

Ancient Rome





Ancient buildings in Rome can still be seen on the hills.

Rome in Ancient Times

Today, Rome is a beautiful city in Italy. However, Rome was already important 3,000 years ago. It was located on seven hills, so it was possible for the early Romans to see their enemies coming from miles away. As a result, Rome was able to prepare for enemy attacks. From its secure location, Rome built an empire that ruled a large part of the world.

Ancient Rome was unusual because it offered citizenship to many of its people. Rome's citizens had certain rights and were protected by its laws. However, although Rome gave many people citizenship, it still permitted its citizens to force others into slavery.

Key Notes:

What was Rome like in ancient times?



The Roman Army

The Roman army was one reason the Roman Empire stayed strong. Like their enemies, Roman soldiers had only swords, spears, and heavy armor to protect them. What made the Roman army different, though, was its organization. The Roman army was organized into a large group that was then divided into smaller and smaller groups. Each group in this organization had strong leaders.

The Roman army was also different in that it did not destroy the places it conquered. Instead, the places were added to the Roman Empire. With every place the army conquered, the Roman Empire grew. At its largest, the Roman Empire included large parts of Europe and Africa.

Key Notes:

How was the Roman army different from other armies?

**The Roman army
added new places to
the empire.**



This aqueduct in France was built by ancient Romans.

Roman Engineering

The saying, “All roads lead to Rome,” refers to the system of roads built by ancient Roman engineers. Roads made of solid stone ran to all parts of the empire. These roads made it easier to control the empire because people could travel quickly.

Roman engineers also built other structures that can still be seen in Europe today. They built bridges across rivers. When cities needed water, Roman engineers built aqueducts. Aqueducts are huge stone pipes that carried water from lakes and rivers to cities. Roman engineers built cities in the lands they conquered, too. Some cities were built on a grid, making it easy for people to get around.

Key Notes:

What did ancient Roman engineers build?



Children in ancient Rome learned the same skills as those of their parents.

Daily Life in Ancient Rome

As is often the case, life was easier for rich people in ancient Rome than it was for poor people. Poor Roman families lived in apartments that had two or three rooms. These apartments were in large buildings. In contrast, rich Roman families had huge houses and many servants.

Some children of rich Roman families went to private schools. There was no school for other children, who usually worked in their family's business. For example, if the members of a family were cloth merchants, the children became cloth merchants, too. Because they didn't learn new skills, most Roman families lived the same way for many years.

Key Notes:

How did rich and poor Roman families live?

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