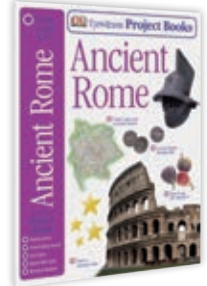




Content taken from



Early Rome

The Roman Empire was one of the biggest and best-organized empires in history. It began more than two thousand years ago, with the founding of the city of Rome in the country now called Italy. The early Roman civilization was influenced by two neighbouring peoples – the Etruscans and the Greeks.



Statue of the she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus

Founding Rome

According to legend, Rome was founded in 753 BCE by twin brothers, Romulus and Remus. It was built on seven hills beside the River Tiber, on the borders of the kingdom of Etruria.

FACT

Romulus and Remus were said to be sons of the war god, Mars.

The Etruscans

The Etruscan people lived in a group of city-states in northern Italy. Under their rule, Rome became a large city. It continued to be ruled by the Etruscans until 509 BCE, when the Roman nobles threw out an Etruscan king called Tarquin the Proud.

FACT

The Etruscans may have come from Asia Minor (now Turkey) before they settled in Italy.



Etruscan sculpted cremation urn

The Greeks

The Romans were also influenced by the Greek civilization. The Greeks had founded cities across southern Italy. Many of the cities were wealthy, with fine houses and beautiful temples.



The Romans built temples based on ancient Greek designs.

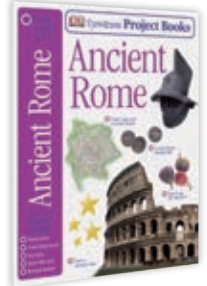
FACT

The Romans admired and copied the realistic figures in Greek art and sculpture.



Ruins of a Greek theatre in southern Italy





Content taken from

Master builders

The Romans were skilled engineers and builders. They constructed thousands of temples, theatres, bridges, aqueducts (bridges to carry water), and roads throughout the Empire. Many were built of stone, brick, marble, and a kind of concrete, and are still standing today.

Roman roads

The Romans built a vast network of roads that criss-crossed their empire. The roads were usually built by the Roman army. They were as straight, wide, and smooth as possible, so that people could travel easily and quickly. The roads were used by government officials and merchants, as well as the army.

FACT

Many Roman roads were so well built that they have survived right up to the present day.

Aqueducts

Roman engineers cut channels into rocky hillsides to bring water from natural springs in the mountains down to the towns and cities. Where the water had to cross a valley, they built an aqueduct, or water bridge.



