

The Pax Romana

In 27 B.C., Augustus, the adopted son of Julius Caesar, became Rome's first emperor. He led Rome as it transformed from a republic to an empire and started a time period of 200 years known as the Pax Romana. In Latin, this means Roman Peace. However, the name can be very misleading, as it really wasn't very peaceful. The empire continued to expand through bloody battles, there were many riots, and some of the leaders during this time were cruel. However, the empire itself was stable. Roman citizens knew the Roman legions were strong enough to keep them safe from intruders. It was also a time of economic prosperity and many accomplishments. Culture, literature, and architecture flourished during this time.

How did Augustus bring peace to the empire?



Augustus brought peace to the empire by ending civil wars and strengthening the military. He built a permanent, professional army of about 150,000 men and sent them to regions where he thought the people may revolt. He was able to enlarge the empire by taking over

new territories such as parts of northern Europe, Gaul, and Spain. He allowed all conquered people to become Roman citizens and sent out proconsuls to govern each region.

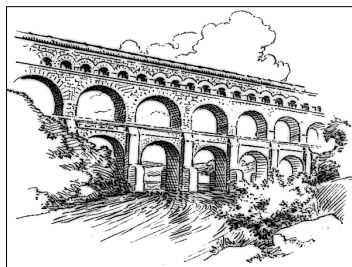
He brought in imported grain from Africa to feed the poor. He passed out bread and provided free entertainment for the people, such as gladiator games or chariot races. This kept the people happy and content. This meant less disorder and revolts from within the empire.

All Roads Lead to Rome!

It is approximated that about 50,000 miles of roads were built to connect all parts of the Roman Empire during the Pax Romana. This kept the people of the empire united as they were able to travel from place to place. The roads were usually made out of stones, cement, and sand. They were built to last, and some even still exist today!

Aqueducts

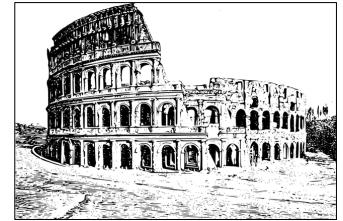
It wasn't always easy for people living in towns to get fresh water, so aqueducts were built throughout the empire. These stone arches and underground pipes brought fresh, clean



water to the people in all different parts of the Roman Empire. Most towns had one aqueduct, but the city of Rome was so large that it needed about ten.

The Colosseum and Pantheon

The emperors who ruled during the Pax Romana funded many building projects such as monuments, arches, bridges, and arenas.



Emperor Vespasian is known for starting the building of the famous Roman Colosseum we all know of today. Many Romans flocked to this amphitheatre to see gruesome gladiator fights and the deaths of Christian martyrs.

The Pantheon was also built during the Pax Romana. It was a temple where Romans could worship all of the Roman gods. It was made of concrete and has a perfect free-standing dome. It still stands today.

Literature and Poetry

Literature and poetry flourished during the Pax Romana. Writers, such as Virgil, Livy, Ovid, and Horace, wrote some of the period's most famous works. They modeled their writing after the Greeks but wrote about Roman themes. Virgil wrote an epic poem called Aeneid. It was about the adventures of Prince Aeneas and the survivors of Troy.

Other Emperors

Many different emperors ruled during the Pax Romana. While some were known for abusing their power, others were known for ruling with justice and benevolence. One group in particular, known as the Five Good Emperors, were known for ruling the empire in such a way. These emperors were Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius.

Another emperor, however, was thought to be quite the opposite. His name was Caligula, and he was a cruel and unpredictable leader. He had many people tortured and killed and made numerous irrational decisions. It is said that he gave his favorite horse the position of a consul in the government.

Directions for Folding the Mini Book:

First fold the paper on line A. Then fold the paper on line B.

Draw a picture of something that represents the architecture and construction of the Pax Romana.

Draw a picture that represents one of the emperors that ruled during the Pax Romana.

were built to connect all parts of the Roman Empire. They kept the people as they were able to travel from place throughout the empire. _____ were built to bring fresh water to all regions of the empire. Emperor _____ started building the Colosseum. Romans flocked to this amphitheatre to see gruesome fights and the deaths of Christian martyrs. The _____ was built as a temple to worship Roman gods. It was made of _____ and has a perfect free-standing dome. Both the Colosseum and Pantheon are still standing today.

_____ was the Roman Empire's first emperor and is known for starting the Pax Romana. The Pax Romana, which means _____, was a time when the empire prospered, and the empire itself was stable. Augustus enlarged the army to about 150,000 men and sent them to regions where he thought people may _____. He handed out _____ to the poor and provided free _____. This kept the people content. Many other emperors ruled during this period. _____ were known to rule with justice and benevolence. _____ was another emperor during this time who was quite the opposite. He was thought to be a cruel and unstable leader.

Building the Empire

Augustus & Other Emperors

Literature and Poetry

Literature and poetry _____ during the Pax Romana. Some of the writers were _____, _____, and _____. They wrote about Roman themes but copied the writing techniques of the _____. Virgil is known for writing a famous epic poem called _____. It's about _____ and the survivors of _____. Many people enjoy reading it today.

Draw a picture of something that represents the literature and poetry of the Pax Romana.

THE PAX ROMANA



27 B.C. - 180 A.D.

27 B.C. – 180 A.D.



THE PAX ROMANA

Augustus & Other Emperors

Augustus was the Roman Empire's first emperor and is known for starting the Pax Romana. The Pax Romana, which means **Roman peace**, was a time when the empire prospered, and the empire itself was stable. Augustus enlarged the army to about 150,000 men and sent them to regions where he thought people may **revolt**. He handed out **bread** to the poor and provided free **entertainment**. This kept the people content. Many other emperors ruled during this period. **The 5 Good Emperors** were known to rule with justice and benevolence. **Caligula** was another emperor during this time who was quite the opposite. He was thought to be a cruel and unstable leader.

Draw a picture that represents one of the emperors that ruled during the Pax Romana.

B

Literature and Poetry

Literature and poetry **flourished** during the Pax Romana. Some of the writers were **Virgil**, **Livy**, **Ovid**, and **Horace**. They wrote about Roman themes but copied the writing techniques of the **Greeks**. Virgil is known for writing a famous epic poem called **Aeneid**. It's about **Prince Aeneas** and the survivors of **Troy**. Many people enjoy reading it today.

Draw a picture of something that represents the literature and poetry of the Pax Romana.

Building the Empire

A

Roads were built to connect all parts of the Roman Empire. They kept the people **united** as they were able to travel from place to place throughout the empire. **Aqueducts** were built to bring fresh water to all regions of the empire. Emperor **Vespasian** started building the Colosseum. Romans flocked to this amphitheatre to see gruesome **gladiator** fights and the deaths of Christian martyrs. The **Pantheon** was built as a temple to worship Roman gods. It was made of **concrete** and has a perfect free-standing dome. Both the Colosseum and Pantheon are still standing today.

Draw a picture of something that represents the architecture and construction of the Pax Romana.