

Ancient Rome:

ROMAN REPUBLIC

Ancient Rome was governed by the **Roman Republic** for 500 years. This complex form of government with a **constitution** allowed people to elect officials, like senators, who created laws. Many of the Roman Republic's ideas and structures became the basis for modern **democracies**. There were a number of leaders and groups who helped govern the Roman Republic. Varying levels and titles of elected officials were called **magistrates**. The Roman Republic was made up of many leaders and councils. The chart below explains some of these positions and their role in the government:



POSITION	DESCRIPTION
CONSULS	This was a very powerful position, as they were the top of the Roman Republic. Consuls were elected by popular vote by the people of Rome. There were always two consuls who only served one year to prevent the consul from becoming king or dictator . Consuls were able to veto each other if they disagreed. Some powers included: deciding when to go to war, how many taxes to collect, and what the laws were.
SENATORS	A group of prestigious leaders who advised consuls, senators were selected for life. The consuls typically did what they recommended. If a Senator died, consuls selected a person to replace them.

POSITION	DESCRIPTION
PLEBEIAN COUNCIL	Also known as the Peoples Assembly , the Plebeian Council was the way common people, plebeians , elected their own leaders, magistrates passed laws, and court was held.
TRIBUNES	Representatives of the Plebeian Council were known as tribunes . They had the power to veto Senate laws.
GOVERNORS	Local rulers were needed as Rome conquered new lands. A governor , or proconsul , to rule this land was appointed by the Senate. They were in charge of the local Roman army and were responsible for collecting taxes .
AEDILE	A city official responsible for the maintenance of public buildings and festivals was known as an aedile . Men who hoped to work their way up the political ladder often became aediles, holding big public festivals to gain popularity with the people.
CENSORS	Citizens were counted by the Censor who kept track of the census. He was also supposed to maintain public morality and monitor public finances .

CONSTITUTION AND RIGHTS

There was no precise written **constitution** in the Roman Republic. Instead, the constitution was more of a set of **guidelines** and **principles** passed down through the generations. The constitution outlined separate **branches** of government to balance power. People in the Roman Empire were treated differently based on their wealth, gender, and citizenship. Women had no rights and could not vote or hold political office. **Voting** power was proportional to wealth. Consuls, senators, and governors only came from rich **aristocracy**. Although this seems unfair, it was a major change from other ancient civilizations where average people had no say at all. Regular people in Rome could join together and have a lot of power through the **Assembly** and their **Tribunes**.

Name _____

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IDENTIFY: Use the word bank to identify each description.

consuls	governors	Plebeian Council	democracies
branches	Constitution	aedile	women
tribunes	censors	taxes	senators

	1. They had no rights or power in the Roman Empire
	2. Ruled local lands conquered by the Roman Empire
	3. The highest position of power in the Roman Republic
	4. City official responsible for maintenance
	5. Guidelines and principles passed down
	6. Different ones to balance the Roman government
	7. Prestigious leaders who advised consuls
	8. Also known as the Peoples Assembly
	9. Roman Republic was basis for many modern ones
	10. Counted citizens of the Roman Empire
	11. Representatives in the Plebian Council
	12. Governors were in charge of collecting these

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

13. What was the **main** purpose of having two consuls who only served one year?
- A. Gave Romans more leaders
 - B. Prevented one from being too powerful
 - C. Provided more opinions
 - D. Allowed for a leader from each side
14. Complete the following analogy:
Senators : Consuls :: _____ : Plebeian Council
- A. Tribunes
 - B. Aediles
 - C. Censors
 - D. Governors
15. What was the **main** reason governors were appointed in the Roman Empire?
- A. To create laws
 - B. To run the local army and collect taxes
 - C. To ensure consuls had power
 - D. To advise the consuls on decisions
16. Which of the following was **NOT** true about the Roman Constitution?
- A. It outlined branches of government.
 - B. It was a set of guidelines passed down.
 - C. It was written down in a document.
 - D. Its principles inspired democracies.
17. Which of the following is an **accurate** statement about citizens' rights in Rome?
- A. Women had equal rights as men in the Roman Empire.
 - B. All Roman citizens had equal voting rights.
 - C. Regular people in Rome (plebeians) had no power.
 - D. The Roman Empire gave regular people more power than other civilizations.

