

Ancient Rome: Roman Origins and Government**

- No written record of the origins of Rome exist
- People probably lived in Rome starting in 800sBCE
- Romans wanted a glorious past, so they created stories and legends
- Aeneas lived in the city of Troy
- When the Greeks destroyed Troy, he fled
 - Looking for a new place to settle
- After an adventurous journey, he reached Italy
 - Settled in the area of Rome
- Aeneas married into a group of people
 - Called Latins
 - Eventually, his descendants ruled Rome
- Aeneas' story is the Aenid – an epic poem
- Romulus and Remus were descendants of Aeneas
- Romulus and Remus were raised by a wolf
 - Then the shepherd Faustulus
- Eventually, Romulus killed Remus and built Rome
- According to legend, Romulus became king in 753BCE
- Eventually, Rome was ruled by a groups of people called Etruscans
 - Etruscans came from north of Rome
 - Etruscans built temples and Rome's first sewer
 - Romans may have learned their alphabet and numbers from the Etruscans
- 509BCE – Monarchy was overthrown and a new government was created
 - The Romans created a Republic
 - Republic – People elect leaders to govern them
- Leaders only stayed in power for one year
 - No one could become too powerful
- Rome was not a democracy
 - Only people elected were from the upper class
- Romans had problems with outside groups around them for ~50 years
- During difficult wars, Romans chose leaders called dictators
 - Dictator – someone who rules with absolute power
- These dictators were to lead the city for only 6 months
- One of the most famous dictators was Cincinnatus
- He came to power in 458BCE
- He had to defeat a powerful enemy
 - He was able to do so quickly
 - As soon as he won the war, he resigned
 - Even though his 6 months were not up
- He is highly respected for giving up his power
- Roman society was divided into 2 groups
 - Plebeians – Common people
 - Patricians – Rich nobles
- Patricians held all the political power
- Plebeians outnumbered the Patricians, but they could not participate in government
- 494BCE – Plebeians formed their own council
 - Patricians decided to change the government a bit

- New offices were created that could only be held by Plebeians
 - Helped end the differences between the classes
 - Took a very long time
- Rome developed a tripartite government
 - Government with 3 parts
- Each part of the government had its own powers, rights, and privileges
- People participated in government because it was their civic duty
 - Civic Duty – responsibility to the city
- Magistrates were the most powerful officials
 - Two most important magistrates were consuls
- Consuls were elected each year to run the army and the city
 - There were 2 consuls so one didn't become too powerful
- There were also other magistrates for other duties
 - Each magistrate was elected for 1 year only
- Roman Senate – council of wealthy and powerful Romans that advised leaders
 - Members of the Senate were there for life
 - 300 members in the Senate
- The Senate eventually became very powerful in the Roman government
- Assemblies and Tribunes protected Plebeians
- Two branches:
 - Assemblies – elect magistrates to run the city
 - Tribunes – had the ability to veto actions of others
 - Veto – not allow; prohibit; “I forbid” in Latin
 - Latin – official language of the Roman Empire
- Tribunes were very powerful in the government
 - But they were only in office for one year
- The branches of government had the ability to restrict others' powers
 - Laws passed by the Senate had to be approved by the Magistrates and Assemblies
- Checks and balances – Methods of balancing power
- These kept any one branch of the government from becoming too powerful
- This made the government very complicated
- At first, none of the laws were written down
 - Some people didn't even know some laws existed
- 450BCE – Rome wrote down its first Code of Laws on 12 Tablets
 - Called the Law of the Twelve Tables
- These tablets were displayed in the Forum
 - Forum – Rome's public meeting place
- These laws helped maintain order in Rome
- Roman Forum was the heart of Rome
 - Site of temples and important government buildings
 - Also a very popular public meeting place
- Forum was where important speeches were made
 - Shopping was there as well
 - Sometimes gladiators fights too
- Forum was a popular place in Ancient Rome
 - Still is today (for tourists)

