Ancient Rome

Unit 1 – 2012 – 2013
Explain how geographic features affected the development of Roman civilizations
The Legend
753 B.C. Rome is founded (according to the legend)

- Founded by **Romulus and Remus**, twin sons of the god Mars
- Twins abandoned; raised by she-wolf
- Romulus killed Remus and founded city of Rome
Roman Geography

• Chosen for:
  – **Fertile soil**
  – **Strategic location**
    • Center of Italian peninsula in center of Mediterranean Sea
    • Seven hills on the Tiber River
The First Romans

• Three Groups:
  – **Latins**
    • Found original settlement of Rome between 1000 and 500 B.C.
  – **Greeks**
  – **Etruscans**
    • Native to Northern Italy
    • Influenced Roman civilization
600 B.C.

**Etruscan** becomes king of

- Kings build Rome’s first temples and public centers

Ruins of the Forum, the political center of the Roman Empire, still stand in present-day Rome.
Roman Government

• Describe the structure of the early Roman Republic.

• What connections can you make between the government of the USA and the Roman Republic?
509 B.C. Roman aristocrats overthrow monarchy

• Established a republic
  – Gov’t in which citizens elect leaders
  – Citizen = adult males who own land
• Two groups struggled for power:
  – Patricians
  – Plebeians
The Roman Republic

Patricians & Plebeians

• Patricians
  – Wealthy landowning class
    that holds most of the power

• Plebeians
  – Artisans, merchants, & farmers
  – Can vote, but can’t rule
The Roman Republic
451 B.C.
Officials began writing the
Twelve Tables (Legal Code)
• Became basis for later
Roman law
• Laws confirm right of all free
citizens to protection of the
law
• Citizenship is limited to adult
male landowners
• Tables were hung in the
Forum
The Roman Republic Government

- **Senate**
  - Chosen from upper class (patricians)
  - Served for life
  - Advised consuls
  - 300 members
  - Responsible for making foreign and domestic policy
Army & Conquest

- Analyze the impact of the Punic Wars.
The Roman Republic

The Roman Army

- **Roman Legion**
  - Military unit of 5,000 infantry (foot soldiers)
  - Supported by cavalry (soldiers on horseback)

- **Army was powerful**
  - This was a key factor in Rome’s rise to greatness
  - Each citizen was required to serve in the military
The Roman Republic
Roman Power Spreads

• Conquers Italy
  – Roman defeat Etruscans in the north & Greek city-states in the south
  – By 265 B.C., Rome controlled the Italian peninsula
  • Conquered peoples were treated justly – this allowed Rome to grow
The Roman Republic
Rome’s Commercial Network

- Established **a large trade network**
- Their access to the Mediterranean Sea provided many trade routes
- Carthage, a powerful city-state in North Africa, rivaled Rome
The Roman Republic
The Punic Wars

- **Rome vs. Carthage**
- 3 Wars that took place between 264–146 B.C.
The Roman Republic
The Punic Wars

• First Punic War
  – Lasted 23 years
  – Rome defeats Carthage
  – Gains Sicily
The Roman Republic
The Punic Wars

• Second Punic War
  – Hannibal (Carthaginian General) attacked from the north by traveling through Spain, France, and through the Alps
  – Made it down into Italian Peninsula, but was unable to take Rome
  – **Scipio (Roman General)** defeated Hannibal in 202 B.C.
The Roman Republic
The Punic Wars

• Third Punic War
  – **Rome destroyed Carthage**
  – Salted their fields (to prevent crops from being able to grow)
Collapse of the Roman Republic

- Describe the reasons why the Roman Republic collapsed.

- Who was Julius Caesar? What did he do? What happened to him?
Collapse of the Roman Republic

- **Gap between rich & poor widened** as the Roman Republic grew
- Farmers, most former soldiers, lose their land to large estates – become homeless
- Two Tribunes, Tiberius & Gaius, try to help the poor, but are murdered
- Civil War begins
Collapse of the Roman Republic

- Military became less disciplined & disloyal
- Soldiers were recruited from the poor and showed loyalty only to their generals
Collapse of the Roman Republic
59 B.C. Julius Caesar Elected

- First Triumvirate (group of 3 rulers)
  - Caesar, Pompey, Crassus
  - Ruled for 10 years
- Military victories in Gaul gave Caesar increasing power & popularity with Romans
  - Pompey feared Caesar’s growing power & challenged him
  - Caesar defeated Pompey’s armies in Greece, Asia, Spain,
Collapse of the Roman Republic
44 B.C. Julius Caesar Named Dictator for Life

- Governed as an absolute ruler
- Reforms:
  - Granted citizenship to many people in the provinces
  - Expanded senate
  - Created jobs for the poor
    - Construction of new public buildings
  - Started new colonies where people without land could own property
  - Increased pay for soldiers
Collapse of the Roman Republic
March 15, 44 B.C. Caesar

- Some nobles & senators feared Caesar's growing power
- Group of senators, led by Marcus Brutus & Gaius Cassius, stabbed him to death in the senate chamber
  - March 15 is also known as the Ides of March
  - His assassination is the basis for the Shakespearean play Julius Caesar
The Roman Empire

