The Roman Achievement

Through war and conquest, Roman generals carried the achievements of Roman civilization to distant lands. Yet the civilization that developed was not simply Roman. Rather, it blended Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman achievements.

Romans Write Literature, History, and Philosophy

In its early days, Rome absorbed ideas from Greek colonists in southern Italy, and it continued to borrow heavily from Greek culture after it conquered Greece. To the Romans, Greek art, literature, philosophy, and scientific genius represented the height of cultural achievement. Their admiration never wavered, leading the Roman poet Horace to note, “Greece has conquered her rude conqueror.”

The Romans adopted Greek and Hellenistic achievements, just as the Greeks had once absorbed ideas from Egypt and the Fertile Crescent. The blending of Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman traditions produced what is known as Greco-Roman civilization. Trade and travel enlarged the limits of the Roman mind than the boundaries of Roman rule.”

Cicero for his criticism?

Poets Write With Respect and Humor

In the field of literature, the Romans owed a great debt to the Greeks. Many Roman poets spoke Greek and imitated Greek styles in prose and poetry. Still, the greatest Roman writers used Latin to create their own literature.

In his epic poem the Aeneid, Virgil tried to show that Rome’s past was as heroic as that of Greece. He linked his epic to Homer’s work by telling how Aeneas escaped from Troy to found Rome. Virgil wrote the Aeneid soon after Augustus came to power. He hoped it would arouse patriotism and help unite Rome after years of civil wars.

WITNESS HISTORY

Safety Under the Law

Marcus Tullius Cicero was a philosopher, politician, and passionate defender of law. As the republic declined, he often attacked ambitious men such as Julius Caesar. When Caesar came to power by force, one might have expected Cicero to be in danger. But Caesar forgave Cicero, noting that it was “more glorious to have enlarged the limits of the Roman mind than the boundaries of Roman rule.”

Focus Question: How did advances in arts, learning, and the law show the Romans’ high regard for cultural and political achievements?

Vocabulary Builder

Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Use Word</th>
<th>Definition and Sample Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>utilize, p. 162</td>
<td>v. to make use of something. The campers were utilizing branches from nearby trees to make a fire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prepare to Read

Build Background Knowledge

Ask students to list Roman achievements in the arts, law, science, or architecture that they already know. Write responses on the board and add to the list as you teach the section.

Set a Purpose

Witness History Audio CD, Safety Under the Law

Ask Why didn’t Caesar punish Cicero for his criticism? (Cicero respected Cicero’s gift for understanding and respected his political ideals and values even though Cicero was critical of Caesar’s rule.)

Focus Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 3 Assessment answers.)

Preview

Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

Note Taking Have students read this section using the Guided Questioning strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the graphic organizer.

Reading and Note Taking

Study Guide, p. 52
Instruct

Introduce: Key Terms
Ask students to locate the key terms satirize (in blue) in the text and explain its meaning. Have students identify topics that are satirized today both in writing and in political cartoons, such as manners, music, art, fashion, political beliefs, and policies. Then have them speculate on social and political topics that might have interested Roman satirists. Ask: What is the goal of writing satire? To make fun of or call attention to problems or improper conduct? Discuss why satire might have been less risky than direct criticism.

Teach

Ask: How did the Romans show their admiration for Greek literature, philosophy, and the arts? (They copied Greek styles in prose and poetry; adapted Greek and Hellenistic philosophy, especially Stoicism; and to some extent based art and architecture on Greek models. Like Greek sculpture, some Roman sculpture was realistic.) What were the main differences between Roman and Greek sculpture and architecture? (Some Roman sculpture focused on revealing an individual’s character and some was idealistic rather than realistic. Roman architecture stressed grandeur rather than elegance, improved on structural devices such as columns and arches, and developed the rounded dome.)

Answers

In the Aeneid, the epic poet Virgil portrays Rome’s past as heroic and links his work and his country’s history to Homer’s Greek epic; Livy’s history of Rome recalls images of Rome’s heroic past and offers tales of great Roman heroes.

The Greeks aimed for simple elegance in architecture. The Romans aimed for grandeur, building huge palaces, temples, and stadiums as monuments to Roman power.

PRIMARY SOURCE
He says we can find examples to follow as well as warnings of actions to avoid.

Link to Architecture

The Colosseum
Nowhere is the Roman love of grandeur more apparent than in the giant amphitheater known as the Colosseum. The Colosseum was a stone and concrete building 12 to 15 stories high. It could hold as many as 50,000 spectators. Large crowds came to watch combat between gladiators, fights between men and animals, and fabulous spectacles that included mock naval engagements. For the naval battles, workers removed the heavy wooden floor and made artificial lakes by flooding the lowest level. A system of tunnels and staircases allowed large crowds to enter the building in minutes.

