Rome in Motion

Trace the causes and effects of change across the Roman world.

SS24.7.16 "Trace the development of the Roman Empire, including the actions of Julius Caesar and the reigns of Augustus Caesar and the Five Good Emperors. 16a Explain Rome's shift from Republic to Empire, including economic, political..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline at least one cause of change and circle a result it produced.

From Republic to Empire

1. By the first century BCE, Rome ruled lands around the Mediterranean, but its republic was under strain. Conquests brought wealth to some Romans and enslaved workers to large farms, pushing many small farmers into debt or cities. Generals gained loyal armies by promising soldiers land, while leaders fought over power. Julius Caesar crossed into Italy with his army, won a civil war, and became dictator. After his assassination, more civil wars followed. Augustus, Caesar's adopted heir, defeated his rivals and became Rome's first emperor in 27 BCE, keeping republican offices but holding real power.

2. Augustus's rule began a long period of relative peace, and Roman roads helped travelers cross the empire. From 96 to 180 CE, the Five Good Emperors governed a mostly stable empire; Trajan expanded its borders. Earlier, Jesus of Nazareth had taught in Judea, a Roman province, and was executed by Roman authorities. His followers believed he had risen and began Christianity. Paul of Tarsus carried its message to non-Jews in Roman cities, using roads and sea routes. Some emperors persecuted Christians; Constantine later allowed their worship.

3. In the late 200s CE, Emperor Diocletian divided imperial rule between eastern and western regions to manage vast territory. The eastern half had richer cities and stronger tax income. In the west, heavy taxes and shrinking trade weakened the economy. Power struggles made leadership unstable, and armies often followed their generals. As groups fleeing the Huns entered Roman lands, fighting forced many western families to leave their homes. In 476 CE, the Germanic leader Odoacer removed the last western emperor. The eastern empire lasted nearly another thousand years.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did conquests and generals' armies help end republican rule, and what did Augustus do afterward?

2. How did the reigns of Augustus and the Five Good Emperors affect travel or Rome's territory?

3. How did Roman rule both hinder and help Christianity spread? Include what Jesus and Paul did.

4. Why did Rome divide its rule? Explain how one economic, one political, and one social pressure later weakened the west.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum label titled “A Changing Empire” that traces Rome from republic to western collapse and includes Christianity's spread. Connect at least one economic, one political, and one geographic or social cause to its effect.

ANSWER KEY

Rome in Motion

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.16

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline at least one cause of change and circle a result it produced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did conquests and generals' armies help end republican rule, and what did Augustus do afterward?	**Conquests hurt small farmers, while generals gained armies loyal to them. Civil wars followed, and Augustus defeated his rivals and became the first emperor.**
2	How did the reigns of Augustus and the Five Good Emperors affect travel or Rome's territory?	**Relative peace under Augustus and Roman roads helped travelers cross the empire. The Five Good Emperors governed a mostly stable empire, and Trajan expanded its borders.**
3	How did Roman rule both hinder and help Christianity spread? Include what Jesus and Paul did.	**Jesus taught in Roman-ruled Judea and was executed by Roman authorities. Some emperors persecuted Christians, but Roman roads and sea routes helped Paul carry Christianity to non-Jews in cities. Constantine later allowed Christian worship.**
4	Why did Rome divide its rule? Explain how one economic, one political, and one social pressure later weakened the west.	**Diocletian divided rule to manage Rome's vast territory. Heavy taxes and shrinking trade weakened the western economy, power struggles made leadership unstable, and fighting displaced families.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A Changing Empire: Rome's conquests stretched the republic across the Mediterranean. Wealth flowed to large farms while small farmers struggled, and generals gained soldiers' loyalty. Caesar's civil war weakened republican government; Augustus then held power as emperor. Later rulers governed a vast state whose roads helped Paul carry Christianity between cities, even when some emperors persecuted Christians. To manage the huge territory, Diocletian divided imperial rule. In the west, shrinking trade and fights for power weakened the state. Fighting displaced families, and Odoacer removed the western emperor in 476 CE.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect links supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for a traced sequence rather than a list of names or events.