

Year 3 and 4 Home Learning
History (The Romans) Week 11
Tuesday

The Romans

Learning Objective:

To find out about the social structure and organisation of ancient Rome.

Until 509 BC, Rome had been ruled by the Etruscan kings, the first of whom, according to legend, was Romulus. Some of these kings had been good leaders but others had not. The last king to rule Rome was Tarquin the Proud (Lucius Tarquinius Superbus). Tarquin was a terrible king who abused his power and treated his people very poorly. The people of Rome decided that they had had enough of kings who were bad rulers so the Roman revolt began. Eventually, King Tarquin was overthrown and the new Roman republic was born.



Do you know what a republic is and how it is different to a monarchy?



In the Roman monarchy (in which a king or queen ruled) there had been only one person in charge. The people had no say as to how their country should be run. The republic was different because it was a system of government that allowed certain people to vote for who they wanted to be in charge and make the decisions for the rest of the country. Every year, elections would be held to decide who would become the new magistrates and who would be the new consuls. Every year, two consuls were elected who ruled the country on the advice of the senate. They were only allowed to rule for one year so that no one could become too powerful.



Two consuls were elected each year by the people. It was the consuls who chose who should be in the senate.



300 senators advised the consuls. Two of the senators were chosen each year to be the new consuls.



The citizens of Rome voted for the consuls and voted on new laws that the senate passed.

Not everyone could vote. There were different social classes in Rome and only male Roman citizens could vote.

Slaves

Slaves had no rights and couldn't vote. Slaves were men, women and children who were owned by richer Romans. The only way a slave could vote was if his master bought his freedom. In this case, he became a Roman citizen (known as a freedman) This, however, didn't happen very often.



Plebeians

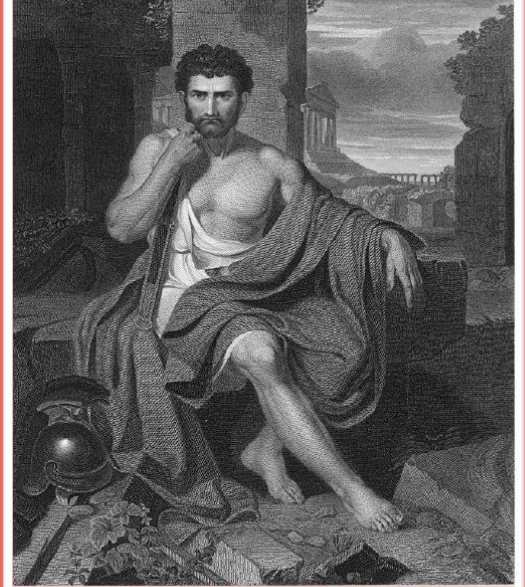
The plebeians were the ordinary working people of ancient Rome. Plebeians couldn't become senators, magistrates or judges but they did have the power to vote on laws and for who should be consul. Lots of plebeians were poor but there were rich plebeians too. They could become very wealthy but could never move up the social ladder because they hadn't been born into a noble family.



Patricians

Patricians were the aristocracy of ancient Rome. They were people from the best families who were usually very wealthy. Patricians were the magistrates, judges and senators of Rome. These jobs were usually unpaid so you had to be wealthy to stand for office. Patricians would often have houses in town and in the country and have lots of slaves to work for them.

Caius Marius a Roman general and politician



Women

No matter how rich or poor a woman was, whether they were plebeian or patrician, they could not vote. Women had very few rights in ancient Rome. A woman was under the control of the *paterfamilias*, the man of the house. This was usually a father, older brother or uncle. He would decide who she should marry and controlled her wealth.



Attribution: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ciechona_museo_civico_ritratto_femminile_primi_decenni_deli_II_secolo_d.c._.JPG



Later on, the Romans decided that an emperor should rule over ancient Rome so the system of government changed again, this time from a republic to an empire. The emperor had control over the empire and ruled with the advice of the senate.

Can you name any famous Roman emperors?



