Guided Reading Activity

The Romans

Lesson 1  The Rise of Rome

Review Questions

Directions: Read each main idea. Use your textbook to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

A.  Main Idea: Geography played an important part in the development of Rome.
   1.  Detail: Italy is a narrow peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea with a gentle mountain range extending from north to south and fairly large, fertile plains.
   2.  Detail: Rome was located safely inland, with access to the sea and protection provided by the seven hills, on which it was built.
   3.  Detail: Rome was settled by the Latins, colonized by the Greeks, and then developed by the Etruscans.

B.  Main Idea: In 509 B.C., the Romans overthrew the last Etruscan king, established a republic, and ushered in a new era in Rome's history.
   1.  Detail: In a republic, the leader is not a monarch, and some citizens have the right to vote.
   2.  Detail: The Roman confederation was a system by which some people had full Roman citizenship and others were made allies, but all had a stake in Rome's success.
   3.  Detail: In addition to being very practical, the Romans were good diplomats, accomplished soldiers, and brilliant strategists.
   4.  Detail: Early Rome was divided into two groups or orders of citizens—the ruling patricians, or wealthy landowners, and the plebeians, who paid taxes, served in the military, and voted.
   5.  Detail: Despite equality under the law for all Roman citizens, the Roman Republic did not become a democracy.
   6.  Detail: The Romans developed a sophisticated system of law and a larger body of law known as the Twelve Tables.
Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

How did Rome develop from a farming settlement into a republic?

After defeating the Etruscans, the Romans began to conquer all of the Italian Peninsula, developing allies & citizens. As their empire grew, so did the sophistication of their civil system & laws. The elevation of patricians & plebeians contributed to the social structure’s development and political division. The rights of citizens to participate in representative government finalized the shift to the status of the early Romans as a republic.
Lesson 2  From Republic to Empire

Review Questions
Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your textbook to fill in the blanks.

I. The Decline of the Roman Republic

A. Though the aristocrats formed only a tiny minority of the Roman Republic, they came to control the Senate and political offices.

B. Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus were killed after they had the council pass land-reform bills to help the poor.

C. The Roman general Marius, who recruited poor men, promised recruits land and demanded loyalty to the general.

D. Lucius Cornelius Sulla used his armies to seize Rome and conduct a reign of terror against the plebeians.

II. The End of the Republic

A. The First Triumvirate, which was formed by Crassus, Pompey, and Julius Caesar, lasted until 47 B.C., when Caesar became dictator of Rome.

B. Pompey had a command in Spain, Crassus had a command in Syria, and Caesar had a special military command in Gaul (modern day France).

C. After Caesar's death, his heir and grandnephew Octavian, his ally and assistant Antony, and his cavalry commander Lepidus, joined forces.

D. The Second Triumvirate dissolved when Octavian defeated the allied forces of Antony & Cleopatra, and the two fled to Egypt, where they committed suicide.

III. The Beginning of the Roman Empire

A. In 27 B.C., Octavian, who was called Augustus, or "the revered one," became the first Roman imperator.
Guided Reading Activity Cont.

The Romans

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

What characterized society and politics during the Roman Republic? How was the Roman Empire formed?

Control of Senate & political positions by the wealthy & enforced by Marius' defeat at the hands of Sulla was the basis of the Roman Republic. The Empire was formed when the power was centralized in the hands of three men: the 1st Triumvirate (Julius Caesar, Gaius Cassius & Pompey) followed by the 2nd Triumvirate (Octavian, Marcus Antony & Lepidus) which ultimately ended the Republic with Augustus (Octavian) gaining complete power as emperor (imperator) of Rome.