

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	4
<b>Beginning the Unit</b> .....	5
Historical Overview—Important Dates: B.C. and A.D.—Main Events in Ancient Roman History—Map of the Roman Empire—Comparison Chart—The Legend of Romulus and Remus—Write About the Legend of Romulus and Remus	
<b>Geography</b> .....	16
The Geography of Ancient Rome—Vocabulary and Comprehension—Make a Physical Feature Map of Ancient Rome—Map of Ancient Rome—The Climate of Ancient Rome	
<b>Early Roman Cultures</b> .....	23
End the Etruscan—Vocabulary and Comprehension—Cultural Contributions of Others—Putting People on the Map—Build an Etruscan Arch	
<b>Government</b> .....	30
Checks and Balances in the Roman Republic—The Republic and Beyond—Vocabulary and Comprehension—The Rights of the People—Comparison Writing: The Republic vs. Democracy—The Writing Process—Editing Checklist—Compare and Contrast Chart—The Punic Wars—Cause and Effect—Publish a Newspaper—Draft a Peace Treaty—You Were There	
<b>Great Leaders of the Roman Empire</b> .....	49
Julius Caesar—Vocabulary and Comprehension—Make a Personal Timeline—Autobiographical Incident Organizer—Give a Persuasive Speech—Persuasive Speech Organizer—Speech Evaluation Form—Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Cleopatra—Mark Antony Speaks—Octavian/Augustus Caesar—Compare Julius and Augustus Caesar—Dramatic Dialogue—What’s in a Name?—Emperors of the Pax Romana and Beyond—Create Living Statues—Speech Organizer—Constantine—Comprehension and Debates	
<b>Science and Achievements</b> .....	75
Legacies of the Ancient Romans—Our Legacy—Roman Architecture—Make a Simple Sundial—Design a Personal Coin	
<b>Social Structure and Family Life</b> .....	82
Latida, a Roman Lady of Leisure—Vocabulary and Comprehension—A Day in the Life—Design a Mail Order Catalog—Compare Weddings—Weddings in Ancient Rome—Make Samian Pottery	
<b>Economy and Trade</b> .....	96
The Economy and Trade of Ancient Rome—Chart the Economy and Trade of Ancient Rome—The Roman Empire’s Resources—Graph the Empire’s Resources—Map the Empire’s Resources—A Sea Captain’s Log	

# Table of Contents *(cont.)*

<b>Religion</b> .....	103
Early Beliefs and Worship—Vocabulary and Comprehension—Make a Mobile of the Roman Gods—Match the Planet to the Roman God—Write a Roman Myth—Roman Mythology—The Legend of Pyramus and Thisbe—Story Plot Outline—The Legend of Cupid and Psyche—The Jews and the Christians—Vocabulary and Comprehension—Compare the Religions of Ancient Rome—Headline News—Map Paul’s Missionary Journeys—Write a Descriptive Poem	
<b>Education</b> .....	137
Servius the Student—Vocabulary and Comprehension—Compare Educational Systems—Learn Some Latin—Roman Numerals	
<b>The Arts and Entertainment</b> .....	150
Plutarc the Painter—Vocabulary and Comprehension—Make a Mosaic	
<b>The Fall of the Roman Empire.</b> .....	158
The Barbarian Invasions—The Fall of the Roman Empire—A Lesson for Today?	
<b>Unit Assessment and Answer Key</b> .....	161
<b>Literature Connection: <i>How Would You Survive as an Ancient Roman?</i></b> .....	164
Using Literature—Preparing to Teach the Literature Lessons—Simulation Roles Chart—Beginning the Literature Simulation (Time Spiral—How Do We Know?—Timespan—Basic Facts About Roman Life—Your Map of the Roman World—Begin Your New Life Here)—Government (Law and Order—The Army)—Science and Achievements—Social Structure and Family Life—Economy and Trade—Religion—Education—The Arts and Entertainment	
<b>Culminating Activity</b> —Create a Circus Maximus .....	175
<b>Bibliography</b> .....	176

# Introduction

*Ancient Rome* is a uniquely exciting interdisciplinary unit. Its pages are filled with a wide variety of lesson ideas, as well as reproducible pages for use with intermediate and middle school students. The Ancient Rome theme is connected to the curriculum with activities in reading, writing, oral language, science, social studies, maths, art, music, and life skills. Many of these activities encourage cooperative learning.

