

THE HUMANITIES: The Ancient World and the Classical Past

Chapter 6 – ROME: Urban Life and Imperial Majesty

Why is the excavated city of Thamugadi so important?

In what way did Rome differ from its Greek predecessors? Why?

What two cultures are the primary sources of the Roman culture? What is the source of much of what we know about the Etruscan culture?

What is geographically unique or “improbable” about Rome’s location?

According to the Etruscan founding story, which “twin” is Rome named for? Why? In what epic poem is the other founding story of Rome told? According to it, from whom are the Romans descended?

Who becomes Rome’s first martyr? What is he said to symbolize?

After the overthrow of the Etruscans in 510 BCE, what was noticeably missing from Roman society?

When did the Romans adopt a republican form of government? What role did the Punic War play in this development? Whom did the Romans fight in the Punic Wars?

What does the textbook identify as a chief cause of Julius Caesar’s assassination?

What artistic form became popular in the second and first centuries BCE? Why? What virtue does it celebrate?

In what way did Augustus address the demise of family life?

Which two philosophical systems were most attractive to the Romans? Which was more popular? Why?

What did the Stoics believe? How did Seneca argue that one might achieve peace of mind?

What was the motive behind Virgil’s composition of the *Aeneid*? What led to Ovid’s banishment from Rome?

What is the dominant theory of the *Aeneid*? Of Ovid’s *Metamorphosis*?

What new type of living space was developed in response to overcrowding in Rome? What invention enabled builders to construct the vaulted arches of the Colosseum?

Identify the two monuments favored by Romans to commemorate Roman victories? What monument was erected to commemorate Titus’s sack of the Second Temple of Jerusalem?

Why is Pompeii such an important archeological site?

What was the practical and symbolic value of gardens being the center of a Roman *domus*?

What came to signal a general decline in the values that had defined Rome?

What led to the Romans feeling politically and culturally threatened by the Christians?

Vocabulary:

atrium	ode	rhetorician
basilica	patrician	Stoicism
Epicureanism	plebian	verism