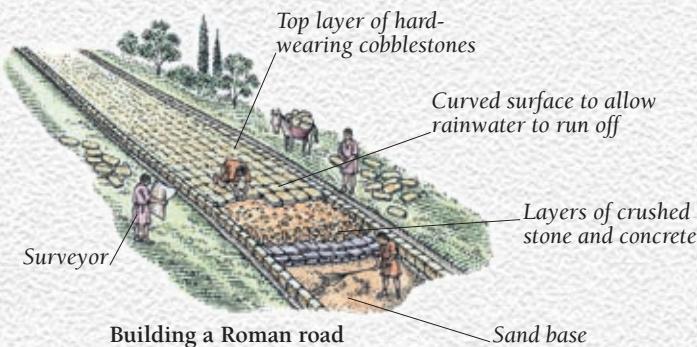
Roman aqueduct in Segovia, Spain

Domes

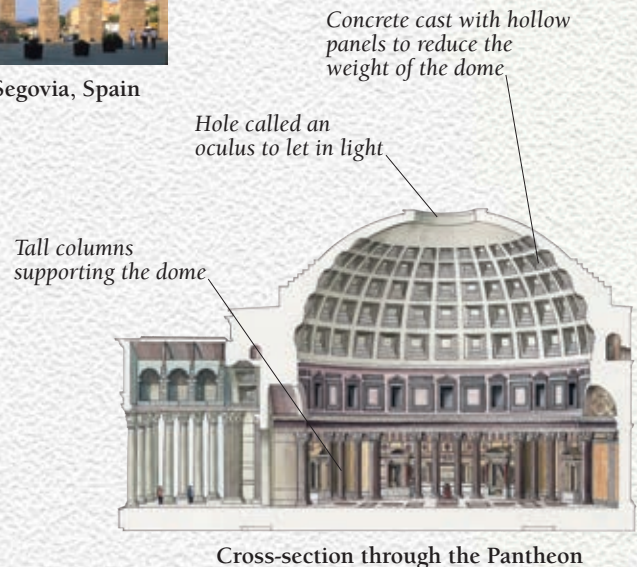
The Romans invented the domed roof by crossing a series of arches over each other. Their domes were largely built out of concrete, moulded (or cast) into shape around a wooden frame. The most famous dome is that of the Pantheon temple in Rome.

FACT

The Romans had invented concrete in the 2nd century BCE. It was the perfect material for building domes because it was strong, yet lighter than stone, and could be moulded into shape.



