

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 4 Rome Builds an Empire

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What are the characteristics of a leader?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did Augustus create a new age of prosperity for Rome?*
2. *How did the Roman Empire become rich and prosperous?*

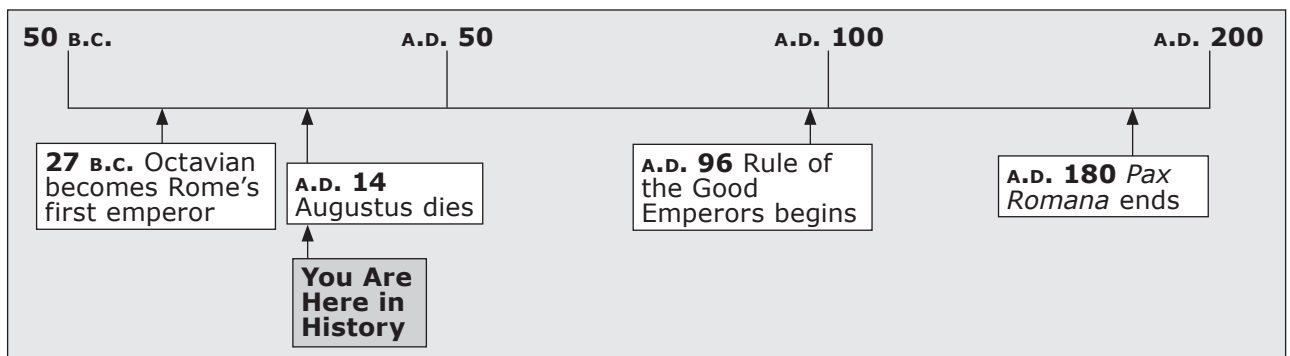
Terms to Know

Pax Romana Roman peace; a long period of peace and prosperity in Roman history
proconsul governor

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 4 Rome Builds an Empire, *Continued*

The Rule of Augustus

For hundreds of years, there had been fighting in the area around the Mediterranean Sea. Caesar Augustus (formerly called Octavian) ended the fighting. He took control of the whole area. That brought ***Pax Romana***, or “Roman peace.” This peace lasted about 200 years.

- Augustus wanted to make the empire strong and safe.
- He wanted Rome’s borders to be easier to defend, so he made the natural physical features of the land the empire’s borders.
- Augustus built beautiful buildings out of marble.
- Augustus handed out grain from Africa to the poor. He believed that well-fed people would not rebel against him.
- The Roman Empire was divided into provinces. Augustus appointed a **proconsul**, or governor, for each province.
- He changed the tax laws. He made tax collectors government workers and paid them wages.
- Augustus also changed Rome's legal system. He made a set of laws for free men who were not citizens. Many of them later became citizens.

Augustus ruled Rome for almost 40 years. He died in A.D. 14. His adopted son, Tiberius, became emperor after Augustus. The next three emperors—Caligula, Claudius, and Nero—were also relatives. They are called the Julio-Claudian emperors.

Not all of them were good rulers. Tiberius and Claudius ruled well. In contrast, Caligula and Nero were very cruel. Caligula killed many people, wasted a lot of money, and even made his horse a consul. Nero also killed many people, including his mother and two wives. He finally killed himself.

The Roman Peace

In A.D. 69 a general named Vespasian restored peace. Vespasian stopped several rebellions. After he died, his son Titus ruled. Two disasters struck while Titus was emperor. First, the volcano Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the city of Pompeii. Second, a large fire damaged Rome. After Titus, Vespasian’s other son, Domitian, ruled. Both of Vespasian’s sons helped Rome grow and prosper.

Marking the Text

1. Underline how long the *Pax Romana* lasted.

Defining

2. What was a *proconsul*?

FOLDABLES

Summarizing

3. Place a three-tab Foldable along the dotted line. Label the three tabs—*Augustus, Julio-Claudian emperors, and Vespasian and his sons*. Summarize how each person or group ruled Rome. Use both sides of the tabs.

Reading Check

4. How did Augustus protect Rome's borders?

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 4 Rome Builds an Empire, *Continued*

Comparing

5. What did all five of the Good Emperors build?

Identifying

6. Which emperor passed laws to help orphans?

Listing

7. Which emperors improved Rome by building things?

Explaining

8. Why was Trajan's empire hard to rule well?

From A.D. 96 to A.D. 180, a series of “good emperors” came to power. They were Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius. During their rule, trade grew and people had a better life than before.

The Five Good Emperors ruled wisely. All five built roads, bridges, monuments, harbors, and aqueducts. An aqueduct is a channel that carries water for long distances.

The Five Good Emperors

Emperor	Good Works
Nerva A.D. 96–98	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changed land laws to help the poor • Revised taxes
Trajan A.D. 98–117	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded the empire to its largest size • Built many new public works
Hadrian A.D. 117–138	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built Hadrian's Wall in Britain • Made Roman laws easier to understand
Antoninus Pius A.D. 138–161	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoted art and science • Built new public works • Passed laws to help orphans
Marcus Aurelius A.D. 161–180	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped unite the empire economically • Reformed Roman law

The empire was biggest in size when Trajan ruled. It spread from the Mediterranean to Britain in the northeast and Mesopotamia in the east. This made the empire too big to rule well. Many rulers after Trajan pulled troops out of areas they could not defend well. For example, Hadrian pulled troops out of Mesopotamia. He made the empire's boundaries at the Rhine and the Danube Rivers stronger.

By the A.D. 100s, the Roman Empire was one of the largest empires in history. It had 3.5 million square miles (9.1 million square km) of land. The empire was united because people thought of themselves as Romans. Even if they spoke different languages, they had the same laws, rulers, and culture. By A.D. 212, every free person was thought of as a Roman citizen.

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 4 Rome Builds an Empire, *Continued*

Agriculture was the most important part of the empire's economy. Some cities became centers for making pottery, cloth, and brass. Traders came from all over the world to ports in Italy. They brought silk from China, spices from India, tin from Britain, lead from Spain, and iron from Gaul.

The Roman Empire had a good system of paved roads. This helped trade grow. The Roman navy kept pirates off the Mediterranean Sea. This made it safer for ships to bring goods in and out of the empire's ports.

By A.D. 100, everyone in the empire used a common currency, or money. This made it easy to trade. It meant that a merchant in Greece could sell to a person in Italy or Egypt. People also used a system of weights and measures to set prices, trade, and ship goods.

Many people became wealthy. However, most people in the cities and on the farms were still poor. Many other people were still enslaved.

//////////////////// Glue Foldable here //////////////////////

Check for Understanding
List at least one accomplishment of each Roman emperor.

1. Augustus _____
2. Vespasian _____
3. Trajan _____
4. Hadrian _____



Listing

9. List three products that traders brought into Rome's ports.



Reading Check

10. Why were five of Rome's rulers known as the "good emperors?"



11. Place a one-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Characteristics of ...* and write ... *Roman emperors* in the middle of the tab. Make a memory map by drawing five arrows around the title. Write five words or phrases about Roman emperors. Use your notes to help you answer the questions under the tabs.