Unit 2

Greece and Rome

The Classical Age

ANCIENT GREECE
Why Study Greece?
Geography shapes culture

The Greek Peninsula

- Divides the seas: Mediterranean, Aegean, Ionian
- 2,000+ islands
- The mainland is ¾ mountainous regions
- Stony, uneven and hard
- The valleys were temperate and fertile (average temperatures of 48° – 80°)
Greek Islands
Greek Mountains
How did culture develop in this environment?

- Greeks became skilled sailors and fishermen
- Sea trade was important
- Travel on the mainland was slow and difficult
- Cities grew in the valleys, but were culturally different from each other
The Myceneans

The First Greek civilization on the mainland

• Indo-European tribe who settled in Greece around 2000 B.C.
• Came into contact with more advanced Minoans
• Learned from them trade, shipbuilding, and a writing system
The Trojan War

- 10 year war between Mycenae and Troy around 1200 B.C.
- Troy located in Asia Minor
- Homer’s epic poem *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
The Greek Dark Age

- Cities were abandoned
- Some sources speak of invaders from the north
- Greeks lost the art of writing for 400 years (1150-750 B.C.)
Reemergence of Greek Civilization

- New writing borrowed from the Phoenicians
- Epic poetry from the Dark Ages was written down
The Greek Religion & Myths

Polytheistic

• Gods were very human in their behavior
• Gods favored and punished man
• Afterlife available to the very few
• Gods involved themselves in men’s lives

1. Chief god – Zeus
2. Zeus’ wife – Hera
Warring Cities: Greeks v. Greeks

- Polis – Greek word for city
- Cities were independent governments
- Variety of forms of government: monarchies, aristocracies and democracies
Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

1. Early Rulers
   - Draco – harsh laws
   - Solon – outlawed slavery, 4 social classes – only top 3 could vote
   - Cleisthenes – All citizens had some voting power, Council of 500

2. Athenian Education
   - Boys only
   - Broad variety of subjects
   - Girls educated at home, a few became writers and musicians
Sparta – A Military State

• Isolated from other Greek cities
• Early statesman – Lycurgus (820-730 BC)

1. Early wars led to capture of slaves
• Helots

2. Many governmental offices – All citizens voted, Council of Elders proposed laws, 2 kings ruled the military
3. Spartan Society

- Military was supreme, little development of arts, literature
- Property was divided among free people
- Men were drafted until age 60, Boys were raised by the army from age 7 to 30.
- Girls – also given military training, more power over domestic life since men were devoted to the military
The Persian Wars

1. Greek Soldiers
   - Hoplites – soldiers, spear and shield
   - Shield wall
2. Lydian Greek settlements in Asia Minor revolted against Persia (King Darius)

3. Battle of Marathon 490 B.C. – Athenians stopped a Persian invasion

4. Xerxes – son of Darius
   - Thermopylae 480 B.C. – “hot gate”
   - King Leonidas & 300 Spartans
   - “holding action” – bought time

5. Athenians defeated Persian navy at Salamis
Consequences of Persian War

- Formation of Delian League
- Athenian leadership (hegemony) over other Greek city-states
Section 3: Greece’s Golden Age

- 477 B.C. to 431 B.C.
- Greeks develop great drama, sculpture & architecture and philosophy
Pericles – Leader of Athens during the Golden Age

- An honest & wise statesman
- Expand democracy & strengthen Athenian empire
  1. Paid government officials
  2. Direct democracy – citizens voted directly on laws, rather than through representatives
  3. Moved Delian League to Athens
  4. Used League’s money to build in Athens
The Peloponnesian War

- Athens’ power and success threatens other Greek cities

1. Sparta declared war in 431 B.C.
2. Siege of Athens, Plague strikes
3. Truce in 421 B.C.
4. Athens breaks the truce in 415 B.C.
5. A weakened Athens fights on, but surrenders to its enemies in 404 B.C.
Greek Art

1. Architecture – the Greek Column (Doric, Ionic and Corinthian)
2. Pottery
3. Sculpture
Greek Theater and History

1. Plays were a popular form of entertainment
   - Tragedy – dramas about love, hate or war; Heroes brought down by hubris (excessive pride); *Oedipus the King*
   - Comedy – political humor, but also crude jokes

2. History & Geography
   - Thucydides – “father of history,” cycles of history, critical approach
   - Herodotus – cultural geography
Greek Philosophers

