. Decimus	M. Mārcus	Q. Quīntus	T. Titus
C. Gāius	L. Lūcius	P. Pūblius	S. Sextus	Ti. Tiberius

nōmen—the family name, indicated the clan (*gēns*).

cognōmen—indicated the particular branch of the *gēns*.

Thus, in the name Gāius Iūlius Caesar, Gāius is the *praenōmen*, Iūlius is the *nōmen*, and Caesar is the *cognōmen*.

An honorary *cognōmen* was sometimes given a person for some noteworthy accomplishment. Thus, Pompey received the title *Magnus* for his military exploits. Scipio, after destroying Carthage, was surnamed *Africānus*, and the *cognōmen Augustus* was bestowed upon Octavius by the Roman Senate.

EDUCATION

There was no compulsory public education. Up to the age of seven, children received training in the home. After that, a boy whose parents could afford the cost was sent to a private elementary school (*lūdus*), where the teacher (*litterātor*) taught him reading, writing, and simple arithmetic. He often had an educated slave, called a *paedagōgus*, who served as tutor and accompanied him to school. Upon completing elementary school, the Roman boy attended a grammar school, where the teacher (*grammaticus*) taught him Latin and Greek literature.

Next came the school of rhetoric, or college, where the boy received training in oratory and politics. Finally, as a youth, he could travel abroad to Greece, Rhodes, or Asia Minor to take specialized courses in philosophy, law, and oratory.

As a rule, Roman girls did not attend school. Instead they learned domestic arts from their mothers.

DRESS

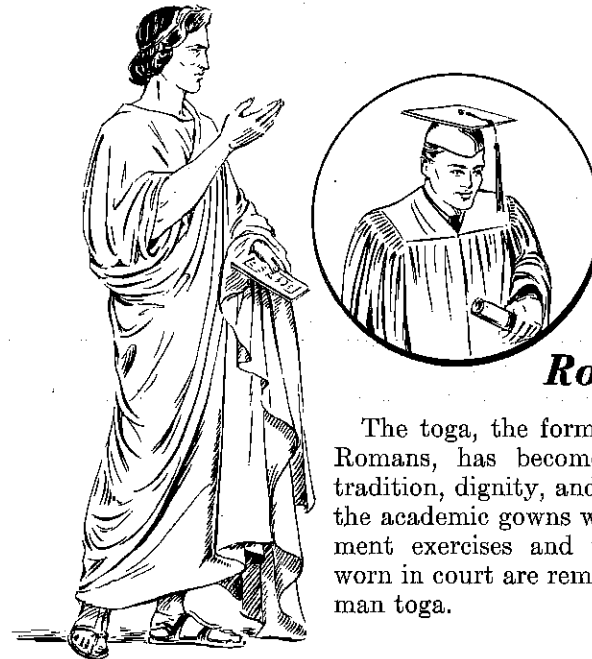
MALE

tunica (tunic), a short-sleeved, woolen shirt reaching to the knees. It was the usual garment for indoor wear.

toga, a large, white, woolen cloth extending to the feet and draped gracefully around the body. It was worn over the tunic. The toga was the formal garment of Roman citizens.

toga candida, a pure white toga worn by a man seeking public office (hence our word "candidate").

toga praetexta, a toga with a purple border, worn by a boy of aristocratic family until about the age of 16. The adolescent then assumed the *toga virilis*, or toga of the adult male. Priests and magistrates also wore the *toga praetexta*.



Roman Dress

The toga, the formal garment of the Romans, has become associated with tradition, dignity, and authority. Today the academic gowns worn at commencement exercises and the judicial robes worn in court are reminiscent of the Roman toga.

FEMALE

Over a tunic, women wore the

stola, a long, full garment extending to the feet and fastened by a belt at the waist. It was worn indoors.

palla, a woolen, shawl-like wrap for use outdoors.

THE HOUSE

atrium, the spacious front hall used as a reception room.

compluvium, the opening in the ceiling of the atrium to admit light and air, since the Roman house usually had no windows.

impluvium, the marble basin built directly beneath the compluvium, to catch the rainwater that came through the opening.

tablinum, the study or office of the master of the house, located opposite the entrance in full view of the atrium.

peristylum, the open courtyard, usually with garden and columns, entered by a passageway from the atrium. The peristyle was the center of family living.

triclinium, the dining room adjoining the peristyle, containing a dining table flanked by three couches.

culina, the kitchen.

Bedrooms, kitchen, and bath were built around the peristyle.

The above is a description of a city house belonging to a wealthy Roman, many of whom also had elaborate country homes called **villae**.

Most Romans, however, lived in tenement or apartment houses called **insulae** (islands), a name originally applied to city blocks, detached from one another. Tenements were usually five or six stories high and were unsafe, especially in the event of fire.

