

World History Studies Weekly



See Primary-Source Related Media...

SCAN IMAGE WITH SMARTPHONE, OR VISIT:
s-w.co/WH6-17

More Roaming with the Romans

Salve, amice! That is Latin for “Hello, friend!” In the previous issue we learned about the founding of Rome and its empire. Now we’ll discover what it was like to live in Ancient Rome. What did people eat? What did ancient Romans do for fun? Was

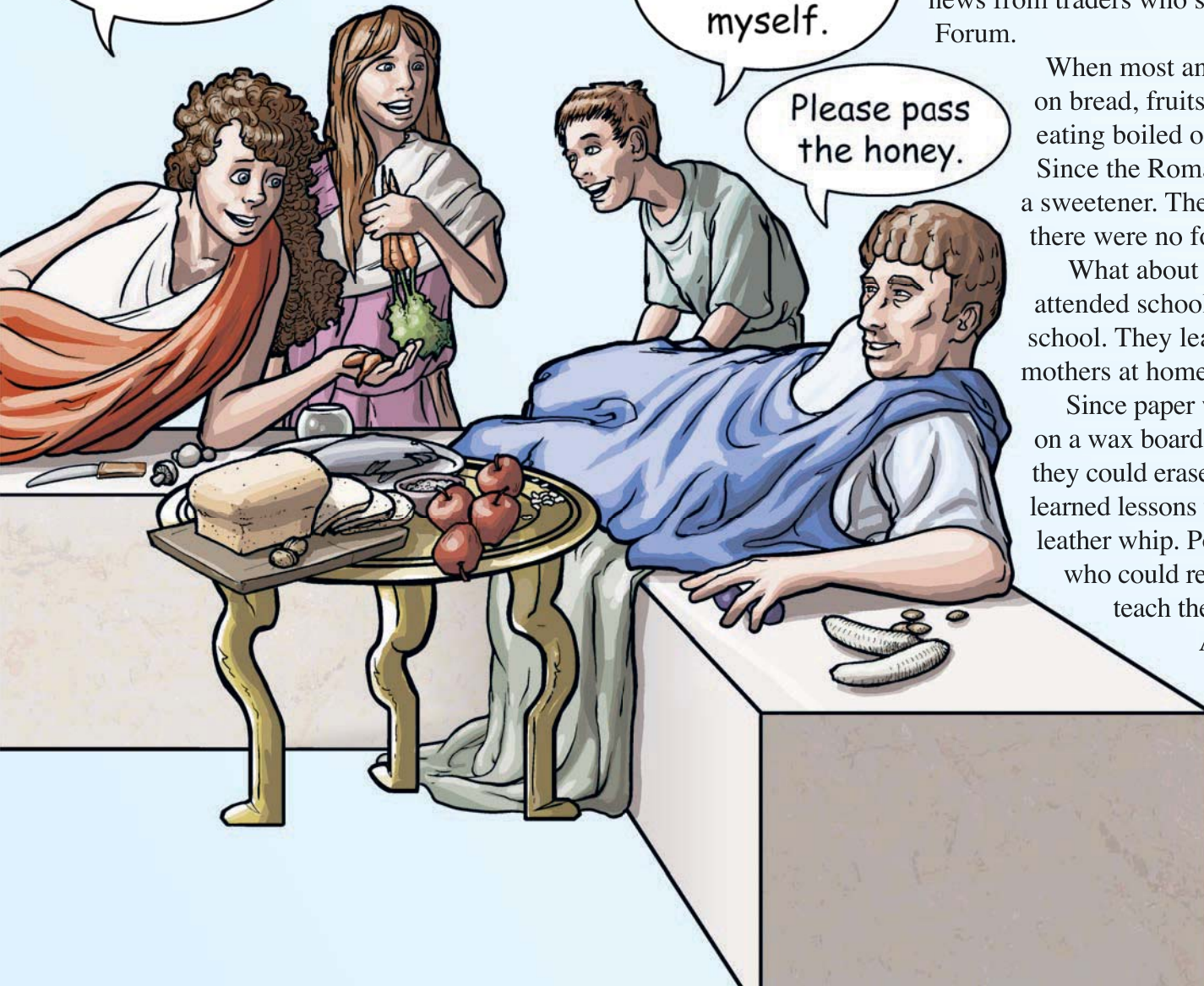
there ever a period of peace, when war and conquest weren’t Rome’s main focus? We’ll find out!

