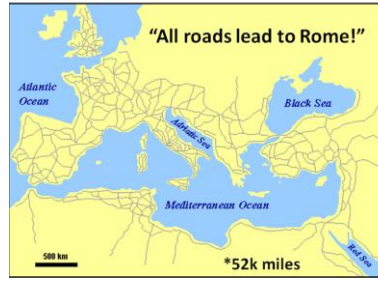


# Aim #20: How did the Romans leave behind a rich legacy?

## The Roman Achievement

NYS SS Framework: 9.3c



### GOVERNMENT

- Importance of written laws
- Equal treatment for all citizens
- Rights and duties of citizens

### ENGINEERING

- Excellent, durable roads
- Strong bridges
- Aqueducts to move water
- Building designs that inspired later societies

### ARCHITECTURE

- Large and strong buildings
- Columns and open spaces

### ART

- Realistic statues
- Lifelike portraits

### PHILOSOPHY

- Focused on improving people's lives
- Stoic philosophy emphasized people's civic duty.

### Mini Lecture

- Greek art, literature, philosophy, & scientific developments had a huge influence on the Romans. The two cultures brought forth **Greco-Roman Civilization**.
- Still, the greatest Roman writers worked in **Latin** (mother language). In his epic poem the **Aeneid**, the poet **Virgil** linked Rome to Greece's heroic past. Others used poetry to **satirize**, or make fun of, Roman society.
- Roman historians wrote about Rome's glorious past to renew patriotism.
- In philosophy, Roman thinkers were impressed with the Hellenistic philosophy of Stoicism.
- Both Roman & Greek sculptors realistically portrayed their subjects. However, the Romans also focused on individual character.
- Roman artists portrayed scenes from literature & daily life in frescoes & mosaics. A **mosaic** is a picture made from chips of colored stone or glass.
- Another difference between Romans & Greeks was their architecture. Unlike Greeks, the Romans focused on **grandeur**. They built enormous buildings to symbolize Roman power.
- The Romans also improved structures such as columns & arches. Utilizing concrete as a building material, they developed the arched **dome** as a roof for large spaces. They also built 52,000 miles of roads.
- More advances were made in **engineering**, which is the application of science & mathematics to make useful structures & machines. Roman engineers built many **aqueducts**, or bridge-like stone structures that carried water from the hills into Roman cities.
- In general, the Romans left scientific research to the Greeks, who were by that time citizens of the empire. **Ptolemy**, the astronomer-mathematician, proposed that Earth was at the center of the universe. This mistaken idea was accepted in the Western world for nearly 1,500 years.
- Rome was dedicated to regulating laws & to serving justice. To protect its citizens, Rome developed the **civil law**. As Rome expanded, the law of nations was established. This applied to both citizens & non-citizens of Rome. When citizenship was extended across the empire, the two systems merged.
- Greatest Roman legacies: laws, the Republic, the spread of Christianity, uniting Europe.

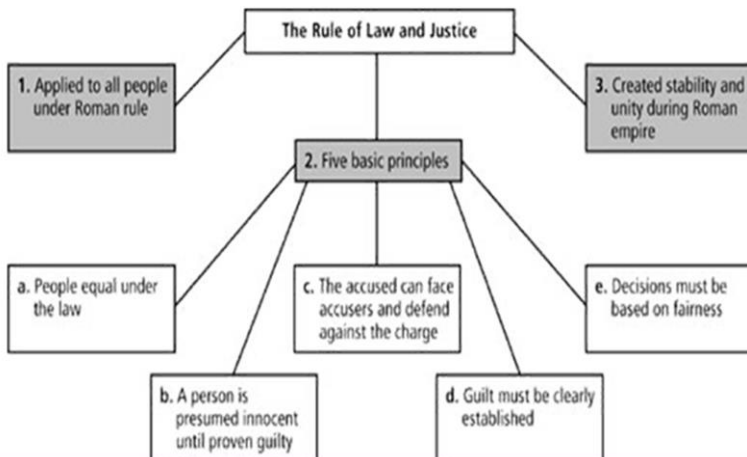
### Review Questions:

1. How did Roman historians try to renew patriotism?
2. What contributions did Romans make to engineering?
3. What architectural feature did the Romans develop?

