

Follow-up Discussion Questions

- Analyze the influence of Hellenistic culture on ancient Rome. List other examples of cross-cultural contact and cultural assimilation throughout history.
- Why was the Arch of Constantine built? Speculate about the social, political and cultural significance of this monument.
- What were the principal decorative motifs in wealthy homes in Pompeii? How did Pompeiians attempt to make smaller rooms look larger?
- Explain the importance of Herculaneum for the Roman aristocracy. Describe the fate of Herculaneum after the eruption of Vesuvius and compare the remains of this community with those found at Pompeii.

Follow-up Activities

- Pliny the Younger, nephew of Pliny the Elder (a famous Roman scientist and military commander) witnessed the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. Later, Tacitus, a Roman historian, asked Pliny the Younger to write a description of what he saw. Ask students to read a translation of the letter Pliny the Younger wrote to his uncle regarding this catastrophic event. As a follow-up, students may write journalistic accounts based on their knowledge of the destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum. Pliny the Younger's account may be found at the following web site: www.harcourtschool.com/activity/pompeii/pmpMsStb.html
- Alexander the Great had such an admiration for Greek culture that his ambition was to Hellenize the world. Ask groups of students to research his military campaigns and create detailed time lines that include events such as the Battle of Granicus, the Battle of Issus and the defeat of Egypt, where the Macedonian conqueror founded the city of Alexandria—a center for Greek culture and learning.
- When tourists walk Rome's Via dei Fori Imperiali to the Colosseum, they see four stone reliefs that trace the growth of the mighty Roman Empire. At the peak of the Pax Romana, or "Roman Peace," the Romans ruled all lands around the Mediterranean Sea and most of northwest Europe. Ask students to research and develop their own historical maps showing the extent of the Roman Empire at its peak. Students may also list modern countries that were under Roman control.
- Many examples of inscriptions from Pompeii and Herculaneum were preserved when Mount Vesuvius suddenly erupted. Historians reflect that these literary remains have tremendous human interest and deeply illustrate the way of life of these ancient communities. Ask groups of students to read and interpret these inscriptions in their own words and discuss what they say about the social and political culture of ancient Pompeii. Students may find examples of preserved Pompeian inscriptions at the following web site: www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/pompeii-inscriptions.html

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- pompeii.virginia.edu/pompeii/images/b-w/levin/small/list.html
The University of Virginia's "Pompeii Forum Project" has an extensive photo gallery of the remains of the city of Pompeii.
- www.fordham.edu/halsall/ancient/slavery-romrep1.html
Fordham's Ancient History Sourcebook provides historical insight into the system of slavery in ancient Rome.
- duke.usask.ca/~porterj/DeptTransls/Polybius.html
The University of Saskatchewan offers a translation of Polybius' general analysis of the Roman constitution at the time of the Second Punic War.

Suggested Print Resources

- Amery, Colin. *The Lost World of Pompeii*. J. Paul Getty Museum Publications, Los Angeles, CA; 2002.
- Holland, Tom. *Rubicon: The Last Years of the Roman Republic*. Doubleday & Company, Inc., New York, NY; 2003.
- Nardo, Don. *Life in Ancient Rome*. Blackbirch Press, San Diego, CA; 2003.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Wonders of the ANCIENT WORLD™

ANCIENT ROME

Grades 7 & up

Wonders of the Ancient World transports viewers to ancient civilizations of the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe and provides a firsthand look at the magnificent achievements and contributions of a wide range of cultures. Through the study of ancient peoples, students will understand the diversity of the human experience—the contrasts between settled and nomadic lifestyles, the characteristics of different religions and belief systems and the development of large cities and powerful empires—which provides a solid basis for the understanding of civilization today.



Program Overview

Rome is considered to be one of the most successful empires in world history. Its long history stretches from the city's legendary founding in 753 BCE by the twins Romulus and Remus, to the formation of a republic in 509 BCE—which created a form of government that is widely emulated today—to the Pax Romana, during which the Roman Empire stretched from the Near East across North Africa and as far north as Britain. Ancient Rome had a major impact upon world history and created a lasting legacy for the Western world.

Episode 1: Rome

Ancient Rome grew from a small town on the Tiber River in central Italy into a vast empire. At first, the city was ruled by sometimes vicious and cruel kings, the last of which was overthrown in 657 BCE. Rome later became a republic that lasted for the next four hundred years, and was characterized by the rule of a senate and limited democratic participation. In the first century BCE, military generals became very powerful and Rome grew into a vast empire. From the beginning of the empire, Rome incorporated conquered peoples into its society. Those who adopted Roman customs were accepted as Roman citizens and could occupy seats in the senate. Besides ideas on government, the cultural legacy of Rome includes the Western alphabet, the Romance languages and fantastic monuments of antiquity such as the Forums, the Mausoleum of Augustus, the Mausoleum of Hadrian, the Pantheon, Trajan's Column and the Column of Marcus Aurelius, as well as the religious and public buildings of papal Rome. Internal and external pressures led to the Empire's division into eastern and western parts, with the western half falling to Germanic invaders from the north in 476 CE.

