

EUROPA UNIVERSALIS
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Ancient Rome and Early Christianity



SECTION 1 - THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

THE LEGEND OF ROMULUS AND REMUS

- ⦿ According to legend, *Romulus and Remus* were twin sons of the Roman god Mars.
- ⦿ There were plots afoot that the other gods wanted to harm the boys.
- ⦿ To protect them, their mother Rhea sent them afloat in a basket down the Tiber River.
- ⦿ They were found by a female wolf and she fed them and took care of them.





The Capitoline Wolf (Lupa Capitolina)

THE LEGEND OF ROMULUS AND REMUS

- ◉ Eventually a shepherd adopted the boys and raised them.
- ◉ As the twins grew older, they decided they didn't want to tend sheep, they wanted to be something greater.
- ◉ They built a city along the banks Tiber River.
- ◉ However, they both wanted to be king.
- ◉ They quarreled and in a fit of rage, Romulus killed Remus.
- ◉ The city was then named after its first king, Romulus.



THE ORIGINS OF ROME

- ⦿ In reality, Rome was built by the Latin people between 1000 BC and 500 BC.
- ⦿ The city was founded along the Tiber River located on the Italian peninsula in center of Mediterranean Sea.
- ⦿ The site of Rome was chosen for its fertile soil and strategic location.



THE ORIGINS OF ROME

- ◉ The land Rome was built on had several advantages.
- ◉ The city was built on seven hills, making it difficult to attack.
- ◉ Located on the Tiber River and the Mediterranean Sea meant that the people could easily conduct trade throughout the region.



THE ORIGINS OF ROME

- Two other groups also lived on the Italian peninsula, the Etruscans in the north and the Greeks in the South.
- Both the Greeks and the Etruscans have a strong influence on the development of Rome.
(ex. culture, architecture, military, religion, etc.)
- All three groups competed for control of the region.



ETRUSCAN RULE

- ◉ Around 600 BC, Etruscan kings take control of Rome and they rule over the Latins (Romans).
- ◉ The Etruscan kings order temples and public centers to be built, including the *Forum*, the center of Roman politics.
- ◉ Rome becomes a large, prosperous and commercially active city.



THE FALL OF THE ETRUSCANS

- ⦿ King Tarquin assumes power.
- ⦿ He uses violence, murder and terrorism to maintain control over Rome.
- ⦿ The Romans resent the Etruscans.
- ⦿ According to legend, Tarquin allowed his son to rape a Roman woman.
- ⦿ This enrages the Romans and they overthrow the Etruscan king in 509 BC.
- ⦿ The Romans vowed to never be ruled by a king again.



THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

- ◎ Following the expulsion of the Etruscans, the Roman people create a **republic** from the Latin term *res publica* or “public works”.
- ◎ In this system, Roman citizens were allowed to elect the leaders of their government.
- ◎ Only free-born males were considered citizens.



The Roman Senate



Senatus Populusque Romanus

PATRICIANS AND PLEBEIANS

- ◎ Two groups struggled for power in the new republic—the patricians and the plebeians.
- ◎ **Patricians** were the wealthy, land-owning class that held most power.
 - Made up a very small portion of the population
- ◎ **Plebeians** were common farmers, artisans and merchants
 - Most people fell into this class



PATRICIANS AND PLEBEIANS



Patricians



Plebeians

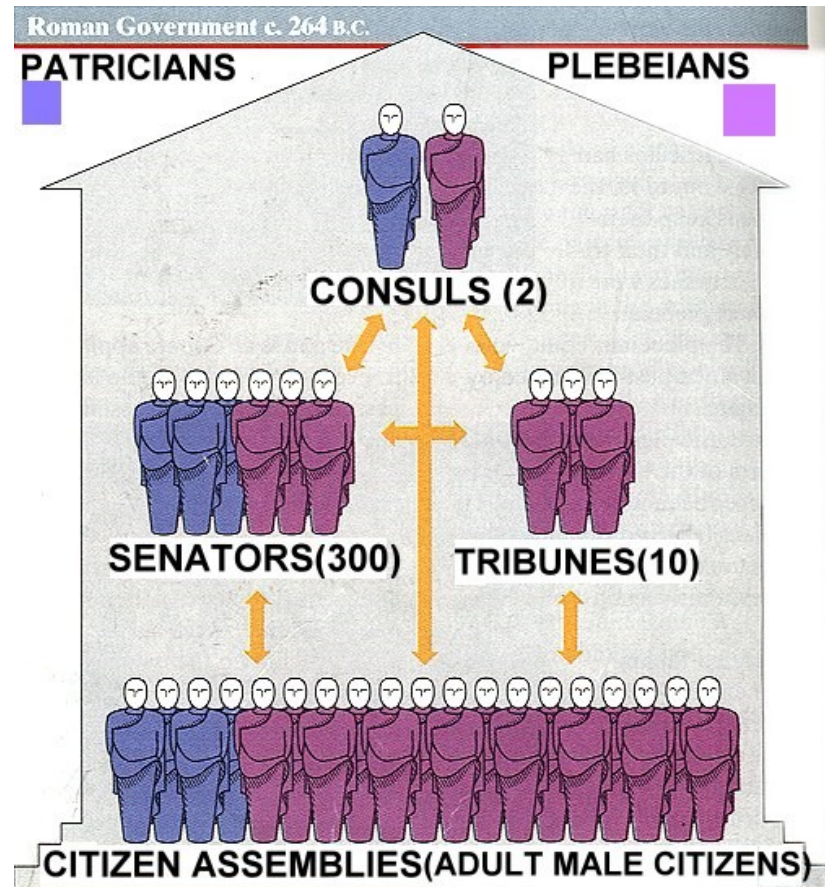
PATRICIANS AND PLEBEIANS

- ◉ In time, plebeians were able to win more rights.
- ◉ Plebeians elected *tribunes* to represent them.
- ◉ Tribunes protected the rights of common people from the unfair acts of the patricians.
- ◉ Laws at this time were unwritten so the people developed the *Twelve Tables*.
- ◉ The Twelve Tables became the basis of law in Rome and protected all citizens, including the plebeians.



ROMAN GOVERNMENT

- ⊙ Roman government had three parts.
- ⊙ First, Romans elected 2 *consuls*.
- ⊙ Consuls were like kings. One led the government, the other led the army.
- ⊙ They could veto each other's decisions.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ⦿ The word veto comes from the Latin term meaning, “I forbid”.
- ⦿ In the United States, the president has veto power over the Senate and may “forbid” any law or act passed by the Senate.



ROMAN GOVERNMENT

- ◉ The second part of the government was the Senate.
- ◉ Senate members were elected by the people; however, most Senators were patricians.
- ◉ The Senate passed laws and also controlled the treasury (money).
- ◉ The Senate is the most powerful group in the government of the Roman Republic.



ROMAN GOVERNMENT

- ⦿ Lastly, there were citizen assemblies.
- ⦿ Any citizen could belong to an assembly and they elected tribunes and made laws that applied to the common man.



Dictators

- ◉ *Dictators* were leaders appointed in times of crisis.
- ◉ They were chosen by consuls then approved by the Senate.
- ◉ Dictators had absolute power to make laws and control the army.
- ◉ Their power would only last 6 months.



