

Why was Rome Successful?

Name: _____

Why was Rome able to conquer and hold such a large empire for such a long time?

Excerpt	Answer
<p>Collaboration or Resistance? After Rome’s victory in the Punic Wars, Rome was clearly the strongest military in the region. After this, Many places did not resist if Rome sought to conquer them. Many local kingdoms would collaborate to help Rome achieve dominance of that region. Collaborators were often treated very kindly by Roman Conquest. Those who resisted were not. This incentivized other societies to surrender to Rome.</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>
<p>Physical Benefits: The Romans had a great engineering tradition. And so, when they took over new places, they would build all sorts of new buildings. For the people being conquered, there were clear, physical benefits to Roman rule. There were walls, paved roads, aqueducts, baths, sewers, fountains, and many more. These would not be built throughout the conquered country, just in the capitals, but it often convinced the wealthy and elite of the society that Rome was ultimately a good thing.</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>
<p><i>The Roman Historian Tacitus wrote the following about how the Romans pacified conquered peoples.</i></p> <p>[We] wanted to accustom them to peace and leisure by providing delightful distractions. [We] gave personal encouragement and assistance to the building of temples, markets, and town-houses. [We] gave the sons of the aristocracy a liberal education, they became eager to speak Latin effectively and the toga was everywhere to be seen. And so they were gradually led into the demoralizing vices of lounges, baths, and grand dinner parties. The naïve Britons described these things as 'civilization', when in fact they were simply part of their enslavement.'</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>
<p>Roman Citizenship: The Romans had an utterly unique perspective on who was an was not a citizen of Rome. Unlike everywhere else in the Mediterranean, a Roman citizen did not have to live in or around Rome. A Roman Citizen did not even have to speak Latin. To be a Roman citizen, all you needed was to be a free man and willing to devote yourself to Rome. In this way, Rome encouraged their conquered peoples to become Roman, leaving behind other cultures and identities that might have gotten in the way. In this way, the Romans “Latinized” those that they conquered</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>
<p>Latinization: The Romans devoted themselves to a process called Latinization, by which they converted local populations to Roman Culture. They did this with roads and aqueducts and by making the local rulers into Roman Citizens. Once a people were Latinized, they no longer resisted Roman rule because they too were now Romans. One can look at the Roman Empire as an effort to convert Europe to the Latin way. Looking this way, the ultimate moment of Rome was the Edict of 212, when Emperor Caracalla declared all free people of the Empire Full Roman citizens.</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>
<p>Genocide: there are many benign ways Rome encouraged loyalty. However, Rome definitely had a darker side. Cultures that did not collaborate with Rome, cultures that Rome did not respect, or ones that were repeatedly troublesome were often wiped out. The Carthaginians and Dacians were basically exterminated and the Celts and Jews also faced brutal massacres. In the words of Tacitus: “They rob, kill and steal all under the name of Roman rule. They make a desert and call it peace.”</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>

<p>Bread and Games: The Romans understood that a happy people were the easiest to rule. So they made sure to provide enough basic food to feed everyone in the empire. The bread business was enormous in the Roman Empire, as the government paid the bakers of each city enough to deliver free bread to the poorest people of the city. In Rome itself, almost 200,000 people received free bread every day.</p> <p>Rome also distracted its people with blood sports like chariot races and gladiatorial combat. Rich, popular politicians of the later Roman era paid huge amounts of money to throw free shows for the people of Rome and other important cities. This appeased people who otherwise might have resisted Rome. Fed and happy, the people of the Roman empire rarely revolted in any serious numbers.</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>
<p>Military Citizens: To a Roman, military duty was part of their life. It was as important a civic duty as voting. Military adventures were also an easy way to gain wealth as victorious soldiers were allowed to loot and take slaves. Many soldiers were also rewarded with land. And so Rome was never short of soldiers. Defeats that would have crippled other states were only setbacks for Rome. Battles such as Cannae and Arausio each saw the Roman army nearly destroyed and after both, the Roman army regrouped, rallied, and were ultimately victorious.</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>
<p>Roman Armies: Unlike many countries around them, Rome had a professional army. Its soldiers' only jobs were soldiering. They were full time, fully paid pros who would serve 25 years in the army. They gave them more time to become skilled and made them more reliable. It also meant Roman armies could stay on the field of battle when other armies had to rush home in time to help with the harvest.</p> <p>The Roman army was also talented at logistics. Contrary to how we imagine things—most deaths in ancient wars were from starvation and disease. The Romans understood this and devoted a full 5th of their army to non-combat duties. Sappers made roads in front of the armies, professional baggage handlers made sure no soldier starved, medics saved wounded soldiers, and engineers designed fortifications. This let the Roman soldiers concentrate on fighting and made Roman armies faster and better fed than their enemies.</p>	<p>Summarize the excerpt:</p> <p>Why would this help rule an empire?</p>

<p>Reflection Answer (3 sentences minimum)</p>
<p>How did Rome maintain such a large empire?</p>