Leveled Texts for Social Studies

World Cultures Through Time





Color CD included



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How to Use This Product

Readability Chart






Title of the Text	Star	Circle	Square	Triangle
Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent	1.9	3.1	5.1	6.7
More Mesopotamian Empires	2.0	3.2	4.7	6.5
Ancient Egypt	2.1	3.3	5.2	6.8
Rulers of Egypt	2.1	3.3	5.0	7.2
Ancient Greece	2.0	3.0	5.1	6.5
Greek City-States	2.2	3.2	5.0	6.8
The Mighty Roman Empire	2.2	3.0	5.0	6.6
The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire	2.2	3.1	5.0	7.1
Early India	2.1	3.0	4.5	6.5
Indian Rulers	2.2	3.2	5.0	6.9
Ancient China	1.9	3.2	5.0	6.7
More Chinese History	2.2	3.1	5.1	6.5
African History	2.2	3.3	5.0	6.5
Mesoamerican Empires	2.0	3.2	5.0	6.5
The Incredible Incas	2.1	3.0	5.0	6.5

Correlation to Standards

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation mandates that all states adopt academic standards that identify the skills students will learn in kindergarten through grade 12. While many states had already adopted academic standards prior to NCLB, the legislation set requirements to ensure the standards were detailed and comprehensive. In many states today, teachers are required to demonstrate how their lessons meet state standards. State standards are used in the development of Shell Education products, so educators can be assured that they meet the academic requirements of each state.

Shell Education is committed to producing educational materials that are research and standards based. In this effort, all products are correlated to the academic standards of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools. A correlation report customized for your state can be printed directly from the following website: **http://www.shelleducation.com**. If you require assistance in printing correlation reports, please contact Customer Service at 1-877-777-3450.

McREL Compendium

Shell Education uses the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) Compendium to create standards correlations. Each year, McREL analyzes state standards and revises the compendium. By following this procedure, they are able to produce a general compilation of national standards. The social studies standards on which the texts in this book focus are correlated to state standards at **http://www.shelleducation.com**.

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The Mighty Roman Empire

The City of Rome

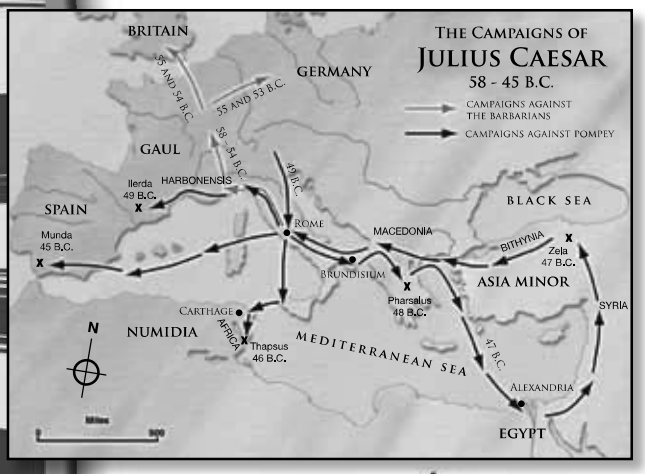


Rome was founded around 753 B.C. How did it start? A story says that two brothers were raised by a wolf. Their names were Romulus (RAWM-yuh-luhs) and Remus (REE-muhs). One day, the brothers began building a city. The brothers fought. They each wanted the bigger part. Then, Romulus killed Remus. He became the king. He named the city Rome.

Rome had beautiful statues. It had great buildings. There was even a water system. It brought fresh water to the people. The Romans got some ideas from the Greeks. They used arches and columns in their bridges. The Romans had new ideas, too. They were the first to put domes on buildings. They made things that would last. You can see some of their buildings today.

Roman Rulers

Kings ruled early Rome. Then, the Roman Republic began in 509 B.C. It lasted almost 500 years. In this form of government, men picked senators. Then the senators ruled Rome. This group made the laws. The Roman men picked the men who would speak for them.



Julius Caesar (SEE-zuhr) was an army general. His troops liked him. Other people liked him, too. He won a big battle. Then, he made himself the head of Rome. He was in charge of the government. Many Romans felt that Caesar was acting like a king. They did not want a king. Some felt that he would end the Senate. So, a group of senators killed Caesar.

