

# CITIZENS AND RULERS

Roman people were divided by birth into two groups: citizens and non-citizens. Male citizens could vote, own property and get welfare benefits. Women and non-citizens did not have these rights. In law, women belonged to their husbands or fathers. Even so, they ran homes, set up businesses and organized political plots. All people in the empire were made citizens in 212 CE.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

EMPEROR CALIGULA
(37-41 CE) MADE HIS
HORSE PRIME MINISTER.
EMPEROR NERO
(S4-68 CL) SET FIRE
TO ROME. THEN SANG
AS HE WATCHED
IT BURN.

Before a Roman feast, sloves helped puests take off their outdoor clothes and washed above feast

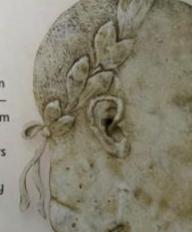
## SLAVES AND FOREIGNERS

Thousands of slaves lived in Rome and its empire, together with many foreigners. None had citizen's rights. Slaves were bought, were captured in war or had parents who were slaves. They could be freed by their owners, or buy their freedom. (After this, they were known as freed men or women.) Foreigners came to the empire to find work or as traders.

Laurel-leaf crowns were symbols of victory and superfluman power

Emperors and

top athletes were them.



### ALL-POWERFUL EMPERORS

Rome was first ruled by kings but in 509 BCE it became a republic. It was governed by officials chosen by the citizens, and by the Senate – a group of rich, powerful men. From 27 BCE, Rome and its empire was ruled by emperors. Some emperors ruled well, some were mad and some were weak or evil. After they died, all were honoured as gods.



ancestors Family members who lived and died many years ago.

aqueduct A high bridge designed to carry water over land.

arena A big building with many rows of seats around a large open area. Designed for playing and watching sports and gladiator contests.

barracks A large building for soldiers to live in.

campaign Organized army action, such as a long march or an invasion.

concrete A Roman building material made by mixing crushed stone with water and leaving the mixture to set. Today, concrete is made from sand, gravel, cement and water.

emperor All-powerful ruler of the Roman Empire.

extinct A plant or animal which no longer exists.

fired When clay is baked in a very big, very hot oven to make bricks or pottery.

forts Big army camps where Roman soldiers lived in conquered lands.

foundations Bottom layer of a building which supports everything above it.

inscriptions Writing carved on stone.

legions Units in the Roman army, containing around 5000 soldiers.

reign Length of time that a ruler stays in power.

republic System of government without a king or emperor. It gives power to ordinary people.

sacrifice Killing people or animals to please the gods.

scribe Trained man or woman who reads and writes to earn a living.

strigil A body scraper with a curved blade, also used by the Ancient Greeks.

surveyor Person skilled at measuring buildings and land.

synchronize Set to the same time.

toga Large piece of fabric worn by Roman senators and emperors, also worn by citizens on special occasions.

troop A group of soldiers.

vote Choose a leader or a representative.

welfare benefits Food or money given by governments to people in need to help them survive.

worship To respect or love a god.

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