- Describe the beginnings of the Roman Empire.
The Roman Empire – Beginning
43 B.C. Caesar’s Supporters
• Second Triumvirate
  – Octavian (Caesar’s grandnephew & adopted son),
    Mark Antony, and Lepidus
The Roman Empire – Beginning

- Octavian forced Lepidus to retire
  - Octavian & Mark Antony became rivals
- Antony met Cleopatra in Egypt while leading troops against Rome’s enemies in Anatolia
  - They fell in love with each other
The Roman Empire – Beginning

• Octavian accused Antony of trying to rule Rome from Egypt – **civil war erupted**
• Antony & Cleopatra combined forces to fight Octavian
The Roman Empire – Beginning

• Naval battle
• **Octavian defeated Antony & Cleopatra**
  – Later, Antony & Cleopatra committed suicide
  – Octavian became unchallenged ruler of Rome
• Octavian accepted title of Augustus – “exalted one”
  – **Became the first emperor of Rome**
How was the Roman Empire different from the Roman Republic?

- **Roman Republic**
  - Ruled by Senate

- **Roman Empire**
  - Ruled by Emperor
Pax Romana
The Roman Empire
Pax Romana ("Roman Peace")

• Rome enjoyed 200 years of peace and prosperity
The Roman Empire Values

• **Discipline**
• Strength
• **Loyalty**
• Practicality (common sense, or realism)
• Usefulness
The Roman Empire

Religion

• **Polytheistic**
  • Honored powerful gods & goddesses, like Jupiter, Juno, & Minerva, through rituals
• **Emperor worship** was part of the official religion
  – Christians & Jews did not worship the emperor and were therefore persecuted (more to come on this later)
The Roman Empire
Entertainment

- Rich gave lavish banquets
- Masses attended free games and gladiator contests at the Colosseum
- Watched races at the Circus Maximus
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<th>Good Emperors</th>
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Analyze the factors that led to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire
The Fall of the Roman Empire
A.D. 180 Emperor Marcus Aurelius Dies

- **Pax Romana ended** with his death
- Subsequent emperors were unable to govern the giant empire
The Fall of the Roman Empire
The Economy Weakens

• Disruption of trade
  – Caused by raids from hostile tribes & by pirates on the Mediterranean
The Fall of the Roman Empire
The Economy Weakens

• Gold & silver drain
  – Caused by fewer lands to conquer and resources to gain
The Fall of the Roman Empire
The Economy Weakens

• Inflation
  – To pay off debts, the government raised taxes & coined more money with less silver, which led to inflation
The Fall of the Roman Empire
The Economy Weakens

- Poor harvests
- Tax burden
The Fall of the Roman Empire

Military Reasons

• Threat from northern European tribes
• Low funds for defense
• Problems recruiting Roman citizens; recruiting of non-Romans (mercenaries – paid soldiers of non-Roman descent)
• Decline of patriotism & loyalty among soldiers
The Fall of the Roman Empire
Political Reasons

• Political office seen as a burden, not a reward
• Military interference in politics
• Civil war and unrest
• Division of empire
• Moving of capital to Byzantium
The Fall of the Roman Empire
Reforms of Diocletian

- A.D. 284
  - Diocletian restored order, **divided the empire into two**
  - Two Emperors
    - One in Greek–speaking East
    - One in Latin–speaking West

- A.D. 305
  - Diocletian retired
  - Rivals competed for power
The Fall of the Roman Empire
Reforms of Constantine

• A.D. 312
  – Constantine became emperor of the Western Empire

• A.D. 324
  – Constantine seized the Eastern Empire
  – Moved the capital to Byzantium
    • Renamed Constantinople (City of Constantine)
The Fall of the Roman Empire

Reforms of Diocletian & Constantine

• Ultimately, their reforms led to the decline of the Roman Empire
The Fall of the Roman Empire

Germanic Invasions

• Mongol nomads from Asia (Huns) invaded the northern borders of the empire
• A.D. 410
  – Germanic tribes flee Huns, enter Roman lands, and sack Rome
The Fall of the Roman Empire

Germanic Invasions

- **A.D. 444**
  - *Attila the Hun* united the Huns and plundered 70 cities in East
  - *Attacked Rome* in A.D. 452
Fall of the Roman Empire
An Empire No More

• Last Roman emperor falls to Germans in 476 A.D.
  – End of the Western Empire
• The East thrives for another thousand years
  – Called the Byzantine Empire
Legacy of the Roman Empire
The Legacy of Greco–Roman Civilization

• New Culture
  – Romans adopt aspects of Greek & Hellenistic culture
  – Results in Greco–Roman culture, or **classical** civilization
The Legacy of Rome
Latin Language

- Latin was the official language of the Roman Catholic Church until the 1900s
- Developed into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, & Romanian
  - More than ½ the words in English stem from Latin
The Legacy of Rome
Master Builders

• Pioneered the use of the **arch**
• **Concrete**
  – Used the arch & concrete in the construction of the Colosseum
• **Aqueducts**
  – Structures that brought water into cities & towns
The Legacy of Rome
Master Builders

