

Roman Acts

Name: _____

Read the following events in Roman History. Explain how the Romans used different methods to build their empire.

Roman Conquest of Gaul (58-50 BC): starting in 58 BC, the Roman general Gaius Julius Caesar defeated numerous Gallic nations in what is now France. By this time, the Roman Army was extremely well disciplined and Caesar's army crushed several Gallic armies when they met in the field. With each victory, Caesar's soldiers looted and took slaves of the Gauls. Many of the Gallic peoples accepted Roman Rule but several rose up and attempted to force Rome out. Caesar defeated this rebellion and most of the people of those rebelling tribes were exterminated or taken slaves.

After the victory, Caesar settled tens of thousands of soldiers in Gaul, giving them huge amounts of land and making them immediately some of the richer people in Gaul. The romans built a number of cities called Colonia, which were populated by a mix of Romans and Gauls. The Gauls were allowed to keep their language but any Gaul who learned Roman could join the army or the civil service, both very lucrative jobs. Meanwhile wealthy Gauls were treated to Roman civilization—which was much more decadent than their previous lives. The poor were given free bread and free sporting events. Over the next 400 years, the Gauls slowly Latinized. By the fall of the Roman Empire in the west, the Gallic people spoke a language more similar to Latin than it was to ancient Gaul and primarily considered themselves to be Romans or Gallo-Romans.

Explain how Conquest, Pacification, and Assimilation were used in the conquest of Gaul:

Conquest	Pacification	Assimilation

Roman Conquest of Pergamon (133 BC): starting in the 150s, it became clear that Rome planned to conquer Pergamon and the surrounding areas. When Pergamon's king died in 133 BC, he surrendered the entire kingdom to Rome without a fight.

Pergamon had a Hellenic (greek) culture, which Rome deeply respected, and so Pergamon was treated very gently. Any person living in Pergamon could become a Roman Citizen if they liked. Those who learned Latin could become city administrators or soldiers. Rome built new docks, walls, temples, theaters, stadiums, aqueducts, and sewers. Pergamon became a center of Roman trade and was made very wealthy. Latin never really became the official language in Pergamon but the people of the city still considered themselves Romans—just Greek-speaking Romans. Pergamon continued to be Roman in culture for almost 800 years after the fall of Rome itself.

Explain how Conquest, Pacification, and Assimilation were used in the conquest of Pergamon:

Conquest	Pacification	Assimilation

Roman Conquest of Carthage (149-146 BC): Carthage was Rome's greatest Rival for nearly a hundred years. The second war between them almost ended Rome before it had begun. As a result, the Romans hated the Carthaginians. When the Romans did finally conquer Carthage at the end of the Third Punic War, Rome was not gentle in its treatment of the people. The city of Carthage itself was utterly destroyed. Tens of thousands of Carthaginians were taken as slaves. Thousands more were simply murdered. By the end, the Carthaginian civilization was basically destroyed.

Rome destroyed Carthage out of hate and to send a message to others who would resist Rome. However, Carthage was also in an excellent position for trade. So Rome rebuilt a new city over the old city. This city they populated with Romans. Many people survived the fall of Carthage but their religion, language, and customs were forbidden. Only those who spoke Latin and prayed to Roman gods were allowed to live in the cities or become Roman citizens. Those who became Romans were given all the rights of Roman citizens, and all of the material benefits that brought.

Explain how Conquest, Pacification, and Assimilation were used in the conquest of Carthage:

Conquest	Pacification	Assimilation

Reflective Answer (1 paragraph)

Do you think Conquest, Assimilation, or Pacification was more important to Rome's success?
Support your answer with evidence of all 3 conquests.