

## **Roman Empire Project (Honors)**

The Roman Empire was one of the largest, most complex, most powerful and most influential empires in human history. With this project, you will research one of the major topics important to Roman civilization in order to learn more about what made their civilization so powerful.

Your task will be to use online sources to gather information about your topic and then create an infographic that you will use to teach the class. In addition to gathering information on your topic, you will also have a "situation" pertaining to your topic that you will have to develop a solution to. These were problems that the Romans faced during their empire. Some of them they were able to solve, and some became the undoing of the empire. Learn more about how the Romans dealt with these problems, and how they possibly could have been avoided and/or dealt with more effectively.

### **Topics**

#### **1. Roman Society- Patricians & Plebeians**

- Describe the two major social groups in Roman society. Who made up these groups? What role or purpose did they have in Roman society? How was it determined into which group a person belonged?

Situation: Members of these social groups didn't always get along. What conflicts occurred between these social groups? What role did each of the groups play in these conflicts? How did those that were in power stay in power?

#### **2. Roman Religion**

- Roman religion was at the heart of its society. The gods and goddesses that they worshipped were borrowed and adapted from Ancient Greece. Describe the major gods and goddesses, rituals, ceremonies, and festivals important to the religion.

Situation: Historians view the rise of Christianity as one of the major causes of the downfall of the Roman Empire. What threat did the Christians pose to the Romans? How did the Romans deal with this threat? How did Christianity go from an illegal religious cult to the only legal religion of Rome?

#### **3. Daily Life & Entertainment**

- For much of Rome's history, if you were Roman, life was pretty good, but what was it really like to be Roman? What were their daily lives like? What jobs did they have? What kinds of houses did they live in? What religion did they practice? What did they do for fun?

Situation: Roman life wasn't always peaceful and prosperous. Life was often very violent. How did life in ancient Rome, specifically entertainment, turn violent? How did it become a tool used by the powerful to control and punish the people? Did the people really want or like this form of entertainment? How might this had been handled differently in order to still provide the people with entertainment but avoid the levels of violence and subjugation they experienced during the empire?

#### **4. Julius Caesar**

- At the end of the Republic, Rome was involved in two civil wars. One of the most powerful leaders to emerge from this period was Julius Caesar. Who was Julius Caesar? How was he involved in these civil wars? How did he rise to power? What was his reign like? What eventually happened to him?

Situation: The reign of Julius Caesar was a tumultuous time for Rome. Explain how his rule became the eventual undoing of the Republic and eventually lead to the creation of the Empire. Could this have been avoided or dealt with differently?

## **5. Augustus**

- The Roman Empire began in the late 1st century BCE with the reign of Augustus. From his reign until the end of the reign of Marcus Aurelius, with the exception of a few poor emperors, the Roman Empire enjoyed unprecedented power, expansion, wealth, and prestige. This period was known as the Pax Romana. Discuss the major accomplishments of Rome's first and possibly greatest emperor. How did he help make Rome into one of the world's great civilizations?

Situation: Life wasn't perfect for Romans during this time however. Discuss some of the bad emperors that followed Augustus, explain the reasons why they were so ineffective and how Rome dealt with their poor leadership.

## **6. Architecture**

- The Romans are well known for their technological and architectural achievements. Describe how they built some of their most famous structures including their roads, aqueducts, stadiums, baths, palaces, and government buildings. What influences from Rome can still be seen in our society today?

Situation: The influence of Roman architecture is significant, however, it did not come without a price. What problems did the Romans face while building and spreading their empire and culture? How did they deal with these problems? How might they have better dealt with these issues?

## **7. Barbarians & Border Security**

- One of the major reasons that the Roman Empire fell was the difficulty they faced in protecting the borders of the empire from various barbarian tribes. Research the most notorious tribes that the Romans had to deal with including; the Visigoths, the Vandals, and the Huns.

Situation: Due to the vast size of the empire, the Romans were constantly facing threats from outside forces. What conflicts arose because of these groups? When did they occur? Who won these conflicts and why? Did they ever get along, if so, how? What could they have done differently to better handle the situation?

## **8. Roman Army**

- The Roman army was organized and run like a well oiled machine. It was one of the best, if not the best, in the ancient world. How did it work? How was it organized? Who was in charge of it? How did they raise and pay for the army? How did they move, feed, and supply the troops? What was it like to be a soldier?

Situation: What problems arose as the military and empire expanded to its largest extent? Why did the army become weak and unorganized at the middle and end of the empire? How might this problem have been avoided?

## **9. Food Distribution & Trade**

- The Roman Empire was enormous and at its height was estimated to have a population over 50 million people. What did Romans eat? How and where did they grow their food? Where did they get food from? Who did they trade with and for what? How did they bring it into the empire? How and where did they store it? Who did all of this work?

Situation: During the most prosperous times of the empire, Romans relied heavily on slaves to produce their food and on food imported from their conquered territories. What problems did the empire experience with the food supply and distribution at the end of the empire? How might they have better dealt with this situation?