The Roman Forum was the center of Rome. This was also where the Roman government was located. Beautiful buildings with huge columns and archways lined the area. Many statues of government leaders and Roman gods and goddesses also decorated the Forum. People came to the Forum to hear their leaders, attend religious ceremonies and shop at the market. Citizens could hear the latest news from traders who set up their goods for sale in the Roman Forum.

This peacock tongue is delicious.

I like the boiled ostrich myself.

Please pass the honey.



When most ancient Romans got hungry, they munched on bread, fruits, fish and salads. Wealthy Romans enjoyed eating boiled ostrich, peacock tongues and roasted parrot. Since the Romans didn’t have sugar, they used honey as a sweetener. They ate most food with their fingers because there were no forks during this time.

What about school? Usually only the wealthy children attended school because it wasn’t free. Girls rarely went to school. They learned sewing, cooking and music from their mothers at home.

Since paper was very expensive, Roman students wrote on a wax board with a writing tool called a stylus. This way, they could erase and reuse their writing tablet. If students learned lessons too slowly, their teachers hit them with a leather whip. Poor children were lucky if they had parents who could read, write and do math. Their parents might teach them basic school lessons at home.

Ancient Romans did enjoy a period of peace when war and conquest were not the only things that mattered. It was a time when Romans made new discoveries and contributed to art and literature. We call this time the Pax Romana.

Now, let’s go roaming with the Romans to learn more about how they lived!

Connections

From General to Gladiator

Construction near the Via Flaminia of Rome unearthed the tomb of a general who lived in ancient Roman times. The tomb of Marcus Nonius Macrinus dates back to the late second century and is in very good condition because centuries of overflowing mud from the nearby Tiber River encased it.

Archaeologists say the discovery is one of the most important finds in more than 20 years. The tomb has beautiful marble columns and more than 10 inscriptions.

The inscriptions tell of the life of General Macrinus. Archaeologists are still uncovering much of the monument and are hoping to find the sarcophagus (burial box) of Macrinus.

Hollywood used Macrinus’ story as a basis for the movie “Gladiator.” In the movie, Macrinus became a gladiator and was killed in battle. In real life, Macrinus lived a long and wealthy life serving as advisor to Marcus Aurelius, the last of the Five Good Emperors.



Macrinus’ tomb was in Rome near the Tiber River.



When in Rome

Possibly 1 million people lived in Rome during ancient times. Just like cities of today, Rome was crowded, with air and noise pollution. It had lots of carts carrying products throughout the city. Rome was also an exciting place with beautiful buildings and lots of things happening.

