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| |  | | --- | | **Background** The Roman Republic was founded in 509 BCE. The government was run by elected officials called [**Senators**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=senator','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');), who were chosen from the upper class called [**Patricians**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=patrician','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');). The lower class, [**Plebeians**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=plebeian','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');), made up the majority of the population and were generally farmers, [**artisans**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=artisan','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');), and [**merchants**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=merchant','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');).  By 270 BCE, Rome controlled all of **Italy**. They also soon conquered **Carthage**, **Macedonia**, **Greece**, and parts of **Asia** **Minor**. This expansion led to [**civil war**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=civil%20war','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) and the end of the Republic when [**Julius Caesar**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=caesar,%20julius','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) took power in 48 BCE. After his murder, Caesar's grandnephew, [**Augustus**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=augustus','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');), became [**Emperor**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=emperor','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');). This began a 200 year long peace called the [**Pax Romana**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=pax%20romana','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');). The **Pax** **Romana** became a time of cultural and intellectual achievements for Rome.  **Law** Rome's greatest achievement was its system of laws. Some of the features of this system include, **men being equal under the law**, **having the right to face their accusers**, and being considered **innocent until proven guilty**. Later, these laws were written down and named the [***Laws of the Twelve Tables***](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=laws%20of%20the%20twelve%20tables','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');). Many aspects of this system of justice survive today in law codes around the world.  **Art & Architecture** Roman art and architecture is a blending of Greek and Roman elements. In art, Rome copied many Greek statues, but also produced a more **realistic** style of **portraiture** **art** instead of the [**idealized**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=idealized%20realism','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) forms favored by the Greeks. In architecture, Rome used **Greek** **columns**, but modified them to be more elaborate, as well as using the **arch** and **dome** quite extensively, something the Greeks did not do. An example of Roman use of arches and domes can be seen in the **Pantheon**.  **Engineering** The Romans built engineering marvels across their empire, such as **roads**, **harbors**, and **bridges,**. They were well known for the building of [**aqueducts**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=aqueducts','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');), which were bridge like structures used to carry fresh water across long distances. In **Segovia**, **Spain** the Roman aqueduct still functions today.  **Science and Medicine** As with [**Hellenistic**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=hellenistic','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) civilization, **Alexandria**, **Egypt** remained a center of learning under the Romans. In Roman controlled Alexandria, the **astronomer** - **mathematician** [**Ptolemy**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=ptolemy','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) proposed that the earth was the center of the universe. The [**geocentric model**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=geocentric%20model','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) offered by Ptolemy was the accepted view until [**Copernicus**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=Copernicus,%20Nicolaus','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) offered the [**heliocentric**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=heliocentric%20model','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');), or sun centered theory of the universe. In medicine, the Greek physician **Galen** compiled an encyclopedia that became the standard medical text until the Islamic doctor [**Ibn Sina**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=ibn%20sina','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) wrote his [***Canon on Medicine*.**](javascript:%20window.open('http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/global/vocab/def.cfm?term=canon%20on%20medicine','','status=no,resizable=yes,scrollbars=yes,%20width=400,height=200');%20void('');) | |