

# Ancient Rome:

## REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

There were two major periods of history in Ancient Rome. From 509 BC to 27 BC the Roman Republic had no single ruler and the government was run by elected **officials**. From 27 BC to 476 AD (Western Roman Empire) the Roman Empire was led by an **emperor**.

### ROMAN REPUBLIC

**Consuls** were the top leaders during the Roman Republic. Two consuls served for only **one** year to keep any one man from becoming too powerful. As Rome prospered, the people were eager for a government that allowed the people more power. The early years of the republic brought about a ruling body called the Senate. They passed laws and controlled the army. The Roman Republic expanded through wars and conquest. Internal conflict and revolts led to the downfall of the Roman Republic. This opened the door for powerful military generals to seize control.

### FIRST TRIUMVIRATE

The **Roman Republic** fell in 59 BC with the alliance known as the **First Triumvirate**, among three powerful politicians: Julius Caesar, Pompey the Great, and Marcus Licinius Crassus. The three essentially ruled Rome until Crassus died in battle in 53 BC. Pompey then turned on Caesar and the two became enemies.



### JULIUS CAESAR

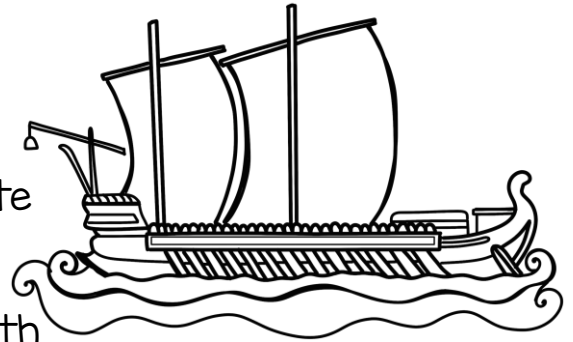
**Pompey** gathered political support against Caesar while he was away from Rome leading his army. This led to a **civil war** and Caesar led his army across the Rubicon River to approach Rome. Caesar eventually defeated Pompey to become the most powerful man in Rome. However, Caesar's enemies did not want him to end the Roman Republic and become king, so they assassinated him in 44 BC.

## SECOND TRIUMVIRATE

A Second **Triumvirate** among Marc Antony, Octavian (Caesar's heir), and Lepidus after Caesar's death. The Roman Government officially recognized the Second Triumvirate in 43 BC and they ruled for ten years until 33 BC. It started to split in 36 BC when Octavian removed Lepidus from power.

## MARC ANTONY

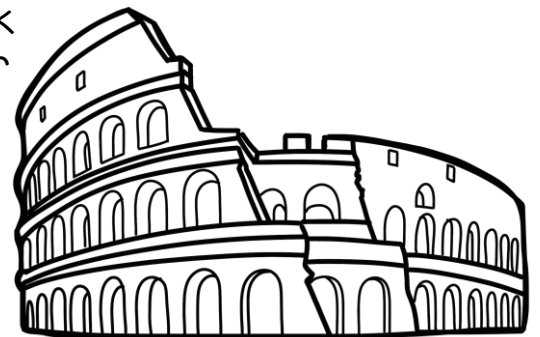
A **civil war** began between Octavian and Marc Antony when the Second Triumvirate came to an end. Marc Antony was stationed with his army in the eastern part of the empire, providing Octavian with the opportunity to build a power base in Rome. Soon he launched an attack against Antony, who had allied with **Cleopatra VII** of Egypt. Antony and Cleopatra were defeated by Octavian at the **Battle of Actium** in 31 BC. They both took their own lives when they realized they had lost.



## ROMAN EMPIRE

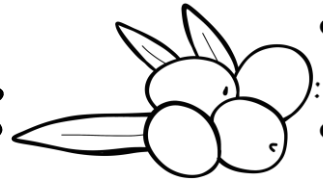
With Antony's defeat, Octavian became the most powerful man in Rome. He named himself "**Augustus**" in 27 BC and became the first **Emperor** of Rome, marking the start of the Roman Empire. He ruled all the lands Rome had conquered. The emperor had complete power. He was viewed as a

god and worshipped after death. This became a prosperous period and the empire expanded to cover its largest expanse and Rome became very wealthy. **Christianity** became the Roman Empire's official religion during the empire. The peak of the Roman Empire occurred in the year 117. It spread to Europe, Africa, and Asia, and was the most powerful civilization in the world. Many buildings, such as the **Colosseum** and **Pantheon**, were built during this time. The Roman Empire ended in the year 476.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE

**IDENTIFY:** Use the word bank to identify each description.

Pompey	Octavian	officials	Crassus	Cleopatra VII
Marc Antony	Emperor	assassinated	consuls	Lepidus

	1. Octavian had him removed from power in 36 BC
	2. The Roman Empire was ruled by this person
	3. From Egypt; allied with Marc Antony
	4. Defeated by Caesar in a civil war
	5. The Roman Republic was ruled by these elected people
	6. Octavian defeated him in a civil war
	7. Two people with the most power in the Roman Republic
	8. Caesar's heir; became Rome's first emperor
	9. Part of the First Triumvirate until he died
	10. The people of Rome did this to Caesar

**MULTIPLE CHOICE:** Choose the best answer.

11. What **mainly** sparked the end of the First Triumvirate?
- A. Julius Caesar was assassinated.
  - B. Julius Caesar wanted all the power.
  - C. Crassus died.
  - D. Pompey turned on Caesar.
12. Why was Caesar assassinated?
- A. The people of Rome wanted Pompey to win.
  - B. He was becoming too powerful and they did not want a king.
  - C. He had betrayed the people of Rome.
  - D. He had an affair with Cleopatra VII.
13. Which three leaders were a part of the Second Triumvirate?
- A. Caesar, Crassus, Lepidus
  - B. Lepidus, Antony, Cleopatra
  - C. Antony, Caesar, Octavian
  - D. Octavian, Antony, Lepidus
14. Which of the following is **NOT** true about the Battle of Actium?
- A. Antony and Cleopatra committed suicide after they lost.
  - B. Octavian became the Emperor of Rome after the battle.
  - C. Caesar prevailed as the winner of the battle.
  - D. Octavian built a power base in Rome while Antony was away.
15. What did Octavian change his name to when he became the Roman Emperor?
- A. Caesar
  - B. Antony
  - C. Augustus
  - D. Julius
16. Which **best** describes Octavian's rule as the Roman Emperor?
- A. Successful
  - B. Tumultuous
  - C. Eventful
  - D. Challenging