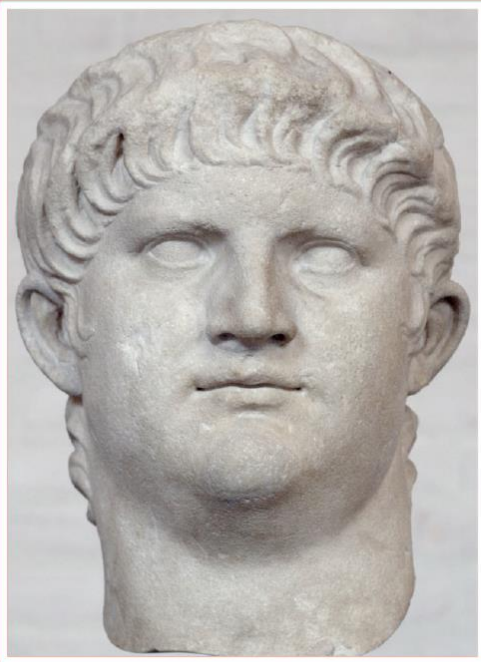
Attribution: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Statue-Augustus.jpg>

Emperor Augustus

23 September 63 BC – 19 August AD 14

Reign 16 January 27 BC – 19 August AD 14

Emperor Augustus was born Gaius Octavius Thurinus. He then changed his name to Gaius Julius Caesar in honour of his great-uncle Julius Caesar who was murdered. In 27 BC, the senate gave him the title 'Augustus' meaning 'the revered one'. Augustus was the first Roman emperor and he wanted to end the corruption in the senate and restore the Roman empire to glory. He allowed members of the lower classes to gain positions of power and influence. He wanted things to be much more equal in Rome. He also created lots of new buildings and promoted the arts. He was a great and much-loved emperor because he bought peace and prosperity back to Rome.

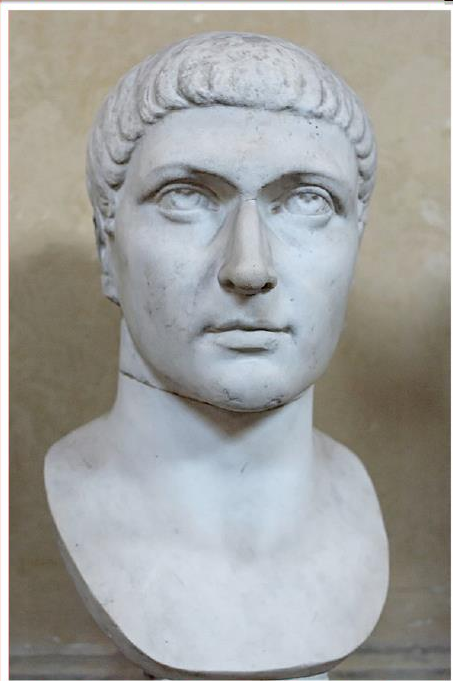


Emperor Nero

15 December AD 37 – 9 June AD 68

Reign 13 October AD 54 – 9 June AD 68

Emperor Nero was born Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus. He became emperor in AD 54 following the death of his great-uncle Claudius. There were many positive aspects of his rule. For example, he liked to focus on increasing trade and promoting culture. However, Nero is most remembered for less popular qualities. Claudius' son, Britannicus was poisoned by Nero so that he could become emperor. He later had his mother and wife arrested and executed too. In 64, a fire destroyed much of Rome but instead of helping the people rebuild, Nero had a new palace built for himself. When the people started blaming him for the fire, he blamed the Christians and started persecuting them.



Emperor Constantine

27 February c. 272 – 22 May 337

Reign 25 July 306 – 22 May 337

Caesar Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus Augustus is most remembered for being the first Christian emperor. Before a big battle, he had a dream showing him a cross and he heard a voice saying, "Under this sign you will win." Constantine had all the shields of his army painted with the cross and sure enough, the battle was won. Constantine was amazed at the power of the Christian God and became a Christian. Until then, Christians had been persecuted in the empire but now they were able to practice their religion. Constantine also rebuilt the Greek city of Byzantium which he renamed Constantinople. This became the capital of the empire. Today, the city is known as Istanbul.

How ancient Rome was organised

Until 509 BC, Rome had been a monarchy. This means it was run by a king. However, the people were tired of bad kings and wanted more of a say in how the country was run. King Tarquin was overthrown and the Roman republic was born. This meant that a group of people were elected by the people to run the country and make new laws.

Consuls

Every year, two people from the senate were voted for to become the consuls. The consuls were the highest power in ancient Rome and ruled with the help of the senate. They were only allowed to be in power for 1 year so that no one could become too powerful.

Patricians

Patricians were rich aristocracy of ancient Rome. They came from noble families and were usually very rich. You could become a magistrate, judge or a senator if you were a patrician.

