Updated: Unit 1 Ancient Rome and the Byzantine Empire(7th Grade)

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **MP1**
Length: **9 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Targeted Standards

6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.c	Describe how the development of both written and unwritten languages impacted human understanding, development of culture, and social structure.
6.2.8.EconGE.2.a	Explain how technological advancements led to greater economic specialization, improved weaponry, trade, and the development of a class system in early river valley civilizations.
6.2.8.CivicsDP.3.b	Use evidence to describe the impact of Athenian democracy and the Roman Republic on the development of the United State Constitution.
6.2.8.CivicsHR.3.a	Compare and contrast the rights and responsibilities of free men, women, slaves, and foreigners in the political, economic, and social structures of classical civilizations.
6.2.8.GeoPP.3.a	Use geographic models to describe how the availability of natural resources influenced the development of the political, economic, and cultural systems of each of the classical civilizations and provided motivation for expansion.
6.2.8.GeoPP.3.b	Explain how geography and the availability of natural resources led to both the development of classical civilizations and to their decline.
6.2.8.EconEM.3.a	Analyze the impact of expanding land and sea trade routes as well as a uniform system of exchange in the Mediterranean World and Asia.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.3.a	Determine the extent to which religion, economic issues, and conflict shaped the values and decisions of the classical civilizations.
6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.a	Compare and contrast social hierarchies in classical civilizations as they relate to power, wealth, and equality.
6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.b	Compare the status of groups in the Ancient World to those of people today and evaluate how individuals perceived the principles of liberty and equality then and now (i.e., political, economic, and social).
6.2.8.HistoryCA.3.a	Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of Greece, Rome, India, and China over time.
6.2.8.GeoHE.4.a	Explain how geography influenced the development of the political, economic, and cultural centers of each empire as well as the empires' relationships with other parts of the world.
6.2.8.GeoHE.4.c	Explain how the geographies and climates of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas influenced their economic development and interaction or isolation with other societies.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.4.g	Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the people living Asia, Africa (Islam), Europe and the Americas over time.

21st Century Skills: Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills

9.4.8.GCA.1	Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect (e.g., 1.5.8.C1a).
9.4.8.GCA.2	Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal.

9.4.8.IML.7	Use information from a variety of sources, contexts, disciplines, and cultures for a specific purpose (e.g., 1.2.8.C2a, 1.4.8.CR2a, 2.1.8.CHSS/IV.8.AI.1, W.5.8, 6.1.8.GeoSV.3.a, 6.1.8.CivicsDP.4.b, 7.1.NH. IPRET.8).
9.4.8.TL.3	Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally.

Rationale/Goals

In this unit, students will explore the rise, expansion, and fall of the Roman Empire while examining its lasting influence on the modern world. Students will investigate Roman government, law, engineering, technology, language, religion, trade, and social structure to understand how geography, innovation, and leadership shaped one of history's greatest civilizations. They will also compare Roman government and legal systems to those of the United States, recognizing the enduring influence of the Roman Republic and Roman law on American democracy and civic life.

Essential Questions: Main Essential Question

How did the Roman civilization shape the development of governments, laws, cultures, and societies, and why does its legacy continue to influence the world today?

Essential Questions: Guiding Questions

Topic 7 Lesson 1: The Roman Republic Rises

- How did geography influence the rise and expansion of Rome?
- Why did Rome develop where it did?
- How did the Etruscans and Greeks influence early Roman culture?
- Why did the Romans replace their monarchy with a republic?
- How did military strength, alliances, and geography help Rome expand?

Topic 7 Lesson 2: Government of the Republic

- How did the Roman Republic develop?
- How did Rome create an effective government?

- How did its government influence modern democracies?
- What were the main principles of the Roman Republic?
- Who could participate in the Roman government, and who could not?
- How did the Senate, assemblies, and magistrates share power?
- How did Roman ideas about citizenship encourage civic participation?
- How did the Roman Republic influence modern democratic governments?

Topic 7 Lesson 3: Society in the Republic

- How did religion shape Roman society?
- How did social class affect the lives of people in Roman society?
- What roles and responsibilities did Roman men and women have?
- How did slavery contribute to Roman society and the economy?
- How did religion influence Roman daily life and government?
- In what ways was Roman society unequal, and how does it compare to societies today?