Other poets used verse to satirize, or make fun of, Roman society. Horace’s satires were gentle, using playful wit to attack human folly. Those of Juvénal and Martial were more biting. Martial’s poems, for example, were so harsh that he had to use fictitious names to protect himself from retribution.

Historians Tell the Story of Rome
Roman historians pursued their own themes—the rise and fall of Roman power. Like the poet Virgil, the historian Livy sought to arouse patriotic feeling and restore traditional Roman virtues by recalling images of Rome’s heroic past. In his history of Rome, Livy recounted tales of great heroes such as Horatius and Camillus. Another historian, Tacitus, wrote bitterly about Augustus and his successors, who, he felt, had destroyed Roman liberty. He admired the simple culture of the Germans who lived on Rome’s northern frontier and would later invade the empire.

Romans Adapt Greek Philosophy
Romans borrowed much of their philosophy from the Greeks. The Hellenistic philosophy of Stoicism impressed Roman thinkers such as the emperor Marcus Aurelius. Stoicism stressed the importance of duty and acceptance of one’s fate. They also showed concern for the well-being of all people, an idea that would be reflected in the Christian teachings you will read about in Section 4.

Checkpoint
How did Roman writers promote patriotism?

Roman Art and Architecture Develops

In a large degree, Roman art and architecture were based on Greek and Etruscan models. However, with literature, the Romans made adaptions to develop their own style.

Creating Expressive Art
Like the Greeks before them, Roman sculptors strove for realism, portraying their subjects with every wrinkle and vein in place. The Romans also broke new ground by focusing on revealing an individual’s character. A statue of a soldier, a writer, or an emperor might capture an expression of emotion, discouragement, or high-minded pride.

Some Roman sculpture, however, was idealistic. For example, sculptors transformed Augustus, who was neither handsome nor imposing, into a symbol of power and leadership.

Romans used works of art to beautify their homes. Examples of these works were preserved in Pompeii, a city buried by the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Artists depicted scenes from Roman literature and daily life in splendid frescoes and mosaics. A mosaic is a picture made from chips of colored stone or glass.

Advancing Architecture
While the Greeks aimed for simple elegance in architecture, the Romans emphasized grandeur. Immense palaces, temples, and stadiums stood as mighty monuments to Roman power and dignity.

The Romans also improved on existing structural devices such as columns and arches. Concrete as a building material, they developed the rounded dome as a roof for large spaces. The most famous domed structure is the Pantheon, a temple that honors the many Roman gods. It still stands in Rome today.

Checkpoint
How did Roman architecture differ from Greek architecture?
Solutions for All Learners

Quick Activity Display Color Transparencies 27: Gladiators and 28: The Roman Colosseum. Use the lesson suggested in the transparency book to teach students more about Roman developments in art and architecture. Using the Think-Write-Pair-Share (TE, p. T23), have students write a paragraph describing what they think is the most significant Roman contribution to art.

Color Transparencies, 27, 28

Independent Practice
- Conduct the unit simulation, The Lost City of Vesuvius, to further explore everyday life in Roman times.
- Link to Literature To help students learn more about early Roman heroic literature, have them read the selection from Virgil’s Aeneid and complete the worksheet.

Monitor Progress As students fill in their concept webs, circulate to make sure they understand how Romans valued cultural achievements in literature, art, and architecture. For a completed version of the concept web, see Note Taking Transparencies, 69

Answers

Thinking Critically
1. Synthesize Information: What are some aspects of Roman daily life that these artifacts reveal to us?
2. Determine Relevance: Why do you think Fiorelli thought it important to create plaster casts of the victims?

English Language Learners
- Students of ancient world history have often commented that while the Greeks were the original inventors in areas such as government, law, religion, architecture, and the arts, the Romans were skilled copyists who adapted and further developed the original Greek ideas. After students finish reading Chapter 5 Section 3, ask them to list all of the aspects of Roman civilization that were copied from or inspired by the ancient Greeks.
Romans Apply Science and Mathematics for Practical Use/New Law Codes Protect the Empire

Instruct

■ Introduce: Key Terms Have students find the terms engineering and aqueducts (in blue) in the text. Have students examine the visuals on this page and discuss how these two terms are related.

