Empire in Motion

How Rome expanded and stayed connected

AWH.C.7.6 "Explain the reasons for the growth and longevity of the Roman Empire (e.g., military organization, tactics, conquests, functions of taxes, use of a standard currency, road construction, protection of trade routes, benefits of a Pax Romana..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details explaining how Rome gained territory, circle three details explaining how it kept distant places connected, and number two cause-and-effect links between the details you marked.

An Oil Shipment Across an Empire

1 In the second century CE, a trader in Hispania packed olive oil into clay jars and sent them toward Rome. The empire had grown through conquest, and its armies helped hold distant provinces. Roman legions trained soldiers to move and fight together, while commanders built fortified camps and placed troops near frontiers. This organization made the army effective in campaigns and helped defend land after it was conquered. Control of provinces gave Rome access to more farmland, labor, and markets. Yet force alone could not keep oil moving or keep distant places connected to the empire.

2 The trader's jars crossed the Mediterranean to Ostia, Rome's port. Roman patrols and warships reduced some threats to shipping, although travel was never risk free. From the port, goods moved on roads that also carried soldiers, tax collectors, and official messages. Taxes paid for troops and helped fund roads and other public works. Those roads let the army respond to trouble and helped merchants reach more buyers. Roman coins circulated widely across the empire, so the trader could price oil and receive payment without arranging a separate exchange for every local coin.

3 In Rome, aqueducts carried water from distant sources into the city, supplying public fountains and baths. Such systems supported crowded cities where officials, workers, and merchants could live and do business. During the Pax Romana, a long period of relative peace across much of the empire, fewer major internal wars made travel and trade more predictable. Peace was never complete: rebellions and frontier wars still occurred. Yet taxes, transport, water systems, and defense reinforced one another. Trade brought goods and tax revenue; that revenue helped maintain the services and security that made continued trade possible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the organization of Roman legions help Rome both gain and hold territory?

2. Explain how spending tax money on roads could help both merchants and the army.

3. Why did protected shipping routes and widely circulated Roman coins work together to help trade?

4. How did aqueducts and the Pax Romana each help the empire remain strong over time?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A governor has enough tax money to repair either a damaged road used by merchants and soldiers or a damaged aqueduct serving a crowded city. Write one paragraph recommending which to repair first, explaining at least two effects of your choice on Rome's ability to remain strong and one cost of delaying the other repair.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.7.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details explaining how Rome gained territory, circle three details explaining how it kept distant places connected, and number two cause-and-effect links between the details you marked. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the organization of Roman legions help Rome both gain and hold territory?	**Training soldiers to fight together made legions effective in campaigns. Fortified camps and troops near frontiers helped defend conquered provinces.**
2	Explain how spending tax money on roads could help both merchants and the army.	**Roads helped merchants reach buyers and let soldiers respond to trouble.**
3	Why did protected shipping routes and widely circulated Roman coins work together to help trade?	**Patrols and warships reduced threats to shipments, while widely circulated coins made pricing and payment easier across the empire.**
4	How did aqueducts and the Pax Romana each help the empire remain strong over time?	**Aqueducts supplied water that supported crowded cities. Relative peace made travel and trade more predictable.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would repair the road first because soldiers need it to reach a threatened area, and merchants need it to move goods to buyers. If the road stays broken, trade could slow, leaving the government with less tax revenue for repairs and defense. Fixing it now could help protect the routes that connect distant provinces. However, delaying the aqueduct would leave public fountains and baths with less water, making life harder in the crowded city. The governor should fund that repair next.

Accept either repair as the first priority if the student explains two plausible effects on the empire and a specific cost of delaying the other repair. For marking, accept links such as taxes funding roads, roads aiding trade, or trade generating tax revenue.