Roman Baths

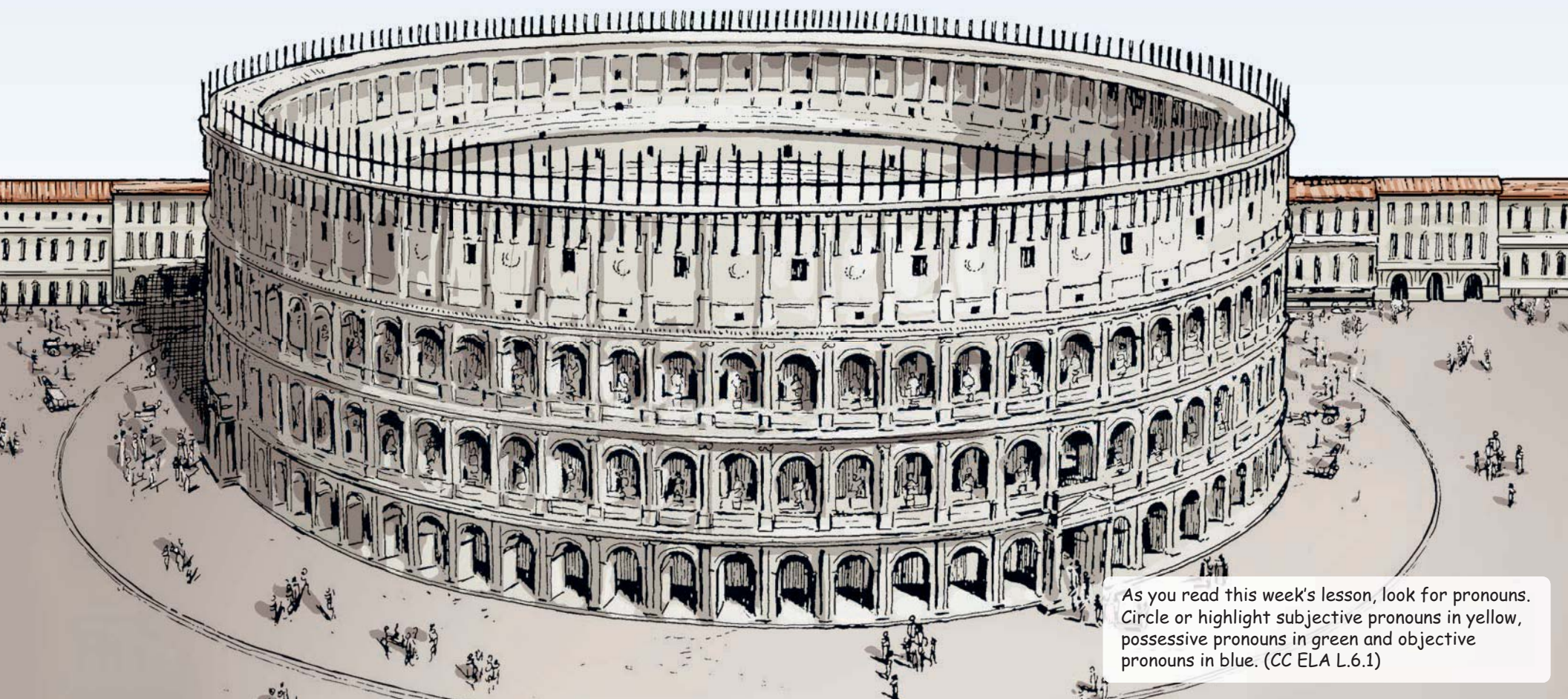
The ancient Romans loved going to their public baths, many of which were near the Roman Forum. Similar to spas today, the Roman baths were a place to get clean and relax. Since no one had invented soap yet, Romans cleaned themselves by applying oils to their bodies then scraping the oil and dirt off with a metal tool called a strigil. Vendors sold food, told fortunes and offered to read or write a letter on a person's behalf. Barbers cut hair and people actually tweezed body hair (something Romans didn't like to have) for a small fee. Some say that you could hear howls from people as someone plucked out their underarm hair. The baths provided cold and hot pools, steam rooms and exercise areas. Even acrobats and jugglers performed at the baths. At one time, historians estimated there were 900 such public baths in ancient Rome. Going to the baths was a very popular activity, but only for adults. A famous Roman bath built in the first century can still be found in Bath, England.

Roman Law

Ancient Romans wrote a group of laws called the Twelve Tables. They engraved these laws on metal tablets and displayed them in the Roman Forum.

Historians have learned a lot about the lives of the Romans from these Twelve Tables. If a judge found someone lying as a witness, guards hurled the witness off a cliff. It was against the law for a plebeian (an ordinary citizen) to marry a patrician (an elite citizen). The Romans created what they called "Good and Fair" laws. For example, they believed it was better to leave a crime unpunished than to punish an innocent person. Also, anyone accused of a crime had the right to face his or her accusers.

We base many of our laws on ancient Roman laws. One important Roman law was: No ex post facto. This law stated that a person couldn't be punished for doing something wrong before a law against it was passed. For example, say your parent drove their car down the highway at 65 mph yesterday. Tomorrow, a law goes into effect that states the highway speed limit is now 55. Your parent can't get a ticket for driving 65 yesterday, because it wasn't against the law when they did it. "No ... ex post facto law shall be passed" is part of the U.S. Constitution.



As you read this week's lesson, look for pronouns. Circle or highlight subjective pronouns in yellow, possessive pronouns in green and objective pronouns in blue. (CC ELA L.6.1)

Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii

Mount Vesuvius is the only active volcano on Europe's mainland. The volcano is in Italy, near the Bay of Naples, and stands about 4,000 feet high. Its height changes with eruptions. For hundreds of years, people have lived near the slopes of Mount Vesuvius. The volcanic ash creates very fertile lands for farming.

