

Teachers notes for the Middle School Premium TimeMaps Unit

The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire

500 BCE to 500 CE

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Introduction

This Premium TimeMaps unit on the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire is a sequence of maps following the key stages in the history of Ancient Rome between the years 500 BCE and 500 CE. The sequence can be clicked through for a panoramic overview of this major episode in world history from its beginnings in the 6th century BCE to the fall of the western Roman empire in the 5th century CE.

Aims

Students should finish using this unit with a rounded overview of the history of the Roman Empire. For example, they should that

- Rome originated as a city-state in central Italy, and that by the end of the Sixth Century BCE had become a republic;
- That by the early Third Century BCE, through conquest and diplomacy, it had become the leader of a confederation of city-states which spanned almost the whole of Italy;
- That it fought a long series of wars with its great rival, Carthage, and then went on to conquer other regions of the Mediterranean world;
- That these conquests brought about great changes within Roman society, which eventually destroyed the Roman Republic;
- That a succession of Roman emperors then brought two centuries of stability and peace to the Roman world;
- and then, from the late Second century BCE, the Roman Empire began a long decline which eventually saw the complete loss of all its western half.

How to use the Timemap

This Timemap is a supplementary resource that can be slotted in whenever the teacher thinks fit. It is ideal for use as an introduction to this era of world history.

The unit can be used as

1. a whole-class presentation, and/or
2. the basis for student-based activities.

For more, see below.

Section 1: Whole-class presentation

Using a projector/whiteboard system, you can show the map sequence to your class, talking through each map.

To help you do this, we have prepared accompanying Presentation Notes, which you can use as a script or an *aide-memoire*.

This activity could be used as a stand-alone exercise; or as an introduction to this period of world history; or as a wrap up/reinforcement exercise.

For each map, these notes mostly follow the same formula:

1. *Date and introduction*

The date to which the map refers, followed by a small introductory paragraph which seeks to encapsulate in a sentence or two what's going on in the map. These are in **bold**.

2. *Bullet points*

One or more bullet points, giving very brief points of interest in the map, or in the period it covers.

3. *Additional notes*

These give more in-depth support to the bullet points.

Much of the information they contain may be superfluous to your needs, especially if you are covering a topic quickly. However, we have included it so that it is there for you if you want it. We suggest that, prior to using the Presentation with your class, you go through these additional notes and highlight any you wish to use.

Some key words or phrases are in **bold**; these are often referencing points covered in the AP World History document, but they are also there to help you see at a glance the key points in a paragraph.

The Presentation commentary notes are followed by a short **quiz**.

A suggestion:

To keep your students more engaged (and, by the way, if your students are not engaged or benefitting from these maps, then let us know and we'll refund your money!), why not start each new map with a question: *How is this map different from the previous one?*

Another question for some maps might be, *What happens next, do you think?*

Presentation Notes

The premium unit *Greece and Persia* provides some important background to the origins of early Rome and its rise to a be a great power. dealt with the origins and spread of city-states in the Mediterranean world, and the rise of republics, and the spread of Greek colonies. These should be briefly reviewed in order to support understanding of the context in which Rome developed.

In particular, students should be reminded of the following points:

1. The Greeks lived in numerous **city-states**.
2. Most of these came to be governed by **republics**.
3. The Greeks had sent out settlers to establish hundreds of **colonies** on the islands and coasts of the Mediterranean, and these spread Greek civilization to these lands.
4. Key elements of this civilization were a **city-based** way of life, the use of the **alphabet**, and a **republican** form of government.

500 BCE

If using these in class it might be helpful to print these notes out.

Early Rome appeared in Italy, probably about 800 BCE. By in 500 BCE it had become a city-state and was governed as a republic.

- Italy was feeling the influences of Greek civilization. As a result, **city-states** were spreading through the peninsula, along with **republican** government, **literacy** and Greek-style **art and architecture** (note 1).
- The **Etruscans**, in central and northern Italy, had come under Greek influence, and, apart from the Greek colonists of southern Italy, were the most advanced people in Italy (note 2).
- The influence of Etruscan civilization was felt by the early **Romans**, who lived just to their south. By 500 BCE, however, they had thrown their Etruscan rulers out and had set up a republic (note 3).

Additional notes:

1. Italy in 500 BCE

In the 500s BCE, many different peoples lived in Italy. Some of these were hill-tribes, who inhabited the mountain regions stretching down the centre of Italy. They lived simple lives as farmers and herdsmen, and were tough warriors who often took to raiding the lands of their neighbours.

The peoples who lived near the coast, however, had taken to living in towns and cities. These formed the centres of independent **city-states**, much like those of the Greeks (see our unit on Greece and Persia).

Greek influences

In fact, by 500 BCE several Greek city-states had been established in southern Italy for more than a century. They had brought their city-based way of life to Italy. Along with this had come literacy (based on the **alphabet**) and Greek-style art and architecture. These were all spreading through Italy.

The Greeks also introduced a new kind of government - the **republic**. Most Greek city-states had by got rid of their kings. They governed themselves through elected magistrates, advised by councils. This kind of government is now spreading in Italy.

2. The Etruscans

Apart from the Greeks, the most civilized people in Italy lived in central Italy. They were the Etruscans. They had taken to living in city-states, had adapted the Greek alphabet for their own language, built fine temples and produced beautiful works of art.

In 500 BCE the Etruscans were at the height of their power. Their league of city-states controlled much of central and northern Italy.

3. The Latins and early Rome

The influence of Etruscan civilization was felt by neighbouring peoples. The Latins were one example. They also lived in central Italy, just to the south of the Etruscans. They had taken to living in city-states, and adapted the Etruscan alphabet to their own use (modern English uses the Latin alphabet, only slightly changed).

The small Latin city of Rome was located in the borderland between Latium (the Latins' homeland) and Etruria (the land of the Etruscans). It also lay between Latium and the warlike hill tribes of central Italy. It therefore had a mixed population, and was regarded with suspicion by all of the surrounding peoples.

From monarchy to republic

A series of Etruscan kings had ruled Rome until recently. They had turned Rome from a collection of villages to a city-state. However, they had also become tyrannical in their rule. According to tradition, the last king was expelled from Rome in 509 BCE. The monarchy was then replaced by a republic.

Early Roman society

Most Romans were farmers, cultivating their own small farms. A small number of the most wealthy families owned larger estates (or large farms), which they worked with the help of slaves.

Only a small proportion of Romans work as traders or artisans. Most of early Rome's sea-going trade, such as it was, was probably in the hands of foreigners such as Etruscans and Greeks.