THE STORY OF CINCINNATUS

- ◉ Cincinnatus was a humble farmer but was held in high regard by the citizens of Rome.
- ◉ Rome was threatened by invading enemies.
- ◉ The people called upon Cincinnatus to be their dictator in this time of crisis.
- ◉ Cincinnatus put down his plow and picked up his sword to lead the army.
- ◉ He defeated the enemy, and immediately resigned his position of dictator and returned to his farm.
- ◉ He is considered a Roman hero.



AMERICAN CINCINNATUS?

- ◉ George Washington is sometimes called an American Cincinnatus because he too held his command only until the defeat of the British.
- ◉ At a time when he could have chosen to exercise great political power, he instead returned as soon as he could to cultivating his lands.



THE ROMAN MILITARY

- Romans placed a great value on their military.
- All landowning citizens were required to serve in the military.
- Some political positions even required 10 years of military service.
- Roman soldiers were organized into large military units known as *legions*.
- Therefore, soldiers were known as legionaries.



ROMAN LEGIONS

- ◎ The Roman legions were based off the infamous Greek phalanx.
- ◎ However, legions were smaller and therefore could maneuver much more quickly and easily.
 - Usually around 5,000 soldiers.
- ◎ Units would usually be broken down even further into groups of 60-120 soldiers led by an officer.



ROMAN SOLDIERS



Roman Legionary



Roman Centurion

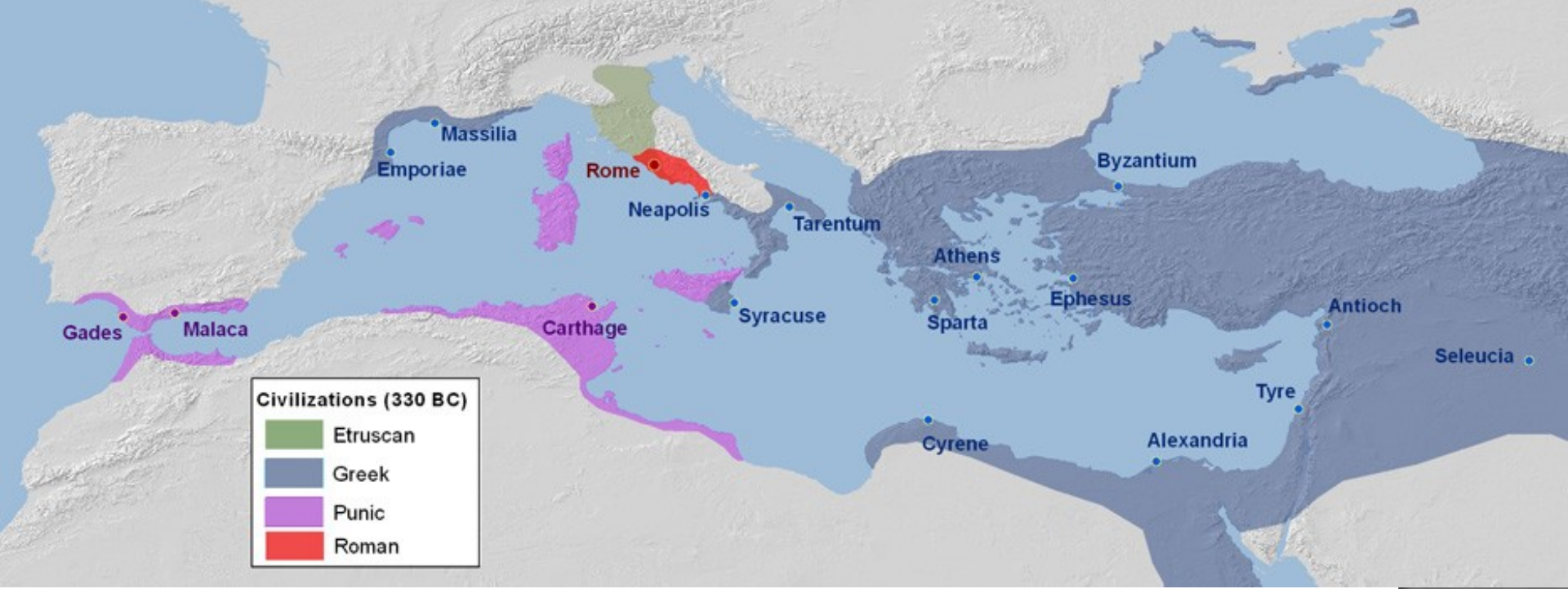
Centurions were mid-ranking officers in charge of groups of 100 soldiers within their legions

ROMAN EXPANSION

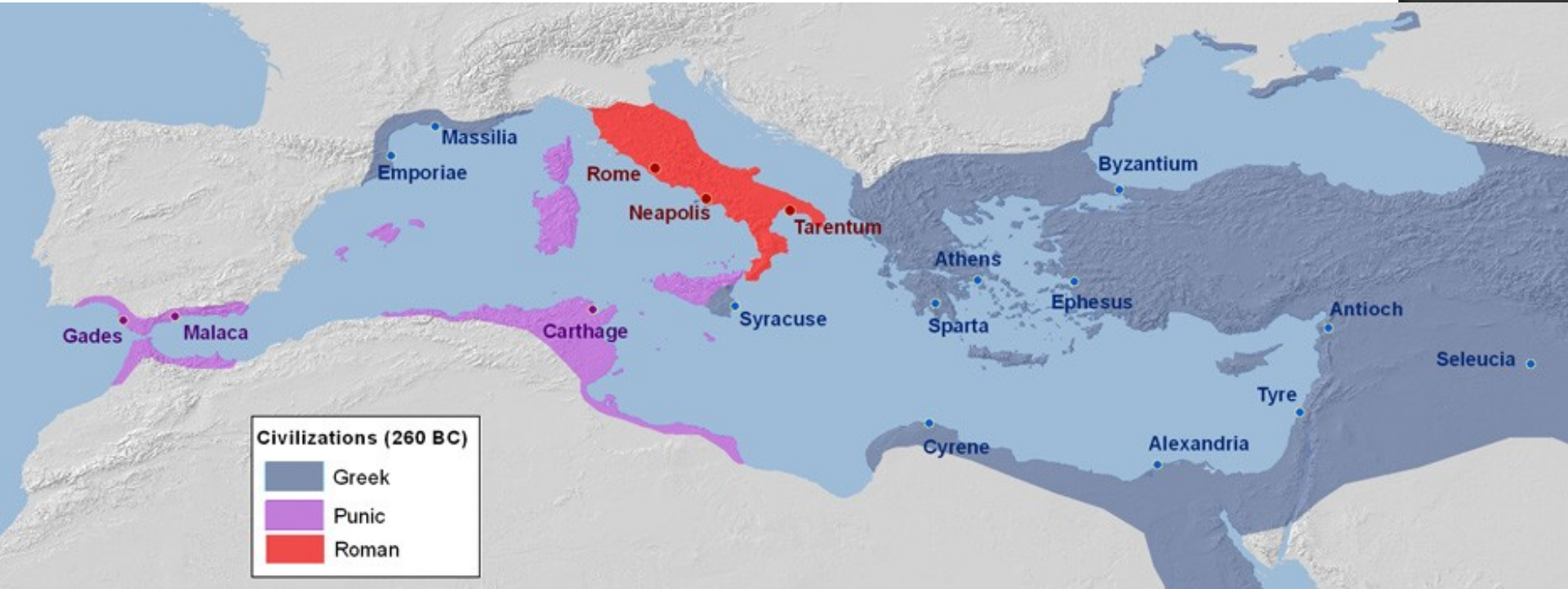
- ◉ In the fourth century B.C., Rome began to expand.
- ◉ The Romans defeat the Etruscans in the north and the Greeks in the south.
- ◉ Within 150 years, it had captured almost all of Italy.
- ◉ Rome treated the conquered peoples justly. They even allowed some of the conquered peoples to enjoy the benefits of citizenship.