- Athens’ loss in the Peloponnesian War led many to question democratic government
- Seek the truth of life & the nature of the universe
- Philosophers – Greek for “lover of wisdom”
- Sophists – there are no universal truths, everything is relative
1. Socrates
   - Believed in absolute truths
   - Asked leading questions to provoke thought in his students
   - Distrusted Democracy
   - After a group of his students overthrew Athens he was tried for “corrupting the youth”
   - Committed suicide by hemlock
2. Plato

- Student of Socrates
- Through his dialogues that we know about Socrates
- Wrote about good and evil, the ideal form of government
- He fled Athens after Socrates’ trial
- Wrote The Republic
3. Aristotle

- Student of Plato
- Systems of Categorization
- Beginnings of scientific method
- Teacher of Alexander the Great
Alexander’s empire

- “Alexander the Great”
- “The Accursed Alexander”
- Most important figure in Western civilization?
- Responsible for the spread of Greek culture
Alexander the Great

- Northern Greece
- Considered less civilized by other Greeks
- Philip II becomes king in 359 B.C.
- Greece warned by Demosthenes to watch out for Phillip
- Conquered the rest of Greece by 336 B.C.
- Phillip stabbed to death 2 years later
Alexander – Persian Conquest

- Son of Phillip II, he became king at age 20
- A Greek education
- Beat the Persians at Issus in Asia Minor
- “Liberated” Egypt from Persians
• At the decisive battle of Gaugamela, he crippled the Persian Army and Darius fled.
• Made his capital at Babylon.
• Darius was killed by his own men near the Caspian Sea.
Later Conquests

- Reached northern India in 326 B.C.
- His army refused to go any further
- In Babylon three years later (June 323 B.C.), he became sick and died a few days later, at the age of 32
- Cause of death? Possibly malaria, others say poison…
Alexander’s Empire
Significance

- Integrated conquered peoples into his army and Greek culture
  - Adopted Persian clothing, intermarriage
- Spread Greek language/culture throughout Egypt, Middle East

Hellenistic Culture
Hellenistic Age

- Died without an adult heir
- Empire split into 4 (later 3) rival kingdoms
  1. Antigonids – Greece
  2. Seleucus – Persia
  3. Ptolomeys – Egypt
- Greek language, art & culture dominant from the Mediterranean to India
- Era of great technical and scientific achievements
Scientists of the Hellenistic Age

- Eratosthenes – accurately measured the Earth’s circumference
- Archimedes of Syracuse
  - Principles of hydraulics, levers, surface area of spheres, cylinders
Archimedes’ heat ray
Hellenistic Kingdoms After Alexander the Great, circa 300 BCE

- Antigonids (Greece)
- Seleucids (Syria)
- Ptolemies (Egypt)
The Roman Empire
According to legend, the city of Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by Romulus and Remus, twin sons of the god Mars and a Latin princess. The twins were abandoned on the Tiber River as infants and raised by a she-wolf. The twins decided to build a city near the spot.
The Roman Empire

- From about 1000-500 B.C., three groups inhabited the region: the **Latins**, **Greeks**, and the **Etruscans**. The **Latins** built the original settlement at Rome along Palatine Hill. Between 750-600 B.C., the **Greeks** established colonies along the southern part of Italy and on the island of Sicily. This will bring Italy and Rome in closer to the Greek civilization.

- The **Etruscans** were native to northern Italy. They were skilled metalworkers and engineers. They will have a system of writing and the Romans will adopt their alphabet.

- Around 600 B.C., an Etruscan became king of Rome. In the 10 years that followed, Rome grew from a collection of hilltop villages to a city that covered nearly 500 square miles.
The Roman Empire

• The last king of Rome was Tarquin the Proud. He was a harsh ruler that will be driven from power in 509 B.C. The Romans declared they would never again be ruled by a king. Instead, they established a republic. A republic is a form of government in which power rests with citizens who have the right to vote for their leaders. In Rome, citizenship with voting rights was granted only to free-born male citizens.

