Rise of Roman Empire

Name: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
Class: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Date: _ _ _ _ _ _

Instructional Guide: In order to complete this instructional activity, you may utilize the articles listed below and/or use available external resources. Additional resources and instructional information are located in the resources tab.

Note to students: It is recommended that you don't complete the entire assignment in one sitting, rather work on your Social Studies assignment for 30-45 minutes a day. Use the weekly checklist and consider breaking up the tasks into smaller chunks. When assigned in its entirety this lesson should take approximately 3-5 days to complete.

Student Instructions:

1. Read the content summary.
2. Read the assigned articles highlighting key information.
3. Respond to the following questions in 3-5 sentences.
4. If prompted, complete the extension activities

Time: 3-5 days

Intended Grades: 6-12

Vocabulary:

- Republic
- Empire
- Patrician
- Plebeians
- Consul
- Dictator
- Senate
- Legion
- Triumvirate
- Julius Caesar
- Pax Romana

Content Summary:
According to legend, Rome was founded in 753 BCE by twin brothers, Romulus and Remus. The twins were sons of Mars, the god of war. Romulus became the first king of Rome, which was named after him. Rome's era as a monarchy ended in 509 BCE and transitioned into a republic, a word derived from *res publica,* or "property of the people". Politics in the early years of the republic were marked by struggles between patricians (nobles) and plebeians (common people). Plebeians were eventually able to attain some political party and could initiate or veto legislation. The first Roman law code, called the Twelve Tables, was publicly displayed in the Roman Forum in 450 BCE. These laws covered legal procedures, civil rights, property rights, and provided the basis for Roman law. By 300 BCE, Roman political power was centered in the Senate. The Romae state grew in size and power through military conquests. Rome fought a series of wars called the Punic Wars, gaining territory of the western Mediterranean, present day Spain, and parts of Northern Africa. With its growth, Romans came into contact with many peoples and cultures, and began to incorporate aspects of Greek culture into their society. As the empire grew, its political institutions struggled to keep up. Internal conflicts and disparity between the rich and poor led to increased turmoil. During this time, one of the most famous men in history rose to power. Gaius Julius Caesar earned military glory fighting in Gaul and returned to Rome to lead a civil war, from which he emerged as Dictator for life. Caesar was murdered by a group of his peers and his adopted heir Augustus became the first emperor of Rome. Augustus's reign brought an extended period of peace to Rome - a period of time known as *pax Romana.* For two centuries, there was unprecedented economic peace and prosperity. Art, literature, engineering, technology, and architecture flourished, and the empire grew to an estimated 70 million people.

Questions (respond in 3-5 sentences):

1. How was Rome able to become and maintain such a large territory?
2. Compare and contrast Julius Caesar and Augustus' reign.
3. Do you think it is ever justified to go to war in order to expand one's territory?

Extension Activities (Optional):
Short Story: Imagine you were either a patrician (aristocrat) or plebeian (lower-class citizen) and write a short story depicting what life was life for you in the Roman Empire.

Rome's Legacy: Ancient Rome has had a profound impact on life today. Roman influence is seen in our modern government, infrastructure, and culture. Identify an aspect of Roman influence in our modern world and create an infographic tracing the history and impact of this influence.

The articles included in this lesson are:

- Ancient Rome Part One: Early Kingdom and Republic
- World Leaders: Julius Caesar
- Ancient Rome builds a republic; then Augustus makes it an empire
- Trade thrived in the Roman Empire and was unmatched for centuries
- Law and Citizenship in the Roman Republic