338 BCE

The period between 500 BCE and 338 BCE saw the early Roman Republic face major challenges. These came from both outside and within its borders.

- In about 390 BCE a group of **Gauls** sacked Rome, but the Romans gradually recovered and gained firm control of central Italy (note 1).
- At the same time, social and political tensions wracked Rome (note 2).
- Out of these struggles emerged a system of government in which different parts (or branches) **balanced** each other (note 3).
- Also, **Roman Law**, which underlies the legal systems of many modern countries, began to take shape in this period (note 4).

Additional notes:

1. The Sack of Rome and after

The period between 500 BCE and 338 BCE saw the early Roman Republic experience major challenges, even to the point of its very survival. Most dramatically, in about 390 BCE a band of Gauls (whose homeland lay far to the north, in what is now modern France), raided down into Italy. They got as far as Rome, and sacked the city. The Romans paid them a huge amount of gold to get them to return home.

Rome's neighbours took advantage of this situation to attack it. It was only with great difficulty that the Romans were able to defeat them. By 338 BCE, however, they were in firm control of central Italy.

2. The Conflict of the Orders

These threats from outside the city-state were accompanied by turmoil within.

When the republic was formed, it was under the control of a small group of families called the **Patricians**. The rest of the Roman people (the **Plebeians**) soon came to resent this control. A long period of tension followed, which modern scholars call the **Conflict of the Orders**. These struggles would only end when the Plebeians gained complete legal equality with the Patricians.

3. Balanced government

Out of these struggles emerged a system of government in which different parts (or branches) had different roles.

Annually elected officials

First, a growing number of officials, all elected for one year only, acted as army commanders, judges, state treasures and managers of Rome's water supply, roads and so on. The most important of these officials were the **consuls**, two of whom were elected each year, so that neither could become too powerful.

The Senate

Second, a council of the leading men in Rome advised the officials. This council was called the **Senate**. Most of its members were ex-officials themselves, so that their advice was backed up by long practical experience.

The plebeian assembly and tribunes

Third, the Plebeians had their own assembly. This was under the leadership of their own officials, called **tribunes** of the people. These had the power to veto laws made by officials which went against the interests of the common people.

There was often tension between these different branches of government. However, by balancing each other, none of them was able to gain too much political power. The liberty of the Roman people was protected by the checks and balances between the different branches. Only when there was an especially dangerous crisis was this balance suspended, when a **dictator** would be elected with absolute power - but only for six months.

4. The beginnings of Roman Law

Another thing to emerge from the Conflict of the Orders was the famous Roman legal system. According to Roman tradition, this began to be written down in the 450s BCE, and was first inscribed on twelve bronze tablets. These **Twelve Tables**, as they were called, were on public display in the main square (forum) in Rome.

In its early form it was frighteningly strict by modern standards. It was also highly patriarchal - early Roman laws emphasised the life and death power a father had over his family. However, it gave all Roman citizens basic legal rights before the law; for example, no one could be punished for a crime without a trial.

Over the centuries Roman law became more and more complex as new laws were added. It also became less harsh.

Today, Roman law underpins the legal systems of many countries throughout the world.

270 BCE

After much hard fighting, the Romans gained control of almost the whole of Italy. They achieved this by wise diplomacy as well as success in war.

- The Romans treated defeated enemies wisely so that they became loyal **allies**, who helped them in future wars (note 1).
- In a long series of hard-fought wars, the Rome conquered all of Italy except the far north. In the course of these, they developed the **finest army** in the Mediterranean world (note 2).
- During this period, the **Senate** became the most powerful part of the Roman government (note 3).
- The Romans were brought into closer contact with the **Greeks**, and felt the influence of their civilization much more strongly than before (note 4).

Additional notes:

1. The Roman system of Alliances

After the defeat of their enemies in central Italy, in 338 BCE, the Romans had created a system of alliances which cemented her leadership over them. As a result, Rome was able to call on a much larger pool of manpower for her armies. The Romans left their allies to run their own affairs, free for interference. The one thing they did require from them was that they contribute troops to aid them in their wars.

This enabled the Romans to defeat peoples further afield, and, once defeated, these also were brought into the Roman Alliance.

2. Military reforms

Within fifty years, Rome had conquered all of Italy except the far north.

Even with an ever-expanding pool of manpower to draw on, this had not been easy to achieve. The Romans were up against tough warrior peoples, especially those who lived in the mountains that ran down the centre of the Italian Peninsula. Roman armies were sometimes heavily defeated.

In the end, however, they were successful. This success was not only down to the greater manpower they were able to send into battle. It was also due to changes in the way the Romans organized their armies. These changes made these armies the most effective in the Mediterranean world at that time.

The Legions

The most important of these changes was the development of the famous **Roman legions**.

Legions consisted of about 5000 soldiers. However, unlike Greek formations, they were not just one large mass of men. They were divided into units of 100 men each, called **centuries**. This meant that the legions were much more flexible than their enemies' forces. Centuries could fight independently of one another, or as parts of task groups, as well as as part of a whole legion.

3. The Senate

A key part of the Roman system of government was the Senate, as we have seen. This was the council of wealthy and powerful men that advised the city's officials.

The Senate consisted of 300 members, who held office for life. In earlier times, they had come from the small number of Patrician families. This had changed as a result of the Conflict of the Orders. Plebeians were now allowed to be elected to public office. They could even become consuls. As the Senate was mostly made up of ex-magistrates, this meant that the Senate increasingly filled up with plebeian senators.

Wealthy Plebeians

It should not be thought that all Plebeians were poor. Probably even in its earliest days, Rome had a few rich Plebeians, for example those who were successful traders. As Rome's power expanded throughout Italy, so did her trade. This meant that there were more and more wealthy merchants.

Also, as Roman power extended over an ever-larger part of Italy, the ruling families of other Italian cities were soon intermarrying with the leading Roman families and entering the upper rungs of Roman society.

A new ruling class

These new groups of wealthy plebeian families were soon producing men who were being elected to public office and becoming Roman senators. With such families becoming more numerous in the Senate, the distinctions between Patricians and Plebeians began to disappear. A new ruling class began to emerge at Rome, made up of members of both groups.

The end of the Conflict of the Orders

The new plebeian senators continued to have strong links with the Plebeian Assembly, and the tribunes were increasingly drawn from this group. Indeed, the office of tribune became a normal part of most plebeian senator's political careers. As a result, the Conflict of the Orders subsided.

