

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

27 BC **Pax Romana** (Roman Peace) begins. Rome's Golden Age!

- a. This is Rome's Golden Age. (27BC-180 AD)
- b. Rome became symbol of Roman eternity & an international city.
- c. Population increased, advancements made in education, technology, & trade
- d. Trade in empire became easier because of common coinage *****NOT everyone prospered*****
creates sharper divisions between rich & poor

Roman Contributions to Western Society

The Roman Empire collapsed more than 1500 years ago, but in many ways continues to influence the Western world. The Romans based their alphabet on that of the Greeks- who borrowed theirs from the Phoenicians. The ancient letters you see on this page are a direct gift from the Romans. Our language, English, gets more than half of its words from Latin. Some words are spelled the same in both languages such as the words animal and area. Others are changed in English, such as light which is luz in Latin. Latin is also the basis of the romance languages of French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, and Portuguese. Other gifts from the Romans are: Roman numerals, the names of our planets; Mars, Mercury, and Venus, and our calendar. Our calendar is based on the one used by Julius Caesar in 46 BC. July bears his name and August bears his successor's name; Augustus Caesar. The last day of the week, Saturday, honors the Roman god Saturn. Roman numerals are used throughout our culture from cornerstones to dates on movie credits to watches and clocks. The Romans were also masterful builders and architects. They developed the dome and the arch. Both of which are modeled in our architecture in Washington DC. They created thousands of miles of concrete roads that they made from volcanic ash. We continue to use concrete extensively in our buildings today. We also have the Romans to thank for many elements of our government; 3 branches, checks and balances, and veto power all originated with the Romans. Evidence of Roman law can also be found in the US Constitution. All in all, the Romans gave us a basis for many parts of our culture today. Some 2000 years later we are indebted to them.

1. Look at the letters below. The shapes may seem strange, but recognizable. Under each letter, write the letter as you would in our language.

2. The Roman alphabet had twenty-one letters. List the letter we use today that were not used by the Romans.

3. Roman numerals were used throughout Europe until the 1500's. People found them easy to add and subtract, but difficult to perform other calculations. Roman numerals are written from left to right, starting with the largest place. A smaller numeral appearing before a larger numeral indicates that the smaller should be subtracted from the larger.

All Roman numerals are written using seven basic symbols; either alone or in combination.

I= _____ V= _____ X= _____ L= _____ C= _____ D= _____ M= _____

Complete the following:

15= _____ CCCXXX= _____

556= _____ LXIV= _____

1993= _____ MDXCIX= _____

4. List 3 places not already mentioned that we still use Roman numerals today.

1.

2.

3.

5. Use the word bank to match with the Latin words.

Word Bank: doctor, conqueror, note, barbarian, name, land, location, body, burn, great/large, father, way, fourth, trauma, circle, blood, defend, wicked, king

Barbarus _____ Sanguis _____ Orbis _____

Defendo _____ Pater _____ Magnus _____

Rex _____ Locus _____ Via _____

Nota _____ Corpus _____ Incenedo _____

Victor _____ Medicus _____ Quartus _____

Injuris _____ Terra _____ Terra _____

Nomen _____ Malice _____