Around 1500 B.C., Latins migrated from West Asia to the Tiber River and founded the Roman civilization. Originally farmers and traders, Romans developed a society that has influenced people throughout the world.

Etruscan kings controlled the Latins for almost 150 years. The Latins overthrew the kings and established a republic. The republic lasted for nearly five hundred years.

In the republic, power was divided between the Senate, the Assembly, and the consuls. Laws were written and publicly displayed and known as the “Twelve Tables.” These written laws created a stable society, though some laws were harsh.

The Roman military was the strongest in the world. When the Romans conquered a new territory, they built roads into the new territory for trade and troop transport. The Roman Republic fought the three Punic Wars to gain control of the Mediterranean Sea and trade was expanded. The Roman Republic eventually stretched from Britain in the west, to the Rhine and Danube rivers in Central Europe, and into Africa and Asia.

After many years of fighting between powerful Roman leaders, the republic fell. The strongest leader who emerged was Julius Caesar, who was given the title of dictator. This was the beginning of the Roman Empire. Caesar’s grandnephew and adopted son, Octavian, became the first emperor and was given the name Augustus. The emperor was considered a god and controlled all religious, civil, and military affairs.

For over two hundred years, the inhabitants of the Roman Empire experienced relative peace and order. Fathers, called paterfamilias, controlled their families with an iron hand. Women were legally under the rule of their husbands. The father held all the power and was responsible for raising a strong and productive family.

Entertainment included gladiator fights, chariot races, and public baths. Slaves were trained to be warriors and fought in gladiator arenas (Coliseum). Chariot races were held in arenas like the Circus Maximus. After a day’s work, men and women from both rich and poor classes washed, talked, and relaxed in public baths.

The empire split in A.D. 395 into the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire and Western Roman Empire. Political corruption, plagues, and a weakened military contributed to the fall of the Western Roman Empire, which was finally defeated by Germanic tribes in A.D. 476. In the east, the empire continued until 1453. Even though the Western Empire fell, its cultural and social influence spread throughout Europe and Asia.

The ancient Romans left the world an incredible amount of architecture, art, and literature. Romans developed concrete to build monumental structures. Greek sculptors influenced Romans to show human features in an idealized form. Roman writers wrote myths, histories, poetry, plays, philosophy, and theology.

In the Roman province of Palestine, a carpenter, named Jesus, claimed he was the Son of God. Jesus was crucified by Romans and his believers say he rose from the dead. By the fourth century, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.
1. Number the events in chronological order.
   a. _____ End of Western Roman Empire
   b. _____ End of Roman Republic
   c. _____ Etruscans rule the Latins
   d. _____ End of Eastern Roman Empire

2. When the Roman Empire began, its leader was:
   a. the paterfamilias.
   b. Augustus.
   c. an Etruscan king.
   d. Julius Caesar.

   Which sentences best supports the answer? _____, _____

3. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
   a. _____ Emperors had very little control in the Roman Empire.
   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

   b. _____ The Roman Empire was eventually split into two empires.
   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

   c. _____ Roman societal influence was limited to nearby kingdoms.
   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

   d. _____ The Latin people began as farmers and traders.
   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

4. The Twelve Tables were:
   a. where the Senate ate.
   b. Roman laws.
   c. games played in the arenas.
   d. the consuls’ title.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

5. Mark each statement F for fact or O for opinion.
   a. _____ Art created by ancient Romans is the most beautiful in the world.
   b. _____ Both rich and poor Romans used the public baths.
   c. _____ Ancient Romans invented concrete.
   d. _____ Paterfamilias had too much control over their families.

6. By the end of Western Roman Empire what is one thing that had changed?
   a. Romans stopped worshipping the emperor.
   b. Romans stopped taking baths.
   c. Romans stopped creating sculptures.
   d. Romans stopped following their paterfamilias.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

7. The Punic Wars were fought:
   a. to control the Mediterranean Sea and expand trade.
   b. to overthrow the Etruscans.
   c. between the Eastern and Western Roman Empires.
   d. to give Julius Caesar and his supporters control.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

8. Which of the following is not a reason for the fall of the Western Roman Empire?
   a. corrupt politicians
   b. slave revolts
   c. disease
   d. a less effective military

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

9. Roman roads were built:
   a. by the Etruscans.
   b. to allow citizens easy access to the arenas.
   c. to allow the military to move easily and to increase trade.
   d. to join the two Roman empires together.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
Written Response Question

10. Based on the lesson, infer why the Roman Empire lasted so long.

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

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Ancient Romans Review: Lessons 25-36 Answers

1. 3
   2
   1
   4
2. d, sentences 14, 15
3. a. F, sentence 17
   b. T, sentence 26
   c. F, sentence 2
   d. T, sentence 2
4. b, sentence 7
5. a. O
   b. F
   c. F
   d. O
6. a, sentence 36
7. a, sentence 11
8. b, sentence 27
9. c, sentence 10
10. Key points:

    The Roman Empire succeeded in large part because of foundations laid by the Roman Republic. The Roman Republic established written laws to ensure a stable society, created the strongest military in the world, and enjoyed the benefits of the flourishing Mediterranean trade.