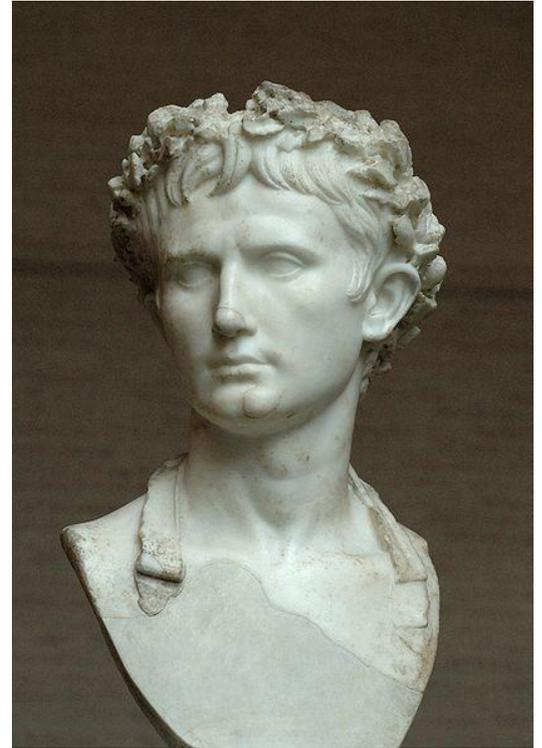


ROMAN EMPIRE 27 BC - 476 AD (1453 AD?)

PRINCIPATE (27 BC - 284 AD)

OCTAVIAN AUGUSTUS (27 BC - 14 AD)

- **Octavian** (Caesar's adopted son) defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra at Actium in 31 BC, which left him in charge of the whole Roman Empire and in **27 BC** he proclaimed himself **Emperor**
- He even accepted the title **Augustus** (= "his Majesty, the respected one")
- He needed to have the power of a king (**centralization of power**) but republican institutions remained in action (e.g. the senate, magistrates, assemblies etc.). The emperor controlled the republican institutions, he was the **commander-in-chief** of the army, the chief priest and consul for life.
- Octavian called himself **Princeps inter pares** ("the first amongst equals").
- The source of Octavian's power were the army and praetorian guard.
- His aim was to keep Rome in peace, especially within - **Pax Romana**.
- The empire (since the republic) had been divided into **provinces**. During the imperial era, these were divided into imperial and senatorial provinces (depending on who they were run by, **imperial provinces** being the **wilder and more problematic** ones near the borders). They took better care of the provinces and usually prevented exploitation.



TASK 1: Use your atlas to study the Roman provinces and write down five examples of important imperial provinces.

- the boundary was threatened by the **Germans** (e.g. **Marcomans**) so Rome tried to destroy this threat in **9 AD in the battle in Teutoburg Forest** where the Germans destroyed 3 legions so the boundary remained on the Rhine (the end of Roman expansion in Germania). The boundary was protected by forts, e.g. **Vindobona** or **Aquincum**.
- Traditions and laws were protected.
- The arts were supported by the emperor - **Golden Age of Rome**. Augustus and other rich Romans sponsored many artists and writers, the most famous sponsor was **Maecenas**. There was a boom in **building and construction (marble)**, but this also emptied the Roman treasury!
- Octavian had no heir so he legally adopted one of his army generals, Tiberius, who became emperor after his death in **14 AD**.

TASK 2: Study the map below:

1. According to the descriptions below, match the names of provinces to the numbers in the map.

Africa – ____ - the province was established after the defeat of Carthage after the Third Punic War.

Germania – ____ - the territory was covered with forests and mountains so Romans found it difficult to attack. The local people were fierce warriors who liked to attack on the Roman border.

Hispania – ____ - there were primitive tribes. Hannibal crossed this land on the way to Rome.

Britannia – ____ - it was inhabited by Celtic tribes who were fierce warriors. The Romans protected themselves by building a protective wall (**Hadrian's Wall**). Later, the Romans and the Celts assimilated.