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Caesar's son took charge. He was called Octavian. In 27 B.C., the Senate changed Octavian's name. He became Augustus (oh-GUHS-tuhs). He became Rome's first emperor. Augustus worked to improve the Roman Empire. He had the city streets cleaned. He had new buildings made. When Rome was very big, Trajan became the emperor.

Not all emperors did well. Caligula (kuh-LIG-yuh-luh) was Rome's third emperor. He went mad and was killed. Emperor Commodus (KAWM-uh-duhs) also went crazy. The Roman Republic had other problems, too. The Senate leaders argued. They did not agree on laws. Many Roman citizens had little say in their government. These common people were called plebeians (plih-BEE-uhnz). Unfair laws were passed. Plebeians rose up against the senators. They tried to force them to make changes.

Social Ranks

In Rome, a person was a citizen, a noncitizen, a plebeian, or a slave. Rich adult males were citizens. They voted. They owned land. They owned homes. All women and men from other places were noncitizens. Poor men were plebeians. They could vote. But, they could not speak in the Senate.



Slaves had no rights. Some were treated well. Others had to work long hours at hard jobs. Farmers needed slaves. They had to grow enough food to feed those who lived in the city.

Comprehension Question

Why did a group of senators kill Julius Caesar?

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The Mighty Roman Empire

The Beautiful City of Rome

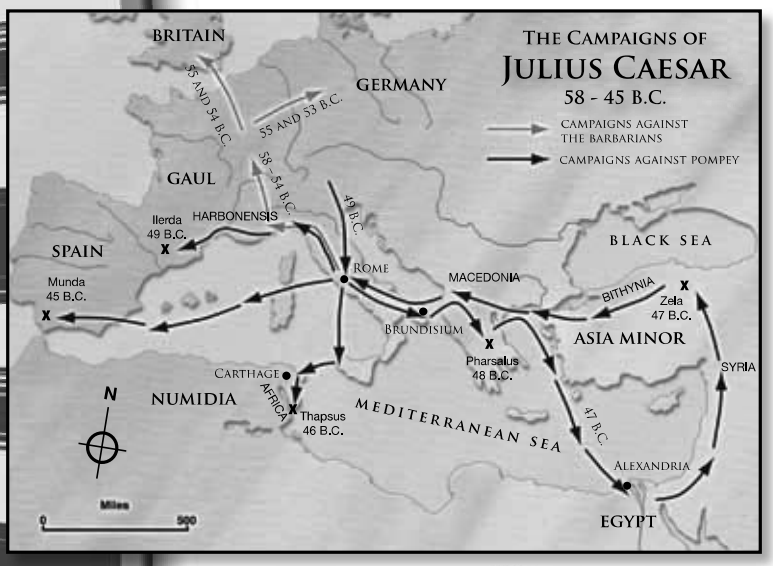


Rome was founded around 753 B.C. A myth says that a wolf raised two brothers. They were Romulus (RAWM-yuh-luhs) and Remus (REE-muhs). One day, they started making a city. The brothers fought. They each wanted the bigger part. Romulus killed Remus. He became the city's king. He named it Rome.

Rome had beautiful statues. It had great buildings. The Romans got ideas from the Greeks. They used arches and columns in their bridges. But, the Romans had new ideas, too. They were the first to put domes on buildings. Today, some of their buildings still stand.

Roman Rulers

Kings ruled early Rome. Then, Rome became a republic. Men chose its rulers. The Roman Republic began in 509 B.C. It lasted almost 500 years.



Julius Caesar (SEE-zuhr) was an army general. His troops liked him. And then, he won a big battle. So, he made himself the dictator of Rome. He took charge of the government. Many Romans felt that Caesar was acting like a king. They did not want a king. Some senators felt that he was a threat to them. In 44 B.C., a group of senators stabbed Caesar. He died.

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Caesar's adopted son took over. He was called Octavian. In 27 B.C., the Senate changed Octavian's name. He became Augustus (oh-GUHS-tuhs). At the same time, he became Rome's first emperor. This was the start of the Roman Empire. Augustus worked to improve his empire. He cleaned the city streets. He had many new buildings put up. Later, Trajan was emperor when Rome reached its biggest size.