This unit is divided into the following sections to allow for easy thematic planning: Geography, Early Roman Cultures, Government (The Roman Republic, The Punic Wars, Great Leaders of the Roman Empire), Science and Achievements, Social Structure and Family Life, Economy and Trade, Religion, Education, The Arts and Entertainment, The Fall of the Roman Empire, and Literature Connection. The lessons are designed so that they can be used in conjunction with social studies textbooks.

This interdisciplinary unit includes the following:

- **Curriculum Connections**— lessons that incorporate maths, science, language arts, fine arts, and social studies
- **Visual and Performing Arts**—activities for creating Roman mosaics, murals, speeches, drama, and music
- **Group Projects and Activities**—to help foster cooperative learning strategies and critical thinking skills
- **Bulletin Board Ideas**—motivational, interactive, and informative board ideas as well as duplicate pages to create overhead transparencies for informational charts, pictures, etc.
- **Moments in Time**— reading selections, readers theatres, and reenactments to transport the student back to the days of Ancient Rome
- **Literature Connection: *How Would You Survive as an Ancient Roman?***—a nonfiction book and related activities that lead your class through a simulation of life in Ancient Rome. This book is filled with interesting facts and trivia not always included in history books. The lessons immerse students in the study of Ancient Rome by giving them a role to play in Ancient Roman society and activities that correspond to that role. The sequence of the literature lessons follows the format of this unit, so it is easy to incorporate the literature connection lessons after you teach each section of the unit. Or you may wish to utilize the Literature Connection lessons at one time as the foundation of an extensive culminating activity.

## Moments in Time—Readers’ Theatre

Along with nonfiction passages of text, information for most sections of study is provided in the form of a short “play” to be read aloud by the class. This allows the students to experience a “moment in time” by being transported back to the days of the Ancient Romans and makes learning more creative and fun. Assign parts to different students and have them read the selections aloud to the class. Have the class study the pictures and discuss what life was like for the Ancient Romans. Vocabulary and comprehension questions or activities accompany each readers’ theatre

# Historical Overview

To begin the unit on Ancient Rome, give students a broad understanding of the political changes that occurred during the two thousand years the Roman Empire dominated the Mediterranean region.

## **Preparing for the lesson:**

1. Reproduce Ancient Rome—Important Dates (pages 8–9) for each student.
2. Reproduce Main Events in Ancient Roman History and Map of the Roman Empire (pages 10–11) for each student.
3. You may wish to make the copies for (1.) and (2.) above two-sided so students can more easily retain and use them as you study the unit.

