

Rome to Republic

Trace how Roman government ideas influenced the United States.

SS.6.CG.1.2 "Analyze the influence of ancient Rome on the United States' constitutional republic."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details about ancient Rome and circle the United States detail connected to each one. Write the same number, 1 through 3, beside each matching pair to show the influence.

Ideas That Crossed Centuries

- ① More than two thousand years ago, Rome developed a republic, a government without a king. Roman citizens elected officials called magistrates. Different offices had different jobs. Two consuls led the government for one year, and each could block the other's decision. The Senate advised leaders and guided public policy. Rome did not give political power to everyone. Women, enslaved people, and many others could not vote. Still, Romans showed that government power could be divided and limited.
- ② Roman ideas traveled through books, laws, and later European thinkers. American leaders studied Roman history while debating a new national government in the 1780s. They feared that one ruler could gain too much power. The United States Constitution created separate branches with different duties, including Congress, the president, and the courts. This arrangement resembles Rome's use of several offices, although it is not identical. The Constitution also created a Congress that includes elected representatives. Unlike many Roman citizens who gathered to vote directly on some issues, Americans usually choose representatives to make national laws.
- ③ Written law was another important Roman influence. Rome's Twelve Tables put some laws in public view, so citizens could know rules and use them in disputes. The United States Constitution is also written and is the highest law of the nation. Both systems connect government to rules instead of the wishes of one leader. Yet the United States expanded ideas about rights and citizenship over time through amendments and laws. Studying Rome helps explain some roots of the constitutional republic, but the United States created its own system and continues to change it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Rome’s use of several offices help limit power, and how is that idea reflected in the United States government?

2 How was voting in ancient Rome different from choosing lawmakers in the United States?

3 What similar purpose did the Twelve Tables and the United States Constitution serve?

4 Why does the passage say the United States government resembles Rome’s system but is “not identical”? Give one detail from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Design a two-part rule for a student council that uses one Roman government idea and one United States constitutional-republic idea from the passage. In 2 or 3 sentences, explain how your rule divides or limits power.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details about ancient Rome and circle the United States detail connected to each one. Write the same number, 1 through 3, beside each matching pair to show the influence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Rome's use of several offices help limit power, and how is that idea reflected in the United States government?	Rome gave different offices different jobs, and the two consuls could block each other. The United States divides duties among Congress, the president, and the courts so one leader does not hold all power.
2	How was voting in ancient Rome different from choosing lawmakers in the United States?	Many Roman citizens gathered to vote directly on some issues. Americans usually elect representatives to make national laws.
3	What similar purpose did the Twelve Tables and the United States Constitution serve?	Both provided written rules or laws that people could know, helping connect government to rules instead of one leader's wishes.
4	Why does the passage say the United States government resembles Rome's system but is "not identical"? Give one detail from the passage.	The United States borrowed ideas such as divided power and written law, but it usually uses elected representatives rather than direct voting on issues. The United States also changed rights and citizenship over time.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our student council will elect two co-presidents for one school year, and either co-president may reject a decision until the full council votes again. Students will elect council representatives, who will make written rules that are posted so no one leader can control them.

Accept accurate explanations of Roman influences, including divided offices, limits on leaders, written law, and representative government. For the open task, accept any workable rule that correctly applies one Roman idea and one United States idea and explains a limit on power.