The Roman Empire

**BEFORE YOU READ**

In the last section, you read about the creation of the Roman republic.

In this section, you will read about the transformation of Rome from a republic to an empire.

**AS YOU READ**

Use the chart below to take notes on the end of the Roman republic and the emergence of the Roman Empire.

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<th>Collapse of the Republic</th>
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**The Republic Collapses** (pages 160–162)

**What conflicts existed in Rome?**

Rome's victory in Carthage brought conflict between the rich and poor in Rome. **Civil war**, or fighting between groups in the same country, broke out. Leading generals fought for power.

**Julius Caesar** tried to take control. First he joined with two others—Crassus, a wealthy man, and Pompey, a successful general. They formed a **triumvirate**, a group of three leaders. For the next ten years, the triumvirate ruled Rome.

Caesar gained fame with several victories in battle. Pompey feared Caesar as a result. The two fought another civil war that lasted several years. Caesar won the civil war and then governed as an absolute ruler, or a leader who holds all power.

Caesar made some reforms that increased his popularity. But some members of the senate mistrusted him. They killed him because they feared he wanted to become king.

Once again, Rome suffered civil war. Caesar's nephew was the winner. He took the title **Augustus**, meaning “exalted one.” The Roman Empire was now ruled by one man.

1. How did Caesar’s rule lead to the end of the republic?
A Vast and Powerful Empire
(pages 162–163)

What was the Pax Romana?

For about 200 years, the Roman empire was a great power. Its population of between 60 and 80 million enjoyed peace and prosperity. This period is known as the Pax Romana—Roman peace.

The empire stretched around the Mediterranean, from modern Syria and Turkey west and north to England and Germany. It relied on farming, which employed 90 percent of all workers.

Trade was also important. Traders used common coins to buy and sell goods. Coins made trading easier.

Rome had a vast trading network. Goods traveled throughout the empire by ship and along the Roman roads. The Roman navy protected trading ships.

The army defended all the people and Roman territories from attack. Many of the army’s troops came from the conquered peoples. Once they finished their time in the army, they became Roman citizens.

Augustus was Rome’s ablest emperor. He brought peace to the frontier, built many public buildings, and created a lasting government. He also set up a civil service. That is, he paid workers to manage the affairs of government.

Between A.D. 96 and A.D. 180, the Five Good Emperors ruled Rome. The death of Marcus Aurelius in A.D. 180 marked the beginning of the decline of the Roman Empire and the end of Pax Romana.

2 How were the people of the empire employed?

The Roman World (pages 163–165)

How did the quality of Roman life vary?

Throughout its history, Romans valued discipline, strength, and loyalty. The family was the center of Roman society. The oldest man in the family had complete authority in the household. He controlled all the property, too.

The Romans made more use of slaves than any civilization before. About one third of the people were slaves. Most slaves came from conquered lands. Slaves worked in the city and on farms. Some slaves were forced to become gladiators. Gladiators were professional fighters who fought to the death in public contests. Slaves did revolt from time to time. None of these revolts succeeded.

Quality of life in imperial Rome depended on social position. The wealthy ate well and enjoyed luxuries. The poor—including many people in Rome itself—had no jobs and received food from the government. Housing was poor. People lived in constant danger of fire. To distract people from their problems, the government gave many celebrations and spectacles.

3. Who were the slaves, and what work did they do?

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