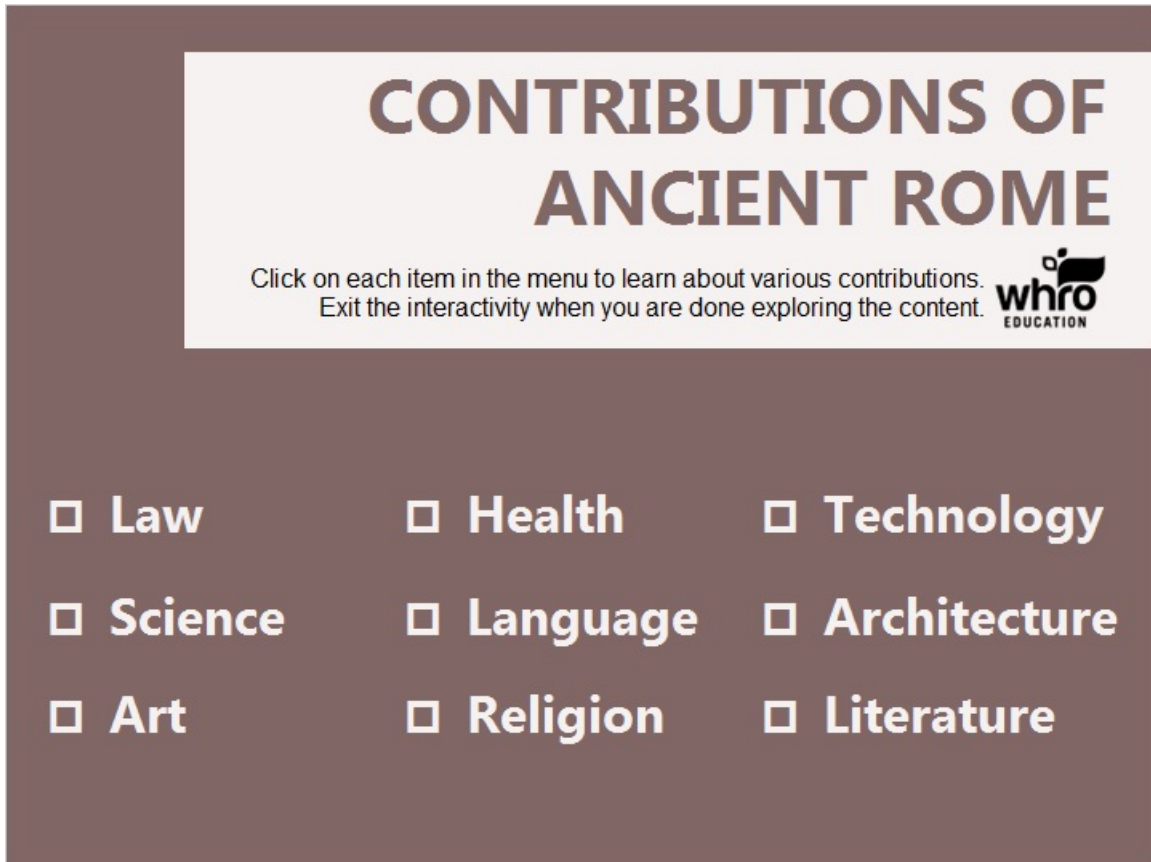


## Module 5: Ancient Rome

### Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

#### Introduction



**CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
ANCIENT ROME**

Click on each item in the menu to learn about various contributions.  
Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.

**whro**  
EDUCATION

- Law
- Health
- Technology
- Science
- Language
- Architecture
- Art
- Religion
- Literature

Click on each item in the menu to learn about various contributions. Exit the interactivity when you are done exploring the content.




# Module 5: Ancient Rome

## Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

### Art

# ART

**Ancient Romans considered art to be important, and expressed their abilities through various media.**



**Paintings**  
**Frescos**  
**Sculptures**

*Image 1: Augustus of Prima Porta; Image 2: A fresco in Pompeii; Image 3: Family portrait on a medallion*

**MENU**

Like the Greeks, ancient Romans considered art to be important. Primarily, they expressed their artistic abilities through painting, sculpture, and mosaics. Roman paintings included a variety of subjects, including portraits, religion, everyday life, and landscapes. Complex frescos, or murals painted on plaster, lined the walls of houses across the Roman Empire, especially in the Roman city of Pompeii, an ancient vacation spot near modern-day Naples, Italy. Roman sculptures mimicked those of ancient Greece. In fact, many sculptors hired to create statues in Rome were actually Greek. Sculptures could be found in public places, on the sides of important buildings, or as parts of tombs.

