



ANCIENT ROME

Introduction and Geography

Outcomes:

- Students will explain the geographic factors which influenced developments in the Italian peninsula.
- Students will identify the factors which explain Rome's success in extending its control over the Italian peninsula and subsequently the Mediterranean world.

WHAT DO WE ALREADY KNOW
ABOUT ANCIENT ROME?



THE LAND OF THE ROMANS

- The land of the Romans was about 3x larger than that of the Greeks.
- Hilly and mountainous - made transport and communications difficult.
- Rome's economy depended on agriculture and was lucky to have large areas of fertile land ideal for farming.





Location, location, location!

- Trade was lively because of its geographic location.
- Romans could reach the Middle East, Greece, Spain and North Africa by sea.



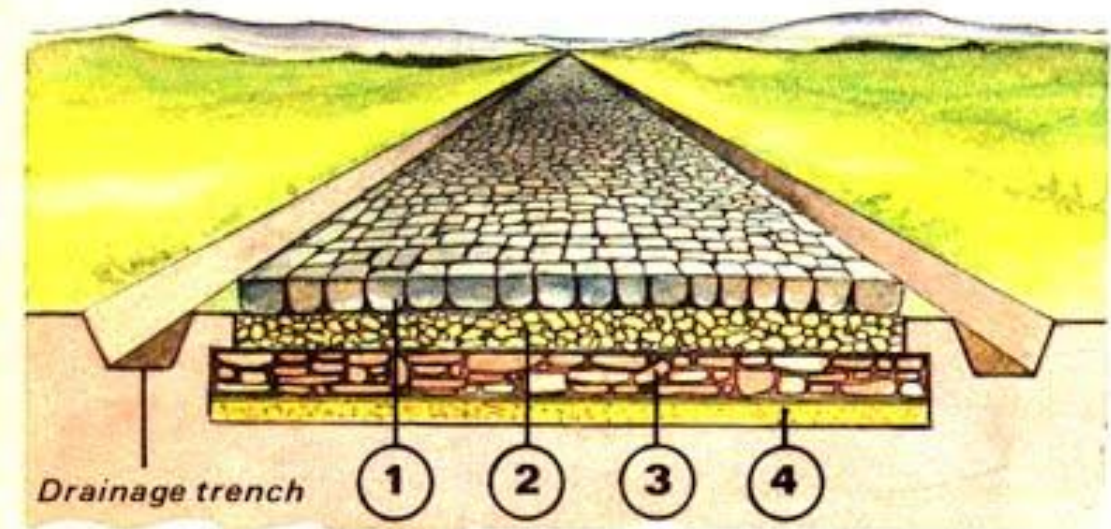
- Because the major natural ports were found on the western side of the peninsula and Rome was located only 24 km from the Mediterranean most trade was experienced with civilizations to the west of Rome.

All Roads Lead To Rome

- The emperors of Rome recognized the importance of trade and often constructed an extensive network of well paved, well drained roads that connected the sprawling empire together.



Cross-section of a Roman road



1. The surface was made of blocks of stone in concrete.

2. Concrete, made of gravel or coarse sand mixed with lime.

3. Lime concrete mixed with broken stone.

4. Lime mortar or sand laid to form a level base.

ROMAN EMPIRE: TRADE AND EXPANSION



In about 350 years, the Romans conquered an area about the size of the present-day United States.

- Movement** Explain how the trading routes allowed for the farthest reaches of the Roman Empire to trade.
- Regions** Why did control of the Mediterranean region benefit Rome's economy?



Roman Founded Cities



Rivers

- Italy has three major rivers that influenced the growth of Roman civilization: the **Po River** in the far north, the Arno River in Etruria and the **Tiber River** which flows through the city of Rome.





It's important to notice how early civilizations were heavily dependent on rivers and other bodies of water to help with trade and communication.

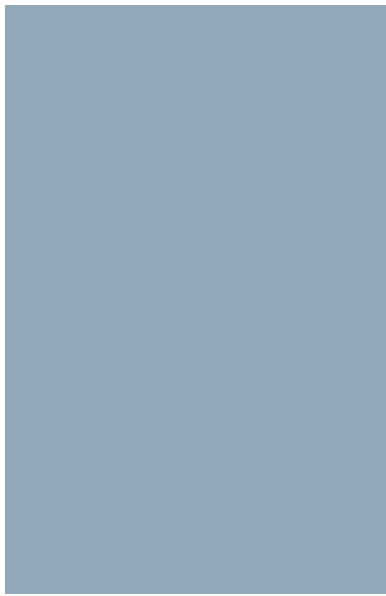


Influences on Rome

- Two influential groups occupied the Italian Peninsula: The Greeks and the Etruscans.
- **GREEKS**
 - Built colonies there around 750-550 BCE), which grew into prosperous city-states
 - Also occupied Sicily and the southern tip of the peninsula.
 - Greek culture flourished and they passed on their alphabet and artistic and cultural influences.

Greek Influence





Etruscans

- Developed a highly sophisticated society civilization just north of Rome.
- Expanded into Rome around 650 BCE and ruled for almost 100 years.
- The last King, known as Tarquin the Proud, was overthrown by the Romans in 509 BCE.



Etruscan Influence

- During the 100 years under the Etruscan monarchical rule the Romans learned about the arch, aqueducts, harbour building, urban drainage, and metal working.
- In addition to these influences the Romans also adopted the idea of compulsory military service as well as a view of governmental rule, in simple terms: oppressive kings are not welcomed.



Tomb painting of Etruscans
wining and dining.



To be completed while at home!

Video:
Etruscan
influence
on Rome

Student Work

Complete map
activity and
questions