

Lesson 4 The Legacy of Rome

MAIN IDEAS

Culture Aspects of Roman culture influenced later societies.

Science and Technology The Romans made a lasting contribution in the field of engineering.

Government A number of nations today base their political and legal systems on Roman ideals.

The Impact of Roman Culture

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What lasting contributions of Roman culture influenced later societies?

Roman Art

- Roman artists mixed Greek styles with their own
- Romans adopted Greek sculpture; statues had realistic features
 - Statue of Liberty is a modern statue with Greek and Roman styles
- Romans popularized earlier type of art called mosaic
 - **mosaic**—picture made of small colored tiles or pieces of glass

Philosophy and Citizenship

- Romans borrowed from Greek philosophy; especially Stoic beliefs
- **Stoicism**—philosophy that emphasized virtue, duty, endurance in life
 - helped create strong sense of citizenship in Roman Empire
 - still valued today as necessary qualities of a good citizen

Roman Language

- Roman language of Latin had great influence on later cultures
 - basis for many European languages (Spanish, Italian, some English)

REVIEW QUESTION

What influence did Latin have on the larger world?

Architectural and Engineering Feats

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What advancements did the Romans make in the field of engineering?

New Building Methods

- Roman architects and engineers advanced many Greek building ideas
 - improved uses of arches, domes, and vaults; Colosseum an example
- Built **aqueducts**—bridge-like structures that brought water into cities

Roman Roads

- Romans built some 50,000 miles of roads across their empire
 - improved communications, allowed army to travel across empire
 - served as “blueprint” for modern highways; many roads in use today

REVIEW QUESTION

What three architectural styles did the Romans use most often?

Contributions to Religion and Law

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What contributions did the Romans make to religion and law?

Preserving Christianity

- Rome made Christianity its official religion
 - helped religion to grow
- After Rome's fall, Germanic rulers, Byzantines promoted Christianity

Roman Law and Rights

- Roman law stressed fairness and common sense
 - equal treatment under the law; accused presumed innocent
- Romans developed representative government and elected assemblies
 - U.S., some European nations adopted Roman ideas of law, government

REVIEW QUESTION

What were some of the principles that Roman law promoted?

Lesson Summary

- The Romans mixed aspects of Greek culture with their own to create enduring forms of art.
- The Romans were talented engineers who made many advances in architecture and building.
- The Romans made lasting contributions to the fields of government and law.

Why It Matters Now . . .

From its architectural styles to its legal principles, Rome has had a significant influence on modern society.