Power and Legacy

Trace growth, decline, and lasting achievements across civilizations.

6.H.1 "Summarize the rise, decline, and cultural achievements of ancient civilizations in Europe and Mesoamerica."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline one cause of growth, circle one cultural achievement, and draw a box around one cause or event of decline.

What Remains After Power Fades?

1 At a busy Greek harbor, ships brought goods and new ideas to independent city-states. By about 500 BCE, trade and farming had helped cities such as Athens grow powerful. Male citizens in Athens debated laws, while writers created plays performed at festivals. Greek thinkers also asked questions about nature and government. Rival cities fought costly wars, leaving them weaker. In 338 BCE, Macedonia took control of much of Greece. Greek city-states lost their independence, but Greek plays and ideas traveled far beyond the harbors where they began.

2 Across the sea, Rome began as a small settlement near the Tiber River. Its position helped people trade, and its armies brought more land under Roman control. Over centuries, Rome grew into an empire around the Mediterranean Sea. Romans built roads that linked distant places and developed laws that shaped later legal systems. Yet fights over power, money problems, and invasions weakened the western empire. In 476 CE, its last emperor was removed. The eastern empire continued, and Roman roads and legal ideas remained important long after western rule ended.

3 Far away in Mesoamerica, Maya city-states expanded as farmers grew maize and traders exchanged goods. From about 250 to 900 CE, many cities supported rulers, builders, and scholars. Maya experts used a symbol for zero in calculations and recorded dates on carved stone monuments. Their calendars tracked cycles of time. In the southern lowlands, drought, warfare, and damaged farmland helped weaken many cities during the 800s and 900s. People left some major centers, but Maya communities survived. Maya languages and calendar knowledge are part of a living heritage today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Summarize how Greek city-states grew strong and later lost their independence. Name one achievement that spread beyond Greece.

2. How did Rome grow from a settlement into an empire, and what happened to its western empire? Name one Roman achievement that lasted.

3. Summarize the rise and decline of many Maya cities. What achievement remains part of Maya heritage today?

4. Compare the decline of Greek city-states and Maya cities. Give one similarity and one difference.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for a Greek or Roman object and a Maya object mentioned in the passage. Explain what each object shows about a civilization's growth, then tell why both deserve display after political power changed.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Legacy

GRADE 6 · 6.H.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline one cause of growth, circle one cultural achievement, and draw a box around one cause or event of decline. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize how Greek city-states grew strong and later lost their independence. Name one achievement that spread beyond Greece.	**Trade and farming helped city-states grow. Costly wars weakened them, and Macedonia took control in 338 BCE. Greek plays or ideas spread beyond Greece.**
2	How did Rome grow from a settlement into an empire, and what happened to its western empire? Name one Roman achievement that lasted.	**Trade and armies helped Rome expand around the Mediterranean. Power struggles, money problems, and invasions weakened the western empire; its last emperor was removed in 476 CE. Roman roads or legal ideas lasted.**
3	Summarize the rise and decline of many Maya cities. What achievement remains part of Maya heritage today?	**Maize farming and trade helped Maya city-states expand. Drought, warfare, and damaged farmland weakened many southern lowland cities. Calendar knowledge remains part of Maya heritage.**
4	Compare the decline of Greek city-states and Maya cities. Give one similarity and one difference.	**Warfare weakened both. Macedonia took control of much of Greece, while drought and damaged farmland also helped weaken many Maya cities in the southern lowlands.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A stone from a Roman road and a Maya carved monument tell stories of growing civilizations. Roman roads linked distant places as Rome expanded around the Mediterranean. Maya monuments recorded dates in cities supported by farming and trade. After western Roman rule ended and many Maya cities weakened, roads and calendar knowledge remained valuable parts of their legacies.

Accept accurate summaries that connect growth and decline to details in the passage. For the museum label, accept plausible objects tied to achievements named in the passage and an explanation of why those achievements matter after political change.