Gallia – ____ - there lived Celtic tribes who were experienced warriors. They were finally defeated by Caesar.

Pannonia – ____ - the northern border of the province was formed by the River Danube and Limes Romanus. There were the two important castra Vindobona and Aquincum.

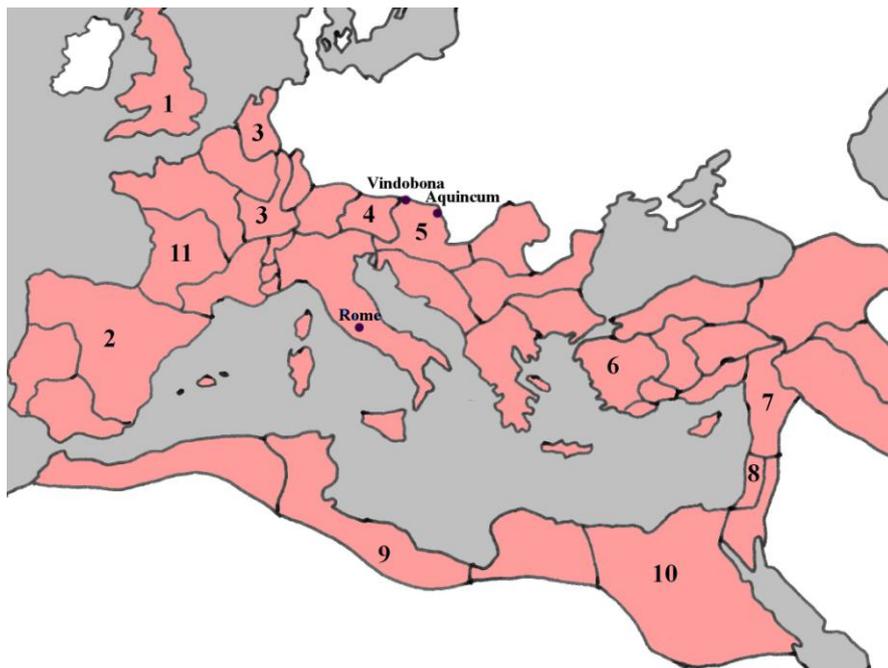
Asia – ____ - a very hot and mountainous province. It was difficult to fight there because it was very far from Rome. During Greek times, Troy used to be there.

Syria – ____ - there were similar conditions to those in the province of Asia. Thanks to trade, it was one of the richest provinces in the Roman Empire. It was on the way to Damascus and the capital city was Antioch.

Noricum – ____ - it used to be a Celtic territory. Its northern border was formed by the River Danube. Its eastern border was formed by the province Pannonia.

Judaea - ____ - a very hot and mountainous province. It was difficult to fight there because it was very far from Rome. The Hebrews lived there. There were many Jewish rebellions. Also, Pontius Pilate was a prefect here. He sent Jesus Christ to be crucified.

Egypt – ____ - it was once a great power but after Octavian it was weakened a lot. Still, it was one of the richest provinces in Rome because it was a source of many luxury goods and wheat.



2. What are the locations of Vindobona and Aquincum called today?

JULIAN-CLAUDIAN DYNASTY:

- This dynasty had bad relations with the senate.
- **TIBERIUS** (14-37)
 - experienced military commander, diplomat, very good emperor, hard-working, later moved to Capri and ruled the empire from there
 - his adoptive son was Germanicus
- **CALIGULA** (37-41)
 - son of Germanicus, Caligula = “little army boot”
 - pompous, wasted money, cruel, despotic, no morals, eventually killed by the praetorian guard
- **CLAUDIUS** (41-54)
 - Caligula’s uncle, very educated, interested in history
 - he stabilized the empire
 - growth of bureaucracy and number of officials
 - his wife Agrippina probably poisoned him
- **NERO** (54-68)
 - adopted son of Claudius
 - an absolute ruler, wicked
 - he was involved in murders and assassinations of his enemies; some were forced to commit suicide (Seneca)
 - confiscations
 - **64 AD - a great fire in Rome** - Nero was suspected, but Christians were blamed; Rome was finally rebuilt
 - in 68 AD Nero committed suicide

FLAVIAN DYNASTY:

- **VESPASIAN** (69-79)
 - a good commander and emperor
 - supported by the legions
 - war in Iudaea (victory celebrated by the building of the Arch of Victory in Rome)
 - he also started the construction of the **Colosseum** – an amphitheatre which was used for entertainment – especially chariot races and gladiator fights. It could seat 50,000 spectators.



