Module 5: Ancient Rome

Topic 3 Content: Roman Officials and Assemblies

Introduction

Click on each of the tabs to learn more about the government of early Rome.

Module 5: Ancient Rome

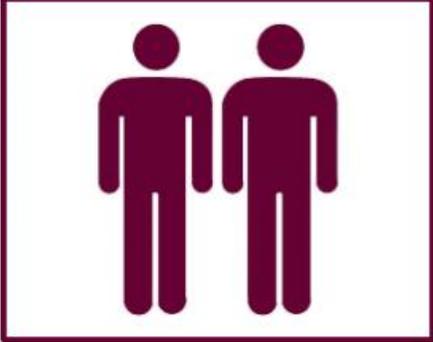## Topic 3 Content: Roman Officials and Assemblies

Consuls

A consul was an elected official who managed the Roman Republic. Every year, two consuls were elected to serve one-year terms together, with the intent of ensuring a system of checks-and-balances. In a time of crisis, however, all power was given to one consul, who was allowed to serve as dictator until the crisis ended.

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Praetors

Two praetors were in charge of civil law. One of the praetors oversaw civil conflicts between Roman citizens, while the other supervised conflicts that involved at least one non-Roman.

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Roman Senate

The Roman Senate included around 300 patricians who advised the Roman officials and had legislative power (the power to make laws). Roman senators served for life and were extremely powerful. Every year, two senators were elected to serve as consuls.

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Centuriate Assembly

The Centuriate Assembly was responsible for the election of other officials, like consuls and praetors. The Centuriate Assembly was structured by socio-economic classes; the patricians were in the majority and had most of the control.

Plebeian Assembly

After conflict arose between the patricians and the plebeians, the Plebeian Assembly was created. The duty of this assembly was to protect plebeian interests.