## **Teaching the lesson:**

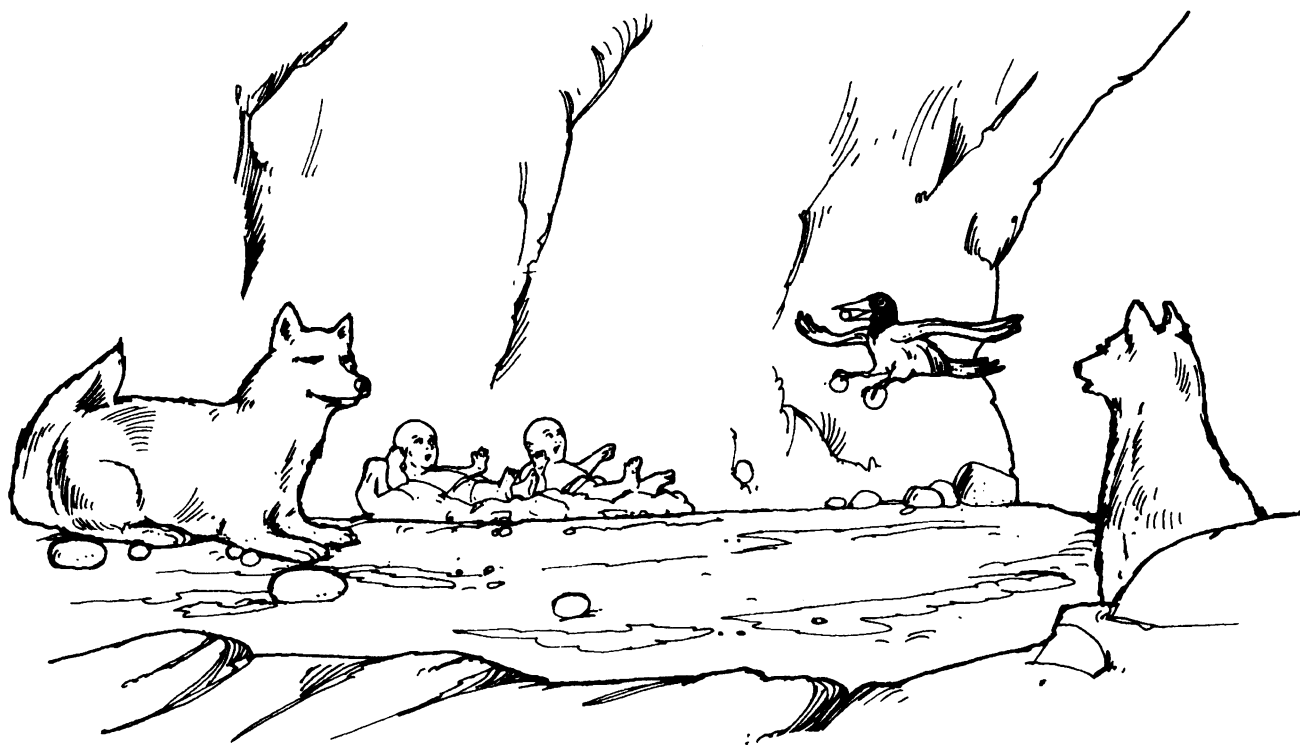
1. Discuss with the class what they already know about Ancient Rome.
2. Give students a copy of Important Dates—B.C. and A.D. and have them refer to it as you read aloud the Historical Overview information on pages 6–7.
3. Lead the class in a general discussion of the Roman/Christian calendar as it applies to how we now denote the time before the birth of Jesus Christ as B.C. (years counted backwards) and the time during and after his life as A.D. (years counted forward).
4. Explain to students that Ancient Rome experienced many changes during its approximately 2,000-year history. Discuss what they now know about changes in government and religion, and brainstorm with the class about the kinds of cultural changes that might have occurred as Rome expanded into foreign territories.
5. Distribute the Main Events in Ancient Roman History and Map of the Roman Empire to students. Tell them that they will be learning more about these main events during your study of this unit. Have them use their copies of Important Dates to write the specific dates on the Main Events timeline.
6. Discuss with the class the Map of the Roman Empire. Tell them that as you study about Ancient Rome, they will add important information to the map to create a more detailed and comprehensive picture of the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.
7. Throughout the unit refer students to the important dates, main events, and map.

# The Legend of Romulus and Remus

Long ago in northern Italy there lived a great king named Numitor, who ruled the city of Alba Longa. The king had a very jealous younger brother, Amulius, who eventually gained a following and seized the throne, sending Numitor into exile. Amulius proved to be a fierce ruler. He spared the life of Rhea Silvea, Numitor's beautiful daughter, but forced her to serve in the palace temple.

One night while she was alone in the temple, Rhea was visited by Mars, the god of war. He immediately fell in love with her, and nine months later she gave birth to twin boys, whom she named Remus and Romulus. She tried to raise the babies in secrecy, but Amulius discovered her deception and became enraged. He ordered all three of them to be thrown into the Tiber River and drowned.

Before she died, Rhea managed to put her babies into a basket. The boys floated safely away downstream. The basket came ashore at Palatine, where a she-wolf happened to be passing by. Upon hearing the soft cries of the babies, she took them back to her den and raised them on her milk. A woodpecker also befriended the boys and brought them fruit, nuts, and meat. From that day forward, the woodpecker and the wolf became the sacred animals of Mars.



The boys grew up strong and healthy. One day a shepherd tending his flock discovered the twins and took them home with him. The good shepherd and his wife raised the twins as their own for ten happy years. The boys were well cared for, and they learned how to read and write. They also helped defend their family against attacks by bandits.

However, there came a time when the family was outnumbered and surrounded by bandits. Romulus managed to escape, but Remus was captured and brought before the bandits' leader. The leader decided to take Remus to the local landowner and turn Remus in as the one who had been attacking and stealing from the community. The landowner was old and the bandits believed he could be easily fooled.