Gladiators were men who fought each other in many special styles and sometimes they fought even animals.

TASK 3: Look at the Roman mosaic below. Can you use it to describe gladiator fights and the weapons used?



- **TITUS** (79-81)
 - **79 the eruption of Vesuvius - destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum**
- **DOMITIAN** (81-96)
 - expansion of the empire
 - cruel, murdered in a plot

ADOPTIVE EMPERORS:

- era of stability of the empire, economic growth (esp. the provinces)
- good relationship with the senate
- **“Five Good Emperors:“**
- **NERVA** (96-98)
 - a senator who was elected emperor by the senate
 - the first one to adopt a successor on the basis of his political and military abilities and actions
- **TRAJAN** (98-117)
 - the first emperor of non-Italian origin!, the last one to expand the empire (the largest territory ever), popular, conquered **Dacia** (today's Rumania), the province of **Arabia**

- **HADRIAN** (117-138)
 - stopped wars of expansion and started defensive wars, built a system of fortresses (castra), wooden palisades and natural obstacles (rivers) lining the boundaries of the empire - **Limes Romanus**, in Britain he built **Hadrian's Wall**
- **ANTONIUS PIUS** (138-161)
 - very religious
 - economic growth but also rebellions of the people
- **MARCUS AURELIUS** (161-180)
 - he was nicknamed "philosopher on the throne"
 - defensive wars against attacks of the barbarians (Germanic tribes in the north, Parths in the east), the beginning of the crisis of the empire
 - **166-180 Marcoman Wars** - defended the territory, Latin inscription on the **Trenčín rock** and the excavations of a small Roman army camp in **Olomouc!**, also **Mušov**
- **CARACALLA** (211-217)
 - in **212** he granted Roman **citizenship to all free inhabitants of the whole empire!!**

235-284 MILITARY ANARCHY

- **army commanders** made political decisions concerning the whole empire and sought their own interests, army often declared its commanders to be **emperors**
- also, this was the time of **persecution of Christians** (new, suspicious religion, their masses were prohibited, priests executed etc.), chaos, empire lost its unity
- the Empire in crisis - military generals fought among themselves for power, riots in Italy, unity of the empire weakened
- attacks of the barbarians in the east and north (esp. Germans), Rome tried to make them allies (**foederati**) so they were granted land and accepted into the Roman army
- degradation of agriculture, people had to rent land to work on (**colons**)
- growth of Christian religion and its influence

DOMINATE (284 - 476)

DIOCLETIAN (284 - 305)

- tried to strengthen the power of the emperor, an absolutist ruler (the senate had no influence), there was only one ruler of the empire
- dominus = master, “dominus et deus,” emperor adored in ceremonies
- Rome no longer the residential city of the emperor
- **293** - new system of government and succession - **tetrarchy**:
 - there were two older rulers with the title of **augustus** who were assisted by two younger rulers called **caesars**
- **persecution of Christians**

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT (306 - 337)