ROMAN EXPANSION

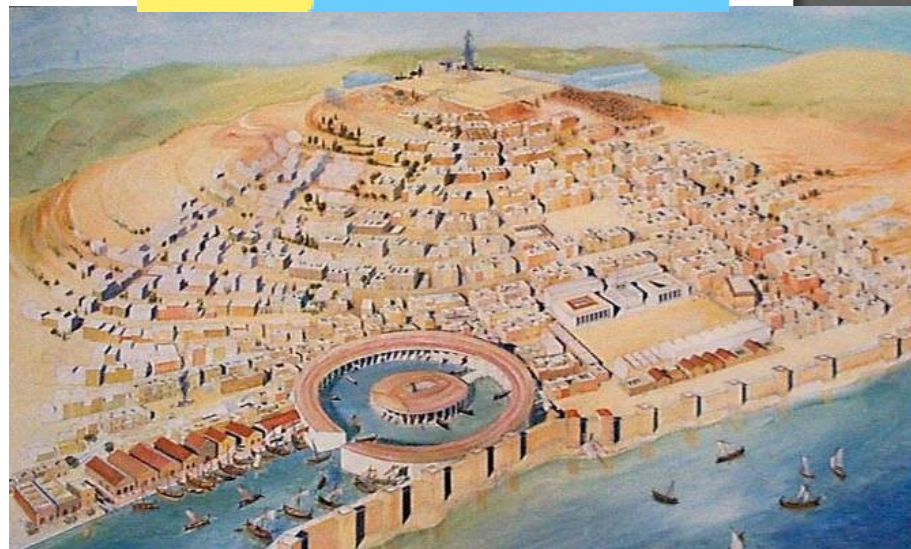


ROMAN EXPANSION



ROME VS. CARTHAGE

- ⦿ With full control of the Italian peninsula, Rome establishes a prosperous trade network throughout the Mediterranean Sea.
- ⦿ This brings Rome into conflict with the Punics.
- ⦿ The Punics were from Carthage, a powerful trading city located in North Africa (Tunisia).



THE PUNIC WARS

- ◎ From 264 to 146 B.C., Rome and Carthage fought three bitter wars.
- ◎ The conflict is better known as the *Punic Wars* and was fought over control of trade in the Mediterranean Sea.