4. Greek influence

With their power now reaching into southern Italy, a number of Greek city-states had come under Roman control. This brought the Romans into much closer contact with Greek civilization. Wealthier Romans began to acquire a taste for Greek art, architecture and literature. This was much to the disgust of conservative Romans, who regarded such influences as alien and "softening".

200 BCE

Two long, hard wars with the wealthy trading city of Carthage ended with Rome being the leading power in the western Mediterranean.

- In the first of these wars, the Romans were forced to build a strong **navy** with which to defeat her enemy (note 1).
- In the second, a brilliant Carthaginian general called **Hannibal** almost captured Rome, but was himself eventually defeated (note 2).

Additional notes:

1. The First Punic War

The year 264 BCE saw the start of series of long wars between Rome and the city of Carthage, located in North Africa. The Romans called them the Punic Wars, because Carthage had originally been founded by **Phoenician** colonists, and the Latin for “Phoenician” is Punicus. These wars took Roman forces overseas for the first time.

Carthage was a wealthy trading city. She was also a strong military power. Her navy dominated the western Mediterranean, and she used her wealth to pay for a large mercenary army.

Alarmed by the rise of Roman power in Italy, the Carthaginians sent armies to the island of **Sicily** to shore up their power there. Some Greek cities in Sicily appealed to Rome for help, and the Romans sent an army there as well. The First Punic War began soon after.

Building a navy

To defeat one of the leading naval powers of the Ancient World, the Romans had to build a powerful navy from scratch. After nearly twenty years of hard fighting, and some dreadful losses (mostly in fleets destroyed by storms), the Romans were able to gain control of the seas around Italy and Sicily. In 241 the war came to an end in a Roman victory.

In the peace treaty that followed, the Carthaginians agreed that they would not rebuild their navy.

2. The Second Punic War

The Carthaginians did not take their defeat lying down. Over the next 20 years they carefully built up their power-base in **Spain**. By 220 BCE the person in charge in Spain was a young man called **Hannibal**. He would become recognized as one of the greatest generals in world history.

Hannibal crosses the Alps

In 218, Hannibal led a large army out of Spain, into southern **Gaul**, and from there across the Alps and down into northern Italy. This took the Romans completely by surprise. His army was then joined by thousands of Gallic warriors in northern Italy, who saw the Romans as a growing threat to their independence.

The greatest Roman defeat

Hannibal then invaded south into Roman territory. Over the next three years the Romans sent three large armies against him. Hannibal destroyed them all. The last of these victories was at

Cannae (216 BCE), in southern Italy. The Romans came to regard this as the worst defeat they ever suffered in their history.

Hannibal then demanded Rome's surrender - but the Romans, led by the Senate, refused. Hannibal then encouraged Rome's allies to join him. Only a few cities went answered his call. The majority remained loyal to Rome.

For the next 10 years Hannibal marched his army up and down Italy, to little effect. He was unable to receive support from his home city, as the Roman navy controlled the seas in between Italy and North Africa.

Roman victory

During this time, the Romans carefully nursed their strength, and when they were ready, went over to the attack. While still avoiding battles in Italy, Roman armies drove the Carthaginians out of Spain and Sicily. They then invaded the Carthaginian home territory in North Africa.

The Carthaginians quickly recalled Hannibal to lead the defence of their city, but the Romans won a great victory at the battle of **Zama**, in 202 BCE. This ended the Second Punic War.

Victory against Carthage left Rome in control of territories in Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica and Spain. She possessed the beginnings of an overseas empire.

During the war, it was the Senate that assumed most of the responsibility for directing the war. Its success in this enormous task gave it great prestige, and it now dominated Roman politics.

100 BCE

The hundred years following the Roman victory in the second Punic war saw Rome's power expand much further. This, however, brought damaging changes to Roman society.

- Very soon after defeating Carthage in the Second Punic War, Roman forces were conquering territory all around the **Mediterranean**, from Spain to Asia Minor (note 1).
- The **expansion** of Roman power and wealth led to the rich becoming much richer, and the poor becoming poorer (note 2).
- These changes led to the onset of violence in Roman politics, leading to the murder of two tribunes, the brothers **Tiberius** and **Gaius Gracchus** (note 3).
- The decline of the class of Roman farmers sapped the ability of the Romans to raise large enough armies for her needs. This led to the rise of long-service, **professional armies** (note 4).

Additional notes:

1. Further expansion

The end of the Second Punic War found Rome as the leading power in the western Mediterranean. Very soon her forces became heavily involved in the eastern Mediterranean as well. In 146 BCE, a series of wars ended in the Romans conquering the kingdom of **Macedonia** and the city-states of **Greece** (we studied these in the unit on *Greece and Persia*).

The end of Carthage

Meanwhile, alarmed at Carthage's recovery, the Romans decided to deal with their great enemy once and for all. In the Third Punic War (149-146 BCE), they destroyed Carthage, killed many of its people and sold the rest off into slavery. They added Carthage's territory in **North Africa** to their growing empire.

In the following decades they annexed western **Asia Minor**, conquered more of **Spain**, and occupied a strip of southern **Gaul** (France).

2. A less equal society

The expansion of Roman power brought changes Rome.

The rich get richer

Early Rome was a society of small independent farmers. The huge amounts of war booty and tribute that now flowed into Rome from her overseas conquest made many Romans vastly rich. Senatorial generals and governors made fortunes out of the wars and provinces, and so did a growing class of wealthy businessmen.

The poor get poorer

At the same time, the poor became poorer. The many wars flooded the Italian **slave** markets with captives. Thousands of these were put to work on the estates of wealthy Romans. These estates were able to produce grain and other farm produce more cheaply than smaller farms. The class of small independent farmers was therefore squeezed.

Many of them sold up to their richer neighbours. They moved to the city of Rome, where they swelled the numbers of landless poor. They lived in the overcrowded slums of the rapidly growing city. The Italian countryside meanwhile lost many of its small farms as large slave-run estates covered more and more land.

3. The Gracchi

The Latin word “Gracchi” is the plural of “Gracchus”. That was the name of two brothers who tried to bring about reform, but were killed for their efforts.

In 133 BCE Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus was elected one of the tribunes. He proposed carving up some large estates and creating small farms for families in Rome who had lost their land. This idea was of course very popular with the poor, and very unpopular with the rich. Tensions led to riots, in which Tiberius was killed.

Ten years later Tiberius’ younger brother, Gaius Sempronius Gracchus, tried again to allocate land to the landless poor. Again, violence followed and Gaius was killed.