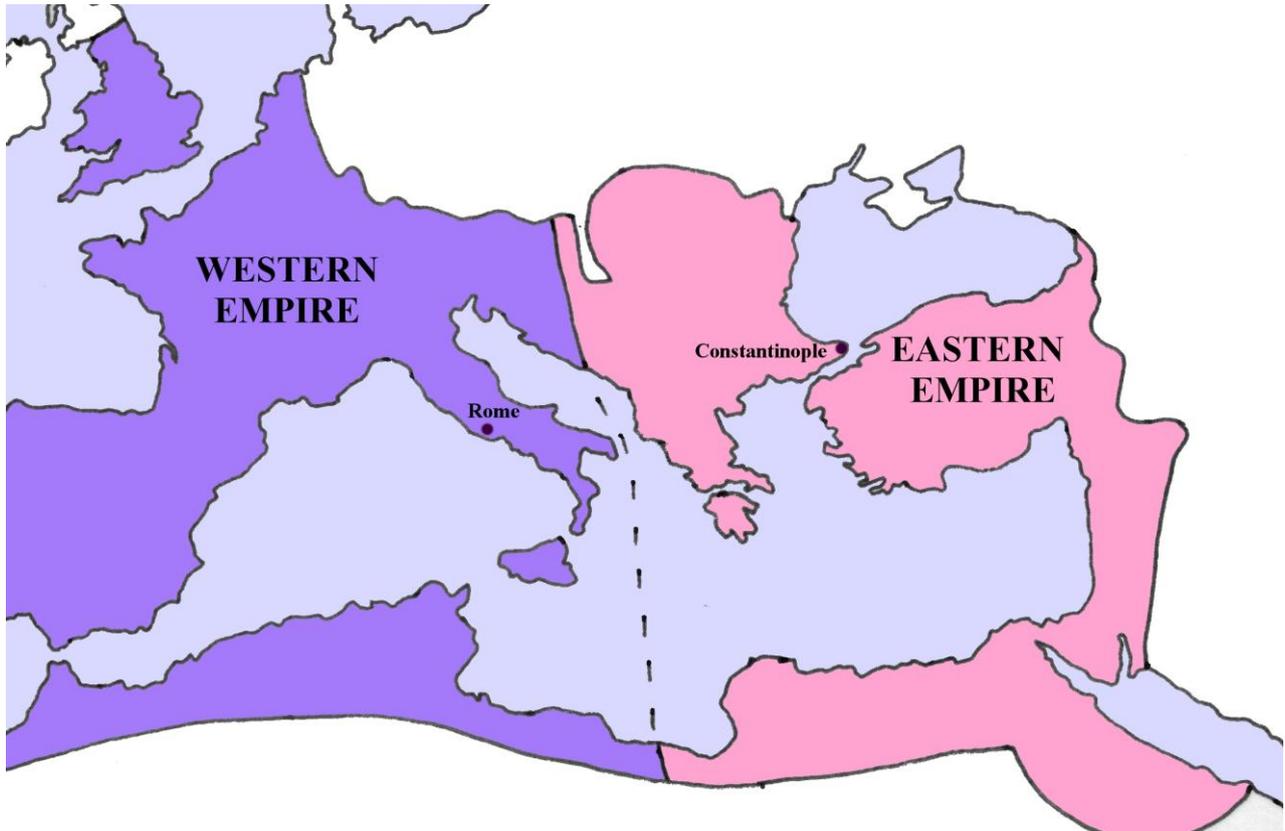
- reforms, strong bureaucracy, secret police
- he cancelled tetrarchy (again one strong emperor)
- **The Edict of Milan in 313** – showed his **approval of Christianity** - Christianity made equal with other religions, freedom of religion, property returned to the Church, bishops acknowledged
- **330** new capital city **Constantinople** - founded in the place of old Greek colony **Byzantium** at Bosphorus (until 1453 the capital of the Byzantine Empire)

JULIAN THE APOSTATE (361-363)

- apostata = renegade, he was not a Christian → temporary return to polytheism
- **the second half of 4th century** - beginning of the **Great Migration of Peoples** (started by the Huns in 375); domino effect of nations moving and the **Visigoths** invaded Rome (**378 battle of Hadrianople** - Roman army defeated)

THEODOSIUS (379-395)

- banned pagan cults again, only catholic Christianity permitted (as the state religion)
- further Germanic attacks on Rome
- **396** after death of Theodosius – the **Roman Empire was divided**:
 - **the Eastern Roman Empire** - fewer barbarian attacks, better economy, stable, trade, capital city Constantinople
 - **the Western Roman Empire** - uprisings, massive and disastrous barbarian attacks



