



Teacher's Guide

Imperial Rome **Time Compass**

Grade Levels:

4-8

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

Synopsis:

Innovative animation and a tongue-in-cheek approach to ancient history provide a sound introduction to the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. Beginning with the legend of Romulus and Remus, the episode goes on to trace the leadership of Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar and the foundations of Western civilization in Roman laws and Roman government. A segment is dedicated to the power of the Paterfamilias, both at home and in the Forum. Types of Roman entertainment are detailed, as are the wonders of Roman aqueducts and the Roman bath. Another section describes the defeat of the Celts by the Roman army and the gradual disintegration of the Empire after Caesar's assassination. The episode closes with a review of Constantine's leadership, the advance of Christianity, and the ultimate survival of the Eastern Roman Empire.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Describe the unique characteristics of Roman society.
- Describe the influences of Roman civilization on Western civilization as a whole.
- Explain how Rome was able to acquire and rule such a wide territory.
- Explain why Roman civilization came to an end in spite of its many successes.

Vocabulary:

Roman republic, aqueducts, phalanx, catapult, patricians, plebeians, chariots, gladiators, paterfamilias, Forum, barbarians, crucifixion, Latin

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What do you know about ancient Rome and the Roman Republic?

Who has heard the story of Romulus and Remus? What city were they said to have established? Who raised the twins when they were orphaned?

Why were the Romans able to acquire such a vast territory and rule it from Rome?

What forms of Roman entertainment do people still talk about today? Why are scholars, filmmakers and the general public so enthralled by this kind of entertainment?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Do you believe the story of Romulus and Remus? Why do you think the story has been told and retold, in various versions, over the ages?

How did Julius Caesar and his adopted son bring order to the Republic and make it into an Empire?

Who was the paterfamilias? Why was this family member so important? What were his duties as a citizen of Rome? How did he and other patricians keep the plebeians in order?

Why didn't the Roman Empire last forever?

Further Activities:

Find other accounts of the various entertainment that took place in the Roman Colosseum.

Read fictional accounts of the gladiators and their attempts to win the favor of the Emperor and the bloodthirsty audience that attended the games.

Discover the Latin words for common objects such as foods or articles of clothing. Many well-known sayings are still repeated in Latin. Learn about some of these and tell us what they mean in English.

Explore what happened to early Christians who ended up in the Roman Colosseum.

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