Not all emperors did well. Rome's third emperor was Caligula (kuh-LIG-yuh-luh). He went mad and was killed. Emperor Commodus (KAWM-uh-duhs) also went crazy in office. The Roman Republic had other problems, too. The Senate leaders fought among themselves. They did not agree on laws. Also, many of Rome's citizens had little say in their government. These people were called plebeians (plih-BEE-uhnz). They rose up against the senators. They tried to force them to make changes.

Social Ranks



In Rome, a person was a citizen, a noncitizen, a plebeian, or a slave. Rich adult males were citizens. They were the ones who voted and owned property. All women and men from other places were noncitizens. Poor men were plebeians. They could vote. But, they could not go to the Senate. So, laws were passed that were unfair to them.

Slaves had no rights. Most were born into slavery. Some were treated well by their owners. Others had to work long hours at hard jobs. Farmers needed slaves. They had to grow enough food to feed the Romans who lived in the city.

Comprehension Question

How did Julius Caesar affect life in Rome?

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The Mighty Roman Empire

The Beautiful City of Rome

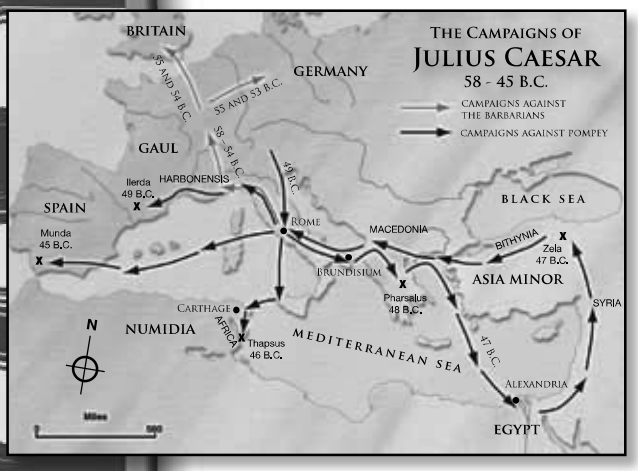


According to legend, Rome was founded around 753 B.C. A wolf raised two brothers. Their names were Romulus (RAWM-yuh-luhs) and Remus (REE-muhs). One day, the brothers decided to build parts of a city. They fought over the sizes of their territories, and Romulus killed Remus. Romulus became king of the city, which he named Rome.

Rome had beautiful statues and buildings. The Romans copied some architecture from ancient Greece. They used arches and columns in bridges and buildings. But, Romans had new ideas for buildings, too. They were the first people to use domes on buildings. Many of their buildings were so well constructed that they are still standing today.

Roman Rulers

Kings ruled early Rome. Then, Rome became a republic. This meant that its rulers were elected. The Roman Republic began in 509 B.C. and lasted almost 500 years.



Julius Caesar (SEE-zuhr) was an important figure in the Roman Republic. He was a powerful army general well-liked by his troops. But then, after winning an important battle, he made himself Rome's dictator. This means that he took control of the government. Many Romans felt that Caesar was acting like a king. They did not want to go back to having kings. Some senators felt that he was a threat, and in 44 B.C., Caesar was assassinated (uh-SAS-suh-nate-ed). A group of senators stabbed him to death.

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Caesar's heir (AIR) was his adopted son, Octavian. In 27 B.C., the Senate changed Octavian's name to Augustus (oh-GUHS-tuhs), and he became Rome's first emperor. This was the beginning of the Roman Empire. Augustus worked hard to strengthen his empire. He cleaned up the city streets and built many new buildings. Later, Trajan was emperor when Rome reached its greatest size.

Not all emperors were as successful. Caligula (kuh-LIG-yuh-luh) was Rome's third emperor. He went mad and was killed. Emperor Commodus (KAWM-uh-duhs) also went crazy while in office. The Roman Republic had other problems, too. The Senate leaders fought about laws. They disagreed on public affairs. Also, many of Rome's citizens had little say in their government. These common people were called plebeians (plih-BEE-uhnz). Unfair laws were passed, and they were frustrated. Then they revolted, or rose up, against the senators. They tried to force them to make changes.