On Aug. 24, A.D. 79, Mount Vesuvius erupted with a mighty force. The sky quickly darkened with poisonous gases and fumes, which killed thousands of residents. Within 19 hours, the eruption of mud, ashes, cinders and stones completely covered the nearby cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae.

About 1,700 years passed before archaeologists rediscovered the city of Pompeii. In 1748, scientists began excavating the forgotten ancient Roman city. Archaeologists have unearthed roads, buildings with beautifully painted walls, loaves of bread still in bakery ovens and the remains of hundreds of people. They also uncovered a dog tied to its post.

Herculaneum was a seaside resort of beautiful villas. Scientists found one villa that contained a huge library and marble statues. They also unearthed a theater. Today, 3 million people still live near Mount Vesuvius.

World Geography



Famous Romans

Cicero (106–43 B.C.)

Cicero was a Roman lawyer who lived in the time of Julius Caesar. He was one of Rome's greatest speakers. Here are some famous quotes from his speeches. What do you think they mean?

- Where there is life, there is hope.
- He is his own worst enemy.
- Not to know what happened before you were born is to remain forever a child.
- One does not have to believe everything he hears.

Virgil (70–19 B.C.)

Virgil was a famous Roman poet.

Virgil's poems told how wonderful it was to live in a time of peace (Pax Romana). In other poems, he wrote of living a simple life and about Italy's beautiful land.

Virgil's most famous poem (a long poem called an epic) actually filled 12 books! In the epic "Aeneid," Virgil told of Aeneas, a hero who fled from Troy after the Greeks captured it and traveled to Italy,

where he became the ancestor of the Romans. He wrote of the adventures of Aeneas and his men as they traveled across the sea to Rome. Virgil wasn't happy with this work and asked that people burn it after he died. Fortunately for the world, his relatives did not do so!



Hadrian and His Wall (A.D. 76–138)

Historians consider Hadrian one of Rome's Five Good Emperors. As emperor, Hadrian decided not to expand the Roman Empire. In fact, one of the first things Hadrian did was return much of the eastern lands the emperor before him had taken.

A famous wall bears Hadrian's name. While visiting Great Britain in A.D. 122, Hadrian ordered that workers build a wall. He wanted this wall to be the boundary for the end of the Roman Empire. The wall ran about 74 miles along northern England. It took workers seven years to build, and was 8 feet thick. They built many forts along the wall as watchtowers to keep an eye out for the Picts, their enemies from the North. The workers built a large ditch, said to be as tall as three men, in front and behind the wall. After the Roman soldiers left Great Britain in A.D. 410, the wall eventually fell into disrepair, but much of it still exists.

Circus Maximus

The Circus Maximus was first used in the 6th century B.C. for horse racing. In the 1st century, Emperor Trajan rebuilt the track using stone and expanded the seating. Historians have estimated 250,000 people attended these exciting, dangerous and extremely fast horse races. They were kind of like the NASCAR races of their time.

Charioteers, often slaves, flew around the track in chariots made of wicker and leather. They reined two, four or six horses and raced counter-clockwise around a center platform called a spina. (Sometimes charioteers even raced with camels, dogs, ostriches or elephants.) Racers wrapped the reins around their bodies to keep from falling off the chariot. They carried knives to cut the reins if they did fall, so they weren't dragged to death. If wheels fell off, chariots could collide. It was a thrilling but dangerous event. A racer's goal was to circle the spina seven times to victory. The audience cheered for their favorite team—the blues, greens, reds or whites. Winning charioteers received prize money.

Diocles was one of the most famous Roman charioteers. This champion drove chariots for 24 years. He participated in 4,257 races and won 1,462 times. Romans built a monument in his honor.

Colosseum

Workers completed the Roman Colosseum, which held 50,000 spectators, in A.D. 80. The Colosseum was where men fought other men, animals fought other animals, and men fought animals. Romans also threw Christians into the arena, where they had no chance against hungry lions. On some occasions, Romans flooded the Colosseum with water so they could have naval battles. Years later, people placed crosses at the entrances to honor the Christians who were killed there for their beliefs.