Topic 7 Lesson 4: The Republic Struggles

- Why did the Roman Republic collapse?
- How did Rome become an empire?
- How did the Punic Wars help Rome become the dominant power in the Mediterranean?
- How did Rome's expansion create challenges within the Republic?
- Why did political conflict and social inequality weaken the Roman Republic?
- How did Julius Caesar change the balance of power in Rome?
- Why did the Roman Republic collapse and become an empire?

Topic 8 Lesson 1: The Roman Empire Begins

- How did Roman leaders use government, the military, and engineering to build and maintain a vast empire?
- How did Augustus create stability after the fall of the Republic?

- What was the Pax Romana, and why was it important?
- How did Roman leaders use government and the military to maintain a large empire?
- How did Roman engineering and technology improve life in the empire?
- How did trade and economic strength support the success of Rome?

Topic 8 Lesson 4: Roman Culture and Its Legacy

- What were Rome's greatest achievements?
- How did Roman innovations and achievements continue to influence societies around the world?
- How did Greek culture influence Roman civilization?
- What were Rome's most important achievements in government, law, engineering, language, and culture?
- How did Roman law influence modern legal systems?
- Why are Latin and Roman ideas still important today?
- How did Roman achievements leave a lasting impact on later civilizations?

Topic 8 Lesson 5: The Decline of the Roman Empire

- Why did the Roman Empire decline?
- How did Christianity change the Roman Empire?
- What political, economic, social, and military problems weakened the Roman Empire?
- How did internal conflict contribute to Rome's decline?
- How did outside invasions challenge the empire?
- How did Christianity change the Roman Empire during the Late Empire?
- Why did the Western Roman Empire collapse?

Topic 8 Lesson 6: The Byzantine Empire Rises

- How did the Byzantine Empire preserve and continue the legacy of the Roman Empire?
- How did the Byzantine Empire continue the traditions of Rome?
- Why was Constantinople an important city for trade and defense?
- How did Justinian and Theodora strengthen the Byzantine Empire?

- How did the Byzantine Empire influence Eastern Europe and Russia?
- In what ways did the Byzantine Empire preserve Roman culture and law?

Topic 8 Lesson 7: Byzantine Religion and Culture

- How did religion shape the development of the Byzantine Empire and divide the Christian Church?
- How did religion influence the Byzantine government and society?
- What caused the Great Schism between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches?
- How did religious differences shape the Byzantine world?
- What made Byzantine culture unique?
- How did Byzantine religion and culture influence future civilizations?

Vocabulary

People	Terms	Places/Events
archaeologists	peninsula	Italy
Romulus and Remus	forum	Rome
Etruscans	aqueducts	Tiber River
patricians	republic	Carthage
plebeians	senate	Spain
Hannibal	diplomacy	Alps
Scipio	legion	Punic Wars
Gaius Gracchus	constitution	Sicily
Sulla	magistrates	Egypt
Marius	consuls	Colosseum
Gnaeus Pompey	assemblies	Byzantine
Julius Caesar	veto	strait
Cicero	praetor	moat
Octavian (Augustus)	aediles	
Mark Antony	quaestors	
Cleopatra	patriarchal society	
Tiberius	paterfamilias	
Homer	villas	
Seneca	tenant	
Claudius Ptolemy	empire	
gladiators	provinces	

barbarians
Diocletian
Constantine
Vandals
Goths
Justinian and Theodora
Slavs
civil war
deified
Pax Romana
currency
Greco-Roman
mosaic
Romance languages
oratory
Imperial Crisis
inflation
collapse
mercenaries
successor
Cyrillic alphabet

Content/Enduring Understandings

Topic 7 Lesson 1: The Roman Republic Rises

- Geography of Rome (Where was Rome located?)
- How did geography help Rome?
- How did Rome begin?
- Influences of others on Rome (Etruscans and Greeks)
- Why did Rome create a republic?