### Resources/Documents:

- Images/artifacts on roads, mosaics, architecture, & sculptures
- Videos on the Coliseum, roads, & aqueducts
- Excerpts on literature, art, architecture, & medicine

**Further Reading:** Chapter 5, Section 3



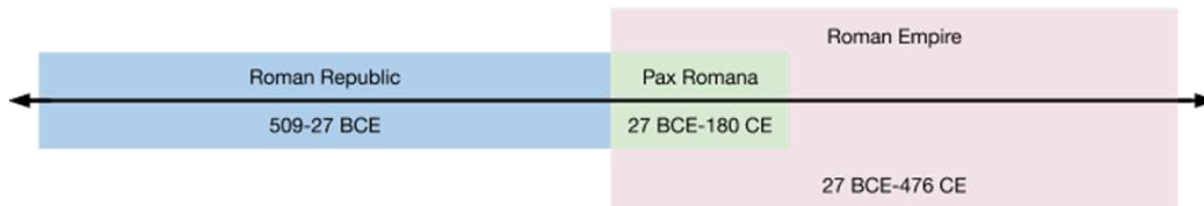


## What led to the Roman Golden Age, Pax Romana? How did Pax Romana impact Rome, other regions, and later periods in history?

### Contextualize Pax Romana, the Golden Age of Rome

Directions: Examine the timeline, text, and images below, then answer the questions below.

#### Timeline of Roman History through the Classical Age



The assassination of **Julius Caesar**, the Roman dictator, in 44 BC led to two decades of civil war as rival leaders tried to take control of Rome. Eventually, Caesar's great nephew, **Augustus**, defeated his rivals and united Roman-controlled lands as the **Roman Empire**. He expanded Rome's borders to cover most of Europe and the areas of Asia and North Africa surrounding the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Augustus' rule (27 BCE- 14 CE) started a two-hundred year long **Golden Age** known as **Pax Romana**. *Pax Romana* means "**Roman Peace**" in Latin and is used to identify the years 27 BCE-180 CE during which there were fewer wars than in any other period in Rome's history. The empire **strengthened its central government, consolidated** its power, and created a **stable** condition in which **trade** and **communication** flourished. The empire protected and governed individual provinces, permitting each to make and administer its own laws while accepting Roman **taxation** and **military control**. Through state sponsorship, Romans made great achievements in architecture, engineering, and the arts.



Statue of Augustus. 1<sup>st</sup> Century CE



The Roman Empire at its height, during Pax Romana.

1. Who united Rome after the death of Julius Caesar?
2. What does *Pax Romana* mean in Latin?
3. Why is *Pax Romana* considered a golden age?

## The Golden Age of Athens Museum Walk



A lot of the artifacts that appear in museums come from the golden ages of civilizations.

In this activity, you will visit exhibits on *Pax Romana*. As you learn about *Pax Romana*, fill out the appropriate row in the [Golden Ages of Classical Civilizations Graphic Organizer](#).

Golden Age	ACHIEVEMENTS and INNOVATIONS			
	Prosperity and Stability	Visual Arts and Architecture	Literature, Music, and Philosophy	Science, Mathematics, and Technology
Gupta Empire				
Han Dynasty				
Greece				
Rome (27 BCE- 180 CE) “Pax Romana”				



## Exhibit A: Roman Arches and Domes

Roman architecture continued the legacy left by the earlier architects of the **Greek** world. For example, the Romans used Greek column styles and built their grandest projects from marble. However, the Romans were also great innovators and they quickly adopted new construction techniques, used new materials, and uniquely combined existing techniques with creative design to produce a whole range of new architectural structures such as **the dome** and **the arch**. Many of these innovations were a response to the changing practical needs of Roman society, and these projects were all **backed by the government which funded, organized, and spread them around the Roman world**, guaranteeing their permanence so that many of these great edifices survive to the present day.

### The Arch



The Segovia Aqueduct in modern-day Spain is a well-preserved example of how Roman engineers used arches to span long distances and support a great amount of weight on a structure.

### The Pantheon



The **Pantheon** is the best preserved building from ancient Rome and was completed in c. 125 CE. Its magnificent **dome** is a lasting testimony to the genius of Roman architects and as the building stands virtually intact it offers a unique opportunity to step back 2,000 years and experience the glory that was Rome.

A painting of the inside of the Pantheon's dome.

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pantheon-panini.jpg>

## Exhibit B: Roman Aqueducts

▶ Watch an excerpt of [History Channel's Mankind: The Story of All of Us about the Roman Aqueducts](#), read the text, and examine the image below.