Pax Romana

Historians say from 27 B.C. to A.D. 180, Rome enjoyed a period of peace and prosperity. They call this period the Pax Romana, which is Latin for Roman Peace. During these 200 years, Romans achieved much in science, literature, art and technology. Historians also call this period the Golden Age of Rome.

Pax Romana began with Augustus as the first emperor of Rome and one of its greatest leaders in 27 B.C. Augustus, born with the name Octavian, was the great-grandnephew of Julius Caesar. Caesar later adopted Augustus as his son. When he came to power, Octavian changed his name to Augustus, meaning "majestic one," and ruled for 45 years until he died in A.D. 14. In contrast, Caesar ruled only about five years.

Augustus secured the Roman Empire and built a permanent army of about 150,000 men. He also ordered workers rebuild Rome with beautiful buildings. Augustus said, "I found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble." He made sure the poor were fed and made the Roman tax system fairer. He placed honest people into government office. Augustus also changed the legal system and set up laws for people in the empire that weren't Roman citizens.

From A.D. 96 to 180, the Five Good Emperors—Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius—ruled. Historian Edward Gibbon called this a time when "the Roman Empire was governed by absolute power, under the guidance of wisdom and virtue."

What spectator sports happened in the Colosseum?

Imagine going to the Roman Colosseum and spending the day watching lions fight bears or tigers fight bulls. Historians have estimated that 90 animals were killed each day at the Colosseum. Spectators at these free "sport and amusement" events munched on food as they sat and watched the fighting. Sand covered the floor of the Colosseum to soak up all the blood.

Other events at the Colosseum were even more disturbing. Men called gladiators fought other men to the death—just for the crowd's entertainment. Spectators took part in these bloody events from their seats in the stands. If people wanted the winning gladiator to spare the life of the other, they waved white hankies or gave a thumbs up sign. If spectators wanted the winner to kill his opponent, they gave a thumbs down sign. The winning gladiator looked up at the audience to see what they wanted him to do.

