



# Sixth Grade Social Studies

# KCS @ home

Summer Edition

## 6th grade Social Studies Task 1

There will be a short video lesson of a Knox County teacher to accompany this task available on the KCS YouTube Channel and KCS TV.

**Directions:** Complete the following worksheets about Rome's geography and government. For each section read the paragraphs below and answer the questions in the boxes. You may also choose to complete the challenge activity to dig deeper into these topics. There is also either a True/False or Matching question set to finish out your work.

More details about Rome's geography and government can be found on the accompanying video.

### Quick Review:

- Rome's geography:
  - Various types of physical geography such as mountains, island, rivers, peninsula
  - Rome's geography provided protection that allowed them to turn to the Mediterranean Sea for trade and growth.
- Rome's government:
  - Rome's tripartite government and written laws helped create a stable society and paved the way for later expansion.
  - Important parts of Rome's government:
    - Twelve Tables
    - Tripartite Government (Three Branches)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Ancient Rome

### Lesson 1



#### MAIN IDEAS

1. The geography of Italy made land travel difficult but helped the Romans prosper.
2. Ancient historians were very interested in Rome's legendary history.
3. Once a monarchy, Rome created a republic.

### Key Terms and People

**Aeneas** great Trojan hero who fled Troy for Italy in a journey told in Virgil's *Aeneid*

**Romulus and Remus** legendary twin brothers who are said to have founded Rome

**republic** government in which people elect leaders to govern them

**dictator** ruler with almost absolute power, elected during time of war

**Cincinnatus** famous dictator who defeated a powerful enemy and then resigned his powers

**plebeians** common people of Rome

**patricians** powerful nobles of Rome

### Lesson Summary

#### THE GEOGRAPHY OF ITALY

Rome grew from a small town on the Tiber River to become a great power. Rome conquered Greece, Egypt, and Asia Minor. Rome's central location and good climate were factors in its success. Because most of Italy is surrounded by water, Romans could easily travel by sea. The mountains in the north made it difficult to travel over land, so it was hard for others to invade. The warm dry weather resulted in high crop yields, so the Romans had plenty of food.

How did Italy's geography help the rise of Rome?

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#### ROME'S LEGENDARY ORIGINS

Rome's beginnings are a mystery. Some ruins suggest that people lived there as early as 800 BC. Romans wanted a glorious past, so they created stories and legends about their history.

Why did the Romans make up stories and legends about their history?

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Lesson 1, *continued*

The Romans believed their history began with the great Trojan hero **Aeneas** (i-NEE-uhs). Aeneas fled Troy when the Greeks destroyed the city during the Trojan War. He formed an alliance with a people called the Latins and went to Italy. This story is told in the *Aeneid* (i-NEE-id), an epic poem written by a poet named Virgil (VUHR-juh) around 20 BC.

According to legend, Rome was founded by twin brothers, **Romulus** (RAHM-yuh-luhs) and **Remus** (REE-muhs). Romulus killed Remus. Then he built Rome and became its first king. Historians believe Rome was founded sometime between 800 and 700 BC. Early Rome was ruled by kings until 509 BC.

**THE EARLY REPUBLIC**

The Romans created a **republic** so people could elect leaders to govern them. They voted once a year to prevent any one person from having too much power. However, most officials were wealthy, so other people had little say in the republic.

Rome faced many challenges, such as being at war with nearby countries. To lead the country during war, the Romans chose **dictators**, rulers with almost absolute power. Dictators stayed in power for only six months. The most famous dictator was **Cincinnatus** (sin-suh-NAT-uhs), a farmer elected to defeat a major enemy. He resigned as dictator right after the war and went back to his farm.

Within Rome, the **plebeians**, or common people, worked for change. Only the city's **patricians**, the wealthy citizens, could be elected to rule Rome. When the plebeians elected their own officials, the patricians changed the government to avoid a split.

Which of the two brothers named the city of Rome after himself?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think Rome's patricians were so concerned when the plebeians elected their own council?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 1, *continued*

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Summarize** Imagine you are a Roman plebeian. Write a campaign speech saying why people should elect you to office—even though your position has no official power. Your speech should be historically accurate.

**DIRECTIONS** On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the correct term on the line after each sentence that makes the sentence a true statement.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. According to legend, Cincinnatus was chosen as dictator to lead the Roman army and quickly defeated his foes.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Romans chose patricians to lead the city during difficult wars; however, these officials could remain in power for only six months.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Romulus was a legendary hero from Troy who fled to Italy and allied himself with a people called the Latins.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. In a republic, people elect leaders to represent them in government.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. The richer, more powerful citizens of Rome were called patricians and were originally the only ones who could be elected to office.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Plebeians were the common people of Rome, a group that wanted more of a say in how Rome was run.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. A ruler with almost unlimited power is called a dictator.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. After Cincinnatus killed his brother, he named the city they built after himself.