# Module 5: Ancient Rome

## Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

### Architecture

# ARCHITECTURE

**Architectural feats constructed by the ancient Romans are still preserved today.**



**Pantheon**

**Colosseum**

**Roman Forum**

*Image 1: Pantheon; Image 2: Colosseum; Image 3: Roman Forum*

MENU

The best-preserved building from ancient Rome is the Pantheon. It was originally built as a temple to the ancient Roman gods, but since the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. (C.E.), it has been used as a Roman Catholic Church. The building includes a portico with sixteen columns under a pediment. Behind the portico is a rotunda, or round room, covered by a magnificent dome, which is proof of the architectural genius of the ancient Romans.

The Colosseum was an elliptical-shaped amphitheater used for public gladiator demonstrations, animal shows, plays, and battle reenactments. Holding more than 50,000 people, the massive size of the Colosseum made it one of the most spectacular feats of Roman architecture. The sophisticated productions held within the Colosseum required a large number of people and animals, so a complex tunnel system was built under the wooden floor of the arena.

The Roman Forum was a large rectangular-shaped plaza in the center of ancient Rome. It was at the center of several important government buildings, including the building for the Roman Senate. Originally used as a marketplace, it became the center of Roman life. In the Roman Forum, the city's citizens would hold public speeches, criminal trials, and elections.

## Module 5: Ancient Rome

### Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

#### Technology

# TECHNOLOGY

**The ancient Romans built sophisticated road systems, complex aqueducts, and advanced construction projects like arches.**



**50,000 miles of roads paved in stone**

**Aqueducts for public baths, drinking, food preparation, and agriculture**

**Arches supported aqueducts, buildings, bridges, and monuments**

*Image 1: Road at Palatine Hill; Image 2: Aqueduct; Image 3: Arch*

MENU

The Romans built one of the first sophisticated systems of roads. Throughout the Roman Empire, there was a network of 50,000 miles or more of roads. Many of these roads were paved in stone and have survived for more than two thousand years. In fact, the Roman roads were so extensive and well known that there is a popular idiom based on them. Have you ever heard the phrase “all roads lead to Rome”? It means that there are many methods that can be used to reach the same goal.

In order to supply the people of ancient Rome with drinking water and remove waste water from population centers, the Romans designed and constructed complex aqueducts. Aqueducts are tubes, pipes, or trenches designed to move water downhill using the force of gravity. Water was extremely important to the Romans, who used it for public baths, drinking, food preparation, and agriculture. At one point, twelve aqueducts provided water to more than one million people living in the city of Rome.

With their widespread use of concrete and advanced construction principles, the Romans were the first group of people to use arches frequently and on large buildings. An arch uses its own structure to support the weight of the feature. For example, the Romans used arches to support aqueducts, buildings, bridges, and monuments.

## Module 5: Ancient Rome

### Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

#### Science

## SCIENCE

Ptolemy was a Greco-Roman scientist, mathematician, and geographer.



Ptolemaic system

Sphere-shaped Earth onto a plane

Catalogued constellations

*Image 1: Ptolemy; Image 2: Ptolemaic system*

MENU

Ptolemy was a Greco-Roman scientist, mathematician, and geographer who lived in Alexandria, Egypt during the Roman Empire. He was born in 85 A.D. (C.E.) and made many scientific advances during his life, including categorizing the motions of the sun, the moon, and other celestial objects into what is known as the Ptolemaic system. The Ptolemaic system was geocentric, meaning that it placed the Earth at the center of the Solar System. The Ptolemaic system was widely accepted for more than fourteen hundred years before it was disproved in the 16th century. Ptolemy was also one of the first scientists to project the sphere-shaped Earth onto a plane, like modern maps. He also catalogued more than 48 constellations with their proper names.

