

Latin Lives On

Trace how Rome's language shaped the Western world.

SS.6.W.3.17 "Explain the spread and influence of the Latin language on Western Civilization."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways Latin spread, and circle three ways it continued to influence Western Civilization.

From Rome to Modern Words

- ① Latin began as the language of people living near Rome in central Italy. As Rome grew from a city into a republic and then an empire, soldiers, officials, merchants, and settlers carried Latin to new places. It was used in government orders, trade, schools, and army camps. People in Spain, Gaul, parts of North Africa, and other Roman lands heard and used Latin. Local languages did not vanish at once, but Latin became an important shared language across much of the western empire.
- ② After the western Roman Empire ended in the 400s CE, Latin remained influential. The Roman Catholic Church used it in worship, records, and learning. Scholars wrote books in Latin, and universities taught it for centuries. Meanwhile, everyday Latin changed differently in different regions. These changes produced the Romance languages, including Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian. Because these languages developed from Latin, many of their words and grammar patterns still show their Latin roots. Latin continued to connect educated people in many parts of Europe.
- ③ Latin also shaped Western Civilization beyond the Romance languages. English is a Germanic language, not a Romance language, but it gained many Latin-based words through contact with French after the Norman Conquest and through later study. Words such as justice, library, and manual have Latin roots. In science, law, medicine, and biology, Latin has supplied terms that people in different countries can recognize. Roman letters, the alphabet used to write English and many European languages, also spread widely. Latin's legacy appears in words, learning, and writing systems today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which four groups carried Latin to new places as Rome expanded?

2 Name two places or settings where Latin was used during the Roman Empire. How could using one shared language in those settings help it spread?

3 What happened to everyday Latin in different regions after the western Roman Empire ended? Name two Romance languages that developed from it.

4 Give one way Latin influenced English and one way it influenced learning or professional fields in Western Civilization.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that trace Latin's influence from Roman expansion to the modern world. Include one group or place from Roman times, one later way Latin remained influential, and one modern legacy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three ways Latin spread, and circle three ways it continued to influence Western Civilization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which four groups carried Latin to new places as Rome expanded?	Soldiers, officials, merchants, and settlers carried Latin to new places.
2	Name two places or settings where Latin was used during the Roman Empire. How could using one shared language in those settings help it spread?	Answers may name government orders, trade, schools, army camps, or Roman lands such as Spain, Gaul, and parts of North Africa. A shared language helped people communicate and use Latin regularly.
3	What happened to everyday Latin in different regions after the western Roman Empire ended? Name two Romance languages that developed from it.	Everyday Latin changed differently in different regions, producing Romance languages. Any two of Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian are correct.
4	Give one way Latin influenced English and one way it influenced learning or professional fields in Western Civilization.	English gained many Latin-based words through French contact and later study. Latin also supplied terms used in fields such as science, law, medicine, and biology, or was used by scholars and universities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Roman soldiers and merchants carried Latin to places such as Gaul as Rome expanded. After the western empire ended, scholars and universities continued to use Latin for learning. Today, Latin-based terms are still used in medicine, showing how an ancient language influenced Western Civilization.

Accept accurate examples and clear cause-and-effect explanations from the passage. For Part 3, look for all three time periods and a logical connection between Latin's spread and its lasting influence.