

Teacher's Guide

Grade Levels: 7 - 12

Subject Areas:

Social Studies World History World Geography and Cultures

Synopsis:

Explains that the Romans ruthlessly conquered Carthage and the rest of the Mediterranean region, but also gained the allegiance of the people they subdued by offering them Roman citizenship. The value of this citizenship was expressed in the city of Rome itself and its architectural marvels, but also in the humanity of rulers such as the emperor Hadrian. Provides details of Hadrian's journey to ancient Britain and the construction of Hadrian's Wall to protect British tribes who, in vowing allegiance to Rome, came under the protection of the Roman Empire.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain how Rome was able to capture and control conquered people in the vast Roman Empire.
- Contrast this success with the failure of other militaristic societies to maintain control beyond their borders.
- Explain why Rome itself was a symbol of the strength and stability of the Roman Empire.
- Describe the characteristics of leadership that made the Emperor Hadrian beloved in a country far removed from Rome.
- Understand the difficulties of trying to rule a conquered nation by force.

Vocabulary:

imperial nation, meteoric rise, prowess, archetypal, motifs, legions, ruthless, founding fathers, suckled, manpower, Gauls, Celts, imperial banner, judiciously, ethos, villa, sanctuary, terrestrial, solar quadrant, Picts, fortification, inclusiveness

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

At the height of its glory, how vast was the Roman Empire? What countries did it include? What country marked its farthest Northern border?

Which Roman emperors left a lasting legacy on Western civilization? Were these legacies for good or for evil?

What physical remains of Roman civilization still exist in Europe?

How were the Romans able to maintain control over such a vast territory?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

How did games and entertainments held at the Colosseum express Rome's military ideal? What was this military ideal?

When Roman armies successfully conquered an area, how did they maintain control of the conquered people? Why was rule by force needed only on rare occasions?

Why was Hadrian an ideal Roman emperor? What were his values? How did he express these values in his march through Europe and into Britain?

Why did Hadrian order the Wall to be constructed? What effect would this have had on the Britons whom Rome had conquered?

Further Activities:

Find out why Roman rule spread so quickly through Celtic Gaul and how it was able to last for 600 years.

Investigate Rome's gradual increase of control over Briton after Julius Caesar's invasion. In particular, how did Rome deal with pockets of resistance to Roman rule?

Find out why Queen Boudicca and her followers held out to the very end against Roman rule.

Investigate the historical significance of the sites you would visit if you were to take a tour of Hadrian's Wall today.

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