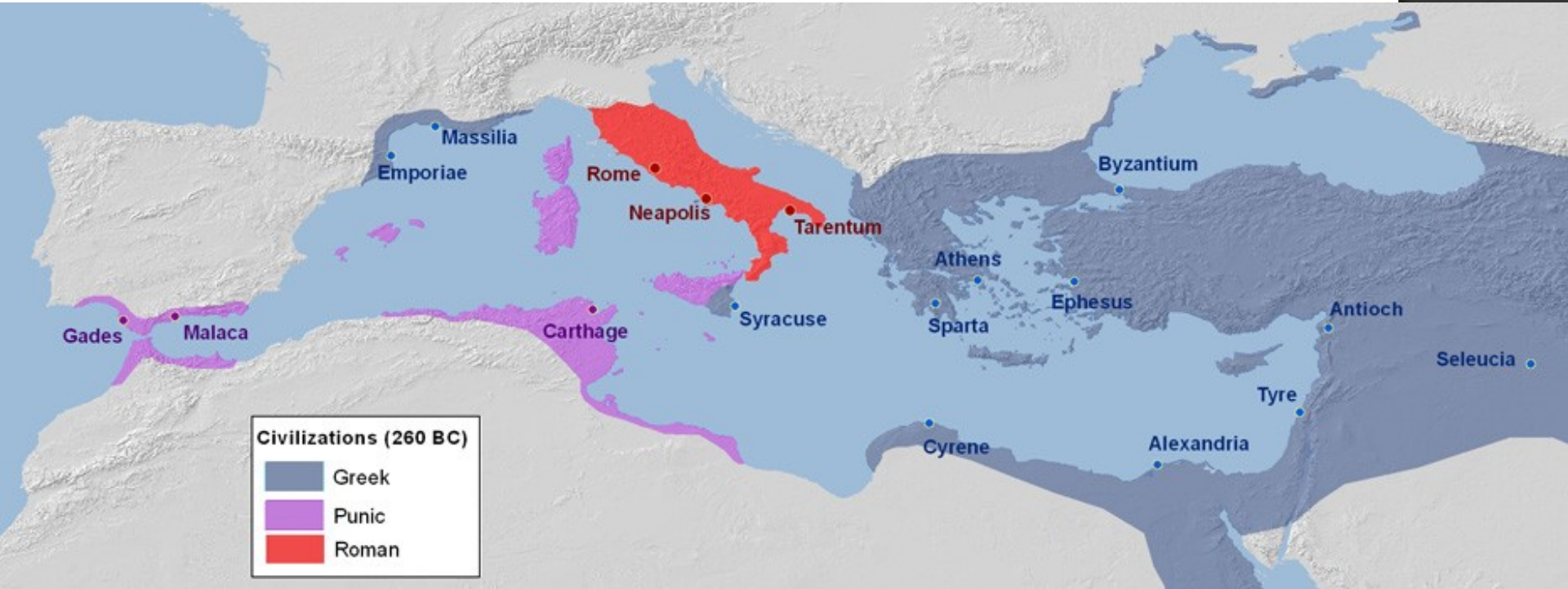


THE PUNIC WARS

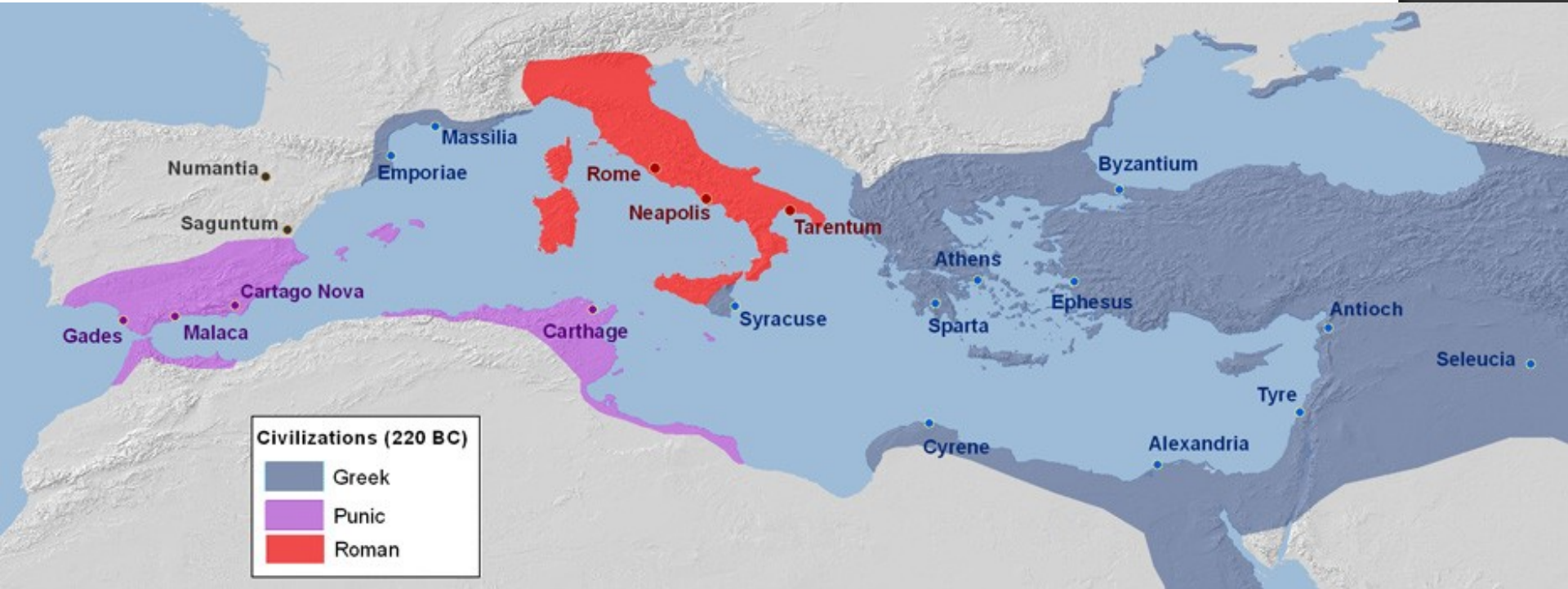
- ⦿ In the first war, Rome won control of the island of Sicily, Corsica and Sardinia.
- ⦿ The war lasts 23 years and Rome was able to defeat Carthage and gain control of the valuable islands.



THE PUNIC WARS

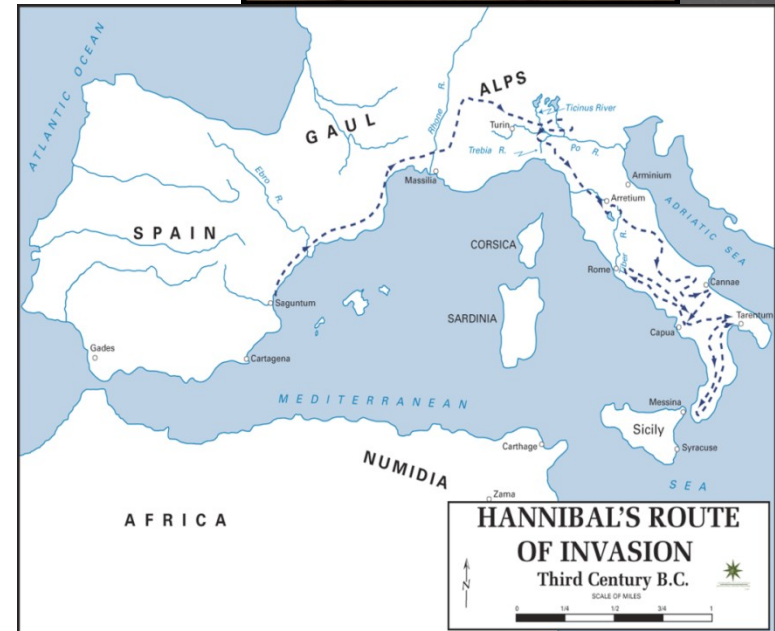


THE PUNIC WARS



THE PUNIC WARS

- ◉ In the second war, a young general from Carthage named *Hannibal* marches on Rome.
- ◉ Hannibal wanted to avenge Carthage from its defeat years earlier.
- ◉ Instead of a head on attack, Hannibal marched his enormous army (which included 50,000 men, 9,000 cavalry and 60 war elephants) through Spain and France, over the Alps and into Italy.



THE PUNIC WARS

- ⦿ This is a daring move.
- ⦿ Hannibal loses half his army and nearly all of his war elephants crossing the Alps.
- ⦿ Despite this, Hannibal marches through Italy for nearly 10 years and scores many major victories.
- ⦿ However, he is unable to capture Rome.