• In the early republic, different groups of Romans struggled for power. One group was the patricians, wealthy landowners who held most of the power. The other important group was the plebeians, the common farmers, artisans, and merchants who made up the majority of the population.
Plebeians and Patricians

- The **patricians** claimed that their ancestry gave them the authority to make laws for Rome.
- The **plebeians** were citizens of Rome with the right to vote. However, they were barred by law from holding most important government positions.
- In time, Rome’s leaders allowed plebeians to form their own assembly and elect representatives called **tribunes**. **Tribunes** protected the rights of the plebeians from unfair acts of patrician officials.
The Roman Empire

• In the first century B.C., Roman writers boasted that Rome had achieved a balanced government. What they meant was that they had the best features of a monarchy, an aristocracy, and a democracy. Rome had two officials called consuls. Like kings, they commanded the army and directed the government. Yet, their power was limited. A consul’s term was only one year long and the same person could not be elected consul again for 10 years. One consul could always overrule or veto, the others decision.

• The senate was the aristocratic branch of Rome’s government. It had both legislative and administrative functions in the republic. Its 300 members were chosen from the upper class of Roman society. Later plebeians were allowed in the senate.
The Roman Empire

- The assemblies represented the more democratic side of the government. In times of crisis, the republic could appoint a **dictator** - a leader who had absolute power to make laws and command the army. A dictator’s power lasted for only 6 months and they were chosen by the consuls and then elected by the senate.

- The Romans will place great value on their military. All citizens who owned land were required to serve in the army. Seekers of certain public offices had to perform ten years of military service. **Roman soldiers were organized into large military units called legions**.
The Roman Legion

- The Roman legion was made up of some 5,000 heavily armed foot soldiers (infantry). A group of soldiers on horseback (cavalry) supported each legion. Legions were divided into smaller groups of 80 men, each of which was called a century.
The Roman Empire

- In 282 B.C., Rome will embark on a series of wars that left it the rulers of the Mediterranean. They did not go out to conquer the world and they did not initiate the action, they simply responded to situations as they arose. Though they sometimes declared war reluctantly, they nonetheless felt the need to dominate, to eliminate any state that could threaten them.

- By 275 B.C., the Romans had kicked the Greeks out of southern Italy and by 265 B.C., they were rulers of Italy. After the Romans conquered a territory, those people enjoyed all the rights of Roman citizenship except the right to vote. People in far off conquered territories would become allies of Rome.
The Punic Wars
The Punic Wars

• The Phoenician city of Carthage had long dominated the western Mediterranean and had wanted to control the island of Sicily. Since Sicily was a “stepping stone” to Italy, the Romans could not allow it to fall into Carthage’s hands. In 264 B.C., Rome and Carthage went to war. This was the beginning of the long struggle known as the Punic Wars.

• The First Punic War lasted from 264-241 B.C. This part was fought over who was to control the island of Sicily. The Romans will defeat Carthage and control Sicily. After this war, Carthage will turn its attention to Europe and conquer Spain. During the next Punic War, they will use this as an advantage.
The Punic Wars

- The **Second Punic War** began in 218 B.C. The Carthaginians had a leader named as **Hannibal**. Hannibal assembled an army of 50,000 infantry, 9,000 cavalry, and 60 elephants with the intent on capturing Rome. Hannibal will march his forces from Spain across France and over the Alps. He will lose half his men on this journey but will surprise the Romans. He will win his greatest victory at the **Battle of Cannae** in 216 B.C. After this defeat though, the Romans will regroup with the aid of her allies and will prevent Hannibal from capturing Rome.
The Punic Wars
Finally the Romans found a daring military leader to match Hannibal’s boldness. A general named Scipio devised a plan to attack Carthage. This strategy forced Hannibal to return to defend his native city. In 202 B.C., at Zama near Carthage, the Romans finally defeated Hannibal.

During the **Third Punic War** 149-146 B.C., Rome will lay siege to Carthage. In 146 B.C., the city was set afire and its 50,000 inhabitants sold into slavery.

With their victory in the Punic Wars, Rome now had dominance over the western Mediterranean. By 70 B.C., the Roman Empire will stretch from Anatolia to Spain.
The Republic Collapses

- As Rome grew, the gap between rich and poor grew wider. Many of Rome’s rich landowners lived on huge estates and thousands of enslaved people will work on them. By 100 B.C., enslaved persons formed a third of Rome’s population.

- Small farmers, many former soldiers, found it hard to compete with the large estates and ended up selling their land to the rich landowners and became homeless and jobless. Most stayed in the countryside and worked as seasonal migrant laborers while others headed to Rome and other cities looking for work. They joined the ranks of the urban poor, a group that totaled about $\frac{1}{4}$ of Roman society.
The Republic Collapses

- Two brothers, **Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus**, attempted to help Rome’s poor. As **tribunes**, they proposed such reforms as limiting the size of estates and giving land to the poor. Due to their reforms, they will make enemies of numerous senators, who felt threatened by their ideas. Both brothers will meet violent deaths—Tiberius in 133 B.C. and Gaius in 121 B.C. A period of **civil war**, or conflict between groups within the same country followed their deaths.

