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| **Pax Romana**  |

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| **Background**The Roman Republic was founded in 509 BCE. The government was run by elected officials called **Senators**, who were chosen from the upper class called **Patricians**. The lower class, **Plebeians**, made up the majority of the population and were generally farmers, **artisans**, and **merchants**. 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** and the end of the Republic when **Julius Caesar** took power in 48 BCE. After his murder, Caesar's grandnephew, **Augustus**, became **Emperor**. This began a 200 year long peace called the **Pax Romana**. 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***. 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** 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**, 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** civilization, **Alexandria**, **Egypt** remained a center of learning under the Romans. In Roman controlled Alexandria, the **astronomer** - **mathematician** **Ptolemy** proposed that the earth was the center of the universe. The **geocentric model** offered by Ptolemy was the accepted view until **Copernicus** offered the **heliocentric**, 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** wrote his ***Canon on Medicine*.**  |

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