- Domes
- Roman Baths
- Complex system of roads
The Legacy of Rome
Roman System of Law

- Principles of Roman law form the **basis of modern legal systems**
  - All persons had the right to equal treatment under the law
  - Person was considered innocent until proven guilty
  - Burden of proof rested with the accuser rather than the accused
  - Person should be punished only for actions, not thoughts
  - Any law that seemed unreasonable or grossly unfair could be set aside
The Legacy of Rome

Rome’s Enduring Influence

• By preserving and adding to Greek civilization, Rome strengthened the Western cultural tradition
  – “Rome never fell because it turned into something even greater – an idea – and achieved immortality.”
  – R.H. Barrow, Historian
The Rise of Christianity
The Rise of Christianity
Around 6–4 B.C. Jesus is

• Jesus
  – Jew born in Bethlehem
  – Raised in Nazareth
  – Baptized by prophet known as John the Baptist
  – Jesus became a carpenter
The Rise of Christianity
6 A.D. Rome conquers Judea

- Judea – **home of the Jews**
- Many Jews believe a Messiah, or savior, will eventually set them free from Roman rule
The Rise of Christianity
Around 26 A.D. Jesus begins public ministry

• Age 30
• Spent 3 years preaching monotheism & the Ten Commandments
• Does good works & reportedly performed miracles
  – Healing the sick, blind, & raising people from the dead
• Stressed personal relationship with God & love for friends & enemies
The Rise of Christianity
The Movement Grows

- **Apostles**
  - 12 men who became disciples (or pupils) of Jesus

- Jesus ignores wealth & status
  - His message appealed to the poor
The Rise of Christianity
A.D. 29 The Death of Jesus

• Differing Views
  – Many Jews viewed Jesus as the Messiah
  – Other Jews viewed him as a heretic
The Rise of Christianity
A.D. 29 The Death of Jesus

- **Pontius Pilate**
  - Accused Jesus of challenging the authority of Rome
  - Ordered Jesus to be **crucified** (nailed to a cross to die – the common method of execution during Roman times)
The Rise of Christianity
A.D. 29 The Death of Jesus

• Post-Death
  – His body disappeared from the tomb in which it was placed
  – This convinced Christians that he was Christos, or “savior”
  – Apostles believed & Christians today believe that Jesus rose from the dead 3 days after his death (resurrection), walked on earth, spoke to the apostles and others, and then ascended into Heaven
The Rise of Christianity
The Apostle Peter

- First apostle
- Jesus referred to him as the “rock” upon which the Christian Church would be built
The Rise of Christianity

Christianity Grows

• Followers began to spread Christianity
  – New religion based on Jesus’ teachings
The Rise of Christianity
The Apostle Paul

• Spent his life teaching & interpreting Christianity
• Common languages of Greek & Latin help to spread the message
• Paul stressed that Jesus is the Son of God who died for people’s sins
• Paul declared Christianity open to all converts
The Rise of Christianity
Jewish Rebellion

• Jews rebelled against Rome
  – Romans stormed Jerusalem and destroyed Temple
  – Rebellions in A.D. 66, 70, and 132 failed
    – **Jews were driven from the homeland**
• Diaspora (from Greek word meaning “dispersal”)
  – Centuries of Jewish exile
The Rise of Christianity
Persecution of the Christians

- Christians **refused** to worship **Roman gods**
  - They became enemies of Roman rule
- Roman rulers used Christians as scapegoats for hard times
- As the Pax Romana crumbled, Christians were crucified, burned, and killed in the arena
The Rise of Christianity

Christianity Expands

- Christianity’s Appeal
  - Embraces all people
  - Gives hope to the powerless
  - Appeals to those repelled by extravagances of Roman life
  - Offers a personal relationship with a loving God
  - Promises eternal life after death
The Rise of Christianity
A.D. 312 Emperor Constantine battles for control of Rome

• Has vision of a cross (Christian symbol)
  – Places the cross on his soldiers’ shields
  – Wins the battle & believes the Christian God helped him win

• Legalizes Christianity
The Rise of Christianity
A.D. 380 Emperor Theodosius

- Made **Christianity the official religion** of the Roman Empire
The Rise of Christianity
The Early Church

- **Priests** direct a single church
- **Bishops** supervise numerous churches
  - Apostle Peter – first bishop of Rome
  - Clergy trace their authority to him
- **Pope**
  - The father, or head, of the Christian Church
  - Rome = center of church (Vatican City)
The Rise of Christianity
A Single Voice

• Church leaders compile the standard Christian beliefs in the New Testament
  – The New Testament was added to the Hebrew Bible (also called the Old Testament)

• A.D. 325
  – Constantine calls church leaders to Nicaea in Anatolia
  – Wrote the Nicene Creed, which defined the basic beliefs of the church.
Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
The Rise of Christianity
Fathers of the Church

- Early writers & scholars of teachings are called Fathers of the Church
- **Augustine**, bishop in North Africa, is one of the most important
  - Stressed receiving sacraments to obtain God’s grace
  - Wrote the famous book, The City of God