

Lives in the Republic

Compare rights, work, and opportunities among Roman social groups.

SS.6.W.3.16 "Compare life in the Roman Republic for patricians, plebeians, women, children, and slaves."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each group name, then number one detail about rights or daily life for each group, 1 through 5, so you can compare their lives.

Different Lives in Rome

- ① In the Roman Republic, patricians were members of families with high social rank. They often owned land, had family connections, and held many government offices, especially early in the republic. Plebeians were ordinary free citizens, including farmers, craftworkers, shopkeepers, and some wealthy traders. At first, plebeians had fewer political rights than patricians. After protests and negotiations, they gained representatives called tribunes, who could protect plebeian interests. Both patrician and plebeian men could serve in the army and were expected to support Rome.
- ② Roman women were citizens, but they could not vote in assemblies or hold public office. Many managed households, raised children, supervised servants, or helped with family businesses. Their legal and financial freedom varied by time and family situation. Children learned family duties from a young age. Wealthy boys often studied with tutors or at schools, while many poorer children learned work at home or as apprentices. Girls usually learned household skills, though some girls in wealthy families also received education. A child's family wealth strongly shaped daily opportunities.
- ③ Enslaved people had the least control over their lives. Roman law treated them as property, not citizens, and owners could force them to work. Some worked in homes, farms, workshops, mines, or public projects. Their conditions differed greatly, but none had the legal rights of free citizens. Some owners freed enslaved people, a process called manumission. Freed people had more freedom but still owed duties to former owners. Unlike patricians, plebeians, women, and children in free families, enslaved people could be bought, sold, or separated from relatives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the political position of patricians differ from the political position of plebeians early in the Roman Republic?

2 Compare the public roles of Roman women with those of patrician and plebeian men.

3 How did family wealth affect the learning opportunities of Roman children?

4 How was the legal status of enslaved people different from the status of free Romans? Give one result of this difference.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly five sentences comparing patrician men, Roman women, and enslaved people. Include at least two differences in rights or daily life and one similarity.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each group name, then number one detail about rights or daily life for each group, 1 through 5, so you can compare their lives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the political position of patricians differ from the political position of plebeians early in the Roman Republic?	Patricians held many government offices, while plebeians had fewer political rights. Plebeians later gained tribunes.
2	Compare the public roles of Roman women with those of patrician and plebeian men.	Women could not vote in assemblies or hold public office. Patrician and plebeian men could serve in the army, and patricians held many offices.
3	How did family wealth affect the learning opportunities of Roman children?	Wealthy boys often had tutors or attended schools. Many poorer children learned work at home or as apprentices.
4	How was the legal status of enslaved people different from the status of free Romans? Give one result of this difference.	Enslaved people were treated as property, not citizens, and did not have the legal rights of free citizens. They could be forced to work, bought, sold, or separated from relatives.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Patrician men, Roman women, and enslaved people had very different places in the republic. Patrician men could hold many government offices, but women could not vote or hold office. Women were citizens, while enslaved people were treated as property rather than citizens. Some women managed households, and some enslaved people worked in homes, but enslaved people could be forced to work. Patrician men had more political power than either of the other groups.

Accept accurate comparisons drawn from the passage, including differences in citizenship, political rights, work, education, and control over daily life. For the open response, check for exactly five sentences, three named groups, two differences, and one accurate similarity.