

Teacher Notes

The Roman Empire

Synopsis

At Hadrian's Wall Julia discovers a coin showing Emperor Trajan, then explains how, over centuries, Rome changed from a monarchy to a republic and then to an empire.

Resources:

Comprehension:

Seven questions testing a variety of skills (retrieval, summarising, etc.) to check and reinforce learning from the animation.

Monarchy to Empire:

Children place events from Rome's history in sequence, from the time of the kings to the fall of the Western Empire.

Map of the Empire:

Children predict the answers to questions about the Empire at its peak (with the help of a map) then research the real answers.

Key questions to consider:

What changes in government did Ancient Rome go through over its history?

What caused the changes in how Ancient Rome was governed?

Which form of government do you think was best?

How did the Roman Empire become so large and wealthy?

History curriculum objectives:

- Continue to develop chronologically secure knowledge of history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study.
- Note connections, contrasts and trends over time.
- Address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.
- Construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- NI: How the world has changed over time.
- NI: Some of the characteristics of past societies and distinctive features of life in the past.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I can use appropriate methods to gather information related to my enquiries and I am able to interpret the information obtained in the context of the enquiry question.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I can present my findings in a variety of ways, drawing conclusions and making judgements based on the evidence used.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I can describe how some different characteristics of communities and societies have changed, within and across periods of time.
- Welsh Progression step 3: I can identify and explain the main causes and effects of events in a range of contexts, and I can recognise how these impact communities and societies.
- SOC 2-01a: I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past.
- SOC 2-06a: I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence.

Cross-curricula objectives:

- Geography: Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe.
- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries.

Comprehension

What is an empire?

Early on, Rome was ruled by kings. What is the word for this system of rule?

How and why did Rome become a republic?

Explain the way the Roman Republic was run. Make sure you mention consuls and the Senate in your answer.

Who was Julius Caesar and what did he do? What major change did this lead to?

List three countries or places which the animation says became part of the Roman Empire.

Which system of rule (monarchy, republic, empire) do you think was best for Rome? Why?



Comprehension

What is an empire?

Early on, Rome was ruled by kings. What is the word for this system of rule?

A group of lands all ruled from one place

Monarchy

How and why did Rome become a republic?

The last king of Rome, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus, treated the Roman people very badly, so in 509 BCE they forced him out and started choosing consuls to rule instead of kings.

Explain the way the Roman Republic was run. Make sure you mention consuls and the Senate in your answer.

A pair of consuls were chosen to rule the Republic together each year. They took advice from the Senate, a group of people who came up with ideas about how to run the Republic.

Who was Julius Caesar and what did he do? What major change did this lead to?

A Roman general. He wanted to take control of the Republic, so started a civil war and eventually took power for himself. This led to his murder and more wars, and then eventually to the end of the Republic and the start of the Empire.

List three countries or places which the animation says became part of the Roman Empire.

Any three of the following: Spain / England / Italy / North Africa / Parts of Asia

Which system of rule (monarchy, republic, empire) do you think was best for Rome? Why?

Various answers, for example: The Republic, because Rome grew rich and powerful using this system of rule and even though it was not good for everyone, it did not allow too much power for a single person.



Monarchy to Empire



"Over its long history, Ancient Rome saw more than a few different rulers and styles of government, and the rise and fall of immense wealth and power. Can you help me keep track of it all? Put the events below in the order that they happened, either by numbering them in the corners or cutting and sticking them in."

Julius Caesar and civil war

Julius Caesar, a Roman general and consul, returned from conquering Gaul (France) and tried to take power for himself. A civil war broke out.

Italy conquered

The new Roman Republic fought many wars against rival cities and kingdoms. After about 200 years, it finally ruled the whole of Italy.

The Republic begins

After removing the king, the Roman people formed a republic, which meant the city and its lands were run by consuls elected from the people.

The seven kings

Rome was a monarchy, ruled by kings. The first six of them were not too bad, but the seventh caused some big problems.

The Empire

Emperors ruled Rome for 500 years. Some were more successful than others. The Empire grew, fractured and regrouped at different points.

Julius Caesar's death

After winning the civil war, Julius Caesar succeeded in taking full control of Roman power. However, some angry senators then killed him.

Lucius Tarquinius Superbus

The last of Rome's ancient kings, Lucius Tarquinius Superbus was so horrible the Roman people threw him out of the city.

The Empire falls

In 395 CE the Roman Empire split in half. The Western half collapsed in less than 100 years, but the Eastern half lasted for another 1000!

Civil war and the first Emperor

A few years after Caesar's death, another civil war began. When Octavian defeated Mark Anthony, he became the first Emperor: Augustus.

More lands taken

After another 200 years, and many more wars, the Roman Republic ruled all of Greece, most of Spain and France, and parts of Asia and Africa.

Map of the Empire



"Here is a map showing the Roman Empire at its largest, at the end of Emperor Trajan's life (117 CE). For each of the questions below, make a prediction on the left-hand side, then do some research to find the correct answer and write it on the right. Your teacher may want you to work alone or to discuss and research as part of a group."



1. How many modern-day countries would the Roman Empire have reached in 117 CE? Name five of them.

Prediction

Answer

2. Which continents did the Empire reach?

Prediction

Answer

3. How many people lived in the Roman Empire when it was at its largest?

Prediction

Answer

4. Why were the Romans able to take and keep such a large empire?

Prediction

Answer