- 406 – the **Vandals** crossed the Rhine and invaded Gaul, Spain and North Africa
- **410 - Rome conquered by the Visigoths** (king Alaric) who then continued to Spain
- **451 - battle of Catalaunian Plains** (near Poitiers) – the Huns were defeated and stopped in their invasion of western Europe by united armies of Roman provincial legions and Germanic tribes
- **455 - Rome sacked by the Germanic Vandals** from North Africa (massive destruction of the city - “vandalism”)
- **476 - the last Roman emperor Romulus Augustulus** deposed by **Odoacer** (German), Odoacer kept his power but did not rule as a Roman emperor but as a Germanic king

This meant **the end of the Roman Empire!!!** and also **the end of the Ancient World!!!**

However, it was **NOT the end of Roman civilization** - its culture was accepted by the Germanic tribes and the **Eastern Roman Empire lasted** (as the **Byzantine Empire**) **until 1453** – So, can you explain the question mark in the title of this chapter now?

ROMAN HISTORIANS

We know a lot about Roman history (and also the history of other nations) from archaeological sources and accounts of contemporaries. However, there were many Roman historians who specialized in writing about history of Rome and its affairs.

Gaius Julius Caesar left us his notes on his actions in the *Commentarii*. His account is very useful for the study of the Gaul territory and its tribes.

Livy (Titus Livius) wrote a monumental history of Rome from 753 BC to the reign of Augustus.

Tacitus wrote mainly about the famous emperors Tiberius, Claudius, Nero, Nerva and Trajan. He also wrote about Germania.

ROMAN RELIGION

The Romans generally accepted Greek and Etruscan religions. We can find there many gods and goddesses from the Greek pantheon. However, these were given Roman names.

The ruler of the gods was **Jupiter** and his wife **Juno**. The goddess of love was **Venus** and the goddess of wisdom was **Minerva**. The god of war was **Mars**. The goddess of hunting was **Diana**. The god of fire and smiths was **Vulcan**.

TASK 4:

Can you replace the names of Roman gods with their Greek names?

During the first century another religion was born. Originating from Jewish sects, **Christianity** was created and started gaining influence among the poor Roman people. Until the 4th century Christians were mostly persecuted – officially, by the state. Then, most of the Roman emperors started to support this religion.

TASK 5: Using the notes above, revise which emperors:

- a. persecuted Christians
- b. supported them.

ROMAN CALENDAR

The Roman calendar was quite accurate and we use its modern version today. Before Julius Caesar, the Roman year began in March. Caesar not only changed the beginning of the year but also renamed the months – some according to gods and other months got their names after famous people. One month he named after himself!

TASK 6:

Can you say which month was named after:

1. Julius Caesar himself
2. The god of war
3. Jupiter's wife
4. Emperor Octavian?

ROMAN NUMERALS

TASK 7: Can you rewrite these numbers to Arabic (ours)?

IV = _____ X = _____ XVI = _____ XXIX = _____ L = _____
C = _____ CIC = _____ D = _____ M = _____ MDCLX = _____

Also, can you write your age _____ and this year _____ in Roman numerals?

REVISION:

TASK 8:

Put these events in chronological order:

- a. the great fire in Rome
- b. battle of Teutoburg forest
- c. the Marcoman Wars
- d. the division of the Empire
- e. the Edict of Milan
- f. Octavian proclaimed Emperor
- g. the eruption of Vesuvius

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____

TASK 9:

i. Order the given emperors chronologically

- a. Trajan _____
- b. Constantine _____
- c. Nero _____
- d. Diocletian _____
- e. Romulus Augustulus _____
- f. Caracalla _____
- g. Vespasian _____

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____

ii. On the empty line write down one thing they were memorable for.

TASK 10:

What of the Roman heritage has survived until our era? Make a list of the Roman cultural, political or military aspects we use or can see today. (Evaluate the whole Roman era – do not forget the Roman Republic)