These events marked the onset of violence in Roman politics. To add to the deteriorating situation in Rome itself, the relationship between Rome and its Italian Allies was breaking down. The leaders of the allied cities increasingly felt that their interests were being ignored by the leaders in Rome.

4. Professional armies

Up to now, the troops in Rome’s armies were mostly owners of small farms. This was because the early Romans thought that those with some land would feel that they had a stake in Rome’s fortunes. They would be more loyal and fight more stoutly.

As we have seen, however, this class was now being squeezed by the rise of large estates. At the same time, Rome’s wars were now being fought, not in Italy, but overseas. Farmer-soldiers were having to go on campaign for several years at a time. This made military service very difficult for them and their families, adding to their problems.

These developments meant that, by the late 100s BCE, Roman armies were running short of recruits. In 107 BCE, therefore, a consul named **Marius** opened army service to those without any land. From now on, Roman armies would increasingly be made up of professional, long-service soldiers.

50 BCE

During the first half of the First Century BCE, the expansion of Roman power continued, with dramatic conquests in the east and in Gaul. Meanwhile, however, Rome's political and social troubles got worse and worse.

- In 90 BCE, many of Rome's Italian Allies **rebelled**, and Rome was forced to give them full Roman citizenship (note 1).
- The first **civil wars** between Roman forces also occurred. These ended in **Sulla** seizing control of the Republic (note 2).
- These events led to the political climate in Rome getting even worse than before, with leading politicians being linked to violent **crime** gangs and **disorder** on the increase (note 3).
- The most serious danger to the Roman Republic was the rise of **over-mighty generals**, whom the Senate was unable to control . These had the support of their disgruntled soldiers (note 4).

Additional notes:

1. The rebellion of the Italian Allies

In 90 BCE, many of Rome's Italian allies rebelled, leading to a bitter war (90-82 BCE). This was only brought to an end when the Senate granted full Roman citizenship to the Italians.

This war is known to history as the "Social War". This confusing name is due to the fact that the Latin the word for "allies" is *socii* (from which we get such English words as "society" and "associates").

2. The first civil wars

These years also saw the outbreak of the first civil wars between Roman troops. These came about when bitter political competition between two leading Romans, Marius and Sulla, broke out into open warfare.

What turned political conflict into civil war was the fact that Roman armies were now made up of a new kind of full-time, professional soldiers. As these were largely recruited from the landless poor, when they were discharged they looked to their commanders for land to be allocated to them. In desperation, they were prepared to use violence to achieve their aims.

Both Marius and Sulla were successful generals with many loyal but desperate soldiers at their back.

Eventually Sulla triumphed and had himself appointed dictator (82 BCE - he resigned the next year, though not before trying to eliminate all his political enemies). He set an example to later generations of over-ambitious leaders as the first "strong man" in Roman history.

3. Disorder on the increase

The political climate in Rome continued to get worse. Widespread corruption and bitter factionalism increased. Leading politicians even allied themselves with (or, in the case of a man called Clodius, led) violent crime gangs.

The checks and balances had given the Roman government great strength in the past. Now, however, they stood in the way of effective solutions to Rome's problems.

A few men tried to hold the tide back by proposing reforms. The best known of these was the famous orator, Marcus Tullius **Cicero**. Their efforts were in vain as other politicians blocked any measures to bring about change.

Slave revolts and piracy

The paralysis in Roman government made it harder to meet dangerous threats. A major slave revolt in southern Italy, led by the famous gladiator **Spartacus**, was put down only with great difficulty. A little later an alarming upswing in **piracy** across the eastern Mediterranean took place. Only a huge effort by Roman sea and land forces under the command of a general called **Pompey** was able to bring this under control.

4. Over-mighty generals

Over-mighty generals such as Pompey, and later **Julius Caesar**, posed an even growing threat to the Roman Republic. These increasingly viewed their troops almost as private armies.

The First Triumvirate

In 60 BCE, three leading figures in Rome made a pact. Their aim was to dominate the government of Rome. The first was Pompey, the leading general of the day. He had defeated the pirates and brought all the lands of the eastern Mediterranean (except Egypt) under Roman rule.

The second was Crassus. Although not a famous general, he was a leading politician and known as the wealthiest Roman of all.

The third was Julius Caesar, a military genius who had scored brilliant successes in Spain. He was ambitious for more glory.

Modern scholars call this pact the **First Triumvirate** (a “triumvirate” is a group of three people).

Julius Caesar conquers Gaul

Julius Caesar spent the next ten years conquering the whole of **Gaul**, and even invading the semi-legendary island of **Britain**, in 55 and 54 BC. During these years he wrote about his campaigns in detail, sending his reports back to Rome. Here they were read widely, and made him very popular with the common people.

Crassus' death in 53 BCE dealt a fatal blow to the triumvirate. By this date many senators had become alarmed at Caesar's growing success, and asked Pompey to lead a powerful anti-Caesar faction.

1 CE

The Roman world was wracked by civil war after civil war as the Roman Republic fell apart. The Senate had completely lost control of government. Finally, in 31 BCE, one man became master of the Roman world, and became the first of the Roman emperors.

- In 49 BCE, Julius Caesar marched his army on Rome, starting a civil war in which he defeated and made himself dictator. However he was soon **assassinated** (note 1).
- This led to another civil war in which Caesar's assassins were defeated and killed. Two new leaders emerged, **Mark Antony** and **Octavian** (note 2).
- Antony and Octavian soon fell out, and another civil war followed. Octavian was victorious, and this became the **sole ruler** of the Roman world (note 3).
- With wise policies Octavian restored peace and stability. He was given the title **Augustus** and became the first of the **Roman emperors** (note 4).

Additional notes:

1. Caesar marches on Rome

In 49 BCE, knowing that his enemies in the Senate intended to bring about his downfall, Caesar crossed the river **Rubicon**, which marked the boundary between Italy and Gaul, and led his army on Rome.

Pompey and his allies fled to Greece, where Caesar followed them and defeated them at the battle of **Pharsalus** (48 BCE). Pompey himself escaped to Egypt, but was killed there on the orders of the king.

Caesar then spent some years dealing with other enemies, and returned to Rome in 45 BCE. He made himself dictator for life. However, on the 15th March, 44 BCE (the famous **Ides of March**, according to the Roman calendar), he was assassinated by some of his enemies.

2. Two new leaders: Mark Antony and Octavian

Two men emerged to avenge Caesar's death. These were Mark Antony (his full name was Marcus Antonius), Caesar's former chief lieutenant, and a young man who was Julius Caesar's adopted son and heir, named Octavian (full name: Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus). A third, Lepidus, joined them to form the Second Triumvirate. This was a pact between the three leaders to take control of the Roman government. Lepidus, however, was soon sidelined by the other two.

