

9th Grade Fall of Roman Empire Inquiry

Did the Roman Empire Fall?

Staging the Question: Debate the extent to which mathematicians can predict the rise and fall of empires.

Social Studies Practices

🗳️ **Gathering, Using, and Interpreting Evidence** 🕒 **Chronological Reasoning and Causation**

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4
What made the Roman conquests an empire?	Why did the Roman Empire fall?	Was the Roman Empire's fall an abrupt change?	To what extent did the Roman Empire transform?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
List and describe the characteristics and attributes of the Roman Empire.	Write a summary explaining accepted reasons for why Roman Empire fell.	Develop a claim supported by evidence about the extent to which the fall of Rome reflected swift and abrupt changes.	Develop a claim supported by evidence about the extent to which Rome slowly transformed rather than fell.
Integration of Inquiry Process and Skills			
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4
Connect: Uses sources to acquire background information and brainstorms ideas for further inquiry by reading two articles about how mathematics and history can predict the fall of empires and discussing causal factors and consequences of the fall of empires. Graphic Organizer: Connect#11	Connect: Identifies key words and ideas that appear in background information and class conversation about the fall of the Roman Empire.	Connect:	Connect: Develops a schema or mind map to express the big idea and the relationships among supporting ideas and topics of interest about the transformation of Rome. Graphic Organizer: Connect#20
Wonder: Asks questions to clarify topics or details about the Roman Empire. Graphic Organizer: Wonder#6	Wonder: Analyzes and evaluates what is known, observed or experienced to form tentative thesis or hypothesis about why the Roman Empire fell. Graphic Organizer: Wonder#12	Wonder: Refines questions to guide the search for different types of information about the fall of the Roman Empire. Graphic Organizer: Wonder#15	Wonder: Determines the kind of information needed to investigate the complexities of the topic and whether different points of view will be important concerning the transformation of the Roman Empire.
Investigate: Seeks and uses many different sources in a variety of formats to obtain balanced and complex information and to fill information needs effectively by examining a map of territories of the Roman Empire circa 200 CE, reading a synopsis of <i>Rome: An Empire's Story</i> , and exploring a map-layering (GIS) program.	Investigate: Takes notes using one or more of a variety of notetaking strategies, including reflecting on the information, while reading excerpts and articles about the fall of the Roman Empire, its problematic tax structure, and misconceptions about its demise as well as the practical cost of keeping the Empire going. Graphic Organizer: Investigate#85	Investigate: Recognizes the effect of different perspectives and points of view on information while reading an excerpt from historian Peter Heather's book, classicist Livio C. Stecchini's book, and archaeologist Bryan Ward-Perkins' article. Graphic Organizer: Investigate#76	Investigate: Pursues a balanced perspective of fact, opinion, and different points of view by reading an excerpt from <i>Roman Realities</i> , an excerpt from a <i>National Geographic</i> article, and an argument stating that the fall of Rome was the creation of historians. C3 Resources
Construct: Lists and describes the characteristics and attributes of the Roman Empire.	Construct: Organizes notes and ideas using both print and electronic tools to create the most appropriate organizational pattern to express the connections and patterns.	Construct: Organizes information independently, deciding the structure based on the relationships among ideas and general patterns discovered. Graphic Organizer: Construct#36 and Construct#37	Construct: Combines ideas and information to develop and demonstrate new understanding.
Express:	Express: Writes a summary explaining accepted reasons for why Roman Empire fell.	Express: Develops a claim supported by evidence about the extent to which the fall of Rome reflected swift and abrupt changes.	Express: Develops a claim supported by evidence about the extent to which Rome slowly transformed rather than fell.
Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect:	Reflect: Identifies own strengths and sets goals for improvement. Graphic Organizer: Reflect#20 and Reflect#21
Summative Performance Task: Argument: Did the Roman Empire fall? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary and historical sources while acknowledging competing views. Extension: Examine a textbook description of the fall of the Roman Empire and either write a revision or explain why it is wholly accurate.			