Plebeians

The plebeians were the ordinary working class citizens of ancient Rome. They didn't have as much power as the patricians but they were able to vote. Most plebeians were poor but some did manage to become rich. However, they couldn't become patricians because they didn't come from noble families.

Slaves

Slaves were the lowest class of people. They had no rights and were unable to vote. Slaves had to work hard for their masters. The only way a slave could gain freedom was if his master bought his freedom. The slave then became what was known as a 'freedman'.

Women

Women had few rights too. They were unable to vote and were controlled by the 'paterfamilias' - the male head of the household.

Senate

The senate was a group of around 300 men who came from rich families. The senate advised the consuls and helped to decide the laws of the country. Senators had to be rich because the job was unpaid.

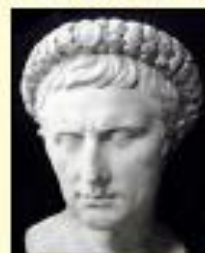


A meeting of the senate

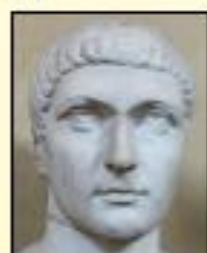
The Roman republic lasted until 63 BC. For various reasons, it was then decided that Rome needed to be in the control of just one man. Rome then changed from a republic to an empire and was controlled by an emperor. Just like the kings, there were good emperors and bad emperors. The emperors were still advised by the senate but they had more power than the consuls and they ruled until their death.



Emperor Nero



Emperor Augustus



Emperor Constantine

Bronze

Copy this pyramid into your book and fill in the missing groups of people



Can you fill in this pyramid to show the social structure of ancient Rome?

Choose one of these names for each of the labels:

- plebeians
- emperor
- senators
- slaves
- patricians
- consuls

Which of these groups do you think you would have liked to have belonged to and why?

The most important man in the empire. He has lots of power. He is called the _____.

These two people were chosen every year to run the empire. They were called _____.

This group of people were very important and helped to make the laws of Rome. They were called _____.

These people were the aristocracy of Rome. They were rich and came from noble families. They were called _____.

These people were the ordinary working people of ancient Rome. They were usually poor but they were able to vote. They were called _____.

These people were the poorest of ancient Rome. They had no rights and had to work constantly. They were called _____.

Copy this pyramid into your book and fill in the missing information



Can you describe the social position of each of these groups of people?

Try to include details about:

- what they did for their work
- whether or not they could vote
- how much power they had

Which of these groups do you think you would have liked to have belonged to and why?

Emperor

Consuls

Senators

Patricians

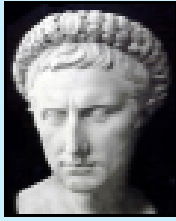
Plebeians

Slaves

Gold

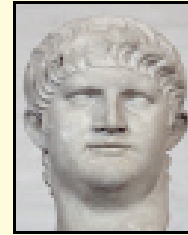
Choose 2 Emperors and research them.

Emperor Augustus



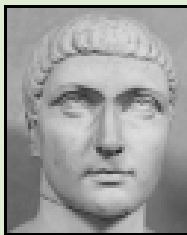
- When was he born?
- When and how did he die?
- How did he become emperor?
- What did significant things did he do during his time as emperor?
- What is he most remembered for?

Emperor Nero



- When was he born?
- When and how did he die?
- How did he become emperor?
- What did significant things did he do during his time as emperor?
- What is he most remembered for?

Emperor Constantine



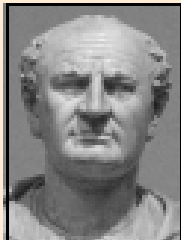
- When was he born?
- When and how did he die?
- How did he become emperor?
- What did significant things did he do during his time as emperor?
- What is he most remembered for?

Emperor Hadrian



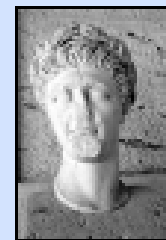
- When was he born?
- When and how did he die?
- How did he become emperor?
- What did significant things did he do during his time as emperor?
- What is he most remembered for?

Emperor Vespasian



- When was he born?
- When and how did he die?
- How did he become emperor?
- What did significant things did he do during his time as emperor?
- What is he most remembered for?

Emperor Trajan



- When was he born?
- When and how did he die?
- How did he become emperor?
- What did significant things did he do during his time as emperor?
- What is he most remembered for?