These sometimes massive structures, with single, double, or triple tiers of arches, were designed to carry fresh water to urban centres from sources sometimes many kilometres away. The earliest in Rome was the Aqua Appia (312 BCE), but the most impressive example is undoubtedly the Pont du Gard near Nimes (c. 14 CE). Romans used the arch to span rivers and ravines.



Pont du Gard, a Roman aqueduct ruin in modern-day France.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Le\\_Pont\\_du\\_Gard\\_Oct\\_2007.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Le_Pont_du_Gard_Oct_2007.jpg)

## Exhibit C: The Colosseum

▶ Watch [Deconstructing the Colosseum](#) & [Rick Steve's Europe about the Colosseum](#), read the text, & examine the image below.

Roman theatres and amphitheatres were **inspired by the Greek versions**. The Romans added a highly decorative stage building (*scaenae frons*) which incorporated different levels of columns, projections, pediments, and statues. Theatres also display the Roman passion for enclosing spaces, especially as they were often (partially or completely) roofed in wood or employed canvas awnings. The fully enclosed amphitheatre was a particular favorite of the Romans. **The Colosseum** is the largest and most famous, and it is a typical example copied throughout the empire: a highly decorative exterior, seats set over a network of barrel vaults, and underground rooms below the arena floor to hide people, animals and props until they were needed in the spectacles.



The Colosseum, Rome.

Source: Photo by ©2010 G.P. L'Espresso. CC-BY-NC 3.0. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The\\_Colosseum\\_in\\_Rome.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Colosseum_in_Rome.jpg), April 2012.jpg

## Exhibit D: Roman Roads

▶ Watch [Ancient Roman Superhighway](#) & an excerpt of [Mankind: The Story of All of Us](#) about Roman roads & examine the images below.



A street in Pompeii.



Map of major Roman roads in modern-day Spain & Portugal.



## Exhibit E: Roman Sculpture

Roman sculpture, with artists from across a huge empire and changing public tastes over centuries, is above all else, remarkable for its sheer variety and eclectic mix. The art form blended the idealised perfection of earlier **Classical Greek** sculpture with a greater aspiration for **realism** and absorbed artistic **preferences and styles from the East** to create images in stone and bronze which rank among the finest works from antiquity [the Classical Era]. Aside from their own unique contribution, Roman sculptors have also, with their popular copies of earlier Greek masterpieces, preserved invaluable works for the future which would have otherwise been completely lost to world art.



The *Dying Gaul*, sculpted from marble, is one of the best-known and most important works from Rome. The image above is a replica of one of the sculptures created to commemorate the victories over the Galatians in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BCE.



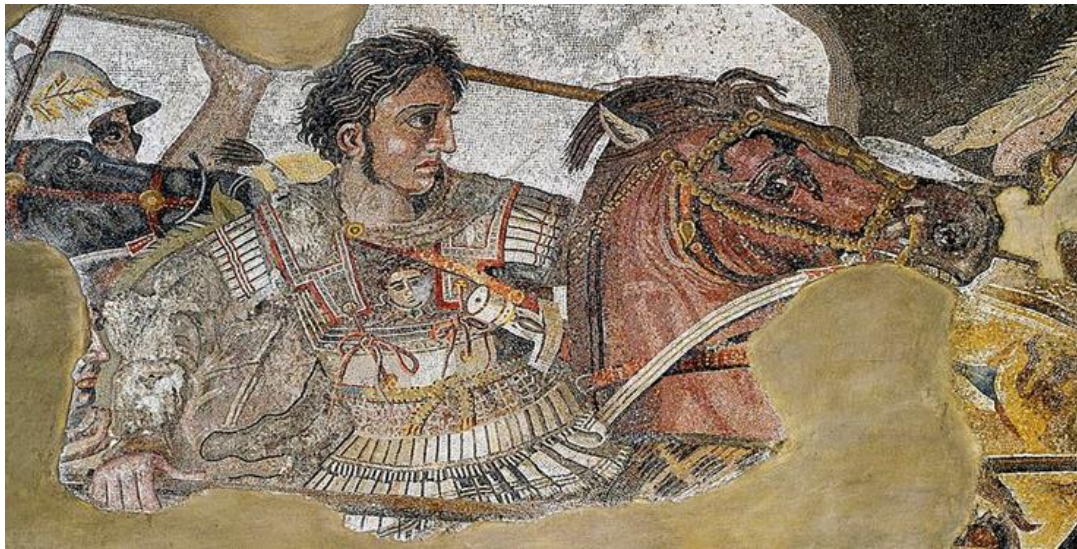
Bronze statue of Roman Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, erected ca. 175 CE.