■ Teach Ask What were some practical applications of Roman engineering skills? (roads, bridges, harbors, aqueducts) What original research did Greek citizens of the empire do? (Ptolemy proposed an Earth-centered theory of the universe; Galen used experiments to prove a conclusion.) How was the knowledge gained by Greeks and Romans preserved? (collected in medical encyclopedias or volumes on geography, zoology, or botany) What was Rome’s greatest legacy and how is it reflected in the U.S. justice system? (commitment to rule of law and justice; such concepts as innocent until proven guilty, need for evidence to prove guilt, judicial interpretation of laws)

■ Quick Activity Divide students into groups. Have each group review the images in the section and the achievements of the Romans in various areas and nominate one person, invention, or idea for a Roman Culture Hall of Fame. Each group should explain the criteria it used to make its choice.

Independent Practice
Have students write an essay explaining how the rule of law contributed to unity and stability in the Roman empire.

Monitor Progress
Check Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

Link to Science

Pliny the Elder The early Roman scientist, Pliny the Elder, was a prolific and ambitious writer. He wrote at least 75 books and left behind another 160 volumes of unpublished notebooks. In the introduction to his 37-volume Natural History, he explained that his goal was to “set forth in detail all the contents of the entire world.” His most accurate contributions are his volumes on botany, giving insights into Roman gardens and the farm tools, crops, and techniques used at that time. His scientific curiosity led to his death at age 56 at an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Hearing about an unusual cloud formation, he went to find out the cause and died of fumes from the exploding volcano.
Although the Romans did little original research, they did put science to practical use. They applied geography to make maps and medical knowledge to help doctors improve public health. Like Galen, they collected knowledge into encyclopedias. Pliny the Elder, a Roman scientist, compiled volumes on geography, zoology, botany, and other topics, all based on other people’s work.

**Checkpoint**

Who in the Roman empire engaged in scientific research? Who put science to practical use?

### New Law Codes Protect the Empire

“Let justice be done,” proclaimed a Roman saying, “though the heavens fall!” Probably the greatest legacy of Rome was its commitment to the rule of law and to justice. During the Roman empire, the rule of law fostered unity and stability. Many centuries later, the principles of Roman law would become the basis for legal systems throughout the world, including that of the United States.

### Two Codes Become One

During the republic, Rome developed a system of law, known as the civil law, that applied to its citizens. As Rome expanded, however, it ruled many foreigners who were not covered under the civil law. Gradually, a second system of law, known as the law of nations, emerged. It applied to all people under Roman rule, both citizens and non-citizens. Later, when Rome extended citizenship across the empire, the two systems merged.

### Leaving a Legal Legacy

As Roman law developed, certain basic principles evolved. Many of these principles are familiar to Americans today.

- An accused person was presumed innocent until proven guilty. The accused was allowed to face the accuser and offer a defense against the charge. Guilt had to be established “cleaner than daylight,” using solid evidence. Judges were allowed to interpret the laws and were expected to make fair decisions. Penalties, however, varied according to social class, and lower-class defendants could be treated more harshly.

**Checkpoint**

What were the basic principles of Roman law?

### Progress Monitoring Online


### Writing About History

**Quick Write: Write an Introduction**

Prepare for a compare-and-contrast essay about Roman writers and artists by writing an introductory paragraph. Include brief mention of the different types of writing and arts the Romans practiced as well as the overall focus of each type.

**Answers**

- Greek citizens such as Ptolemy and Galen did practical research. The Romans put the research to practical use and compiled the knowledge into encyclopedias.

- The basic principles of Roman law include that the accused was presumed innocent until proven guilty and was allowed to face the accused and offer a defense. Also, guilt had to be established using solid evidence.

### Assess and Reteach

**Assess Progress**

- Have students complete the Section Assessment.
- Administer the Section Quiz.

**Reteach**

If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.

**Progress Monitoring Transparency, 21**

**Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 53**

**Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 53**

**Extend**

See this chapter’s Professional Development pages for the Extend Online activity on Roman mosaics.

### Section 3 Assessment

1. Terms, People, and Places
   - 1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

2. Reading Skill: Understand Effects
   - Use your completed concept web to answer the Focus Question: How did advances in arts, learning, and the law show the Romans’ high regard for cultural and political achievements?

3. Comprehension and Critical Thinking
   - 3. Make Generalizations How did Greek culture influence the development of Roman civilization?
   - 4. Synthesize Information How did Romans use science and mathematics to improve life in the empire?
   - 5. Determine Relevance Give two examples of how Roman principles of law affect life in the United States today.

4. Writing About History
   - Quick Write: Write an Introduction
   - Prepare for a compare-and-contrast essay about Roman writers and artists by writing an introductory paragraph. Include brief mention of the different types of writing and arts the Romans practiced as well as the overall focus of each type.

5. Writing About History
   - Paragraphs should clearly describe the different types of art and writing practiced by various Roman artists.

For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code: naa-0531.