



# ANCIENT ROME

Section 1, 2, 4, and 5  
Pages 208 to 241 in the Ancient World Book

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Romans Valued

- Rome's  
Geographical  
Advantages

- Loyalty and Justice
- People that broke the law would be severely punished.
- Romans believed that having the favor of the gods was very important.
- Rome was built on 7 hills
  - Hills made the area easy to defend
- The soil was fertile
  - Grow a lot of food
- The area had a good source of water
  - The Tiber River

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Rome's Geographical Advantages

- The Etruscans

- Etruscan ideas that the Romans took as their own.

- The location of Rome was good
  - Rome was at the center of the narrow peninsula we call Italy, Italy was at the center of the Mediterranean sea. And the Mediterranean Sea was at the center of the known Western world.
- 600 BC the Etruscans took power in Rome
- 509 Romans revolted and drove the Etruscans from power. Romans did not like being ruled by kings.
- Roman gods were originally Etruscan
- The Greek alphabet
- A garment called the toga

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Roman Republic

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- After driving the last Etruscan king from the throne, the Romans vowed never again to put so much trust in kings.
- Republic
  - Citizens who have the right to vote, select their leaders
- The Republic was lead by two chief officials called **Consuls**.
  - Consuls power was limited
    - Ruled for 1 year
    - Power was divided equally between the consuls.
      - Both had to agree before the government could take any action.
      - A consul could **veto** or reject any planned action by the other consul.

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Roman Republic

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- The Senate is the most powerful part of the government (not the Consuls)
  - The Senate advised the consuls on foreign affairs, laws, and finances. The Consuls almost always took the senate's advice.
- At 1<sup>st</sup> the Senate was made up of 300 men called **patricians** (members of the wealthy upper-class)
- **Plebeians** or ordinary citizens
- 367 BC a new law said that at least 1 consul had to be a plebeian and from that point they could also be senators.

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Roman Republic

- Patricians VS  
Plebeians

- If there was an emergency they would place a dictator (ruler who has total control of the government) in charge for 6 month to handle the emergency.
- Patricians benefited from Rome's conquests.
  - Bought land from small farmers
  - Slaves from conquests would take plebeian job on the farms.
  - The cities, especially Rome, were filled with jobless plebeians.
  - Plebeians formed groups to protect their own interests.
  - Angry plebeians refused to fight in the Roman army.
    - Patricians gave in to demands for a written code of laws called the Twelve Tables, which applied equally to all citizens.

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Roman Conquest

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- Imperialism – the practice of gaining control over foreign lands and peoples.
- Roman Armies invaded and controlled:
  - Carthage
    - A North African city in present day Tunisia
  - Spain
  - Conquered Greece
  - People of Gaul
    - Present day France

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Decline of the Republic

- 120 BC
  - Generals gathered private armies and fought for power
  - Consuls no longer respected each others veto power
  - Rome fell into civil disorder, with private armies roaming the streets and murdering their enemies.



# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Julius Caesar

- Caesar conquered Gaul in 58 to 51 BC.
- His strong leadership won him the loyalty of his troops and they would follow him anywhere.
- 49 BC War broke out between Caesar and the Senate. Caesar won and became dictator of all of Rome.
- 45 BC he became the only consul
- 44 BC he became dictator for life.
- Caesar made many important government reforms, but the senators hated the idea that Rome seemed to be once again ruled by a king.
- March 15<sup>th</sup> 44 BC Caesar was killed by the Senate.

# CHAPTER 7 SECTION 1

- Republic to Empire

- After Caesar's death, civil war broke out.
- 13 years later a man named Octavian will win the war and take power 27BC.
- The Senate will award Octavian the title Augustus, meaning highly respected.
- Augustus will become the 1<sup>st</sup> emperor of Rome.
- Rome had the largest elected government the world had seen to that point.
- The Republic lasted 500 years and now the empire will go for another 500.