**Ancient Rome**

**Lesson 2**



**MAIN IDEAS**

1. Roman government was made up of three parts that worked together to run the city.
2. Roman life was shaped by laws, government, and social order.
3. Written laws helped keep order in Rome.
4. The late republic period saw the growth of territory and trade.
5. Rome expanded its territory by conquering other lands.

**Key Terms and People**

**magistrates** elected officials

**consuls** two most powerful elected officials

**Roman Senate** council of wealthy and powerful Romans that advised officials

**majority rule** the largest group has the power to decide government actions

**veto** to prohibit an official action

**Latin** language spoken by the ancient Romans

**checks and balances** methods of balancing power

**Forum** Rome's public meeting place

**legions** groups of up to 6,000 soldiers

**Punic Wars** a series of wars between Rome and Carthage

**Hannibal** brilliant Carthaginian general who attacked the city of Rome

**Lesson Summary**

**ROMAN GOVERNMENT**

During the 400s BC, so the plebeians did not overthrow the government, the patricians created positions for them. A three-part, or tripartite, government was formed. First, there were elected officials, or **magistrates**. The two most powerful magistrates were **consuls**. The second part was the **Roman Senate**, a council of wealthy and powerful Romans that advised leaders. The third part was assemblies and tribunes. The assemblies' primary job was to elect magistrates. The tribunes governed by **majority rule**, so the group with the most members made the decisions. They could

Why might the Romans have created a tripartite government?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Underline the name given to the most powerful magistrates in Rome.

**Lesson 2, continued**

**veto**, or prohibit, government actions. *Veto* means "I forbid" in **Latin**, the Romans' language. **Checks and balances** kept any part from being too powerful.

Underline what the word **veto** means in Latin.

**WRITTEN LAWS KEEP ORDER**

Rome's officials followed the rule of law, the belief that all people must follow set rules. In 450 BC, Rome's law code was written on twelve tablets and displayed in the **Forum**, Rome's public meeting place. The Law of the Twelve Tables became the basis of Roman law.

What was the official name of Rome's first set of written laws?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE IN ANCIENT ROME**

Women in ancient Rome ran the household and took care of children. Children played games and had pets. Generally, only the children in rich families went to school.

The Roman Forum was the heart of Rome. Government buildings and temples were there.

**GROWTH OF TERRITORY AND TRADE**

Roman territory grew as the Romans fought off attacks. Rome's soldiers were organized into **legions**, or groups of up to 6,000 men. The army could fight together or break up into smaller groups. This contributed to Rome's success.

Trade grew around Rome. Rome coined copper and silver money, which was used in the region.

What might be the military advantage of an army with both small units and large units?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ROME GROWS BEYOND ITALY**

The Roman army fought the **Punic Wars** with Carthage, the capital of a Phoenician civilization. Carthage's brilliant general **Hannibal** led an attack, but Rome conquered Carthage. It also took over Gaul, Greece, and parts of Asia. The Romans adopted much of the Greek culture.

How did the Romans benefit from conquering Greece?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Lesson 2, *continued*

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Evaluate** Use reference sources to find some Roman laws. Rewrite any laws you think are unfair. Then explain why you made the changes. Discuss whether those laws should apply today.

checks and balances	consuls	Forum	Hannibal
Latin	legions	magistrates	majority rule
Punic Wars	rule of law	Roman Senate	veto

**DIRECTIONS** Read each sentence and fill in the blank with a word from the word bank that best completes the sentence.

1. The first tables of Rome's written law code were displayed in the public square called the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The tribunes had the ability to \_\_\_\_\_, or prohibit, actions by other government officials.
3. Rome's elected officials were called \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Through the use of \_\_\_\_\_, one part of government cannot become more powerful than other parts of the government.
5. The most powerful officials in Rome were called \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The Romans' language was \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a council of wealthy and powerful Romans that advised the city's leaders.
8. The brilliant general from Carthage who led an attack against Rome during the Punic Wars was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Rome's soldiers were organized into \_\_\_\_\_, which were groups of up to 6,000 men.
10. The largest group of tribunes had the power to decide government actions because that part of government was governed by \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Wars fought by the Roman army against Carthage were the \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The belief that all people must follow an established set of rules is known as the \_\_\_\_\_.