Topic 7 Lesson 2: Government of the Republic

- Structure of the Roman Republic
- Roman citizenship
- The Twelve Tables

Topic 7 Lesson 3: Society in the Republic

- Roman social classes
- Daily life in Rome

Topic 7 Lesson 4: The Republic Struggles

- Problems in the Republic
- Fall of the Roman Republic
- Start of the Roman Empire

Topic 8 Lesson 1: The Roman Empire Begins

- Impact of the Pax Romana
- Controlling the Roman Empire (government, military, roads)
- Roman engineering
- Trade

Topic 8 Lesson 4: Roman Culture and Its Legacy

- Roman achievements

Topic 8 Lesson 5: The Decline of the Roman Empire

- Fall of the Roman Empire

Topic 8 Lesson 6: The Byzantine Empire Rises

- Continuation of Roman government and law in the Byzantine Empire
- Justinian's Code (extension of Roman law)
- Constantinople as the "New Rome"
- Byzantine influence on Eastern Europe and Russia

Topic 8 Lesson 7: Byzantine Religion and Culture

- Eastern Orthodox Christianity
- The Great Schism
- Byzantine art, architecture, and culture
- Byzantine religious and cultural influence

Skills

- compare and contrast
- use maps
- describe
- determine
- explain
- evaluate
- analyze
- use evidence
- use geographical models
- compare
- use primary and secondary sources
- identify
- cite information

Learning Targets (examples)

Topic 7 Lesson 1: The Roman Republic Rises

- I can explain how Rome's geography influenced its development, expansion, and success as a civilization by analyzing maps and geographic features because Rome's geography helps us recognize how natural resources, location, fertile land, trade routes, and physical features influence where civilizations develop and contribute to its rise as a powerful civilization.
- I can explain how the geography and cultural influences of Italy shaped the development of Ancient Rome by analyzing maps, historical evidence, and the contributions of groups such as the Etruscans and Greeks because we need to understand how cultural exchange shaped the growth and identity of Ancient Rome.
- I can explain how Rome expanded its territory through military strength, alliances, and conflict by analyzing maps, historical evidence, and the causes and outcomes of events such as the Punic Wars because we will see how Rome became a dominant power in the Mediterranean world and how

expansion impacted its government, economy, and society.

Topic 7 Lesson 2: Government of the Republic

- I can describe the structure of the Roman Republic and explain how it influenced modern systems of government by analyzing primary and secondary sources, comparing Roman government structures to modern democracies, and examining concepts such as representation, civic participation, and checks on power because we will understand the importance of representation, citizen participation, and limits on government power in the development of modern democratic systems.

- I can analyze how Roman laws and citizenship shaped Roman society and influenced modern legal systems by examining primary and secondary sources, analyzing the Twelve Tables, and comparing Roman legal traditions to laws and rights in the United States today because we will understand how Ancient Rome established ideas about fairness, justice, and the rule of law that continue to influence modern legal systems.

Topic 7 Lesson 3: Society in the Republic

- I can identify the Roman social classes by comparing and contrasting the rights, responsibilities, and experiences of different groups in Roman society because we can evaluate how concepts of equality and opportunity in ancient Rome compare to society today.

- I can analyze how religion influenced Roman culture, government, and daily life, including the rise of Christianity, by examining primary and secondary sources, analyzing historical evidence, and explaining how religious beliefs shaped Roman society and political decisions because we will understand how new ideas and belief systems can challenge existing traditions, impact governments, and transform civilizations over time.

Topic 7 Lesson 4: The Republic Struggles

- I can explain how Rome expanded its territory through military strength, alliances, and conflict by analyzing maps, historical evidence, and the causes and outcomes of events such as the Punic Wars because we will see how Rome became a dominant power in the Mediterranean world and how expansion impacted its government, economy, and society.

- I can analyze the political, social, and economic problems that caused the Roman Republic to decline by examining primary and secondary sources, identifying patterns of conflict and instability, and evaluating the impact of events and leaders that contributed to the fall of the Republic because it will deepen our understanding of how historical events and decisions can shape the rise and fall of civilizations and connect these lessons to challenges faced by governments today.

- I can explain how Julius Caesar and Augustus transformed Rome from a republic into an empire by analyzing primary and secondary sources, examining the actions and decisions of Roman leaders, and identifying the political changes that led to the rise of imperial rule because we can evaluate how individual leaders can influence the structure, stability, and future direction of a civilization.

Topic 8 Lesson 1: The Roman Empire Begins

- I can explain how Roman leaders used government, military power, and engineering to control and maintain a large empire by analyzing maps, historical evidence, and examples of Roman organization, infrastructure, and military strategies during the Pax Romana because we can understand how Rome maintained control over diverse regions and created a period of stability and prosperity known as the Pax Romana.