Social Ranks



Romans were divided into citizens, noncitizens, plebeians, and slaves. Rich adult males were citizens. They could own property and vote. Women and men from other places were not citizens. Poor men were plebeians. They could vote. But they could not speak in the Senate.

Slaves had no rights. Many people were born into slavery. Some of them were treated well by their masters, while others had to work long hours at hard jobs. Farmers relied on slave labor to produce enough food to feed the Romans who dwelt in the city.

Comprehension Question

Why was Julius Caesar an important leader?

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The Mighty Roman Empire

The Beautiful City of Rome

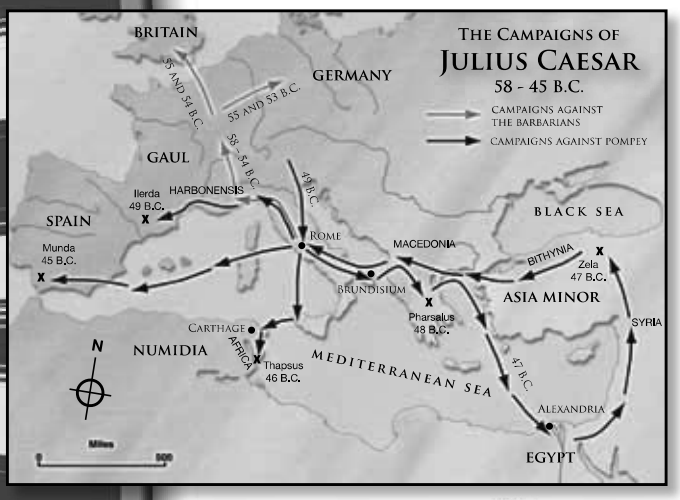


According to legend, two brothers, Romulus (RAWM-yuh-luhs) and Remus (REE-muhs), had been raised by a wolf. One day, the brothers decided to build a magnificent city. However, when they fought over the size of their territories, Romulus murdered Remus. Romulus became king of the city, which he named Rome. This happened around 753 B.C.

Rome had beautiful statues and majestic buildings. The Romans copied designs such as arches and columns from Greece. The Romans also had new architectural ideas and were the first to use domes on buildings. Some of what they built is still standing today.

Rulers of Rome

Kings ruled early Rome. Then, Rome became a republic in 509 B.C. This meant that male citizens elected senators to serve in the Senate. These senators created Roman laws and made decisions for the Roman Republic. This form of government lasted almost 500 years.



Julius Caesar (SEE-zuhr) was a powerful army general who was well-liked by his troops. But then, after winning an important battle, he made himself dictator and took charge of the government. Many Romans felt that Caesar was acting like a king, and they did not want to return to having kings. Some senators worried that Caesar would dismantle the Senate. They saw him as a threat, and in 44 B.C., a group of senators assassinated (uh-SAS-suh-nate-ed) Caesar.

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Caesar's heir (AIR) was his adopted son, Gaius Octavius (GAY-uhs awk-TAY-vee-uhs), who went by the name Octavian. In 27 B.C., the Senate changed Octavian's name to Augustus (oh-GUHS-tuhs), and he became Rome's first emperor. Augustus worked to strengthen and improve the Roman Empire. He cleaned the city streets and had many new buildings erected. Later, Rome reached its greatest size under Emperor Trajan.

Not all emperors were successful. Caligula (kuh-LIG-yuh-luh), Rome's third emperor, went mad and was killed in office. Emperor Commodus (KAWM-uh-duhs) also went crazy. The Roman Republic had other problems as well. The senators often argued about laws and disagreed on public affairs. Also, many of Rome's citizens were commoners, or plebeians (plih-BEE-uhnz). They were frustrated by their lack of voice in the government because some of the laws hurt their interests. They eventually revolted in order to force the Senate to make changes.

Social Ranks



Romans were divided into citizens, noncitizens, plebeians, and slaves. Wealthy adult males were citizens. They could own property and vote. All women and foreigners were noncitizens. Poor men were plebeians. They could vote, but they could not speak in the Senate.

Slaves had no rights. Some of them were treated well by their masters. Others had to work long hours at difficult, dangerous, and dirty jobs. Farmers depended upon slave labor in order to produce enough food to feed the city's large population.

Comprehension Question

How did Julius Caesar's death affect life in Rome?

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