- Adding to the crisis was the break down of the military. As the republic grew more unstable, generals began seizing greater power for themselves. They recruited soldiers from the landless poor by promising them land. These soldiers will fight for pay and owed allegiance only to their commander.
Julius Caesar
Julius Caesar

- In 60 B.C., a military leader named Julius Caesar joined forces with Crassus, a wealthy Roman and Pompey, a popular general. With their help, Caesar was elected consul in 59 B.C. For the next 10 years, these men dominated Rome as a triumvirate, a group of three rulers. These will become known as the 1st Triumvirate (59-49 B.C.)
- Caesar followed tradition and served only one year as consul. He will then elect himself as governor of Gaul (modern France). During 58-50 B.C., Caesar led his legions in a successful campaign to conquer all of Gaul. Because he shared the hardships of war with his men, he will win their loyalty and devotion.
Julius Caesar

- His conquests made him very popular with the people of Rome. **Pompey**, who had become his political rival, feared Caesar’s ambitions. In 50 B.C., the senate, at Pompey’s urgings, ordered Caesar to disband his legions and return home.

- Caesar will defy the senate’s order and on the night of January 10, 49 B.C., he will cross the Rubicon River in Italy and march towards Rome. When news of this reached Rome, Pompey will flee the city. Caesar will defeat Pompey’s forces in Greece, Asia, Spain, and Egypt. In 46 B.C., Caesar will return to Rome, where he had the support of the army and the masses. That same year, the senate appointed him dictator. In 44 B.C., he was named dictator for life.
Julius Caesar

- **Caesar** governed as an absolute ruler, one who has total power. He did however start a number of reforms. He will grant citizenship to many people in the provinces and he expanded the senate. He will also help the poor by creating jobs, especially through the construction of new public buildings. He started colonies where people without land could own property, and he increased pay for soldiers.

- Many nobles and senators expressed concern over Caesar’s growing power, success and popularity. Some feared losing their influence and others saw him as a tyrant. **On March 15, 44 B.C.**, a number of important senators stabbed **Caesar** to death on the senate floor.
Caesar’s death 44 B.C.
2nd Triumvirate

Before Caesar’s death, he will name his 18 year old grandnephew, **Octavian** as his heir. After the murder of Caesar, **Octavian** will join forces with **Marc Anthony** and **Lepidus** to form the 2nd Triumvirate. (43-33 B.C.) They will hunt down Caesar’s conspirators but this triumvirate will also end in jealousy and violence. **Octavian** will force **Lepidus** to retire and then turn his attention to **Marc Anthony**. While **Marc Anthony** was fighting Rome’s enemies in Anatolia, he met **Cleopatra**, the queen of Egypt. He will fall in love with her and follow her to Egypt. This will give **Octavian** the reason he needed to get rid of **Marc Anthony** and he will fabricate stories of their plot to rule Rome. In 31 B.C., **Octavian** will defeat the combined forces of **Anthony** and **Cleopatra**.
Augustus and the *Pax Romana*

- In 27 B.C., the senate will vote on making him the ruler of Rome. He will then take the title **Augustus** or “exalted one.”

- From the beginning of Augustus’s rule in 27 B.C. to 180 A.D., peace and prosperity reigned throughout the empire. This period of peace and prosperity is known as the **Pax Romana**—or “Roman Peace”.
Augustus and the *Pax Romana*

- **Augustus** will stabilize the frontier, glorify Rome with splendid buildings, and created a system of government that survived for centuries. He will set up a civil service: paid workers to manage the affairs of government. The Romans managed to control an empire that by the 2\textsuperscript{nd} century A.D. reached from Spain to Mesopotamia, from North Africa to Britain. This will include 3 million square miles of territory with a population of 60-80 million. (1 million in the city of Rome alone).

