

# Rome's Staying Power

Trace the choices and systems that helped Rome expand and endure.

**SS.6.W.3.12** "Explain the causes for the growth and longevity of the Roman Empire."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline details that explain why Rome grew, and circle details that explain why it lasted for centuries. Number the details you marked from 1 to 6.

### How Rome Built an Empire

- ① Rome grew from a city beside the Tiber River into an empire around the Mediterranean Sea. Its leaders built a disciplined army. Soldiers trained, used organized battle formations, and defended conquered lands. Rome also built roads that moved troops, messages, and goods quickly. After victories, Roman officials often allowed local people to keep some customs. This policy, along with grants of citizenship to some conquered people, helped Rome gain allies instead of facing constant rebellion.
- ② Trade made Roman rule valuable to many regions. The empire's roads and sea routes connected farmers, craftspeople, and merchants to large markets. A shared system of coins made buying and selling easier. Roman engineers built aqueducts to carry water and constructed harbors, bridges, and public buildings. These projects improved city life and supported trade. Taxes from provinces paid for the army and many projects, although heavy taxes could also create anger and unrest in some places.
- ③ Roman government changed as the empire expanded. During the republic, elected officials and the Senate shared power, but later emperors controlled most major decisions. A written body of laws gave many people common rules, even though Roman society was unequal and slavery was widespread. In the A.D. 200s, invasions, civil wars, disease, and economic troubles weakened the western empire. Its large size made defense difficult. The Western Roman Empire ended in A.D. 476, after centuries of rule.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Rome's army and roads help the empire grow?

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2 Why did allowing some local customs and granting citizenship help Rome control conquered people?

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3 Explain how trade, coins, and building projects supported the Roman Empire.

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4 What problems weakened the Western Roman Empire, and why was its size a challenge?

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## 3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence explanation of why Rome grew and lasted for centuries. Use two causes of growth and one system that helped the empire endure, and explain how each one helped.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline details that explain why Rome grew, and circle details that explain why it lasted for centuries. Number the details you marked from 1 to 6. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                         | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                       |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did Rome's army and roads help the empire grow?                                              | <b>The disciplined army won and defended conquered lands, while roads moved troops, messages, and goods quickly.</b>                                         |
| 2 | Why did allowing some local customs and granting citizenship help Rome control conquered people? | <b>These policies helped Rome gain allies and reduced the chance of constant rebellion.</b>                                                                  |
| 3 | Explain how trade, coins, and building projects supported the Roman Empire.                      | <b>Trade connected people to markets, shared coins made trade easier, and projects such as aqueducts, harbors, and bridges improved city life and trade.</b> |
| 4 | What problems weakened the Western Roman Empire, and why was its size a challenge?               | <b>Invasions, civil wars, disease, and economic troubles weakened the empire. Its large size made it difficult to defend.</b>                                |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

Rome grew because its disciplined army won battles and defended conquered lands. Roads helped the army move quickly and also carried messages across the empire. Rome lasted longer because trade connected many regions to markets. Shared coins and useful building projects made Roman rule valuable to people in those regions.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect explanations supported by the passage. For the open response, students should name two growth causes, one lasting system, and clearly explain how each supported the empire.