Building a Roman road

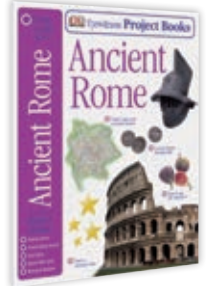


Cross-section through the Pantheon





Content taken from

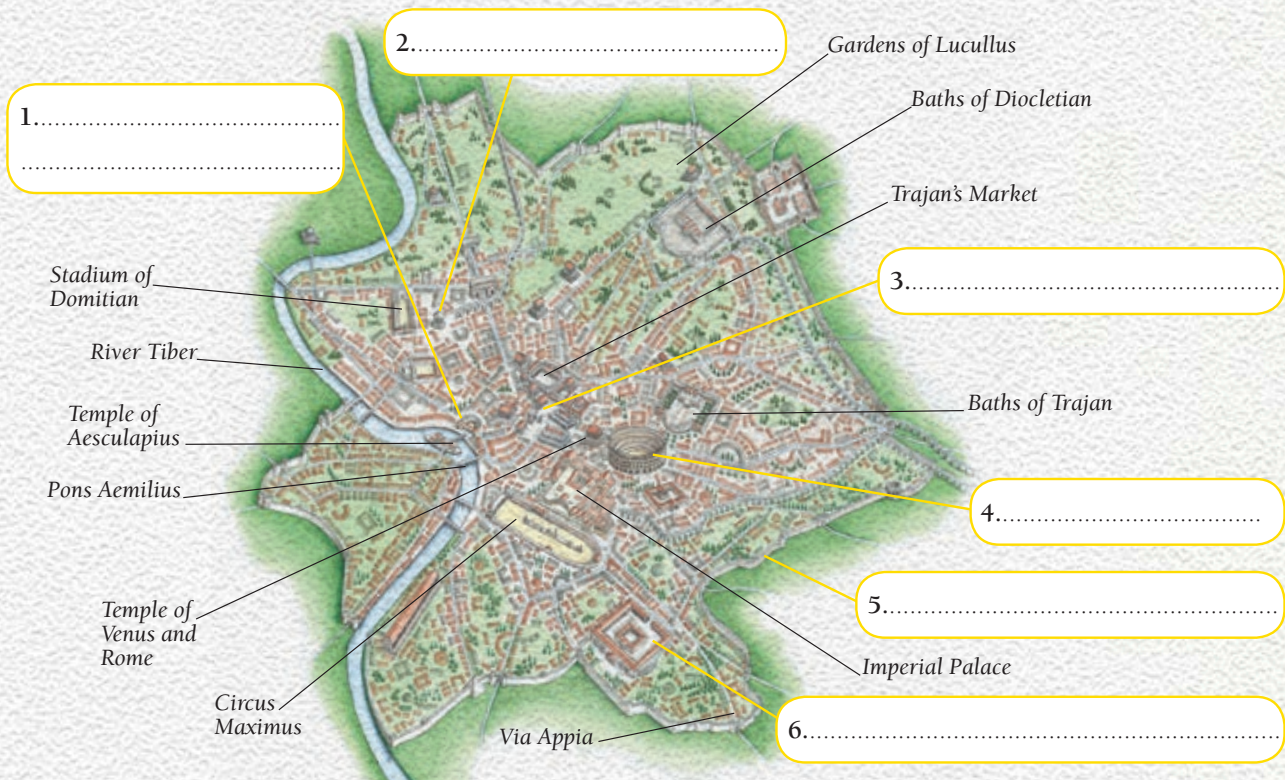


The city of Rome

Over a few hundred years, Rome grew from a small hilltop settlement into the largest, most magnificent city in the ancient world. Emperors commissioned public buildings, such as temples, theatres, and bathhouses, to show off the Empire's great power and wealth. There were fountains for drinking water, and beautiful marble statues decorating the main streets and meeting places.

Label the map of Rome

Finish labelling the important landmarks on this map of Rome according to the descriptions given in the box below.



Rome landmarks

Aurelian Wall Wall built around the whole city of Rome, completed in 280 CE.

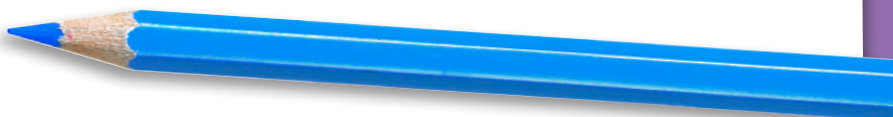
Baths of Caracalla Public bathhouse set within a vast walled square. They are situated near the Via Appia.

Colosseum Huge amphitheatre (circular building with tiers of seats round an arena), standing next to the Baths of Trajan.

Pantheon Domed temple dedicated to all the Roman gods, situated next to the Stadium of Domitian.

Roman Forum Open space near Trajan's Market, surrounded by public buildings.

Theatre of Marcellus Semicircular theatre standing on the banks of the Tiber, opposite the Temple of Aesculapius.





Content taken from

Hail Caesar!

Gaius Julius Caesar (c. 100–44 BCE) was a great military leader and politician who saw victory in war as a way of winning power, wealth, and fame. He became the sole ruler of Rome in 48 BCE, and played a large part in turning the Roman Republic into what was to become the Roman Empire.

a. Caesar becomes consul and joins forces with two other senators, Pompey and Crassus. The three men rule Rome together, and are known as the First Triumvirate.



The following pictures and captions tell the story of Caesar's career. Find out about Caesar then number them in the correct order, starting with the earliest event.

(Answers on the final page).

b. Caesar is elected Pontifex Maximus (chief priest) of Rome in 63 BCE. The following year he becomes governor of Hispania. Caesar rules successfully in Hispania, expanding Roman rule.



c. Caesar is murdered by a group of senators, led by Brutus and Cassius, who want to restore the Republic.

d. Caesar defeats Pompey's troops in Greece and becomes sole ruler. He returns to Rome in triumph in 45 BCE, and holds magnificent parades and feasts to celebrate his victories.



e. Caesar is made governor of part of Gaul (southern France). He starts the Gallic Wars and conquers most of Gaul for Rome.



f. Caesar is ordered back to Rome by the senate, who fear he is becoming too powerful. He leads his troops across the Rubicon River at the northern frontier of Italy, starting a civil war.



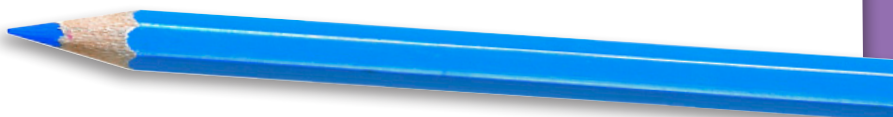
g. Caesar starts his political career in 69 BCE, when he is elected quaestor (financial administrator) in the senate. He soon earns a reputation as a good public speaker.

