

Romans Knowledge Organiser

The ancient Romans were one of the most advanced and successful civilisations in history. Two thousand years ago, they created a huge and extremely well organised Empire. They built large towns, roads and structures, some of which can still be seen today.

Throughout the Empire, the Roman way of life was followed. People wore Roman clothes, worshipped Roman gods and used Roman currency to buy and trade. Part of this success was because foreigners in conquered lands could become a Roman citizen.

At their most successful time (in 117 CE) the Roman Empire was 2,300 miles from north to south and 2,500 miles from east to west. All the lands around the Mediterranean Sea formed one empire which was ruled by the Romans.



An illustrated map of the Roman Empire.

Roman Numerals

Romans used symbols which could be used to write any number.

I	=	1
V	=	5
X	=	10
L	=	50
C	=	100
D	=	500
M	=	1000

Here are some

examples:

IX = 9

XXVII = 27

DXCV = 595

Timeline

753 BCE	Building of the city of Rome started.
206 BCE	The Romans conquered Spain.
146 BCE	The Romans conquered Greece.
100 BCE	Julius Caesar was born.
55 BCE	Julius Caesar first invaded Britain.
44 BCE	Julius Caesar was assassinated.
27 BCE	Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, came to power.
43 CE	The conquest of Britain began, under Emperor Claudius.
61 CE	Queen Boudicca led a revolt against the Romans.
130 CE	Hadrian's Wall was completed.
410 CE	The end of Roman rule in Britain.
476 CE	The end of the Roman Empire.

Roman Families

The Romans spoke Latin and our word 'family' comes from their word 'familia' (meaning household). Romans liked large families because a big family meant that it could become more wealthy and powerful.

There were three main classes of citizen:

- Nobiles (Higher class)
- Equites (Middle class)
- Plebeians (Lower class)

Non-citizens were probably slaves or were born in the provinces. Slaves were considered to be part of the family household, although some were treated poorly.



Romans Vocabulary

Amphitheatre	A large circular stadium with a central sanded area where performances and events took place.
Amphora	A large pottery jug used to store wine or oil.
Aqueduct	A system of pipes and channels used to carry fresh water from rivers and springs into town areas.
Arena	The central area of a stadium where all the events took place.
Atrium	An open courtyard in the centre of a Roman house.
Auxiliary	A soldier who was not a Roman citizen.
Barbarian	Anyone who was a foreigner and enemy to the Romans and did not adopt Roman ways.
Centurion	An officer in the Roman army.
Century	A group of 80 men in the Roman army.
Citizen	A Roman man who could vote and serve in the army.
Cohort	A group of 480 soldiers in the Roman army.
Colosseum	A huge amphitheater in the Roman army.
Denarius	A Roman coin.
Emperor	The ruler of an empire.
Empire	A large area of land, ruled by a single authority.
Forum	A large open square that was used for public meetings.
Gladiator	A professional fighter who fought other gladiators and against wild animals to entertain people.
Grammaticus	A Roman teacher who taught boys about the Greek alphabet.
Latin	The language spoken by Romans.
Legion	The main battle unit of the Roman army, with 6000 men.
Mosaic	A decoration made using small stones to make pictures and patterns.
Papyrus	Thin paper-like material.
Senate	The governing body of Rome.
Stylus	A pointed stick used for writing on wax.
Temple	A building used to worship gods and goddesses.
Toga	A piece of Roman clothing, like a loosely folded cloak.
Underworld	A dark and gloomy place that Romans believed people went when they died.



Warfare

The Romans had a strong, successful Empire because their army was powerful and well organised. It was divided into legions, with 6,000 men in each! They used carefully planned formations in battle and strong fortresses were also built to protect the Empire.

Houses and Towns

Very poor Romans lived in apartment blocks known as insulae. However, wealthier people could afford a domus (a town house) and a villa (a country house). These were decorated with mosaics and had central heating and an open courtyard. In the town, people would visit the forum (a large open courtyard), shops, temples (to pray) and the baths (to wash, swim and meet friends).



Other Facts

- Most children (especially girls) learned from their parents, so they didn't attend school. Those who did go to school learned to write using wax tablets and a stylus.
- Wealthy men and boys wore togas, while women wore under-tunics and robes. Leather sandals were also worn, along with jewellery made from bronze and glass.
- People enjoyed watching chariot racing and gladiator fights in large amphitheatres. They also watched performances in theatres, where actors often wore masks on their faces.
- The Romans worshipped hundreds of gods and goddesses. Some of these included:
 - Jupiter (the god of the sky and king of the gods),
 - Juno (patron goddess of women and Jupiter's wife),
 - Neptune (god of the sea and Jupiter's brother),
 - Venus (goddess of love and beauty),
 - Mars (god of war) and Pluto (god of the Dead).

