



Ancient Civilisation – Rome

History – Junior Cert

Quick Notes

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Much of what we know about the Romans comes from three sources: written records from the Romans themselves, Roman ruins in Italy and archaeological work carried out in southern Rome. On 24th August AD 70, Mount Vesuvius erupted and the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were covered by lava and ash within hours. Evacuations on Pompeii were successful as it was buried in ash which gave an excellent picture of everyday roman life. The Romans enjoyed their food and drink. The cena was the main meal of the day and usually took place in the evening. Romans wore tunics, togas (men) or stolas (women) , which were covered by a palla (shawl). The rich romans (patricians) lived in beautiful town houses or large villas in the countryside whereas the poor (plebians) lived in insulae, renting single rooms in large apartment blocks, with access by wooden ladders. The children of the poor received little or no education. The children of the rich were educated at home by a tutor or sent to a school (ludus). The roman forum was the city's marketplace where the men gathered to discuss politics and the women came to buy and sell goods. The Romans held games, such gladiator fights, at a vast open-air stadium called an amphitheatre. Romans worshipped various gods , each of which had a temple in their home. Some Roman gods were Jupiter, mars and Neptune. The Romans ruled over much of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. The emperor ruled this empire which was divided into different provinces, each which was ruled by a governor e.g. Pontius Pilate ruled Galilee. From the time of Jesus 'death, a new group of Christians refused to worship the Roman emperors and gods. They suffered terrible prosecutions because of their beliefs but eventually the Roman Emperor Constantine granted freedom to the Christians in AD 312. The Roman emperor gradually grew weaker and in AD 410, the city of Rome fell to the Goths and the Roman Empire was at an end.

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