

Listen to the audio
and fill in the gaps.

ANCIENT ROME

Ancient Rome was a powerful and important civilization that ruled much of _____ for nearly 1000 years. The culture of Ancient Rome was spread throughout Europe during its rule. As a result, Rome's culture still has an impact in the Western world today. The basis for much of Western culture comes from Ancient Rome, especially in areas such as government, engineering, architecture, _____, and literature.



The city of Rome is the capital of Italy today
Map of Italy from the CIA World Factbook

The Roman Republic

Rome first grew into power as a Republic. This meant that Rome's leaders, such as senators, were _____ officials that served for a limited amount of time, not kings who were born into leadership and ruled for life. They had a complex government with written laws, a _____, and a balance of powers.

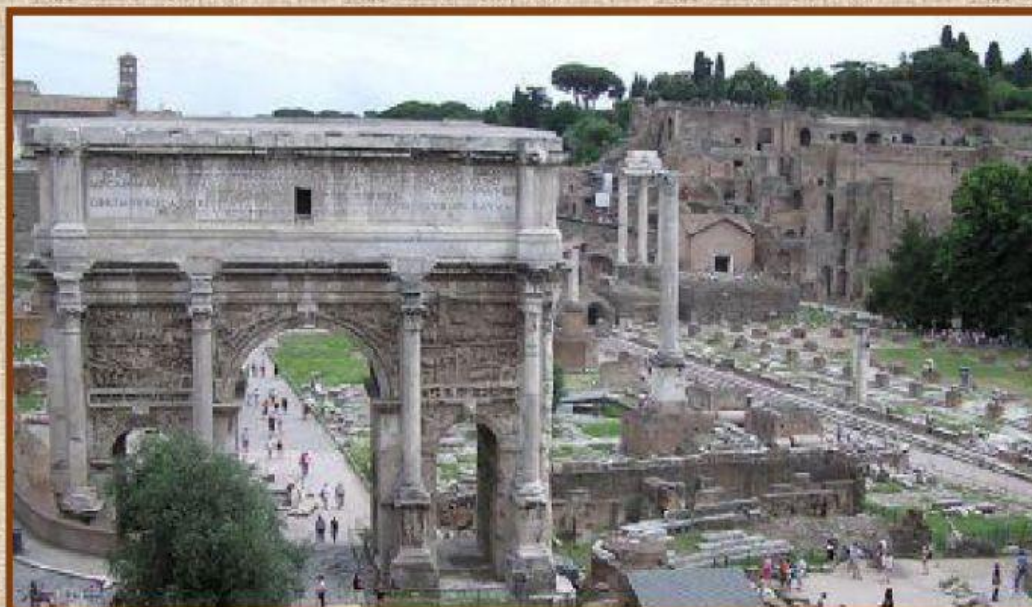
These concepts became very important in forming future democratic governments, like the United States.

The Republic would rule Rome for hundreds of years from around 509 BC to ____ BC.



The Roman Empire

In 45 BC Julius Caesar took over the Roman Republic and made himself the supreme _____. This was the end of the republic. A few years later, in 27 BC, Caesar Augustus became the first Roman Emperor and this was the start of the Roman Empire. Much of the lower level government stayed the same, but now the _____ had supreme power.



The Roman Forum was the center of government
Photo by Adrian Pingstone

The Empire Splits

As the Roman Empire grew it became more and more difficult to manage from the city of Rome. Eventually the Roman leaders decided to split Rome into _____ empires. One was the Western Roman Empire and was ruled out of the city of Rome. The other was the Eastern Roman Empire and was ruled out of Constantinople (today's Istanbul in Turkey). The Eastern Roman Empire or the _____ Empire would rule parts of Eastern Europe for another 1000 years.

Fun Facts about Ancient Rome

- The city of Rome is the capital of Italy today. It sits on the same site as the city of ancient Rome. If you were to visit Rome you could see many of the original ancient buildings such as the _____ and the Roman Forum.
- The Circus Maximus, a huge stadium built for chariot races, could seat around 150,000 people.
- The fall of Western Rome is considered the start of the " _____ " in Europe.
- The _____ position in the Roman Republic was the consul. There were two consuls at the same time to make sure that one didn't become too powerful.
- The native language of the Romans was _____, but they often spoke Greek as well.
- When Julius Caesar took power he named himself _____ for life. However, this didn't last long as he was assassinated a year later.