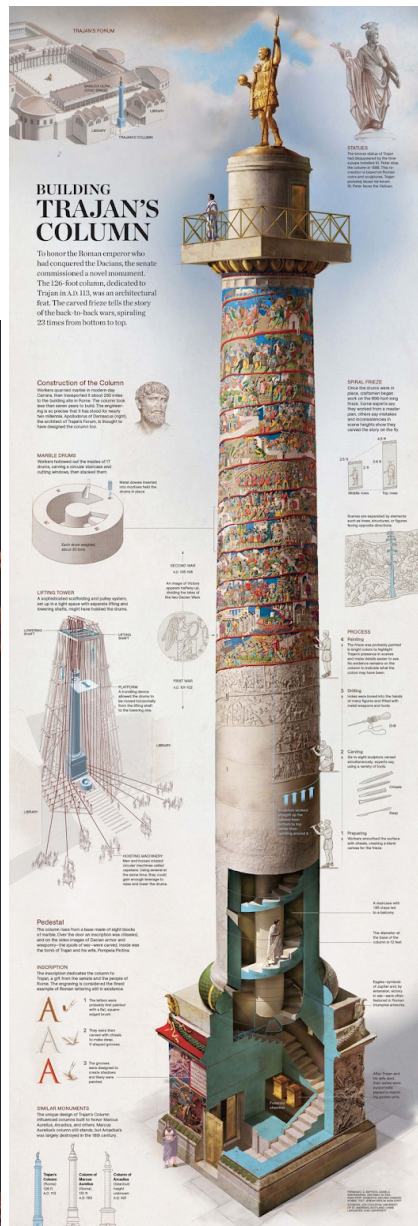
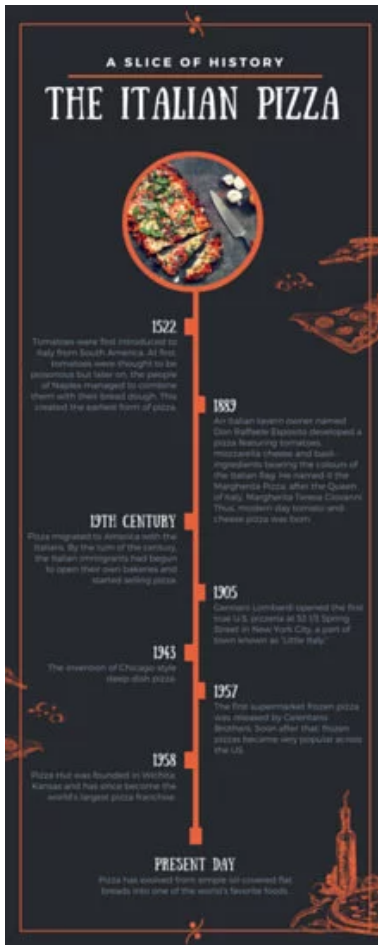
## 10. Roman Slave Labor

- Different groups of people throughout Roman society played various important roles in order to help the overall society function. One of those groups of people were slaves. Slaves made up a large part of Rome's labor force. Who were these slaves? Where did they come from? Where and how did they live? How were they treated?

**Situation:** Despite Rome's enormous wealth and power, as the empire grew, the Romans began to develop an overreliance on slave labor. What problems did Rome face as a result of having too many slaves in their empire? Who was Spartacus and what impact did he have on Rome? How might they have better handled this situation?

## Project Goals:

Develop a historical infographic based on the topic you chose.



**Putting People First**

**MARCUS** **BRUTUS**

*Committed to Reviving Rome One Person at a Time*

**Looks out for the wellbeing of the nation:**  
Act 3 Scene 2 Page 1: Brutus: "If there's anyone in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, I say to him that my love for Caesar was no less than his. If, then, that friend demands to know why I rose up against Caesar, this is my answer: 'It's not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.'"

**Selfless and cares for those less than him. Cares for his people:**  
Act 4 Scene 3 Page 4: Brutus: "I'd rather turn my heart into money and my drops of blood into coins than use crooked tactics to wring petty cash from the hardworking hands of peasants."

**Sets aside personal emotions to get a task done:**  
Act 5 Scene 3 Page 6: Brutus: "Friends, I owe more tears to this dead man than you will see me shed. I will find the time to cry for you, Cassius, I'll find the time."

**He is able to listen and evaluate situations:**  
Act 4 Scene 2 Page 3: Brutus: "In my tent, you can elaborate on your complaints, and I'll listen."

## Tribute

**Mark Antony**  
"This was the noblest Roman of them all. All the rest of the conspirators acted out of jealousy of great Caesar. Only he acted from honesty and for the general good."

**Casca**  
"Oh, the people love him well! Things that would look bad if we did them, Brutus could do and look virtuous!"

**Maximilian the Fourth Plebeian**  
"Caesar's better qualities exist in Brutus, and we will crown him."

Requirements:

Category	Clench (10)	Sighs (13)	Grins (15)	Claps (17)	Tops (20)
Visuals: The quality and context are important	At least one visual of any kind or quality	At least one visual of good quality and related to topic	At least one main visual and two supporting visuals	At least one main visual and three supporting visuals	At least one main visual, four support and they enhance the message
Data: Quantitative support for your topic	At least one statistic	At least one statistic that is accurate/ relevant and cited	At least two statistics that are accurate, relevant and cited	At least three statistics that are accurate, relevant and cited	At least three statistics that are accurate, relevant, cited, and enhance the overall message
Content: Qualitative support for your topic	At least one peice of qualitative content	At least one peice of qualitative content and cited	At least two qualitative components and cited	At least three qualitative components that are relative and cited	At least three qualitative components that are relevant, cited an enhance the message
Problem: Focus on one of the main problems of your topic	Simply state the problem	State the problem with proof	State the problem in the APE method	State the problem in the APE Method	State the problem in the APE method and have it connected to the rest of the infographic
Solution: Should be original and supported	Simple unoriginal solution	Simple original solution	Solution that is supported with reason	Solution that is supported with reason and evidence	Solution that is supported with reason, evidence and is integrated into the project

These are the free sites that can be (but not required) used to create your infographic.

[Canva](#)  
[Visme](#)

[Piktochart](#)  
[Snappa](#)

[Vennage](#)  
[Infogram](#)

[Be Funky](#)