

Evidence of a Golden Age

Use evidence to judge whether the Pax Romana was a golden age.

6.5c "A period of peace, prosperity, and cultural achievements may be indicative of a golden age."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline evidence of peace, circle evidence of prosperity, and number each cultural achievement. These three types of evidence can show whether a period was a golden age.

Rome During the Pax Romana

- ① From 27 B.C.E. to 180 C.E., the Roman Empire experienced a long period often called the Pax Romana, or Roman Peace. Augustus began this era after years of civil war. Rome still fought wars along some borders, but the empire had fewer internal wars and a stable government. Emperors and officials collected taxes, enforced laws, and guarded many roads and sea routes. This stability helped people travel, trade, and plan for the future with confidence.
- ② During this era, farmers supplied growing cities with grain, olive oil, and wine. Merchants carried goods across the Mediterranean Sea and along Roman roads. Trade linked provinces from Britain to Egypt, bringing taxes and valuable products to cities. The empire built or repaired roads, bridges, ports, and aqueducts. Aqueducts carried water into many towns. Although wealth was not shared equally, the wide trade network and major building projects show that the empire had significant resources to use.
- ③ Roman cultural achievements also left a lasting mark. Builders used arches, concrete, and domes in structures such as baths, amphitheaters, and public buildings. Writers created histories, poems, and speeches that people still study. Roman engineers designed paved roads and water systems that served large communities. Roman law developed ideas about written laws, citizenship, and legal procedures. Later societies borrowed Roman building methods, Latin words, and legal ideas. Together, peace, prosperity, and these cultural achievements are evidence that the Pax Romana was a Roman golden age.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two details from the passage show that the Pax Romana was a time of peace or stability?

2 Give two examples of prosperity during the Pax Romana.

3 Identify one Roman cultural achievement from the passage. How did it influence later societies?

4 Why does the passage support calling the Pax Romana a golden age? Use evidence from peace, prosperity, and cultural achievements.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a civilization you have studied. Write four or five sentences explaining whether it had a golden age. Include at least one example of peace or stability, prosperity, and cultural achievement, then state how your evidence supports your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline evidence of peace, circle evidence of prosperity, and number each cultural achievement. These three types of evidence can show whether a period was a golden age. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two details from the passage show that the Pax Romana was a time of peace or stability?	Rome had fewer internal wars and a stable government. Officials also enforced laws and guarded roads and sea routes.
2	Give two examples of prosperity during the Pax Romana.	Possible answers include wide trade across the Mediterranean and Roman roads, taxes and valuable products reaching cities, or major projects such as roads, bridges, ports, and aqueducts.
3	Identify one Roman cultural achievement from the passage. How did it influence later societies?	Possible answers include Roman building methods, Latin words, or legal ideas. Later societies borrowed these achievements.
4	Why does the passage support calling the Pax Romana a golden age? Use evidence from peace, prosperity, and cultural achievements.	It had relative peace and stable government, prosperity through trade and building projects, and cultural achievements in architecture, engineering, writing, and law.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Han dynasty experienced a golden age. During the early Han, peace and stable rule helped farmers recover after earlier wars. Trade along the Silk Roads brought wealth, and scholars developed important histories and other writings. These signs of stability, prosperity, and achievement support the claim.

Accept any accurate evidence quoted or clearly paraphrased from the passage. For the open response, accept a supported claim about a studied civilization when it includes all three categories of golden-age evidence.