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- No _____ record of the origins of Rome exist
- Romans wanted a glorious past, so they created _____ and _____
- Aeneas' story is the _____ – an epic poem
- _____ and _____ were descendants of Aeneas
- Eventually, _____ killed _____ and built Rome
- Eventually, Rome was ruled by a groups of people called _____
 - Etruscans built _____ and Rome's first _____
 - Romans may have learned their _____ and _____ from the Etruscans
- _____ – Monarchy was overthrown and a new government was created
 - The Romans created a _____
 - _____ – People elect leaders to govern them
- Leaders only stayed in power for _____
- Rome was not a _____
 - Only people elected were from the _____ class
- During difficult wars, Romans chose leaders called _____
 - _____ – someone who rules with absolute power
- These dictators were to lead the city for only _____
- One of the most famous dictators was _____
 - As soon as he won the war, he _____
- He is highly respected for giving up his _____
- Roman society was divided into _____ groups
 - _____ – Common people
 - _____ – Rich nobles
- _____ held all the political power
- _____ outnumbered the Patricians, but they could not participate in _____
- _____ – Plebeians formed their own council
- New offices were created that could only be held by _____
- Rome developed a _____ government
 - Government with _____ parts
- Each part of the government had its own _____, rights, and _____
- People participated in government because it was their _____
 - _____ – responsibility to the city

- _____ were the most powerful officials
 - Two most important magistrates were _____
- _____ were elected each year to run the army and the _____
 - Each magistrate was elected for _____ only
- _____ – council of wealthy and powerful Romans that advised leaders
 - Members of the Senate were there for _____
- _____ and _____ protected Plebeians
- _____ branches:
 - _____ – elect magistrates to run the city
 - _____ – had the ability to veto actions of others
 - _____ – not allow; prohibit; “I forbid” in Latin
 - _____ – official language of the Roman Empire
- _____ were very powerful in the government
 - But they were only in office for _____
- The branches of _____ had the ability to restrict others’ powers
- _____ – Methods of balancing power
- These kept any one _____ of the government from becoming too powerful
- At first, none of the laws were _____ down
- _____ – Rome wrote down its first Code of Laws on 12 Tablets
 - Called the Law of the _____
- These tablets were displayed in the _____
 - _____ – Rome’s public meeting place
- Roman _____ was the heart of Rome
 - Site of _____ and important _____ buildings
 - Also a very popular public _____ place
- _____ was a popular place in Ancient Rome

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- No _____ record of the origins of _____ exist
- _____ wanted a glorious past, so they created _____ and _____
- _____ story is the _____ – an epic _____
- _____ and _____ were descendants of _____
- Eventually, _____ killed _____ and built _____
- Eventually, _____ -- was ruled by a groups of people called _____
 - _____ built _____ and Rome's first _____
 - Romans may have learned their _____ and _____ from the _____
- _____ – Monarchy was _____ and a new _____ was created
 - The _____ created a _____
 - Republic –
- _____ only stayed in power for _____
- _____ was not a _____
 - Only people _____ were from the _____
- During difficult _____, Romans chose _____ called _____
 - Dictator –
- These _____ were to lead the _____ for only _____
- One of the most _____ dictators was _____
 - As soon as he won the _____, he _____
- He is highly _____ for giving up his _____
- Roman _____ was divided into _____ groups
 - _____ – Common people
 - _____ – Rich nobles
- _____ held all the _____ power
- _____ outnumbered the _____, but they could not participate in _____
- _____ – Plebeians formed their own _____
- New _____ were created that could only be held by _____
- Rome developed a _____
 - Government with _____
- Each part of the _____ had its own _____, rights, and _____
- People participated in _____ because it was their _____
 - Civic Duty –

- _____ were the most powerful _____
 - Two most important _____ were _____
- _____ were _____ each year to run the _____ and the _____
 - Each _____ was elected for _____ only
- Roman Senate –
 - Members of the _____ were there for _____
- _____ and _____ protected Plebeians
- _____ branches:
 - _____ – elect magistrates to run the city
 - _____ – had the ability to veto actions of others
 - Veto –
 - Latin –
- _____ were very powerful in the _____
 - But they were only in _____ for _____
- The branches of _____ had the ability to _____ others' powers
- Checks and Balances –
- These kept any one _____ of the government from becoming too _____
- At first, none of the _____ were _____ down
- _____ – Rome wrote down its first _____ on 12 Tablets
 - Called the _____ of the _____
- These _____ were displayed in the _____
 - Forum –
- Roman _____ was the heart of _____
 - Site of _____ and important _____
 - Also a very popular _____ place
- _____ was a _____ place in Ancient _____