

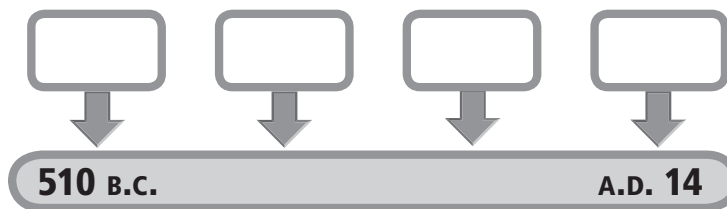
Lesson 1 The Rise and Expansion of Rome

BEFORE YOU READ

In this section, you will read how Rome grew from a small village to a great empire.

AS YOU READ

As you read about the rise and expansion of Rome, use this chart to record major events on a time line like the one shown below.



TERMS & NAMES

- **republic** form of government in which citizens elect their leaders
- **Augustus** first ruler of the Roman Empire
- **empire** a group of different people or territories led by a single all-powerful ruler
- **emperor** ruler of an empire
- **Christianity** a religion based on the teachings of Jesus

The Origins of Rome

(pages 47–48)

How did Rome begin?

From about 700 to 500 B.C., three different groups lived on the Italian peninsula. They were the Latins, Greeks, and Etruscans. The Latins built the original settlement of Rome. They are considered the first Romans.

Rome's climate and location helped it grow. The region enjoyed cool, rainy winters that were good for farming. Rome's location near the Apennines mountain range protected it from harsh weather and foreign invaders. Rome's location near the Tiber River helped the Romans build a trade network throughout Italy and along the Mediterranean Sea.

During the eighth century B.C., Rome became a kingdom. It remained a kingdom until 510 B.C., when the Romans rebelled against a harsh ruler named Tarquin. They forced Tarquin to flee the kingdom. After that, the Romans refused to be ruled by kings. They instead decided to create a government based on the will of the people.

1. Why did the kingdom of Rome end?

READING STUDY GUIDE CONTINUED

From Republic to Empire

(pages 48–49)

Why did Rome change from a republic to an empire?

After removing Tarquin, the Romans established a **republic**. This is a form of government in which powers rests with citizens, who vote to select their leaders. Rome remained a republic for the next 500 years. In the Roman Republic all free-born males could vote. Women had few rights.

The Romans created a powerful, well-organized army. They used their army to conquer all of modern-day Italy and other lands including Carthage in North Africa. Through conquest the Romans controlled much of the Mediterranean Sea.

As the Roman Republic expanded, it became harder for Rome's rulers to keep order. Conflict between different groups within the country led to a civil war. In 45 B.C. Roman general Julius Caesar ended the war and brought order to Rome. He then named himself sole ruler. This ended the Roman Republic. A year later Caesar's enemies killed him.

Rome's leaders competed for power. Caesar's adopted son Octavian won the power struggle and became Rome's ruler. He took the title **Augustus**, or "divine one." Under Augustus, Rome became an **empire**. An empire is a group of different people or territories led by an all-powerful ruler. The ruler of an empire is known as the **emperor**. The rule of Augustus began a time of peace, prosperity, and growth for Rome.

Augustus died in A.D. 14. After his death, the policies he began helped Rome continue to expand and gain power. By the second century A.D. the Roman Empire reached its largest size. It included between about 60 and 100 million people of many different cultures and religions.

2. What helped Rome become a large empire?

The Rise of Christianity

(pages 50–51)

How did Christianity grow so powerful?

During the Roman Empire the religion known as **Christianity** developed. It became one of the world's major religions. Christianity is based on the teachings of Jesus. Jesus was born in the Roman province of Judea. Jesus was a Jew. Many of his teachings contained ideas from his Jewish faith, especially the belief in one God. Jesus taught that people should love God and other people including their enemies. He taught that God created a kingdom in heaven for his followers.

Jesus' teachings attracted many followers. This worried Roman leaders. They saw Jesus as a threat to their own power. Eventually, officials arrested Jesus and put him to death.

After his death, the followers of Jesus spread his teachings throughout the Roman Empire. Early Christians risked their lives for their new faith. Many refused to worship Roman gods because they believed in only one God. As a result, Roman officials jailed and killed many Christians. Despite this, the new religion continued to spread.

3. Why did Roman leaders treat Christians harshly?
