

30 IMPORTANT EVENTS

IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND VOCABULARY

ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE RESOURCES



Terms of use

Copyright © 2023 BJL Smit and Essential Language Resources. All rights reserved.

Some elements found in this material are copyrighted and cannot be extracted and used outside of this file without permission or license.

You may also be interested in other language resources:

www.essentiallanguageresources.com

[ELR.STORE](#)

Contents

Notes To Teachers and Students	4
The Rise of The Roman Empire	5
The Early Christian Church	7
The Fall of The Roman Empire	10
The Birth and Spread of Islam	13
The Empire of Kublai Khan	15
The Rise of The Ottoman Empire	18
The Black Death of the 14th Century	20
The Renaissance in Europe	23
The Protestant Reformation	25
The Age of Enlightenment	28
The American Revolution and War of Independence	31
The French Revolution	34
The Conquests of Napoleon Bonaparte	37
The American Civil War	40
The Abolition of Slavery in the Western Hemisphere	43
The Industrial Revolution	46
The Unification of Italy	49
The Unification of Germany	52
The British Empire	55
The Chinese Revolutions of 1911 and 1949	58
The First World War	61
The Emancipation of Women in the West	64
The Russian Revolution	67
The Great Depression	70
The Second World War	73
Independence of Former Colonies	76
The Cold War	79
The Social Revolutions in the West during the 1960s	82
The Collapse of the USSR	85
The Information Age	89
Index of Factual Questions	92

NOTE TO TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

The discussion questions are not about testing the student's knowledge of an event or a person, but to give them an opportunity to use their English language skills to *speculate* about reasons or causes, or to express their opinion on a topic.

The Rise of The Roman Empire



The Roman Empire was one of the most powerful empires in the history of the world. It began as a small city-state in Italy and eventually grew to control much of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

The Roman Republic was established in 509 BC, after the Romans overthrew their Etruscan conquerors. The Roman Republic was a time of great expansion, as the Romans conquered many neighboring city-states and territories. However, the Republic was also plagued by political turmoil and class conflict.

In the 1st century BC, Julius Caesar emerged as a powerful leader and began a series of military campaigns that greatly expanded the Roman Empire. After his assassination in 44 BC, his adopted son Octavian became the first Roman Emperor, taking the name Augustus.

The Roman Empire reached its greatest extent in 117 AD. The empire was divided into two parts in the 3rd century AD – the Western Roman Empire, and the Eastern Roman Empire, with different emperors ruling each one.

The Western Roman Empire fell in 476 AD. The Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire, continued to exist for another thousand years.

Overall, the Roman Empire was a major civilization that greatly influenced the Western world. Its system of government, law, and architecture continue to influence the world today.

Questions

1. When was the Roman Republic established?
2. Who were the conquerors overthrown by the Romans?
3. What did Julius Caesar do to expand the Roman Empire?
4. When was Julius Caesar assassinated?
5. Who became the first Roman Emperor after Julius Caesar's assassination?

6. When did the Western Roman Empire fall?
7. How has the Roman Empire influenced the Western world?

Exercises

Read the definitions of words and phrases. Then complete each sentence with one of the bold words or phrases.

- 1st century BC:** refers to the period from the year 1 to 100 AD
 - adopted son:** a person legally and formally accepted and raised as a son, though not biologically related
 - class conflict:** struggle or tension between different social classes
 - military campaign:** a series of military operations or activities carried out for a specific purpose
 - political turmoil:** a state of unrest or disturbance in the political landscape, often involving rapid changes or instability
 - system of government:** the organizational structure and principles by which a country or society is governed
1. _____ was a major theme in the historical struggle for workers' rights.
 2. The _____ aimed to liberate the occupied territories.
 3. Democracy and monarchy are different _____.
 4. The country experienced _____ during the transition to democracy.
 5. John is the _____ of my previous boss.
 6. Julius Caesar was assassinated in the _____.

Discussion

1. Leadership Styles: Considering the rise of the Roman Empire, do you think strong and charismatic leaders are more likely to bring success to a nation, or do you believe collaborative and democratic approaches are better?
2. Legacy of Empires: The Roman Empire had a lasting impact on the Western world. In your opinion, what are some positive and negative legacies left by powerful empires throughout history?
3. Endurance of Cultures: Despite the fall of the Western Roman Empire, the Eastern Roman Empire endured for a long time as the Byzantine Empire. What factors do you think contribute to the endurance of cultures or civilizations even after significant changes or challenges?