

Rome Changes Hands

Trace Rome's shift from shared offices to imperial rule.

SS.6.W.3.11 "Explain the transition from Roman Republic to empire and Imperial Rome and compare Roman life and culture under each one."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three sentences that begin with First, Second, and Third to mark the exact sequence of events that moved Rome from a republic toward an empire.

From Republic to Empire

- ① During the Roman Republic, elected officials and the Senate governed Rome. Citizens who were adult men voted in assemblies, although wealthy families held much influence. Two consuls led the government for one year, which limited one person's power. As Rome conquered lands around the Mediterranean, generals gained loyal armies and great wealth. Farmers sometimes lost land while serving as soldiers, and enslaved people worked on large estates. These changes increased conflict between rich and poor Romans.
- ② First, political violence and civil wars weakened republican government as generals competed for control. Second, Octavian defeated Mark Antony and Cleopatra at Actium in 31 BCE, ending a major civil war. Third, in 27 BCE, the Senate gave Octavian the title Augustus and special powers. He kept some republican offices, but he controlled the army and major decisions. Rome now had an emperor, even though the Senate and assemblies continued to meet with less power.
- ③ Under emperors, Roman life mixed old traditions with new imperial control. The Senate still existed, but emperors, officials, and soldiers made the most important decisions. Roads, aqueducts, baths, arenas, and trade connected many provinces. Latin and Roman laws spread, while local languages and religions continued. Some emperors provided grain or games in Rome. In 212 CE, Emperor Caracalla granted Roman citizenship to free inhabitants across the empire. Imperial rule brought order at times, but an emperor's choices could affect millions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Republic try to limit the power of one leader?

2 What problem weakened the republican government before Octavian became Augustus?

3 How did Octavian's position after 27 BCE differ from the position of leaders in the Republic?

4 How did Roman culture both spread and remain diverse under the empire?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a 4- or 5-sentence museum caption comparing life in the Roman Republic and Imperial Rome. Include one government contrast, one example of daily life or culture, and one transition event with its date.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the three sentences that begin with First, Second, and Third to mark the exact sequence of events that moved Rome from a republic toward an empire. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Republic try to limit the power of one leader?	Two consuls led the government, and they served for only one year.
2	What problem weakened the republican government before Octavian became Augustus?	Political violence and civil wars weakened the government as generals competed for control.
3	How did Octavian's position after 27 BCE differ from the position of leaders in the Republic?	Octavian, as Augustus, controlled the army and major decisions as emperor. In the Republic, two consuls served one-year terms to limit one person's power.
4	How did Roman culture both spread and remain diverse under the empire?	Latin and Roman laws spread through the provinces, while local languages and religions continued.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Under the Republic, adult male citizens voted in assemblies, but wealthy families had much influence. Civil wars weakened the government, and Octavian's victory at Actium in 31 BCE helped end a major conflict. In 27 BCE, he became Augustus and controlled the army and major decisions. Under the empire, roads, baths, laws, and trade connected provinces, while local religions continued.

Accept clear comparisons that accurately describe shared republican power versus an emperor's greater control. For the open response, accept other accurate daily-life or cultural examples from the passage, as long as the student includes a dated transition event.