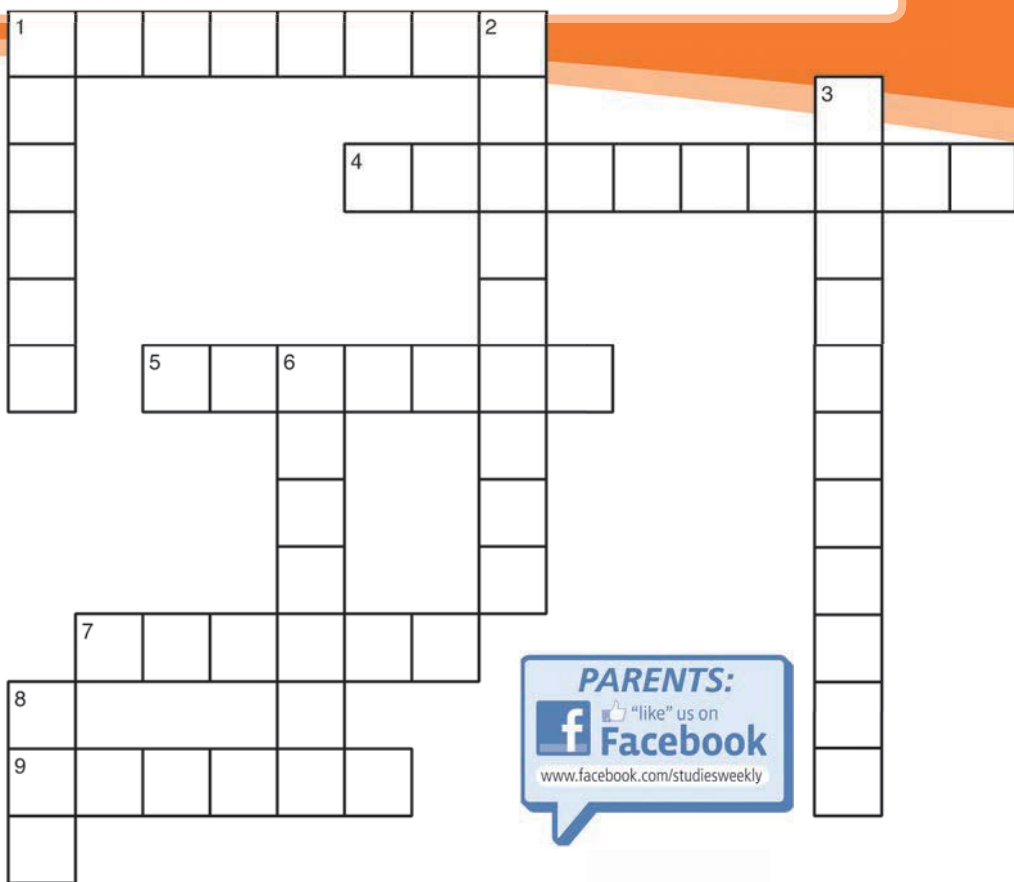


This Week's Question

Did you know?

- Roman Emperor Trajan built the first shopping mall, which had more than 150 sellers.
- People named the month of August after Emperor Augustus.
- More than 140 different emperors ruled during the 500 years of the Roman Empire.
- Asparagus was a treat that people kept frozen in the Alps for special occasions.
- Checkers, chess and tic-tac-toe were popular games in ancient Rome.
- Roman women used goat fat and beech wood to dye their hair blond and red.
- Sculptors used drills called trepans for their art, while surgeons used trepans for brain surgery. Romans performed brain surgery to treat headaches, insanity and other diseases. Amazingly, people survived the procedure!
- Wealthy Romans often liked to eat flamingo and peacock.
- An escaped Roman slave named Spartacus led an army of 90,000 other escaped slaves against the Roman government. Soldiers eventually killed Spartacus in 72 B.C.

Name _____



ACROSS

- 1. volcano that erupted in A.D. 79
- 4. warriors who fought in the Colosseum
- 5. known for his wall
- 7. Roman writing tool
- 9. month named after the first emperor of Rome

DOWN

- 1. Roman poet who wrote the "Aeneid"
- 2. Roman slave who led an army of 90,000 slaves against the Roman government
- 3. activity that took place at the Circus Maximus
- 6. famous Roman charioteer
- 8. Latin word for peace



As you read this week's lesson, circle or highlight all proper nouns with any color pen or highlighter. This will help you find some of the crossword answers and get ready for this week's test.

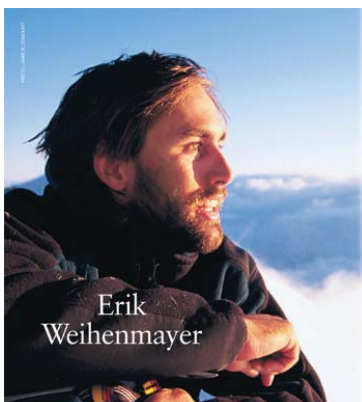
Create a Timeline

Mapping & Charting

Choose six events from this week's World History Studies Weekly. Create a timeline of the events and draw a picture to go with each. Use Roman numerals for the dates in your timeline. (See below.)

Roman Numerals

The Romans based their number system on six symbols: I = 1, V = 5, X = 10, L = 50, C = 100, D = 500 and M = 1,000. The numerals could get very long using these symbols, so they made a rule to not have more than three of the same symbols in a row. For example, instead of using XXXX for 40, you place a symbol for a smaller number, X (10), in front of L (50). That means you subtract. Another example is using CM for 900. You subtract 100 (C) from 1,000 (M) instead of writing DCCCC. On the other hand, a symbol for a smaller number placed behind a symbol for a larger number means you add. MD means 1,000 (M) plus 500 (D) equals 1,500. Create some number sentences with Roman numerals but don't show the answers. Trade sentences with a friend and see if you can find the answers. Oh, and be sure to write the answers in Roman numerals, of course!



Climbed Everest.
Blind.



Let's Write

As Mount Vesuvius erupted, Pliny the Elder watched from his ship. Pliny was a general who led several warships. He also loved nature and was fascinated by what he saw. Flying hot rocks bombarded the waters around him. However, instead of sailing further from shore, Pliny decided to land his fleet and rescue people, including his friend, Pomponianus. Pliny died while trying to help. Write a diary entry describing what you saw from your warship in General Pliny's fleet. Remember to check your writing for correct spelling, punctuation and grammar.

If you'd like to make any editorial comments about our paper, please write to us at feedback@studiesweekly.com.