

The Roman Empire

Section 2

Ruling an Empire

- The Power of Augustus
 - The Roman Empire was huge- Britain to Egypt
 - *Mare nostrum*- “our sea”
 - Augustus ignored the Senate while struggling for power, but respected them once the empire was stable
 - Didn’t want to act like king...like Caesar did
 - Said he wanted to restore the republic
 - The result- peace and prosperity and Augustus had as much power as he wanted

Ruling an Empire

- Governing Conquered Peoples
 - MOST conquered people stayed free
 - Empire divided into provinces- had a Roman governor supported by an army and its own capital
 - Conquered people could live as they always had- not forced by live like a Roman
 - People just ended up adopting Roman ways because they wanted to
 - Supplied Rome with raw materials and taxes

Ruling an Empire

- The Five “Good Emperors”
 - Augustus died in 14AD
 - The Ugly Emperors:
 - Caligula- proclaimed himself a god and was cruel and probably insane
 - Nero- murdered his ½ brother, mother, and wife
 - Romans later removed them from official records

Ruling an Empire

- 96AD- The Good Emperors- each adopted the best son they could to be emperor (until the last)
 - Hadrian- protected slaves, women, and children- universal law
 - Reorganized army so soldiers defended home provinces
 - Traveled around empire- built buildings and such including wall in Britain
 - Encouraged learning
 - Marcus Aurelius- last of good emperors
 - His son Commodus took over- he was awful- cruel
 - Ended time of

The Greek Influence on Rome

- Religion
 - Polytheism (belief in more than 1 god), prayers, and sacrifices
 - Roman god(desses) often had Greek counterparts
 - Same with heroes- Heracles became Hercules
 - Also adopted other foreign gods as empire spread

The Greek Influence on Rome

- Building on Ideas
 - Used Greek math, philosophy, and astronomy to build on their own world
 - Used it for architecture and engineering

Architecture and Technology

- The Roman Style
 - Heavier and stronger than Greeks
 - Used the arch (a curved structure used for support over an open space)
 - Created large open spaces inside of buildings
 - Developed concrete- mixed rock, sand, cement, and water
 - Used concrete to build huge buildings

Architecture and Technology

- The Colosseum
 - Site of contests and combats between people and between people and animals
 - Seated 50,000 people
 - Could flood the floor of the arena for mock naval battles in real boats
 - Had stairs, ramps, and even elevators to move animals into the arena

Roads and Aqueducts

- Roads were built from Rome to the rest of the empire
 - “All roads lead to Rome”
 - Allowed military and trade to move quickly
- Aqueducts- structures that carried water over long distances
 - Huge lines of arches- water on top
 - Spanned miles- through valleys and mountains
 - Some still used today

Roman Law

- Roman law was very influential- Cicero knew law was beyond the corruption of man
- Justinian's code- free thinking, can't be removed from your home by force, accuser must prove the guilt of accused, age and experience of guilty must be considered before sentence given
- Spread to other countries, even our own