- During **Augustus’s** reign, he will push Rome’s frontier into Germany. By 9 A.D., the Romans will have conquered Hungary, Austria, and southern Germany.
Roman Empire during the *Pax Romana*
**Pax Romana**

- Within these areas, the legionnaires built fortified camps with roads linking each camp. Soon settlements will grow around these camps and thus the Roman culture (trade, laws, language) began to civilize the barbarians. Soon these camps will become towns and many modern European cities owe their origin to the Romans.
- Rome will emphasize the values of discipline, strength, and loyalty. A person with these qualities was said to have the important virtue of *gravitas* - dignified demeanor. The Romans will honor strength more than beauty, power more than grace, and usefulness more than elegance.
- The arts under Augustus grew thanks to the peace and prosperity of the time. It will also help that Augustus and his friends encouraged the writers and poets to do what they do best.
**Pax Romana**

- The arts under Augustus grew thanks to the peace and prosperity of the time. It will also help that Augustus and his friends encouraged the writers and poets to do what they do best. The most famous of the Roman writers during this time was **Virgil**. **Virgil** will be famous for his masterpiece titled **Aeneid**. This was the Roman equivalent to Homer’s **Iliad**.

- In the 50 years after Augustus, his dynasty will have its share of good emperors and bad emperors. **Between 96-180 A.D., the era of the 5 good emperors will take place. During this time Rome will grow even more prosperous than during Augustus’s reign. The wars that did happen will end in Roman victory and be kept to the frontier.**
Gladiators
The Colosseum was one of the greatest feats of Roman engineering and model for the ages. The name comes from the Latin word *colossus* meaning gigantic. Its construction was started by the Emperor Vespasian and was completed by his sons, emperors Titus and Domitian. For centuries after its opening in 80 A.D., spectators, both rich and poor, cheered a variety of free, bloody spectacles from gladiator games to animal hunts. The Colosseum was started in 72 A.D. and finished in 80 A.D. with a capacity to seat between 45,000-50,000 people. It is 157 ft high, 620 ft long with the arena being 287 ft long and 180 ft wide.
Colosseum
The Arena in the Colosseum
The Rise of Christianity

• Roman power had spread to Judea around 63 B.C. but by 6 A.D. the Romans had taken full control over the Jews. Around 6-4 B.C., a Jew named Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea and was raised in the town of Nazareth.

• Around the age of 30 Jesus began his public ministry. For the next 3 years, he preached, taught, did good works, and performed miracles.
The Rise of Christianity

- **Jesus** emphasized God’s personal relationship to each human being. He stressed the importance of people’s love for God, their neighbors, their enemies, and even themselves. He also taught that God would end wickedness in the world and would establish an eternal kingdom after death for people who sincerely repented their sins.

- The main source of information about his teachings are the Gospels, the first four books of the New Testament of the Bible. Some of the Gospels are thought to have been written by one or more of Jesus’ disciples, or pupils. These 12 men later came to be called **apostles**.
The Rise of Christianity

- As Jesus preached, his fame grew and so did the crowds. Because Jesus ignored wealth and status, his message had a special appeal to the poor. Not everybody welcomed Jesus. Roman and Jewish leaders were concerned about his popularity and when Jesus entered Jerusalem in 29 A.D. the Jewish leaders wanted him arrested for blasphemy. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate had him arrested for defying the authority of Rome. After much deliberation, Pilate had Jesus sentenced to be crucified, or nailed to a large wooden cross to die.

- According to the Gospels, after Jesus’ death he was placed in a tomb. 3 days later his body was gone, and a living Jesus appeared to his followers. The Gospels go on to say that then he ascended into Heaven. He will then become known as Jesus Christ. Christos is Greek for “messiah” or “savior”.

Crucifixion by Cosimo Rossetti
The Rise of Christianity

- The followers of Jesus continued to spread his ideas. Jesus’ teachings did not contradict Jewish law, and his first followers were Jews. Soon though, these followers will create a new religion based on his messages. The new religion of Christianity will spread slowly but steadily throughout the Roman Empire. The man that will spread Christianity the most will be the apostle Paul. Paul had never met Jesus and at first was an enemy of Christianity. While on the road to Damascus in Syria, he had a vision of Christ. He will then spend the rest of his life spreading the word of Christ’s teachings.

- In his teaching, Paul stressed that Jesus was the son of God who died for people’s sins. He also declared that Christianity should welcome all converts, Jew or Gentile (non-Jew).
Apostle Paul
The Rise of Christianity

- Christianity will spread because of 4 reasons:
  - 1: embraced all people.
  - 2: appealed to those who were repelled by the extravagances of imperial Rome.
  - 3: offered a personal relationship with a loving God.
  - 4: promised eternal life after death.
  - 5: The well built Roman road system.
The Fall of the Roman Empire

- During the 3rd Century A.D., Rome’s economy began to crumble. This was caused by the problems with the crops, barbaric tribes pushing the borders, and **inflation**: a drastic drop in the value of money. Also, the Roman military will also face problems as well. By the 300’s A.D., Roman soldiers had become less loyal and disciplined. To defend against the increasing threats to the empire, the government began to recruit **mercenaries**, foreign soldiers who fought for money.