# Module 5: Ancient Rome

## Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

### Health and Medicine

# HEALTH & MEDICINE

**Public health was important to ancient Romans.**



**Public baths (thermae)**

**Medical information and schools**

**Aesculapius**

*Image 1: Remains of a Roman bath; Image 2: Aesculapius; Image 3: Ancient Roman medical tools*

MENU

Public health was important to the ancient Romans. Roman public baths, or *thermae*, were social centers where Romans could meet, make business arrangements, and keep clean. Many baths offered games, gardens, and libraries. In these facilities, Romans could bathe in heated water provided by local water sources or by aqueducts. A public water system supported the baths, and wastewater was carried away from living areas into sewers. The Romans relied heavily on their Greek predecessors for medical information and education. However, there were several medical schools established during the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire. On Tiber Island, an island on the Tiber River that runs through Rome, the Romans built a temple to Aesculapius, the god of health and medicine. This temple was intended to ward off plagues.

## Module 5: Ancient Rome

### Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

#### Literature

# LITERATURE

**Roman history and culture was celebrated through various literary works.**



**Virgil celebrated Roman history through epics**

**The Aeneid**

**Livy wrote the history of Rome**

*Image 1: Virgil; Image 2: Aeneas Flees Burning Troy by Federico Barocci ;  
Image 3: Livy*

MENU

Virgil was a poet during the time of Augustus. His most famous work, the Aeneid, is an epic poem celebrating the history of Rome. The Aeneid traces the travels of the Trojan prince, Aeneas, who was the son of the goddess Venus and the Trojan mortal Anchises. In the Aeneid, Aeneas ultimately fulfills a divine prophecy to travel from Troy to the Italian peninsula and establish the Roman population there. Along the way, Aeneas displays many attributes celebrated by the Romans, including duty to his task, faith in the wisdom of the gods, heroism, and bravery.

Livy was a historian who wrote the most famous history of Rome, tracing the history of the civilization from 753 B.C. (B.C.E.) through 9 B.C. (B.C.E.). Collected into 142 books, the *Ab urbe condita libri*, or Books Since the City's Founding, contained legends and stories of morality about Roman history. Around twenty-five percent of the work survives today.



# Module 5: Ancient Rome

## Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

### Religion

# RELIGION

**Ancient Romans associated with Roman polytheism and Christianity.**




**Natural phenomena, human qualities, and life events**

**Constantine**

**Theodosius**

*Image 1: Medallion of Constantine; Image 2: Hercules*



The ancient Romans were associated with two very distinct religions, Roman polytheism and Christianity. Roman polytheism was based on Greek polytheism, and the stories help explain natural phenomena, human qualities, and life events. The stories surrounding Roman polytheism provide important windows into the values of the ancient Romans.

When Constantine became the first Christian emperor in the Roman Empire, he wrote the Edict of Milan, which gave Romans the freedom to observe the Christian religion without persecution. Later, Emperor Theodosius I adopted Christianity as the imperial religion of the Roman Empire. Both of these actions contributed to the survival and spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire and across the world.




## Module 5: Ancient Rome

### Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

#### Law

# LAW

The legal system of ancient Rome impacted modern law in the United States and across the globe.



1. People cannot be removed from their home without a warrant.
2. You cannot accuse someone of a crime without proof of guilt.
3. People cannot be punished for voicing their opinions.

*Image: Lady Justice at the entrance of the Palace of Justice in Rome, Italy*

[← MENU](#)

The legal system of ancient Rome impacted modern law in the United States and across the globe. Principles set forth in the Twelve Tables and the Law of Nations are included in the U.S. Constitution and the International Law of the United Nations. The following ideas from ancient Rome are part of modern legal codes:

1. People cannot be removed from their homes without a warrant;
2. You cannot accuse someone of a crime without proof of guilt; and
3. People cannot be punished for voicing their opinions.

## Module 5: Ancient Rome

### Topic 7 Content: Contributions of Ancient Rome

#### Language

# LANGUAGE

**Early Romans spoke Latin.**



**Studied by many students today**

**Classical literature, math, science, and medical terminology**

**Foundation for Romance languages**

*Image 1: Engraved stone from the Colosseum; Image 2: Early Latin on a keros*

MENU

The early Romans spoke Latin. This language used only twenty-three letters, all of which were written in capital letters. While Latin is no longer used as a spoken language, it is still studied by many students. Evidence of Latin is found in classical literature, mathematics, science, and medical terminology. Latin provided the foundation for the modern romance languages, including French, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish. Between the 6th and 9th centuries A.D. (C.E.), these languages developed from Latin. The English language also uses many Latin derivatives. For example, the English words “mariner” and “submarine” come from the Latin word “mare,” which means “sea.”