Antony and Octavian led an army to Greece, where the assassins had fled to. There they defeated the assassins' at the battle of **Philippi** (42 BCE).

3. The triumph of Octavian

Octavian then returned to Rome, while Antony went to the eastern Mediterranean to deal with Rome's enemies there. He soon fell in love with **Cleopatra**, the queen of Egypt, and made Egypt his base. Because of this, Octavian was able to turn the Romans against Antony by accusing Antony of betraying his country.

Yet another civil war inevitably followed. Octavian led a fleet to attack Antony and Cleopatra's fleet in Greece, and there defeated them at the battle of **Actium** (31 BCE). Antony and Cleopatra both escaped back to Egypt, where they committed suicide. Octavian followed them there and annexed **Egypt** to the Roman Empire.

He was now the sole master of the Roman world. He returned to Rome and set about bringing peace and order to it.

4. The first Roman emperor

Octavian knew that the Roman people were deeply attached to their republican form of government. They had no wish to be ruled by a king, nor by a dictator (at least, not for more than a short period of time). He understood very clearly, however, that the old Republic, and particularly the Senate, was completely unable to control the powerful generals and governors that the empire now needed.

The Restorer of the Republic...or maybe not

Octavian was therefore very careful to show respect to the Senate and other institutions of the Republic. In fact, he claimed to be the "Restorer of the Republic". At the same time, however, he reorganized it so that he, not the Senate, dominated the government of Rome.

The chief thing he did was to get the Senate to give him control over most of the legions. This meant that he had so much military power that no other general could challenge him.

New imperial titles

To emphasize his wide military power he took the title of **Imperator**, or "Supreme Commander". It is from this word that we get the English word "Emperor". In 27 BCE he also had the Senate give him a new title, **Augustus**. This loosely translates as "Revered One". All his successors as emperor used the same title.

Stability and peace

By ending the cycle of civil wars which plagued the Roman world, Augustus brought peace to the Roman world. This **Pax Romana** (Roman Peace) would last for more than two hundred years.

The changes that Octavian (or Augustus as he was now called) made were very important in Roman history. In fact Modern Scholars divide Roman history into two main parts. Apart from in its very early days, Rome was governed as a Republic up to the time of Augustus, with elected officials, a Senate and assemblies of the people. By concentrating power in his own hands, Augustus turned Rome into a **Monarchy** (which means the rule of one man).

The traditional institutions of the Republic continued to exist - the Senate, the consuls and other public officials. But their power was now overshadowed by that of Augustus and his successors.

180 CE

In its first two hundred years, the Roman Empire experienced almost unbroken peace. With peace came prosperity.

- Augustus and his successors greatly **expanded** the empire (note 1).
- Rome became the largest and most **magnificent** city in the world at that time (note 2).
- Peoples throughout the empire prospered under the **Pax Romana**; they adopted Roman ways and Roman citizenship (note 3).
- A new religion began to spread throughout the empire. This was **Christianity** (note 4).

Additional notes:

1. The expansion of the empire

By the time of Augustus, Rome already ruled most of the Mediterranean world. Augustus and his successors further expanded the empire. Under Claudius, the Roman army invaded Britain. In the following decades it brought the whole southern part of the island into the empire. Roman rule also expanded over all of North Africa, up into central Europe, and east to include all of Asia Minor.

More importantly, under Augustus and his successors the Roman empire experienced a large measure of internal peace and stability. Augustus worked hard to ensure that the provinces of the empire were well governed, and his successors continued this practice. Even under mad or incompetent emperors, the government of the empire carried on as normal.

2. Rome, the greatest city in the world

Under the emperors, Rome became the largest and most magnificent city in the world. Successive emperors laid out forums and parks, erected triumphal arches, columns and other imperial monuments, and built amphitheatres (most famously the giant Colosseum), theatres, race tracks (eg the Circus Maximus), huge public baths, and of course splendid palaces. Many large government buildings filled the city, and wealthy senators put up spacious mansions.

The poor in Rome lived in blocks of apartments. These were often badly built and sometimes liable to collapse.

Free bread and entertainment

The unemployed were fed free bread (this was a measure which can be traced back to the reforms of Gaius Gracchus). This came all the way from Egypt and North Africa.

Along with free bread, emperors laid on lavish entertainments. The main ones were the chariot races in the Circus Maximus and the games in the Colosseum, including wild animal hunts, gladiator fights and even mock sea battles.

3. Romanization

Wherever they ruled, the Romans built towns and roads. The peoples of the empire rapidly accepted the Roman way of life, with its town life, public baths, aqueducts, forums, temples, theatres, amphitheatres, country villas, paved roads, high quality education and Latin language.

Roads and trade

The network of roads which the Romans built to span the empire were originally designed to move troops around quickly. They also made trade easier, however. The long peace - the **Pax Romana** - encouraged commerce and industry. Roman currency was accepted everywhere within the empire, and well beyond. Roman coins have been found as far away as India.

Roman citizenship

Roman citizenship spread amongst the conquered peoples of the empire. The descendants of tribal chieftains became members of the Senate, and even Roman emperors.

Roman law spread throughout the empire. New laws were added all the time, issued by both emperors and Senate. These covered all kinds of issues, to do with family life, business and much more - just like modern law.

4. Religion in the Roman Empire

The traditional religion of the Romans consisted of the worship of many gods and goddesses, such as Jupiter, Mars and Venus. Under the empire, new religions came in from countries such as Egypt and Persia. The worship of emperors was also added. However, the major changes in religion came from the small country of Judaea. This was the original homeland of the Jewish people.

The spread of Jewish communities

Jewish communities spread right around the Roman empire, and took their worship of the One God, Yahweh, with them. This process was boosted when the Jews rebelled twice, in 66 CE and 133 CE, and were then prohibited from living in their homeland.

Christianity

The new religion of Christianity also originated in and around Judaea. Here, a religious leader called Jesus of Nazareth had collected a group of disciples around him. He taught the need for compassion and forgiveness.

He was executed by the authorities. Three days later, however, his disciples believed that they saw him risen from the dead - a belief for which many of them were willing to die.

The new faith taught that Jesus was the Son of God. Through belief in him, all people - rich or poor, men and women, Jew, Greek, Roman or Barbarian - could receive God's forgiveness and eternal life.

Christian missionaries - most notably, Paul of Tarsus - spread the Christian message around the empire. In this, they were greatly helped by the existence of Roman roads and trade networks along which they could travel.