HANNIBAL CROSSING THE ALPS

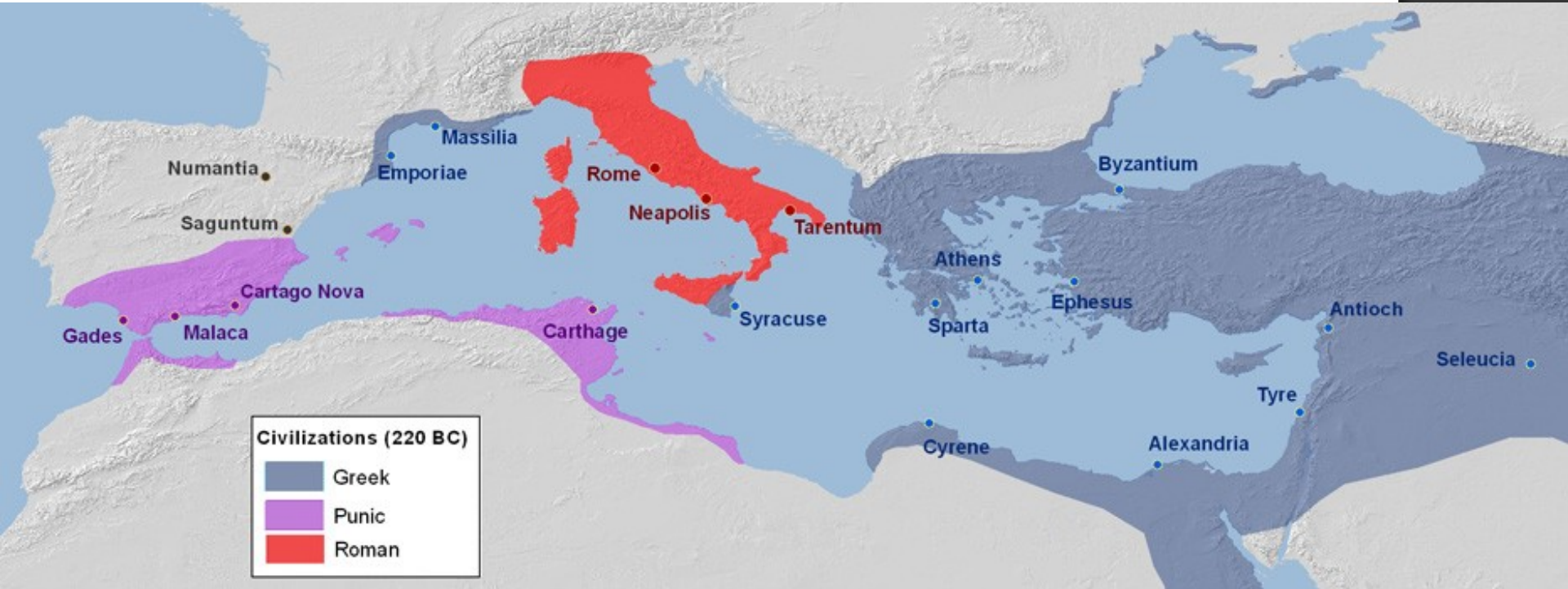


THE PUNIC WARS

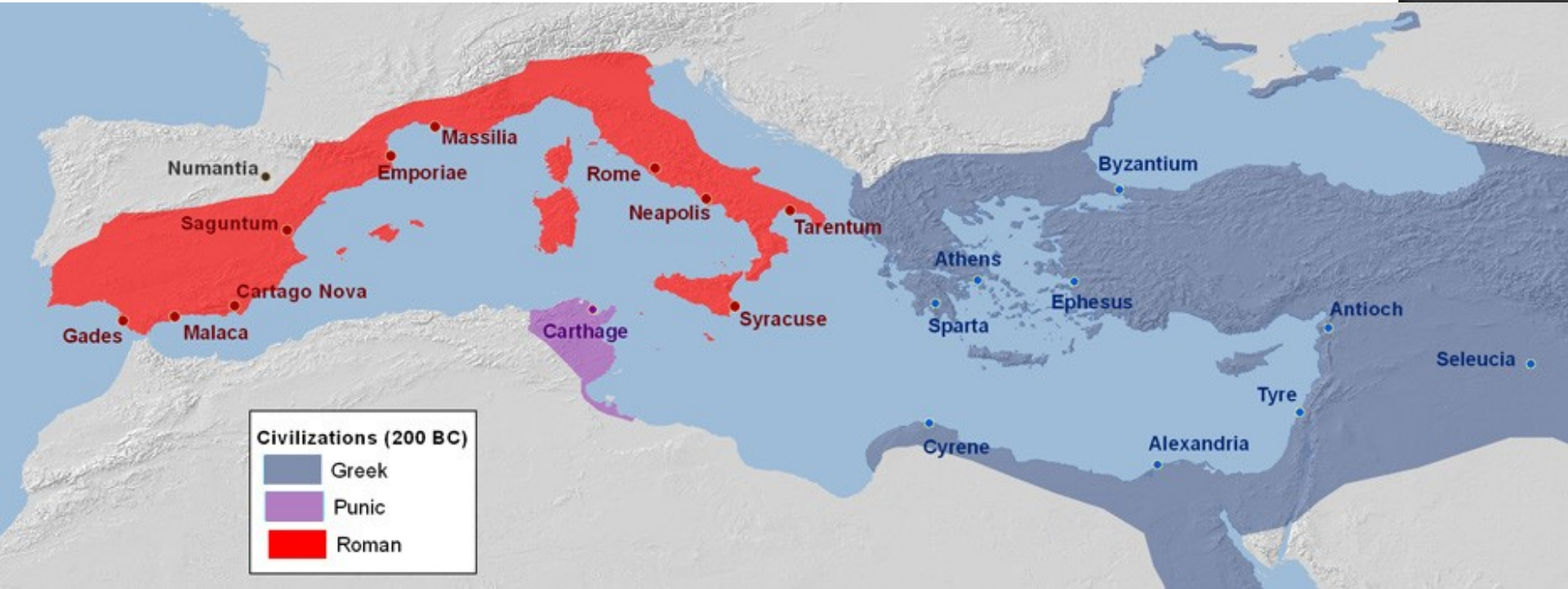
- © Led by General Scipio, the Romans attack Carthage and Hannibal is forced to return to defend his native homeland.
- © It is in Africa where Scipio and the Romans finally defeat Hannibal.



THE PUNIC WARS



THE PUNIC WARS



THE PUNIC WARS

- ⦿ Lastly, in the third and final Punic Wars, Rome once again attacks the hated rival Carthage.
- ⦿ Rome burns the city to the ground and enslaves its 50,000 inhabitants.
- ⦿ It was even said that the Romans covered the ground in salt so that the earth would not be able to produce any more crops.
- ⦿ With Carthage finally destroyed, Rome gains dominance over the western Mediterranean

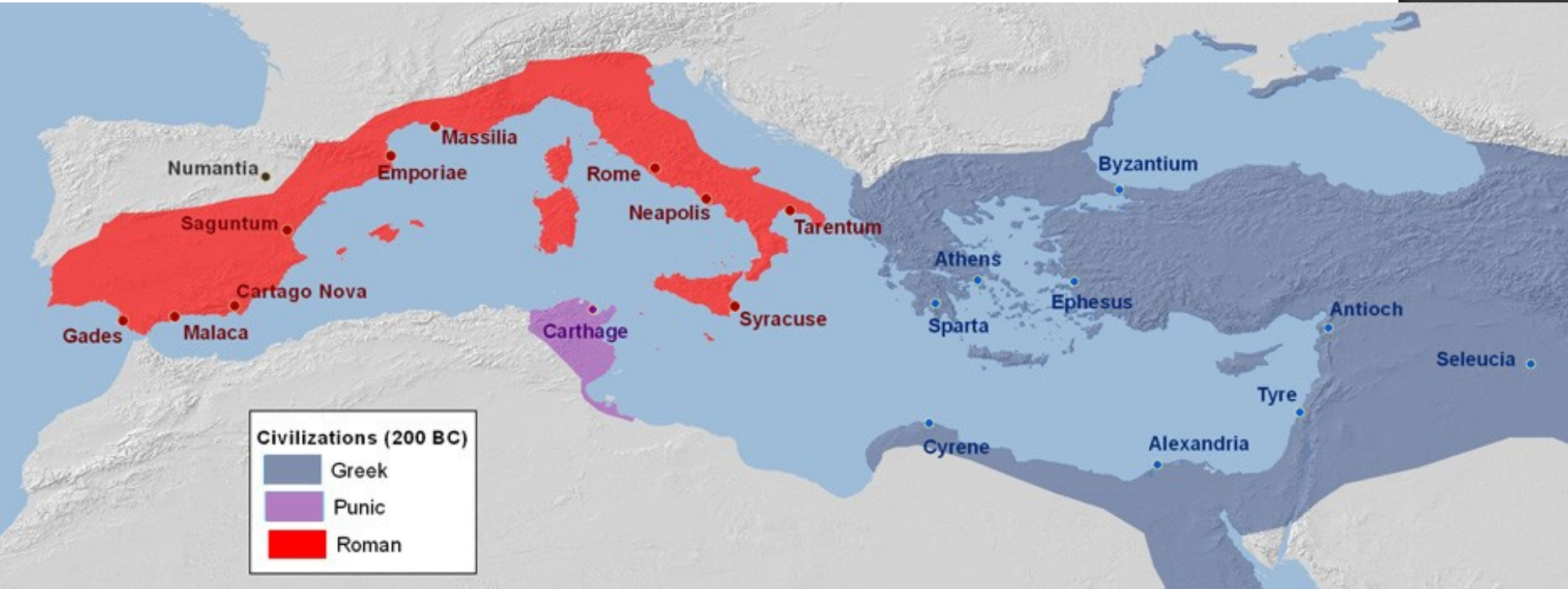


ROME TRIUMPHS

- © In another few decades, Rome would also conquer Greece, Macedonia, Spain, and parts of modern Turkey.
- © Rome now controlled the Mediterranean Sea.