- I can evaluate how Roman technology and engineering improved daily life and contributed to the success of the empire by analyzing examples of Roman innovations, examining primary and secondary sources, and comparing Roman engineering achievements to modern technology and infrastructure because we need to understand how technology supported trade, communication, public health, and expansion while influencing engineering practices that continue to impact the modern world.

- I can explain how trade networks, currency, and natural resources helped Rome develop a strong economy by analyzing maps, historical evidence, and examples of Roman trade routes, resources, and economic systems because we need to understand how economic strength supported Rome's expansion, military power, and daily life.

Topic 8 Lesson 4: Roman Culture and Its Legacy

- I can evaluate the lasting impact of Roman achievements in government, law, language, engineering, and culture by analyzing primary and secondary sources, examining examples of Roman innovations, and making connections between Ancient Rome and modern societies because we will recognize how Rome shaped the development of societies, governments, and cultures today.

Topic 8 Lesson 5: The Decline of the Roman Empire

- I can analyze the political, economic, social, and military factors that contributed to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire by examining historical evidence, identifying causes and effects, and evaluating how internal and external challenges impacted Rome because we will understand how challenges can weaken even powerful societies and apply these lessons to the study of civilizations throughout history.

Topic 8 Lesson 6: The Byzantine Empire Rises

- I can explain how the Byzantine Empire developed and preserved the traditions of the Roman Empire by analyzing maps, primary and secondary sources, and the contributions of leaders such as Justinian and Theodora because we need to understand how civilizations adapt to political change while preserving and influencing governments, cultures, and societies throughout history.

Topic 8 Lesson 7: Byzantine Religion and Culture

- I can analyze how religion and culture shaped the Byzantine Empire by examining primary and secondary sources, comparing the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches, and evaluating Byzantine achievements in art, architecture, and religion because we need to understand how religious beliefs and cultural traditions can unite or divide societies while leaving lasting influences on civilizations and the modern world.

Resources (Savvas My World Interactive: World History Copyright Savvas Learning Company LLC. 2023)

Topic	Lesson	Subtopics
Topic 7: The Roman Republic	Lesson 1: The Roman Republic Rises week of Sept. 28th	*Main Focus* -Italy's Varied Geography -The Earliest Days of Rome -Rome Becomes a Republic *Additional Focus* -The People of Italy -How did Rome Expand?
	Lesson 2: Government of the Republic week of Oct. 5th	*Main Focus* -What Were the Principles of Roman Government? -Who Were the Citizens of Rome? What did the Assemblies and Senate Do? Who Were the Magistrates? *Additional Focus* -How Did the Romans Set an Example?
	Lesson 3: Society in the Republic week of Oct. 12th	*Main Focus* -Roman Men and Women

		-How Did the Rich and Poor Live? -Roman Slavery -Roman Religion
	Lesson 4: The Republic Struggles week of Oct. 19th	*Main Focus* -Conflict with Carthage -How Did Rome Change from Republic to Empire? *Additional Focus* -What Were Rome's Growing Pains?

Topic	Lesson	Subtopics
Topic 8: The Roman and Byzantine Empires	Lesson 1: The Roman Empire Begins week of Oct. 26th	*Main Focus* -The Rise of the Roman Empire -What Were Rome's Practical Achievements? *Additional Focus* -Trade and the Roman Economy
	Lesson 4: Roman Culture and Its Legacy week of Nov. 2nd	*Main Focus* -What was Greco-Roman Culture? -Roman Art and Language -Popular Entertainment on a Massive Scale -Roman Government and Law *Additional Focus* -Rome as a Site of Encounter -Literature and Science in Ancient Rome

	Lesson 5: The Decline of the Roman Empire week of Nov. 9th	*Main Focus* -Why Did the Pax Romana End? -What was the Imperial Crisis? The Late Empire -The West Collapses *Main Focus (Lesson 6)* -What was the New Rome? -The Shrinking Empire -Early Russia
	Lesson 6: The Byzantine Empire Rises	*Additional Focus (Lesson 6)* -Who Were Justinian and Theodora? -The Empire's Influence
	Lesson 7: Byzantine Religion and Culture	*Main Focus (Lesson 7)* -Church Organization -What was the Great Schism? *Additional Focus (Lesson 7)* -Religious Differences -A Unique Culture
Benchmark Review/Benchmark	week of Nov. 16th	

