Borrowed, Then Remade

Trace how Greek ideas took on Roman purposes.

AWH.C.7.4 "Analyze the influence of Greek civilization on Roman art, literature, society, and government."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one Greek model in each of the four areas, circle the related Roman adaptation, and label the four pairs art, literature, society, and government.

A Walk Through Roman Ideas

1. Imagine entering a Roman square in the first century BCE. A statue of a general stands beside a temple. Greek sculptors had celebrated balanced bodies and ideal proportions; Roman artists learned those techniques but often gave their leaders recognizable wrinkles and stern faces. The temple's columns recall Greek buildings, yet Roman builders could combine such columns with concrete walls and vaulted interiors. These choices were not simply copies. The statue honored a particular Roman citizen, while the temple helped define a Roman public space. Greek forms gave Roman patrons a visual language that they reshaped to express local values.

2. Nearby, a teacher reads aloud to wealthy Roman students. Some Roman families hired Greek tutors, making Greek language and learning signs of elite education. The students might later hear Virgil's *Aeneid*, an epic that draws on Homer's Greek epics but follows Aeneas toward the beginnings of Rome. Greek stories also traveled into Roman religious life: Romans identified their god Jupiter with the Greek Zeus, while keeping Jupiter's place in Roman state rituals. In classrooms and temples, borrowed material gained new meaning. Access to this education was unequal; many Romans never studied Greek with a tutor.

3. At a meeting place, the question becomes political. Athenians had practiced direct democracy, in which eligible male citizens voted on decisions themselves. Roman citizens also voted in assemblies, but elected magistrates held major offices, and an elite Senate guided policy. Rome's republic began before close contact with mainland Greece, so its institutions were not a copy of Athens. Later, as Greek philosophy circulated in Rome, Cicero used Greek arguments about justice and civic duty to defend Roman law and public service. Greek ideas thus shaped Roman debates about government more clearly than they shaped the republic's original design.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Roman artists use Greek techniques while making the general's statue serve a Roman purpose?

2. How did the *Aeneid* turn a Greek literary model toward a Roman subject?

3. How did Roman families use Greek learning to shape social status, and who did not share equally in it?

4. Why would it be inaccurate to say that Rome copied Athens's government? Explain how Greek ideas still influenced Roman politics.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine designing a public library in a Roman town. In 80 to 110 words, propose one artistic feature, one literature or learning activity, and one civic message. For each, explain how a Greek idea becomes Roman, using examples not named in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.7.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one Greek model in each of the four areas, circle the related Roman adaptation, and label the four pairs art, literature, society, and government. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Roman artists use Greek techniques while making the general's statue serve a Roman purpose?	**They used Greek techniques for balanced bodies and proportions but gave the general recognizable features to honor a particular Roman citizen.**
2	How did the *Aeneid* turn a Greek literary model toward a Roman subject?	**Virgil drew on Homer's Greek epics but made Aeneas's journey toward the beginnings of Rome his subject.**
3	How did Roman families use Greek learning to shape social status, and who did not share equally in it?	**Some families hired Greek tutors, making Greek language and learning signs of elite education. Many Romans did not study Greek with a tutor.**
4	Why would it be inaccurate to say that Rome copied Athens's government? Explain how Greek ideas still influenced Roman politics.	**Rome's republic began before close contact with mainland Greece and differed from Athenian direct democracy. Later, Cicero used Greek arguments about justice and civic duty to defend Roman law and public service.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would set a floor mosaic of the Greek Muses in the library, but add Latin labels naming Roman fields of study beside them. Each month, actors could perform a short Latin comedy shaped by Greek stage traditions and set in a Roman neighborhood. Above the entrance, an inscription would praise careful public debate, a value discussed by Greek thinkers, and ask local citizens to bring questions about town spending to meetings. The building would show Greek ideas at work without pretending that Romans borrowed every custom unchanged.

Accept other accurate Greek-to-Roman connections supported by the passage. For Part 3, look for three distinct proposals that explain adaptation rather than simple copying.