ROME TRIUMPHS



ROME TRIUMPHS



**SECTION 2 -
ROME SPREADS ITS POWER**

ROMAN UPHEAVAL

- ⦿ Rome was now the sole power in the Mediterranean and very prosperous.
- ⦿ But as the territory grew, so did the gap between the rich and poor.
- ⦿ The wealthy patricians benefited greatly from Roman expansion.
 - Slaves brought from conquered territories were sold to wealthy landowners.
- ⦿ At one point, 1/3 of the population was slaves.



ROMAN UPHEAVAL

- ⊙ Small farms could not compete with the wealthy landowners.
- ⊙ Many people lose work and become homeless due to the vast amount of slave labor.
 - Many of these small farmers were former soldiers
- ⊙ Nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ of Rome's population was considered poor.



THE GRACCHUS BROTHERS

- ⦿ Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were two brothers who tried to help Rome's poor.
- ⦿ As tribunes, they tried to make reforms such as limiting the size of large estates and also by giving land back to the poor.
- ⦿ They made many enemies among wealthy Senators and other patricians.
- ⦿ They were then murdered by those who felt threatened by their reforms.



ROMAN CIVIL WAR

- ⦿ This strife and upheaval between the rich and poor would lead to **civil war** - a conflict between two groups within the same country.
- ⦿ Many poor soldiers in the military became discontent and loyal to their generals rather than to Rome itself.
- ⦿ It would now become possible for a military leader supported by his troops to take over by force.



JULIUS CAESAR

© See additional Julius Caesar PowerPoint.

ROME - POST CAESAR

- © Caesar left a will naming Octavian, his nephew who was only 19 years old, the heir to his fortune and position.
- © This enraged Mark Antony who had been second in command and very loyal to Caesar for many, many years.



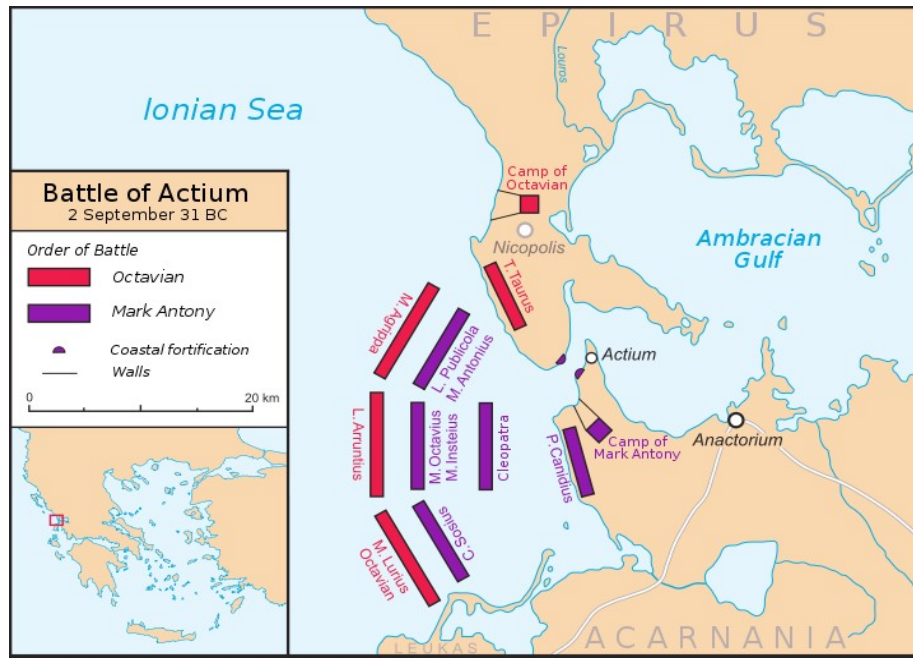
THE 2ND TRIUMVIRATE

- ◉ Despite his anger, Marc Antony enters a political alliance with Octavian and a general named Lepidus.
- ◉ This political alliance is known as the 2nd Triumvirate.
- ◉ This alliance is short lived as the jealous Antony joins forces with his new lover, Cleopatra, against Octavian.



THE 2ND CIVIL WAR

- ⦿ A 2nd civil war breaks out between Antony and Octavian for control of Rome.
- ⦿ Despite his youth and inexperience, Octavian triumphs in the Battle of Actium and defeats Marc Antony's forces.



THE FATE OF MARC ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

- ◎ Following the defeat at Actium, Cleopatra fears for her life as Octavian's men gets close in.
- ◎ She devises a rumor that she has taken her life and goes into hiding.
- ◎ Marc Antony hears the news that Cleopatra is dead and he falls on his sword and commits suicide.
- ◎ With Marc Antony dead, Cleopatra does end up committing suicide by letting poisonous snakes bite her.



OCTAVIAN TRIUMPHS

- ⦿ Having defeated Marc Antony, Octavian becomes the unchallenged ruler of Rome.
- ⦿ While he keeps many similar aspects of a republic, (such as the Senate), Octavian is granted supreme power.
- ⦿ He becomes the first emperor of Rome.
- ⦿ He even changes his name to **Caesar Augustus**, meaning “exalted or great one”.



DID YOU KNOW?

- ⦿ Many rulers following Julius Caesar would take on the name and title of “Caesar”.
- ⦿ This does not only apply to Roman emperors.
- ⦿ In fact, the word “Kaiser” is German for Caesar, as is the word “Czar” in Russian.



Kaiser Wilhelm



Czar Nicholas II

CAESAR AUGUSTUS

- ⦿ Augustus is a just and able ruler and further expands the empire.
- ⦿ He also creates a lasting system of government.
 - glorifies Rome with beautiful public buildings
 - sets up a civil service to administer the empire
- ⦿ Starting with Augustus' rule, Rome would enjoy a period of peace and prosperity known as the **Pax Romana** or “Roman Peace” which lasts about 200 years.



STRANGE BUT TRUE

- ⊙ Even though Rome enjoyed a time of peace, there were some strange emperors who came to power not long after.
- ⊙ Take Emperor Caligula for example, Augustus' great grandson.
 - Caligula was reportedly clinically insane
 - He claimed to be a God and insisted people worship him as such
 - He killed or had people killed because he would get bored
 - He reportedly had incestuous relationships with 3 of his sisters
 - He would throw lavish birthday parties and dinners for his horse and forced Rome's elite and wealthy to attend
 - He also made his horse an official senator of Rome and even tried to make him consul
 - He once made his army march all the way from Rome to the English Channel, just to pick up seashells.
 - He was finally assassinated by his own guards

ROME'S VAST EMPIRE



ROME'S VAST EMPIRE



ROME'S VAST EMPIRE



TRADE AMONGST THE EMPIRE

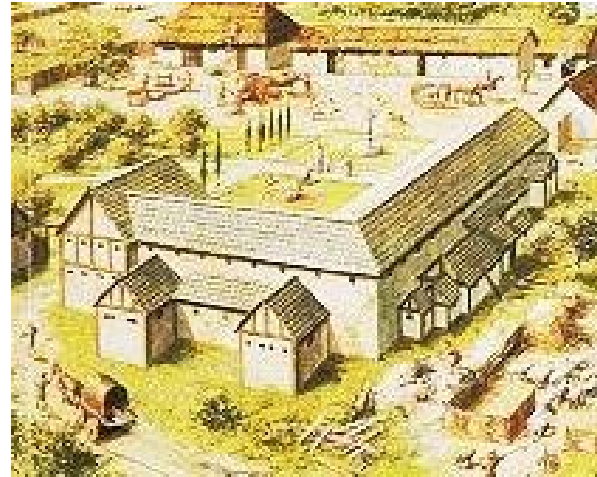
- ⦿ Rome has vast trading network, includes China and India
- ⦿ Network of Roman roads links empire to Persia, Russia.
- ⦿ Rome even created a common coin, denarius, makes trade within empire easier



Dinero, anyone?