Supplemental Activities

- Savvas textbook
- Timelines
- Maps

- BrainPop
- EdPuzzle
- Nearpod
- National Geographic
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- TED-Ed
- PBS Learning Media
- Smithsonian Learning
- Library of Congress
- History Channel Learning Videos
- Kahoot/Blooket Games
- Reading passages, Readworks, NewsELA

Evidence/Assessments

- chucked tests/quizzes
- writing
- primary source analysis
- benchmark assessment
- image analysis
- map and chart analysis
- warm ups
- exit tickets

Interdisciplinary Connections

Technology

- 8.1.8.DA.1: Organize and transform data collected using computational tools to make it usable for a specific purpose.

Arts

- 1.2.8.Cr1a: Generate a variety of ideas, goals and solutions for media artworks using creative processes such as sketching, brainstorming, improvising, and prototyping with increased proficiency, divergent thinking, and opportunity for student choice.
- 1.2.8.Pr6a: Analyze and design various presentation formats and tasks in the presentation and/or distribution of media artworks.
- 1.2.8.Re7a: Compare, contrast and analyze the qualities of and relationships between the components and style in media artworks.
- 1.2.8.Re8a: Analyze the intent and meanings and context of a variety of media artworks, focusing on intentions, forms, and detect bias, opinion, and stereotypes.
- 1.2.8.Cn10a: Access, evaluate and use internal and external resources to inform the creation of media artworks, such as cultural and societal knowledge, research and exemplary works.

Math

- 7.EE.B : Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.

Language Arts - Various literacy activities and strategies.

- NJSLSA.R1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences and relevant connections from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- NJSLSA.R2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
- NJSLSA.R4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- NJSLSA.R6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- NJSLSA.R7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
- NJSLSA.R8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
- NJSLSA.R9 Analyze and reflect on how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.
- NJSLSA.R10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and

proficiently with scaffolding as needed.

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    - RL.7.1. Cite several pieces of textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
    - RL.7.2. Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
    - RL.7.9. Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history.
    - RL.7.10. By the end of the year read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems at grade level text-complexity or above, scaffolding as needed.
    - RI.7.1. Cite several pieces of textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
    - RI.7.2. Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
    - RI.7.3. Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).
    - RI.7.4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
    - RI.7.5. Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.
    - RI.7.6. Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.
    - RI.7.7. Compare and contrast a text to an audio, video, or multimedia version of the text, analyzing each medium's portrayal of the subject (e.g., how the delivery of a speech affects the impact of the words).
    - RI.7.8. Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.
    - RI.7.9. Analyze and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) how two or more authors writing about the same topic shape their presentations of key information by emphasizing different evidence or advancing different interpretations of facts.
    - RI.7.10. By the end of the year read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above, with scaffolding as needed.

Science

- MS-ESS3-2: Analyze and interpret data on natural hazards to forecast future catastrophic events and inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.
- MS-ESS3-3: Apply scientific principles to design a method for monitoring and minimizing a human impact on the environment.

Intersections of History

Black:

- Africans in the Roman Empire
- North Africa as part of the Roman Empire
- African provinces and cities
- Trade between Africa and Rome
- African soldiers in the Roman military
- Africans in Roman society
- Enslaved Africans and slavery
- Christianity in North Africa
- African influence on Roman culture and religion
- Rome's connections to Africa through Mediterranean trade

Hispanic:

- Roman Spain (Hispania)
- Spain as part of the Roman Empire
- Roman expansion into Spain
- Indigenous peoples of the Iberian Peninsula
- Roman settlements and cities in Spain
- Roman roads and infrastructure in Spain
- Trade between Spain and other parts of the Roman Empire
- Latin language in Spain
- Roman law and government in Spain
- Roman culture and religion in Spain
- Development of Romance languages, including Spanish
- Spain's connection to the larger Roman world

Women:

- Women in Roman society
- Roman women and family life
- Women's roles in the household
- Women and Roman religion

- Women in the Roman economy
- Women and social class
- Women and slavery
- Rights and responsibilities of Roman women
- Women in wealthy and poor Roman families
- Theodora as a Byzantine leader
- Women's influence on government and society