From the start, Christians were imprisoned and killed for their faith. Their numbers continued to grow, however, and their teaching soon spread to every corner of the empire.

395 CE

In the Third Century CE, political instability and barbarian invasion ended the peace and prosperity of the earlier empire.

- Political instability and invasions from outside the empire almost led to its collapse. The empire survived, thanks to the efforts of a series of “soldier-emperors”. To achieve this, they carried out huge changes in the way the empire was run (note 1).
- One of the most important changes to occur in the later Roman Empire was that Christianity became the dominant religion (note 2).
- At the end of the Fourth Century, troubles began multiplying again. A major cause of this was the arrival in Europe of a people known as the Huns (note 3).

Additional notes:

1. Crisis and change

In the late Second Century CE a plague swept through the Roman Empire. This reduced its population, and its wealth, and its ability to defend itself.

In 180 CE the emperor Marcus Aurelius died. He was the last of a series of good emperors, and the empire was never to know the same level of stability it had known in the second century.

The end of peace and stability

Up to now, the Romans had by and large kept the **barbarian** tribes on their European frontiers at bay. The Parthian Empire, to the east, had also caused little trouble for the Romans. As the Third Century wore on, this all changed. **Germans** and other tribal groups swarmed over the frontiers in Europe. At the same time new **Persian** rulers in the east invaded Rome’s eastern frontiers.

These invasions triggered half a century of crisis. One emperor was killed in battle against the invaders, another was captured by the Persians. In these dangerous times emperors failed to gain the loyalty of the troops, and many **rebellions** broke out against them. Most reigns lasted for no more than a few years. By the mid-Third Century the empire looked as if it was breaking up.

Soldier emperors

The empire survived thanks to a succession of very capable emperors. They were not drawn from the aristocracy, but instead had long experience as professional soldiers. They repulsed the invasions, overcame rebellions and reunited the empire.

Finally, the emperor **Diocletian**, who reigned at the end of the Third Century, carried out many changes to try and ensure that the empire could defend itself properly. He enlarged the army, and admitted many barbarians into it. He expanded the government to make it more effective, and greatly increased taxes to pay for all this.

Four emperors share power

Most famously, Diocletian realized that the empire was too large to be ruled from just one place. For example, it took too long for news of a new invasion to get to the emperor. By the time he was able to lead an army to deal with it the invaders had already caused huge damage.

Diocletian therefore appointed three colleagues to share the burden with him, each with their own capital in different parts of the empire. All of these were near the frontiers, as that was where the main danger now came from. None of these capitals was Rome - it would never again be the centre of government for the empire.

Constantinople

A little later, the emperor **Constantine** the Great reigned in the early Fourth Century. He founded a new capital, **Constantinople**, at the point where Europe meets Asia. From then on, the emperor of the eastern Roman Empire would always be based there.

Diocletian's scheme of four emperors was not followed by his successors. After the time of Constantine, however, the Roman Empire was usually ruled by two or more emperors at the same time.

Theodosius, however, was sole emperor when he died in 395. On his death he divided the empire between his two young sons. One was assigned the west, the other the east.

The empire would never be reunited again, until the western half vanished altogether less than a century later.

After that, there would only be a single capital again, but this would be Constantinople, not Rome.

2. Religions, old and new

Most famously, however, Constantine converted to **Christianity**. He proclaimed that everyone should be free to follow any religion they chose. This was a major turning point for Christianity, as that religion had been suffering from more and more persecutions. Some emperors in the Third Century had blamed that religion for the empire's misfortunes, and ordered their officials all around the empire to imprison and kill those who did not give up their faith.

Constantine stopped any further persecution of the Christians. From this time on, with only one exception, all Roman emperors were Christians. Following the emperors' example, more and more people began to join the Christian church.

The Christian Church becomes powerful and wealthy

Many Christians, rich and poor, began leaving their property to the church on their deaths (or even before), and the church started gaining in wealth. **Bishops** became the leaders of their communities, and the Church soon became the wealthiest institution within the empire.

Not all Christians were pleased with this development. An increasing number joined communities in isolated locations to practice their faith in a simple way, free from "worldly" concerns. These communities were the first Christian **monasteries**. These would become more and more numerous, and have a major influence in Medieval Europe.

Christianity becomes the official religion of the Roman Empire

In 381, the emperor Theodosius decreed Christianity to be the official religion of the empire. Furthermore, only "orthodox" Christianity (i.e. that version of Christianity agreed to by the emperor) would count as the official state religion.

3. The Huns

The German tribes were increasingly being disturbed by a new factor - the coming of the **Huns**.

The Huns were a people from central Asia. Their warlike reputation struck fear even into other "barbarians", like the German tribes who had troubled the Romans for so long.

One of these, the **Goths**, stood in the Huns' path. In 378 CE, desperate to escape the Huns, the Goths tried to cross into the empire. The Roman officials on the spot treated the Goths badly, and the Goths massacred them. They then headed south, deep into Roman lands. At the battle of

Adrianople they destroyed a Roman army - and a Roman emperor - which came to deal with them.

A new emperor, Theodosius, settled the Goths within the empire, where they lived peacefully for about 20 years.

500 CE

In the Fifth Century, invasions by German tribes completely destroyed the western half of the Roman Empire. The eastern half, however, continued to another thousand years.

- The Goths **sacked Rome** in 410 CE, and German tribes occupied the western provinces of the empire. Roman power came to an end here and the last western Roman emperor was deposed in 476 CE (note 1).
- In the former **western Roman provinces**, the Roman way of life crumbled, but Roman influences still remained (note 2).
- The **eastern Roman Empire** continued, more or less unaffected by the disasters in the west (note 3).

Additional notes:

1. The invasions of the west

After 395 CE, the two halves of the empire operated more or less separately. Most importantly, the taxes collected by each half's government was spent within its own sphere. This put the west at a disadvantage. The western provinces were poorer than those of the east. The western government therefore had less to spend on defending a much longer and more dangerous border.

The sack of Rome

In the early Fifth Century the **Goths** marched into Italy. The Roman government unwisely refused their demands for payment. The Goths therefore sacked Rome, in 410 CE.

The sack did little damage to Rome, but it sent a shockwave around the Roman world. It had not been the capital of the empire for more than a century, but it stood as the heart and soul of the Roman people.

The mass invasion of the west

Meanwhile, in 406, several **German tribes** had crossed the northern frontier, into **Gaul**. Modern historians think that, like the Goths before them, they too were fleeing before the fearsome Huns.