Did you know?

Images of Caesar in later life show him with his hair combed forward to hide his baldness.

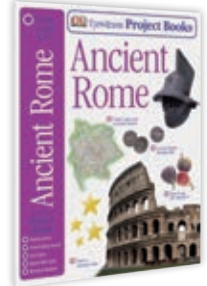


h. As dictator of Rome, Caesar makes many reforms. Although his reforms are popular, he acts as if he is a king, without consulting the senate.





Content taken from

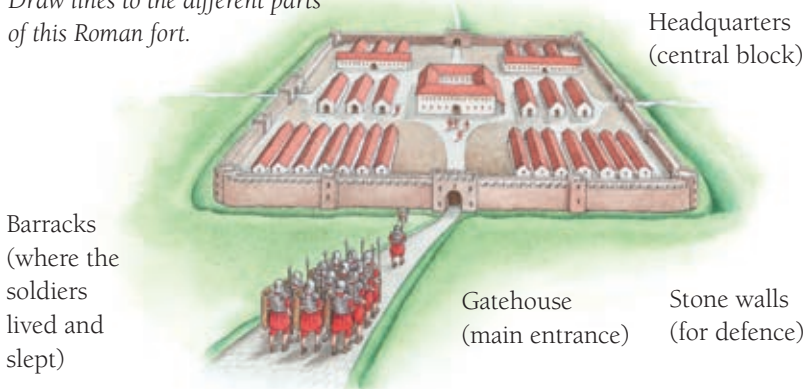


Into battle

The Roman army was highly skilled in battle tactics and attacking a fortified, or walled, town. If a town refused to surrender, the legionaries built siege towers so they could climb over the walls. They also hammered at the gates with massive battering rams. When attacking, the soldiers marched with their shields over their heads in a defensive formation called a testudo, meaning tortoise.

A Roman fort

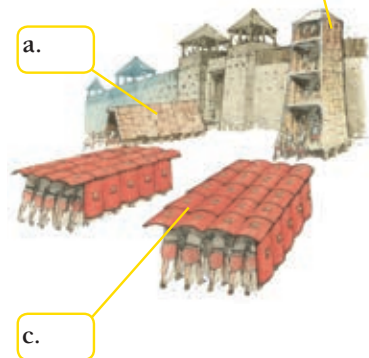
Draw lines to the different parts of this Roman fort.



Siege warfare

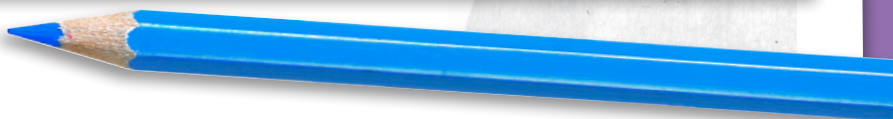
Number the following items on the picture of Roman soldiers attacking a fortified town. Use the information on this page to help you.

1. Testudo
2. Siege tower
3. Covered battering ram



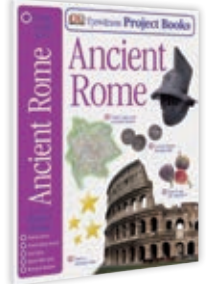
Design a standard

Each legion, cohort, and century had its own standard (flag) – its most prized possession. Look at the picture below, then design your own standard in the space provided.





Content taken from



Answers

Label the map of Rome

- 1 Theatre of Marcellus
- 2 Pantheon
- 3 Roman Forum
- 4 Colosseum
- 5 Aurelian Wall
- 6 Baths of Caracalla

Hail Caesar

- 1 g
- 2 b
- 3 a
- 4 e
- 5 f
- 6 d
- 7 h
- 8 c

Siege warfare

- a 3
- b 2
- c 1

A Roman fort