Vocabulary

Michelangelo — A sculptor, painter and poet of the Renaissance who is considered one of the masters in the history of European art.

Marcus Aurelius — The Roman emperor who succeeded Antoninus in 161 CE, noted for his military leadership and humanitarianism despite his persecution of the Christians.

Hellenistic — Of or related to Greek style and culture.

Homer — A blind poet who lived thousands of years ago and was thought by the Greeks to be the author of two epic poems about the Trojan War, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

Epicurus — A Greek philosopher from the third century BCE who advocated the pursuit of pleasures in moderation.

Troy — The ancient Greco-Roman city located in modern Turkey that was the site of the Trojan War, a battle from ancient Greek mythology which was fought over a period of ten years between the Greeks and the Trojans.

Gaul — An ancient region in Europe that fought in numerous battles against, and was later conquered by, Rome.

(Continued)

Romulus and Remus — The legendary twin brothers (and sons of Mars, the Roman god of war) who founded Rome.

Julius Caesar — A popular Roman general who declared himself dictator for life. He was assassinated by members of the Roman Senate.

Forum — Ancient Rome's center of government and commerce.

Roman Empire — An ancient empire founded in 31 BCE that was centered in the city of Rome. At its peak, the empire included most of Western Europe, North Africa and the Near East. It fell to Germanic invaders in 476 CE.

Mussolini — The fascist dictator of Italy during World War II.

Colosseum — A large amphitheater near the Forum in ancient Rome where gladiators fought in front of thousands of spectators.

Palatine Hill — The legendary hill in Rome where, according to Roman mythology, Romulus and Remus were found. The emperors of Rome built their palaces here.

Goths — Germanic peoples who invaded the Roman Empire during the Christian era.

Augustus — Julius Caesar's adopted son who became emperor and began the Pax Romana, a period of relative peace which lasted for almost 200 years.

Tiberius — The second emperor of ancient Rome who succeeded Caesar Augustus in 14 CE and ruled until 37 CE.

Domitian — The dictatorial emperor of Rome from 81–96 CE who was later assassinated.

Vespasian — The emperor of Rome from 69–79 CE noted for leading a period of economic prosperity and sponsoring artistic and architectural development.

Constantine — A Roman general who was proclaimed emperor by Roman forces in Britain in 407 CE. He was later beheaded by Honorius.

The Pantheon — A circular temple in Rome dedicated to all of the Roman gods.

Raphael — A famed Renaissance painter and architect.

Trajan — Emperor of Rome from 98–117 CE, whose reign is noted for sponsoring architectural development and humanitarian treatment of the poor.

Episode 2: Pompeii

Pompeii is an ancient city in Italy that was suddenly destroyed, along with Herculaneum and other communities, after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. The remains of the structures and inhabitants of Pompeii preserved by the volcanic ash created one of the greatest archaeological sites ever studied, and provide archaeologists with a unique glimpse into life in the Roman world. Pompeii was conquered by Rome in 89 BCE and it became part of the early Roman Empire. Latin became the official language, and the city soon adopted Roman institutions, architecture and culture. Pompeii features many significant public buildings, such as the Forum—the center of the city's religious, economic and political life—as well as many theaters and public baths. Most importantly, Pompeii provides a one-of-a-kind look at private homes of the time period—many that are small shop houses and some that are more elaborate and imposing and feature decorative floor mosaics. At the time of its destruction, the city of Pompeii had a population of approximately 20,000 people. An earthquake predated the eruption of Vesuvius and did great damage to both Pompeii and Herculaneum. The people of the region had not yet recovered from this disaster when they met their ultimate end 17 years later.

Vocabulary

Vesuvius — An active volcano in Italy that destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum in 79 CE.

Etruscan — Of, or related to, Etruria—an ancient Italian country in present-day Tuscany that was surpassed in influence by Rome in the third century BCE.

Darius the Great — The Achaemenid king of the Persian Empire who founded the capital city of Persepolis in the sixth century BCE.

Alexander the Great — The Macedonian conqueror whose death in 323 BCE signaled the beginning of the Hellenistic period—a period that ended with the rise of the Roman Empire under Augustus in 30 BCE.

Hercules — The Roman name for the Greek hero Heracles, who is best known for his incredible strength and for completing the twelve impossible labors for King Eurystheus.

Hera — The wife and sister of Zeus and the most powerful goddess on Olympus.

The Odeon — A small building in ancient Rome used for live musical performances and poetry readings.