Whatever their motives, they caused devastation wherever they went. Villas were destroyed, towns were burned and people fled. Some of these groups marched long distances, across Gaul and on into **Spain**, and even **North Africa**.

These German tribes all soon set up kingdoms of their own. Even though some paid lip-service to the Roman emperor as their superior, in fact they were all independent.

The end of Roman Britain

In 410 the Roman army in Britain was ordered across into Gaul, to help deal with the troubles there. It never returned. The Britons were forced to organize their own defences.

From now on, Britain was no longer part of the Roman Empire. From the mid-fifth century German peoples, above all the **Anglo-Saxons**, began to settle in Britain in large numbers. Most traces of Roman civilization there quickly vanished - city-life, literacy, Christianity and much more.

The Huns

In the mid-Fifth Century, the Huns marched westward into Gaul under their leader, **Attila**. Such an invasion had been a major fear for both Romans and Germans, but in the event the Huns were defeated by a joint Roman-Visigoth army.

The power of the Huns vanished soon after, when Attila died.

2. The end of the western Roman Empire

In North Africa, a German tribe called the **Vandals** had built a large fleet. They used this to raid the Mediterranean coasts. In 455 CE they **sacked Rome**. This did not have the same traumatic effect that the first one had done, but the damage to the city was much more extensive. The word "Vandal" came to mean someone who destroys things just for the sake of it.

The end of Roman rule in the west

In the rest of the western Roman Empire, the German kingdoms expanded until there was no Roman territory left under Roman rule. Finally, in 476 CE, the German leader who dominated Italy took the title of king of Italy. At the same time he arranged for the abdication of the last of the western Roman emperors. This was a young boy names **Romulus Augustulus**.

The end of Roman civilization in the west

The decline of Roman power in the west had gone hand-in-hand with the decline of Roman civilization there. The great Roman towns were shrinking, the beautiful villas had mostly gone, and the well-built roads were falling into disrepair. The Latin language had begun to morph into French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalanian and Provençal. Roman-style education declined and most people were now illiterate.

Roman influences were far from dead, however. To help them in governing their new kingdoms, the German rulers used Roman officials. Most of their populations still lived under a form of Roman law. Christian monks preserved as much Roman writing as they could.

3. The Eastern Roman Empire continues

In the eastern Roman empire, life continued very much as before. The eastern provinces had always been wealthier than the western ones. Since the division of the empire in 395, the emperors in **Constantinople** had been able to maintain a large army. This had been able to defend the eastern provinces properly.

Despite many ups and downs, the Eastern Roman Empire would endure for almost another thousand years. Modern scholars call it the **Byzantine Empire**, to emphasise the differences between it and the old Roman Empire. The Byzantines were Greek in language and culture, not Latin. They continued to think of themselves as Romans, however.

Finally, their empire came to an end in 1453, when Constantinople fell to the Turks. This was just a generation before Columbus discovered America.

After the Presentation:

The questions in the Presentation notes will work just as well if used as a reinforcement exercise at the end of the Presentation, or indeed as student-based tasks.

Here is a quick **Quiz**:

The answers are given (*in Italics*).

1. According to legend, who were the two brothers who founded Rome? (*Romulus and Remus*)
2. Who were the people of central/northern Italy against whom the Romans rebelled to form their Republic? (*The Etruscans*)
3. What central Italian people did the early Romans belong to, and whose language they spoke? (*The Latins*)
4. What were the two chief magistrates of the Roman republic called? (*Consuls*)
5. What was the name of the great trading city in North Africa against whom the Romans fought three wars? (*Carthage*)
6. Who was the brilliant general who almost defeated Rome in the Second Punic War? (*Hannibal*)
7. Who was the leader of a great slave revolt in the First Century BCE? (*Spartacus*)
8. Which area did Julius Caesar conquer? (*Gaul, or modern France*)
9. Who was Caesar's adopted son, who eventually became the first of the Roman emperors? (*Octavian, or Augustus*)
10. What religion began to spread around the Roman Empire in the First century CE? (*Christianity*)
11. What was the name of the emperor who reigned in the late Third Century CE, and appointed three other emperors to rule with him? (*Diocletian*)
12. Which emperor converted to Christianity? (*Constantine*)
13. That emperor founded a new capital - what was it called? (*Constantinople*)
14. Who was the king of the Huns who invaded the Roman Empire in the mid-Fifth Century called? (*Attila*)
15. What German tribe settled in North Africa and sacked Rome for a second time in 455 CE? (*The Vandals*)

Section 2: Student-based enquiry work

The students can tackle these tasks either as individuals or in small groups. They will obviously need to have access to this Premium TimeMap unit.

They can present their answers in essay form or as presentations.

The questions are designed to stimulate enquiry, thought and discussion.

Short exercise

Multiple choice questions

1. A Tribune was A. the chief magistrate in Roman Republic, B. a Roman ambassador, C. an official elected to protect the Plebeians, or D. a Roman general?
2. The Twelve Tables were A. a large feast in the Roman forum, B. the earliest written Roman law code, C. mathematical tables for Roman engineers to use when constructing roads, or D. tablets on which the legends of the foundation of Rome were written?
3. At the Battle of Cannae the Romans were heavily defeated by A. the Gauls, B. the Etruscans, C. the Greeks, or D. the Carthaginians?
4. The Gracchi brothers were noted for A. founding Rome, B. winning great battles against the Gauls, C. proposing reforms to help the poor, D. expelling the last king of Rome?
5. The statesman most responsible for establishing the empire was A. Julius Caesar, B. Mark Antony, C. Octavian, or D. Pompey?
6. The emperor Constantine is famous for A. establishing a system by which four emperors ruled the empire together, B. persecuting the Christians, C. founding the city of Constantinople, or D. greatly enlarging the army?

Critical Thinking

Students tackle one or more of these questions by giving short answers.

1. What did Roman civilization owe to Greek civilization?
2. How was Greek influence transmitted to the Romans?
3. Did the fact that early Rome was situated on the borders between three peoples of central Italy (the Latins, the Etruscans and the hill peoples) have an impact on their history, do you think?
4. Was a clash between Rome and Carthage inevitable?
5. Many modern historians argue that, as that the government of the Republic developed to run a small city state, it was unsuitable for governing a large overseas empire. Do you think they have a point, or not? Why?
6. Sulla, Caesar and Octavian all won civil wars and became masters of Rome. Why do you think Octavian succeeded in establishing stability whilst neither of the previous two did?

