Decline of the Republic
- Senators ruled Rome, took land from small farmers, and caused social unrest.
- The general Marius became consul and organized his own army who were loyal to him, not the state.
- The First Triumvirate of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus was formed. Caesar eventually became dictator until he was murdered.
- The Second Triumvirate was formed, and Octavian took control of Rome.

Rise of the Empire
- Octavian, renamed Augustus, became emperor.
- Augustus kept a standing army of 151,000 men and stabilized the empire’s frontiers.
- Augustus transferred many of the powers of the Senate to the emperor.
- Augustus died in A.D. 14, after ruling for 45 years, the Republic a memory, and Rome left to be ruled by emperors.

Emperors
Augustus was followed by a group of emperors who were largely corrupt. They were followed by five “good” emperors who created a period of peace known as the Pax Romana which lasted for 200 years.

Family Life
The basic unit of society was the family headed by the paterfamilias, the dominant male. Boys learned reading, writing, moral principles, family values, law, and physical training to prepare them to be soldiers. Girls were entered into marriages, arranged by their fathers.

Architecture
Roman engineers constructed roads, bridges, and aqueducts. Concrete - a Roman invention - gave their buildings stability. The Romans built a network of some 50,000 miles of roads throughout the empire.

Religion
Romans believed in many gods, tolerated other religions, and allowed the worship of native gods and goddesses throughout their provinces. Augustus and other emperors were officially made gods by the Senate.