AGRICULTURE AND SLAVERY

- ◎ Agriculture the most important industry in the empire; 90% of Romans were farmers
- ◎ Romans grew wheat, fruits and vegetables as well as tending to livestock such as cattle, sheep and pigs
- ◎ Slavery is a significant part of Roman life in both cities and farms



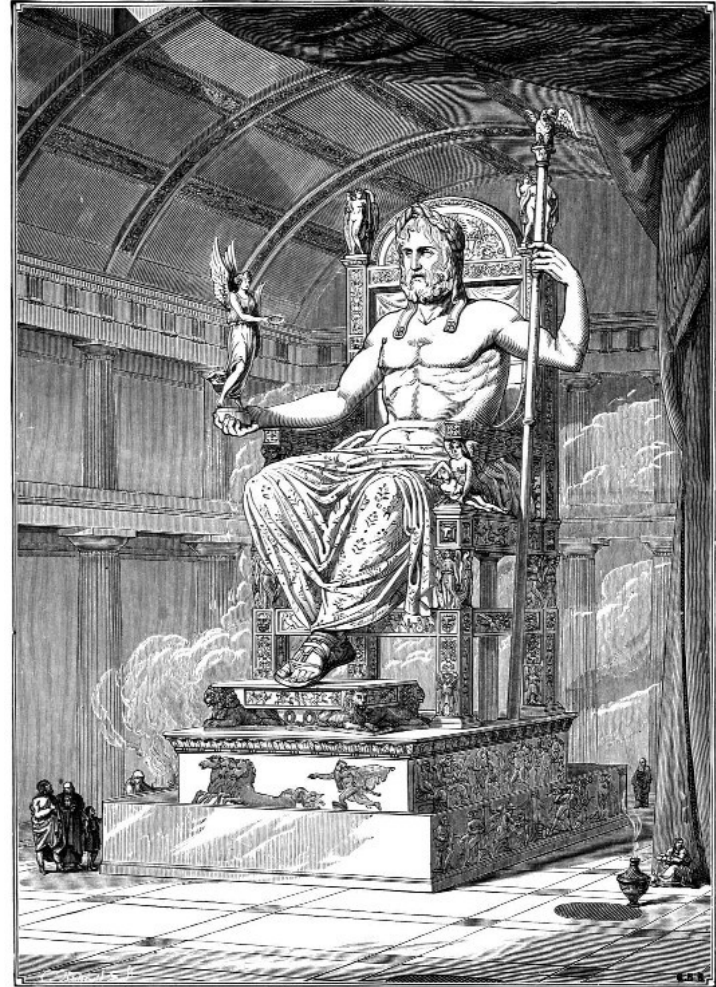
GLADIATORS

- ⦿ During this time, a new public spectacle arises, gladiator games.
- ⦿ The origin is unclear, but it rapidly became an essential feature of politics and social life in the Roman world.
- ⦿ Its popularity led to more lavish and costly spectacles.
- ⦿ Gladiators were slaves, condemned criminals, wild animals and even volunteers looking for excitement.
- ⦿ Most oftentimes, they would fight to the death.



ROMAN RELIGION

- ⦿ Augustus brought back many traditional festivals and ceremonies to revive the state of Roman religion which had declined during the late Roman Republic.
- ⦿ Roman religion focused on the worship of many gods and goddesses such as Jupiter, Mars and Venus.
- ⦿ Under Caligula, worshipping the emperor becomes part of the Roman religion.



SOCIETY AND CULTURE

- ⦿ While Rome is technically in a time of prosperity, many people are still poor.
- ⦿ The rich live well while the poor receive grain from the government.
- ⦿ Romans create 150 holidays and celebrations to try and distract and control the masses.



- ⦿ The ancient Roman festival called Lupercalia honored love. Celebrated from February 13-15, young men in ancient Rome would draw the names of the available women out of a box. Each man accepted the girl whose name he drew as his love - for the duration of the festival, or sometimes longer.

SECTION 3 - THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

- ⦿ Despite their many gods, Romans are tolerant to other religions, allowing people to worship and practice their native rituals.
- ⦿ At this time, Judaea, the old Jewish kingdom, had been conquered by Rome and become a Roman province.
- ⦿ Many Jews did not like the Roman rule. They believed that God would come to save Israel from this oppression.

RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

- ⊙ A prophet named Jesus arose and believed that his mission was to bring about salvation that God had promised to the Israelites.
- ⊙ Jesus performed miracles, taught ethical concepts such as humility, charity and love towards others, not strict adherence to Roman law.
- ⊙ Many Romans saw Jesus as a revolutionary who stirred controversy and might lead a revolt against Rome.



THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

- ◎ The Roman procurator Pontius Pilate would have Jesus put to death by crucifixion. However, his message would carry on.
- ◎ Apostles such as Paul and Peter spread the message that Jesus was the son of God and savior of all mankind.
- ◎ By accepting Jesus as Christ, (*Christos* is Greek word for Messiah), people could be saved from sin and reconciled with God.

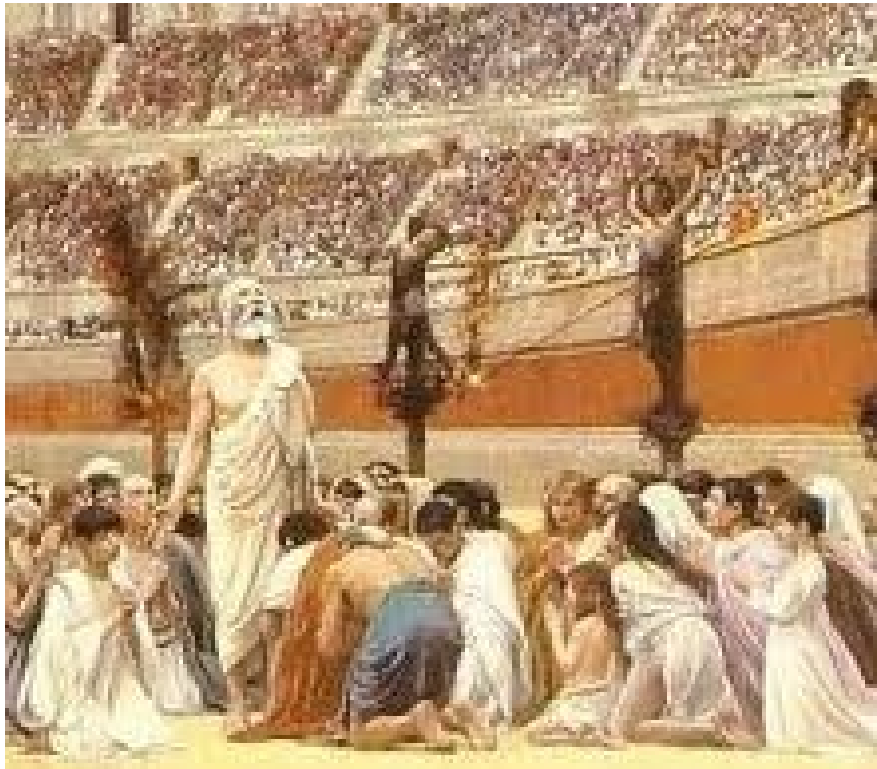


PERSECUTION

- ⦿ While largely ignored at first, the Christian faith started to spread and made Romans wary.
- ⦿ Romans feared that Christians would disrupt public order by refusing to worship the gods and the emperors.
- ⦿ Romans began persecuting Christians during the reign of Nero (1st Century AD). Nero had blamed them for the fire that destroyed most of Rome and subjected them to cruel deaths.