7. When do you think the Roman Republic *really* came to an end?
Was it when Sulla became dictator?
Or when the First Triumvirate took charge of Rome?
Or maybe when Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon?
Or when Octavian defeated Antony at the battle of Actium?
Or when he took the title Augustus?

Choose one of these events and give reasons for your choice.

8. Why Christianity eventually became the dominant religion in the Roman Empire, do you think?
9. Did the Romans leave much of value to us, do you think?

Extended exercises

Choose one or both of these tasks to do.

Task 1

Students go through the sequence of maps, and, carefully reading the information, answer the questions below.

They then use their answers as the structure in preparing an essay or presentation about the history they have covered.

1. What changes did Greek influence bring to Italy between the 8th and 5th centuries BCE? (*city-states, literacy, republican form of government*)
2. Against which people did the Romans rebel, traditionally in 509 BCE, to form their Republic? (*The Etruscans*)
3. Early Roman society was divided into two main groups. Name these, and explain how they were different from one another. (*The Patricians, the ruling group of wealthy Roman families, and the Plebeians, the common people*)
4. Who were the raiders who nearly destroyed Rome in around 390 BCE? (*Gauls*)
5. What caused the Conflict of the Orders, and why did it subside? (*The Plebeians objected to the power of the Patricians. It subsided when they gained equal rights with them. Also, leading Plebeians became members of the ruling class in Rome, and so were able to bring the two sides together*)
6. What were the Twelve Tables, and why were they important? (*They were first time Roman laws were written down, and thus formed the foundation of Roman Law, which in turn forms the basis of the legal systems of many countries today*)
7. How did the Roman Republic try to not concentrate too much power in one person or group? (*By having two chief magistrates - consuls - who were elected only for one year; and by dividing power amongst different branches of government, so that one individual or group never had too much power*)
8. What were the three branches of Roman government? (*1. The elected public officials, led by the consuls, 2, the Senate, and 3. the Assemblies of the People, who elected the Tribunes*)

9. How did Rome come to conquer Italy? *(The alliance system which they built up gave them a growing pool of manpower for their army, and the reforms they carried out - especially the development of the legions and centuries - gave their armies greater flexibility)*
10. Why did Rome and Carthage come into conflict with one another? *(Carthage became alarmed at the rise of Roman power)*
11. What were the key factors by which Rome was able to defeat Carthage in the Second Punic War? *(Rome's Allies remained loyal to her, even after her terrible defeats; Rome commanded the seas between Italy and North Africa, and so prevented the Carthaginians from reinforcing Hannibal)*
12. Why did Rome's expansion in the Second Century BCE lead to the rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer? *(The influx of slaves into Italy led the rich to create slave-run estates, which squeezed many poorer Roman farmers off the land and into the growing slums of Rome)*
13. What were the consequences of this for Roman politics? *(With the rise of a large class of unemployed people in Rome, crime flourished and politics became more violent and extreme)*
14. Why was the career of the Gracchi brothers a watershed in Roman history? *(It marked the rise of violence in Roman politics)*
15. What changes in the Roman army led to it becoming a threat to the Republic in the First Century BCE? *(The rise of long-service armies recruited from the landless poor, who looked to their commanders to secure them land when they were discharged, created military power-bases for ambitious generals)*
16. How did Sulla help undermine the Republic? *(After a civil war he made himself dictator, and set an example as the first "strong man" in Roman history)*
17. Who was Cicero, and what did he do? *(He was a famous orator, who unsuccessfully tried to find solutions to Rome's problems)*
18. Who were the members of the First Triumvirate, which dominated Roman politics for a decade? *(Pompey, Crassus and Julius Caesar)*
19. Why is Caesar viewed as one of the greatest generals of history? *(His campaigns to conquer of Gaul won him a brilliant reputation as a military commander)*
20. What did Caesar do after defeating Pompey and his other opponents in a civil war? *(He made himself dictator)*
21. In the aftermath of Caesar's assassination, in 44 BCE, the Second Triumvirate was formed to control the state. Who were its members? *(Mark Antony, Octavian and Lepidus)*
22. What claim did Octavian have to a leading role in the state? *(He was Caesar's adopted son and heir)*
23. How was Octavian able to turn the Roman people against Mark Antony? *(He claimed that Antony's affair with Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, meant that her preferred interests before Rome's)*
24. Having triumphed over Antony, Octavian was the master of the Roman world. What was the most important measure he took to enable him to bring peace and order to the Roman world?

(He brought most of the Roman army under his own control; no other commander could rival him)

25. What were some of the benefits which the long peace brought the inhabitants of the Roman Empire? Some are mentioned in the notes, but see if you can think of others as well. *(Freedom from the tragedies of war, prosperity, spread of Roman law, for some families the opportunity to rise to the very top of Roman government and society, the spread of Christianity and the message of love and hope that it carried...any more?)*
26. What were the disasters which afflicted the Roman Empire in the late Second and Third Centuries? *(Disease, invasions, emperors killed or captured in battle, rebellions and political instability)*
27. List some of the changes which transformed the Roman Empire from the Third Century onwards? *(Larger army, larger bureaucracy, heavier taxes, Rome no longer the capital of the empire, more than one emperor at the same time, the founding of Constantinople as a new capital, the rise of Christianity)*
28. What was the role played by the Huns in the downfall of the Roman Empire in the west? *(They had such a fearsome reputation that German tribes fled before them, many pressing into the Roman Empire to do so)*
29. The sack of Rome by the Goths in 410 CE did not inflict much damage - so why was it so significant? *(It was a traumatic event because the city was still seen as the centre and heart of the Roman Empire)*
30. Much of Roman civilization was destroyed in the west. What survived? - and Why? *(Roman law, as continued to be applied to the old population by Roman officials working for German kings; and much Roman and Greek learning was preserved by Christian monks)*

Task 2

Answer one or more of the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers for them, but give reasons. The answers should be in the form of an essay.

1. Why do we consider the Roman Republic to have had a balanced constitution?
2. What were the main factors in the decline of the Roman Republic?
3. In the Fifth Century CE, why did the Roman Empire in the West fall? - and why did it *not* fall in the East?

APPENDIX

TimeMaps articles for further reading

A list of all TimeMaps articles for Period 2 can be found on the Encyclopedia home page. Here is a selected list of the key articles which students should find most helpful.

[Ancient Carthage](#)

[The Etruscans](#)

[Ancient Roman Civilization](#)

[The Rise of the Roman Empire](#)

[The Roman Empire](#)

[The Late Roman Empire](#)

[The Byzantine Empire](#)