## Exhibit F: Roman Mosaics

**Mosaic** is the art of creating images with an assemblage of small pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials.

Mosaics have been found in **Roman** dwellings from **Britain** to Dura-Europos. Splendid mosaic floors are found in Roman villas across north **Africa**, in places such as **Carthage**, and can still be seen in the extensive collection in Bardo Museum in Tunis, Tunisia. The most famous mosaics of the Roman world were created in Africa and in **Syria**, the two richest provinces of the **Roman Empire**. Many Roman mosaics are found in Tunisian museums, most of which date from the second to the seventh century CE.



A section of the Alexander Mosaic, a much larger Roman work depicting a battle involving the Greek general Alexander the Great created in Pompeii around 100 BCE.



A Roman mosaic depicting fish and vegetables hanging up in a cupboard, 2nd century CE.



Mosaic showing musicians and battles between people and animals that took place in arenas like the Colosseum.

Source: <https://www.ancientmedia.org/colosseum/>



## Exhibit G: Literature

The two most well known Roman authors were Virgil and Cicero. Their works, though completed before Pax Romana, were widely read during the golden age. Virgil (70 bce- 19 bce) was regarded by the Romans as their greatest poet, an estimation that subsequent generations have upheld. His fame rests chiefly upon the Aeneid, which tells the story of Rome's legendary founder and proclaims the Roman mission to civilize the world under divine guidance. His reputation as a poet endures not only for the music and diction of his verse and for his skill in constructing an intricate work on the grand scale, but also because he embodied in his poetry aspects of experience and behavior that transcend history. Marcus Tullius Cicero (106 bce- 43 bce) was a Roman statesman, lawyer, scholar, and writer who vainly tried to uphold republican principles in the final civil wars that destroyed the Roman Republic. His writings include books of rhetoric, speeches, philosophical and political treatises, and letters.



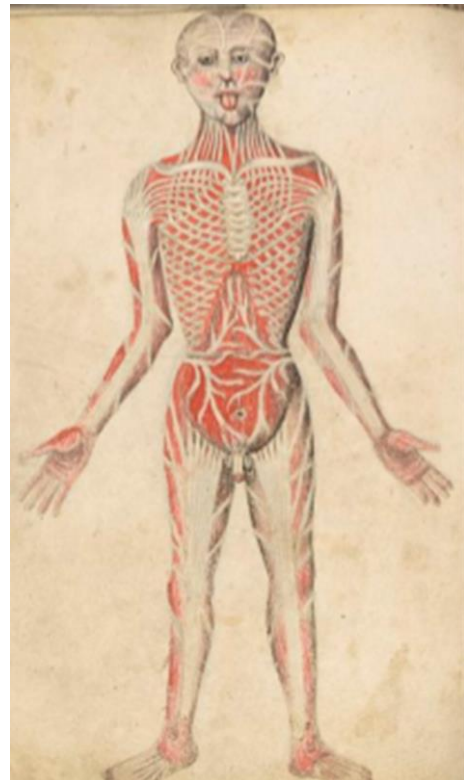
Fresco of a couple in Pompeii, Italy holding a writing tablet and a scroll, ca. 20-30 CE.

Source: <https://www.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Derpapiouck.jpg>

## Exhibit H: Roman Medicine

**Roman medicine** was greatly **influenced by earlier Greek medical practice and literature** but also made its own unique contribution to the history of **medicine** through the work of such famous experts like **Galen**. Whilst there were professional doctors attached to the Roman army, for the rest of the population medicine remained a private affair. Nevertheless, many large Roman households had their own medical specialist amongst their staff and with the spread of literature on the topic, access to medical knowledge became ever wider, treatments became more well known, and surgery became more sophisticated.

**Galen** (131-201) was a physician who learned about anatomy through the dissection of apes and pigs, clinical observation, and thorough examination of patient and symptoms. Galen was **forbidden by Roman law to dissect human corpses**, so his knowledge was limited to what he could learn from other animals and outward examinations of the bodies of dead gladiators and hanged criminals.



'Muscles Man', A drawing based on Galen's books about anatomy but drawn by someone else.