PERSECUTION



THE TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY

- ⊙ Despite persecution, Christianity grew in the first century, took root in the second, and by the third it had spread widely.



THE TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY

- ⊙ Christianity was attractive for people of every class - plebian, patrician, men, women, slaves, aristocrats - for it promised eternal life for *all*.
- ⊙ Although it did not call for revolution, it stressed spiritual equality, which was a revolutionary idea.

THE TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY

- ◎ The last great persecution was by Diocletian at the beginning of the fourth century.
- ◎ By this time, Christianity had spread so wide that it was hard to blot out by force.



CONSTANTINE

- ◉ While battling for control of Rome, Constantine sees a vision of a cross (the symbol for Christians).
- ◉ He places the cross on his soldiers' shields.
- ◉ Constantine attributes his victory to God and becomes a Christian himself (the first Christian emperor).
- ◉ Constantine issues the **Edict of Milan**, which officially proclaimed tolerance of Christianity.



THE TRIUMPH OF CHRISTIANITY

- © Under emperor Theodosius the Great, Romans officially adopted Christianity as their religion.



SECTION 4 - THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

THE DECLINE

- ⦿ Invasions, civil war and plague almost caused an economic collapse of Rome in the 3rd century.
- ⦿ The reforms of Diocletian and Constantine in the 4th century gave a new lease on life for Rome.
- ⦿ The two emperors greatly increased the army and civil service in attempt to save the economy.
- ⦿ Although temporarily successful, these policies were unable to revive Rome in the long run.



CONSTANTINE DIVIDES THE EMPIRE

- ◎ Constantine's biggest project was the moving of the capital from Rome to his new city in the *East*, known as Byzantium, later called **Constantinople**, "the city of Constantine".
- ◎ Today, it is the site of modern day Istanbul, Turkey.
- ◎ Byzantium was picked for its perfect, strategic, military position.



EASTERN AND WESTERN EMPIRES



THE DECLINE



- ⦿ Marcus Aurelius, the last of the five good emperors died in 180 AD.
- ⦿ Following his death, a series of civil wars and revolutions took place.
- ⦿ For fifty years, the Roman Empire was controlled by whatever military strength was powerful enough to seize it.
- ⦿ During this period there were 22 emperors, many of which had a violent death.

THE FALL

- As Rome was in a weakened state, The Western Empire (Rome) came under increase pressure from invading Germanic tribes.
- Since the time of Julius Caesar, the Germanic people had gathered along Rome's northern borders and existed in relative peace with Rome.



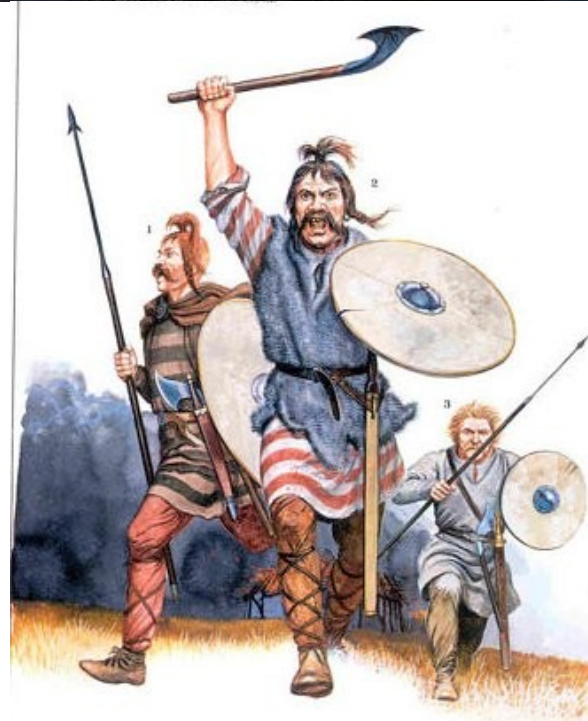
ATTILA THE HUN

- ◉ Led by Attila, a group of Mongol nomads known as the Huns, move into Europe from Asia.
- ◉ Attila leads an army of 100,000 and terrorizes both Eastern and Western empires.
- ◉ He attacks and plunders many cities and pressures Germanic tribes.



THE FALL OF ROME

- ◉ In an effort to save themselves from Attila, Germanic tribes flee south into Roman territory.
- ◉ By 410 AD, the Visigoths, a tribe of Germanic barbarians (non-Romans) had attacked and overrun Rome itself and plundered it.
- ◉ Rome was so weak, it would continue to be attacked and overrun for years to come.



ATTILA THE HUN

- ⦿ Although he did not attack Rome itself, it can be said that Attila is indirectly responsible for the Germanic invasion and the fall of Rome.
- ⦿ According to legend, the great conqueror Attila died of a nosebleed while he slept in 453 AD.
- ⦿ Despite his death, the invasions of Rome would continue.



Invasions of the Roman Empire 100 - 500 CE

Western Roman Empire

Eastern Roman Empire



Chalons 451

Adrianople 378

Rome

Constantinople

Carthage

- Angles, Saxons
- Franks
- Goths
- Visigoths
- Ostrogoths
- Huns
- Vandals

THE FALL OF ROME

- ⦿ In 476 AD, the Western emperor Romulus Augustulus (who was only 14 at the time) was deposed by a Germanic general.
- ⦿ This date is most commonly used as the *official* fall of the Western Roman Empire.
- ⦿ Many German kingdoms would replace the Western Roman Empire in the years to come.



THE EASTERN EMPIRE

- ⦿ Despite the fall of the Rome and the Western Empire the Eastern Roman Empire would not only survive, it would flourish.
- ⦿ Known as the Byzantine Empire, it would preserve Greek and Roman culture for another 1,000 years.



WHY DID ROME FALL?

- ◎ Many theories have been proposed about the fall of Rome.
 - Christianity influence on a spiritual kingdom weakened the army
 - Traditional Roman values declined as more non-Romans gained prominence.
 - Lead poisoning from water pipes and cups caused a decline in population
 - Plague wiping out 1/10 of the population
 - Failure to advance in technology because of slavery
 - Unable to put together a workable political system

CONCLUSION

- ⦿ There may be an element to truth to each
- ⦿ History is an intricate web of relationships, causes, and effects.
- ⦿ No single event can sufficiently explain the fall of one of the greatest empires in history.
- ⦿ The biggest problems may have come from the acquiring new lands and trying to maintain control and govern them all.