- Feelings of loyalty weakened among average citizens as well. The conditions during this time caused citizens to lose their sense of patriotism and soon they became indifferent to the fate of the empire.
The Fall of the Roman Empire

- In 284 A.D., the emperor Diocletian, restored order to the empire and increased its strength. He will double the size of the Roman army and will seek to control inflation by setting fixed prices for goods. He also believed that the empire had gotten too large and complex for one ruler. He will divide the empire into the Greek speaking East (Greece, Anatolia, Syria, and Egypt) and Latin speaking West (Italy, Gaul, Britain, and Spain). He will take the Eastern part for himself and appoint a co-ruler for the Western part. Though there was a co-ruler, Diocletian will keep overall authority.
Diocletian’s Empire

Division of the Roman Empire

Western Empire

Eastern Empire

Dividing line between lands under Diocletian and Maximian

Home of Constantius I, Maximian's Caesar

Trier

Rhine

Mediolanum

Rome

Thessalonica

Byzantium

Nicomedia

Black Sea

Mediterranean

ATLANTIC OCEAN

Rome

Home of co-emperor Maximian

Home of Galerius, Diocletian’s Caesar

Home of Emperor Diocletian

0 250 500 mi

0 250 500 km

N
The Fall of the Roman Empire

- Because of ill health, **Diocletian** retired in 305 A.D. without an heir. Civil war will break out until 311 A.D. when a young man named **Constantine** will take control. In 312 A.D., Constantine will gain control of the western part of the empire and continue many of the reforms began by **Diocletian**. In 313 A.D., after converting to Christianity, Constantine will announce an end to the persecution of Christians. By 380 A.D., Christianity will become the official religion of the empire.

- In 324, he will assume control of the eastern part as well. In 330 A.D., **Constantine** will move the capital from Rome to the Greek city of Byzantium. The city was protected by massive walls and will soon take the name **Constantinople**.
Constantine
Hagia Sophia
The Fall of the Roman Empire

• Since the days of Julius Caesar, Germanic peoples had gathered on the northern borders and coexisted in relative peace with Rome. That will change in 370 A.D. when a fierce group of Mongol nomads from central Asia, the Huns, will push into Europe. They will destroy everything in their path and will push the other “barbarians” (term used by the Romans to refer to all non-Romans) into Italy. In 410 A.D., hordes of Germans overran Rome itself and plundered it for 3 days.

• Meanwhile, the Huns, who were indirectly responsible for the Germanic assault on the empire, became a direct threat.
Attila

- In 444 A.D., the Huns will unite for the first time under a powerful chieftain named **Attila**. With his 100,000 soldiers, Attila terrorized both halves of the empire. In the East, his armies attacked and plundered 70 cities but not Constantinople.

- The Huns then swept into the West. **In 452 A.D., Attila’s forces advanced against Rome** but due to famine and disease, Attila did not conquer Rome. A year later after Attila’s death, the Huns were no longer a threat. Yet the Germanic invasions continued.
Attila’s Empire
The Fall of the Roman Empire

- The last Roman emperor, a 14 year old boy named Romulus Augustulus, was ousted by German forces in 476 A.D. This signaled the end of the Roman Empire in the West but the eastern half, which will become known as the Byzantine Empire, will flourish. The Byzantine emperors ruled from Constantinople until 1453 A.D. when the Ottoman Turks seized power.

- The mixing of elements of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman culture produced a new culture, called Greco-Roman culture.
The Legacy of Rome

- There are 3 main lasting effects of the Roman Empire that are still felt today:

  1: The Latin language will remain the language of learning in the West long after the fall. Latin was adopted by different peoples and developed into French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Romanian. These languages are called Romance languages.

  2: The Romans were master builders. The arch, the dome, and concrete were combined to build spectacular structures, such as the Colosseum.

  3: Rome’s lasting and widespread contribution was its law. All persons had the right to equal treatment, all were considered innocent until proven guilty, burden of proof rested with the accuser rather than the accused, person should be punished for his actions, not thoughts, and any law that seemed unreasonable or unfair could be set aside.