



Ancient Rome Vocabulary

Key Terms

Punic Wars: 100 year wars between Rome and Carthage

Twelve Tables: Laws engraved on metal and placed in the Forum for all to see

Monarchy: Government ruled by a king or queen

Republic: A government where the voters elect officials to run the government

Tribunes: 10 member Plebian councils to discuss if laws are in the interest of the people

Senate: Supreme governing body, originally made up only of aristocrats

Legion: Military unit of the ancient Roman army, made up of about 5,000 foot soldiers and a group of soldiers on horseback

Triumvirate: A group of three rulers

Pax Romana: A period of peace and prosperity throughout the Roman Empire, lasting from 27 BC to AD 180

Inflation: A decline in the value of money, accompanied by a rise in the prices of goods and services

Greco-Roman Culture: Blending of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman cultures

Aqueducts: A pipeline or channel built to carry water to populated areas

Forum: The political center of the Roman Empire

Important People

Patricians: Nobility/wealthy class or Roman citizens

Plebeians: The working class of Roman citizens, farmers, and artisans

Hannibal: Leader of the Carthaginian army during the Punic Wars

Gladiators: Trained fighters or oftentimes slaves that fought humans or animals in front of a crowd in the Coliseum

Consuls: The two chief executives in the Roman Republic

Spartacus: A slave in the Roman Republic who led a brutal revolt in 73 BC

Cleopatra: Teams up with Marc Antony. Octavian has the Senate declare war on them and they commit suicide. She is an Egyptian Pharaoh.

Nero: Roman emperor who was insane. Killed many people including his own mother and wife

Augustus Caesar: Changes name from Octavian. His reign was known as Pax Romana. Rome's first emperor

Julius Caesar: Member of the 1st Triumvirate. He increased the Senate to 900 members. He was assassinated in March 44 BC.

Scipio: Leader of the Roman Army during the Punic Wars

Marc Antony: A general and ally of Caesar who took control of Rome. Part of the 2nd Triumvirate

Dictator: A political leader given absolute power to make laws and command the army for a limited time

Jesus: Founder of Christianity

Apostles: One of the followers of Jesus who preached and spread his teachings

Constantine: Roman emperor who converted to Christianity. Ended the persecution of Christians

Theodosius: Emperor who made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire

Bishop: High ranking Christian official who supervises a number of local churches

Pope: Head of the Roman Catholic Church

Peter: Apostle who traveled throughout the Roman Empire spreading Christianity

Mercenaries: A soldier who is paid to fight in a foreign country

Virgil: Poet who wrote the Aeneid