

Chapter Guide #7: The Roman Empire

CONTEXT:

The Roman government ruled, for the first time in history, from the Tigris and Euphrates to the Thames and beyond, from the Nile to the Rhine and Danube. The Romans were keen building **monuments**, brilliant **engineers** of concrete, hyper-realistic in portraits, creators of a massive **interior space** in architecture, and weaved together the style of Etruscan and Greek **temples** to create their own.

1. **Materials:** Excelled in metals- iron, copper, silver, tin = huge export opportunity
2. **Burials:** Families along with servants are cremated and buried together à buried with items that showed economic status.
3. **Social:** Woman are allowed to participate at banquets and formal gatherings unlike the Greeks
4. Last Etruscan city fell to the Roman in 273 BCE à Roman citizenship granted to Etruscans in 89 BCE

CONCEPTS:

- Roman art reflects their ambitions and monuments reflect the glory of the gods and government
- Roman architecture is famous for the arch, the vault, and the use of concrete.
- Roman paintings are few yet we have well preserved first, second, third, and fourth styles from Pompeii.
- The Romans had a great interest in the height of Greek art and continued to make many copies of Greek sculptures.
- The Romans also move away from cremation and begin to have burials. Roman royalty are still cremated. Funerary practices may start to reflect the influence of Christianity and other Eastern religions that believe in an afterlife.

ART WORK CARDS: 3D (Yellow) 2D (Red) Architecture (Green)

REPUBLICAN ROME

Temple of Fortuna Virilis (Architecture)
Sanctuary of Fortuna (Architecture)
Head of a Roman Patrician (3D)
First Style wall painting (2D)
Villa of Mysteries (2D)
Fourth style wall painting (2D)

EARLY EMPIRE

Portrait of Augustus (3D)
Ara Pacis Augustae (Architecture)
Maison Carree (Architecture)
Pont du Gard (Architecture)
Porta Maggiore (Architecture)
Colosseum (Architecture)
Portrait of Vespasian (3D)
Portrait of a Flavian woman (3D)
Arch of Titus (Architecture)

HIGH EMPIRE

Forum of Trajan (Architecture)
Portrait of Hadrian (3D)
Pantheon, Rome (Architecture)
Equestrian Statue of Marcus Aurelius (3D)

LATE EMPIRE

Baths of Caracalla (Architecture)
Ludovisi Battle Sarcophagus (3D)
Portrait of the Four Tetrachs (3D)
Arch of Constantine (Architecture)
Colossal Head of Constantine (3D)
Basilica Nova (Architecture)
Aula Palatina (Architecture)

VOCABULARY:

ARCHITECTURE

Tuscan Order	coffers	cross vaulting	clerestory
catacombs	oculus	voussoirs	nave
veneer	podium pilaster	arcade	aisles
dome	travertine	barrel vault	forum
engaged column	bath	cross vaulting	amphitheater
portico	arch	buttressing	

SCULPTURE

patina	death mask	patrician
cuirass	portrait bust	gravitas
antiquarium	veristic portrait	equestrian portrait

2D

fresco	illusionism	modeling	mosaic
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TIMELINE:

753 BCE	Founding of Rome by Romulus
343-290 CE	Samnite Wars establish Rome as the dominant power in Italy
49 BCE	Caesar invades Italy
44 BCE	Assassination of Julius Caesar (Augustus becomes Emperor)
79 CE	Eruption of Mount Vesuvius
98-117 CE	Trajan rules
117-138 CE	Hadrian rules
207-284 CE	Collapse of Roman Imperial rule
286 CE	Diocletian divides the Empire into east and west
306-337 CE	Constantine rules
330 CE	Dedication of Constantinople

CONTEXT CARDS: Blue

Republican Period
Early Empire
High Empire
Late Empire

ARCHITECTURE:

Four Roman Architectural Contributions

1. Building for use – addressing the practical problems of everyday city life – a shift from religious buildings to civil engineering projects
2. Developing the arch and vault as a structural principal – increase in scale of building exterior and interiors made possible
3. Emphasis on verticality made possible by the use of concrete – new height of buildings and multi-used facilities
4. Design of significant interiors – greater variety and complexity of forms – Romans treated space and light as tangible realities

Monuments

Function – propaganda for the emperor, often military victories

Context – triumphal arches, columns and altars part of larger public works, often connected to forums of city streets

Content – narrative reliefs depicting battle scenes of other historical events, featuring the emperor, armies, or senators