OTHER ASPECTS OF ROMAN LIFE

RELIGION

The Romans lived constantly in the presence of the gods, and their numerous festivals, offerings, and prayers testified to their eagerness to please their deities and obtain favors. From earliest times, the imagination of the Romans saw gods everywhere in nature, and *polytheism*, or the belief in many gods, was universally practiced. There were gods who protected the crops and herds, gods of the weather and seasons, gods of the earth and sky. Gods had to be appeased, and when a disaster struck, it proved that some god was offended.

Festivals were held all the year round, the most famous being the **Saturnalia**, dedicated to the god Saturn. This holiday took place at about the time we celebrate Christmas. It was a period of riotous merrymaking when even slaves were allowed their freedom.

Since religion was the function of the state, all temples, statues, and altars to the gods were built by the government. A very important temple was the **Temple of Vesta**, where six Vestal Virgins kept the sacred fire continuously burning. The priests, including the **pontifex maximus** (chief priest), were government officials, not necessarily trained for the priesthood.

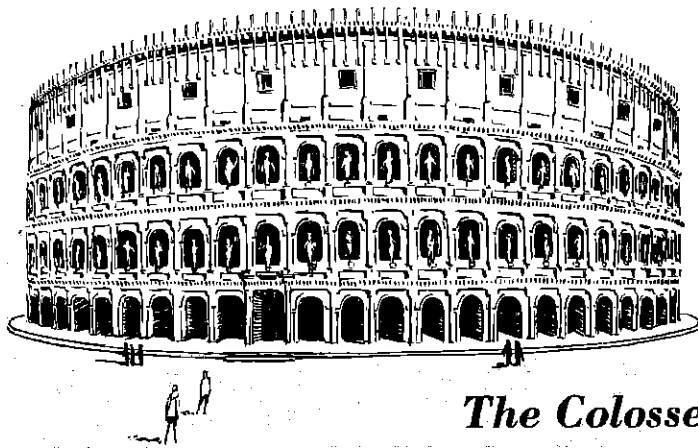
After the conquest of Greece, the Romans identified their own gods with those of Greece. Below is a list of Roman deities, their Greek equivalents, their functions, and their principal attributes.

ROMAN DEITY	GREEK EQUIVALENT	FUNCTION	ATTRIBUTE
Apollo	Apollo	god of the sun, song, and prophecy	the lyre
Bacchus	Dionysus	god of wine	the vine
Ceres	Demeter	goddess of agriculture	a garland of ears of corn
Cupid	Eros	god of love	bow and arrow
Diana	Artemis	goddess of the chase and moon	bow and arrow, spear, and stags
Faunus	Pan	god of flocks and shepherds	horns and goat's feet
Janus	(none)	god of beginnings and doorways	two faces
Juno	Hera	queen of the gods, wife of Jupiter	crown, veil, scepter, and peacock
Jupiter	Zeus	king of the gods	scepter, eagle, and thunderbolt
Lares and Penates	(none)	household gods	perpetual fire on the hearth
Mars	Ares	god of war	shield, helmet, and coat of mail
Mercury	Hermes	messenger of the gods	winged sandals and hat, and staff (caduceus)
Minerva	Athena	goddess of wisdom	owl, helmet, and spear
Neptune	Poseidon	god of the sea	trident and dolphin
Pluto	Hades	god of the lower world	the dog Cerberus and a two-pronged fork
Saturn	Cronus	god of the harvest	sickle
Venus	Aphrodite	goddess of love and beauty	myrtle tree
Vesta	Hestia	goddess of the hearth	perpetual fire on the hearth
Vulcan	Hephaestus	god of fire	hammer and anvil

AMUSEMENTS

Entertainment and amusements were provided by the government and formed an important part of the daily life of the Romans. The most popular amusements were the public spectacles, such as chariot races and gladiatorial combats. The expression "*pānem et circēnsēs*" (bread and circus games) was a familiar cry of the mob. Theatrical performances, mainly drama, dance, and pantomime, were presented in open-air theaters. A visit to the baths was also a favorite social pastime of the Romans.

The **Colosseum**, the greatest amphitheater in Rome, was used chiefly for combats between gladiators, or between gladiators and wild beasts. Schools for training gladiators were established in various parts of Italy. The greeting "*Nōs moritūri tē salūtāmus*" (We who are about to die salute you) was uttered by the gladiators before the contest. Perhaps the most famous gladiator in Roman history was a Thracian slave named **Spartacus**, who led a formidable uprising of slaves against the Roman state.



The Colosseum

The **Circus Maximus**, the most famous arena in Rome, was used chiefly for chariot races. Other contests, such as wrestling and racing, were also held there.

