

Leaders Who Changed Rome

Trace how key Roman leaders shaped the empire's future.

SS.6.W.3.8 "Determine the impact of significant figures associated with ancient Rome."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB For each Roman leader, underline one action the leader took. Circle its effect, then write the same number beside the action and effect to show the connection.

Three Leaders, Lasting Effects

- ① Julius Caesar became a leading Roman general and politician during a period of conflict in the Roman Republic. After defeating rival forces in a civil war, he was named dictator for life in 44 BCE. Caesar began reforms, including a new calendar based on the solar year. His rise worried senators who feared that one leader held too much power. They assassinated him, but the struggle that followed helped end the Republic and opened the way for emperors.
- ② Caesar's adopted heir, Octavian, defeated his rivals and became Rome's first emperor, Augustus, in 27 BCE. Augustus kept some republican offices, yet he controlled the army and important decisions. His long rule brought greater order after years of war. He supported building projects, improved the government of provinces, and promoted trade across the Mediterranean. This period of relative peace, often called the Pax Romana, helped Roman laws, language, engineering, and goods spread through a large empire.
- ③ Emperor Constantine changed the empire in the fourth century CE. In 313 CE, he and Licinius issued the Edict of Milan, which allowed Christians to practice their religion openly. Constantine also founded Constantinople on the site of Byzantium, near trade routes between Europe and Asia. The city later became the eastern capital. By supporting Christianity and strengthening the east, Constantine influenced Roman culture and government for centuries, even after the western empire fell. His decisions shaped the Byzantine Empire, which preserved many Roman traditions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What fear did Caesar's rise create among senators? What major change followed the struggle after his death?

2 How did Augustus's long rule help Roman culture and goods spread through the empire?

3 What was the impact of the Edict of Milan on Christians?

4 How did founding Constantinople help strengthen the eastern part of the empire?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Caesar, Augustus, or Constantine. Write four sentences explaining how one action by that leader had an immediate effect and a lasting impact on Rome.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

For each Roman leader, underline one action the leader took. Circle its effect, then write the same number beside the action and effect to show the connection. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What fear did Caesar's rise create among senators? What major change followed the struggle after his death?	Senators feared that one leader had too much power. The struggle helped end the Roman Republic and opened the way for emperors.
2	How did Augustus's long rule help Roman culture and goods spread through the empire?	His rule brought greater order and relative peace, while he improved provincial government and promoted trade. This helped Roman laws, language, engineering, and goods spread.
3	What was the impact of the Edict of Milan on Christians?	It allowed Christians to practice their religion openly.
4	How did founding Constantinople help strengthen the eastern part of the empire?	Constantinople was near trade routes between Europe and Asia and became the eastern capital. It helped strengthen the east and influenced government and culture for centuries.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Augustus had a major impact on Rome because he brought greater order after years of conflict. He controlled the army and important decisions while keeping some republican offices. His rule improved provincial government and supported trade. As relative peace lasted, Roman laws, language, engineering, and goods spread across the empire.

Accept any accurate action-and-impact explanation supported by the passage. A strong response clearly connects one leader's action to both an immediate result and a lasting effect.