The **Campus Martius** was a large field set aside for athletic exercises and military training. Here the young men of Rome engaged in track and field events, such as running, jumping, wrestling, boxing, archery, and discus throwing.

Thermae, or **balneae**, were elaborate baths corresponding to our country clubs. In addition to all varieties of bathing facilities, the buildings contained gymnasiums, lounging rooms, libraries, and gardens. Perhaps the most famous were the **Baths of Caracalla**, where today operatic performances are staged.

ROMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVILIZATION

Modern civilization is indebted to ancient Rome for many significant contributions. These include:

LANGUAGE

The Roman alphabet, derived originally from that of the Phoenicians, is in use today throughout most of the world. Latin is the basis of the Romance languages, the chief ones being Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Rumanian. English, though not a Romance language, has been profoundly influenced by Latin. Roman numerals are still in limited use as chapter headings in books, as hours on the faces of clocks, as dates on the cornerstones of buildings, etc.

LAW

Considered by many to be Rome's most valuable gift to the modern world, Roman law forms the basis of many legal systems today. The **Laws of the Twelve Tables**, engraved on bronze tablets and displayed in the Forum, were the foundation of Roman law.

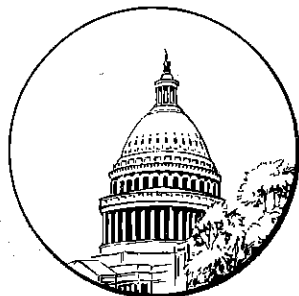
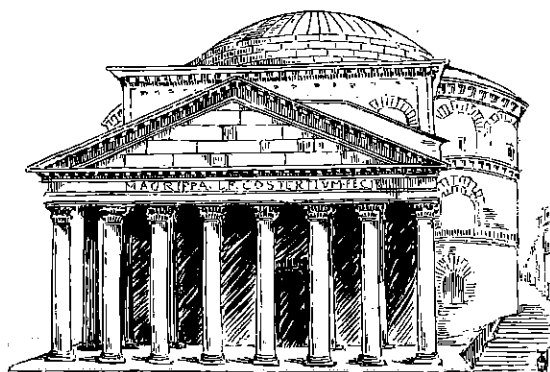
Rome's greatest jurists recognized the equality of man before the law and the need for equal protection of the rights of person and property. Our own Declaration of Independence has embodied these ideas of justice. The Emperor Justinian codified the great mass of laws and thus facilitated the transmission of Roman law to the modern world.

LITERATURE

In prose and poetry, Roman writers have left us a rich legacy, outstanding in the field of world literature. We need but mention Caesar and Livy in the field of history; Cicero in the field of oratory, philosophy, and letters; and Vergil and Horace in the field of poetry. These authors are still read and enjoyed today in schools throughout the world and have exercised a profound influence upon modern writers.

GOVERNMENT

In the organization and administration of the Republic, the Romans have left their imprint on modern political systems. With the expansion of her territory and the formation and administration of her provinces, Rome showed a genius for organization that became a model for many modern governments.



The Pantheon

The Pantheon represents the supreme triumph of Roman engineering, and remains one of the architectural wonders of the world. This well-preserved temple with its famous dome has served as the model of some of the most noted buildings in the world. Among them are St. Peter's in Rome, the Capitol in Washington, and the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE

The Romans were famous for their construction of roads, aqueducts, and bridges. They also perfected the rounded arch and the dome.

In imperial times Rome became an imposing city of magnificent public buildings, temples, aqueducts, basilicas, theaters, columns, triumphal arches, and tombs. Today's tourist can still see the ancient Roman Forum with its ruins, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the mausoleum of Hadrian, the arches of Titus, Severus, and Constantine, and other monuments to Roman genius.

THE CALENDAR

The calendar in use today is based essentially on the calendar revised by Julius Caesar. It was thus known as the *Julian calendar*. In the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory XIII made some further minor corrections, whence the term *Gregorian calendar*.

EXERCISES

A. For each deity in column A, write the letter of the matching item in column B.

Column A

1. Vulcan
2. Ceres
3. Neptune
4. Minerva
5. Bacchus
6. Vesta
7. Saturn
8. Cupid
9. Mercury
10. Juno

Column B

- a. goddess of wisdom
- b. god of love
- c. goddess of the hearth
- d. god of the sea
- e. queen of the gods
- f. god of fire
- g. messenger of the gods
- h. god of the harvest
- i. goddess of agriculture
- j. god of wine

B. Each item below is followed by four words or expressions. In each group select the word or expression that does *not* belong.

1. articles of clothing: palla, balnea, tunica, stola
2. inheritance from Rome: pointed arch, basic law, calendar, alphabet
3. Roman house: tablinum, atrium, impluvium, impedimentum
4. religion: Vestal Virgins, pontifex maximus, thermae, Larēs
5. education: lūdus, litterātor, grammaticus, vigilēs
6. buildings in the Forum: basilicae, villae, tabernae, templa
7. Roman amusements: chariot races, gladiatorial combats, opera, drama
8. Campus Martius: large field, chariot races, athletic exercises, military training
9. location of Rome: Tiber, Mount Vesuvius, Capitoline Hill, Latium
10. toga praetexta: reached to the knees, had a purple border, worn by boys to the age of 16, worn by priests and magistrates

C. If the italicized term in each of the following statements is correct, write *true*. If the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term.

1. The *compluvium* was used to catch rainwater.
2. The *paedagōgus* served as tutor to a Roman boy and accompanied him to school.
3. The laws engraved on bronze tablets were known as *Justinian's Code*.
4. The *māter familiās* had absolute power over the children of the household.
5. The Greek equivalent of Mars was *Ares*.
6. The name Mārcus was a *praenōmen*.
7. Rome's outlet to the sea, sixteen miles away, was at *Pompeii*.
8. The speaker's platform in the Forum was called the *rōstra*.
9. Families with a common ancestor often formed a clan, called *gēns*.
10. The *Circus Maximus* was used chiefly for gladiatorial combats.

D. In the following passage, ten words or expressions are italicized and repeated in the questions below. Write the number of the alternative that best explains each of these ten words or expressions as it is used in the passage.

At the age of seven Marcus Furius *Crassus*, son of a patrician, began attending *school*, where the *teacher* taught him reading, writing, and arithmetic. Then came the grammar school. At the age of sixteen Marcus assumed the *garb of the adult male*. A trip *abroad* to complete his education made him proficient in philosophy and oratory. At home he often used to declaim in the open *courtyard*.

Marcus loved to walk along the *Rēgīna Viārum* and dream of the day when he would march in a triumphal procession. He was also fond of the *amphitheater* where he admired the courage of the gladiators uttering their *farewell message* before the contest. He had once read about the famous *Thracian gladiator* who had led a revolt against Rome, and wondered what would have happened had the uprising succeeded.

1. *Crassus*

1 praenōmen 2 nōmen 3 cognōmen 4 gēns

2. *school*

1 lūdus 2 grammaticus 3 paedagōgus 4 campus

3. *teacher*

1 dictator 2 litterātor 3 pontifex 4 cēnsor

4. *garb of the adult male*

1 toga candida 2 toga praetexta 3 tunica 4 toga virilis

5. *abroad*

1 Gaul 2 Spain 3 Britain 4 Greece

6. *courtyard*

1 peristȳlium 2 triclinium 3 tablinum 4 ātrium

7. *Rēgīna Viārum*

1 Via Flāminia 2 Via Aurēlia 3 Via Appia 4 Via Latīna

8. *amphitheater*

1 Circus Maximus 2 Colosseum 3 Campus Martius 4 balneae

9. *farewell message*

1 Pānem et circēnsēs 2 In hōc signō vincēs 3 Nōs moritūrī tē salūtāmus 4 Valēte

10. *Thracian gladiator*

1 Caracalla 2 Janus 3 Justinian 4 Spartacus

E. For each item in column A, write the letter of the matching item in column B.

Column A

1. vigiles
2. Roman Diana
3. triclinium
4. basilicae
5. stola
6. villae
7. palla
8. Roman Venus
9. tablinum
10. insulae

Column B

- a. apartment houses
- b. woman's outdoor wrap
- c. Greek Aphrodite
- d. master's study
- e. policemen-firemen
- f. Greek Artemis
- g. woman's long indoor garment
- h. dining room
- i. country homes
- j. law courts

F. Complete the following statements:

1. The praenōmen S. stood for
2. The two best-known hills of Rome were the Capitoline and the
3. The front hall used as a reception room in a Roman house was called the
4. The tabernae in the Roman Forum were the
5. The distance of Ostia from Rome was about miles.
6. The expression *pānem et circēnsēs* meant
7. The famous bathing establishment in ancient Rome that is used today for opera was called the Baths of
8. The speaker's platform in the Forum was called the
9. Rome is situated on the River.
10. The Roman god Jupiter corresponded to the Greek

G. For each deity in column A, write the letter of the matching attribute in column B.

Column A

1. Neptune
2. Vulcan
3. Jupiter
4. Minerva
5. Apollo
6. Pan
7. Janus
8. Bacchus
9. Saturn
10. Ceres

Column B

- a. thunderbolt
- b. lyre
- c. vine
- d. trident
- e. ears of corn
- f. owl
- g. sickle
- h. hammer
- i. two faces
- j. goat's feet