



Especially

for

kids

and their

families

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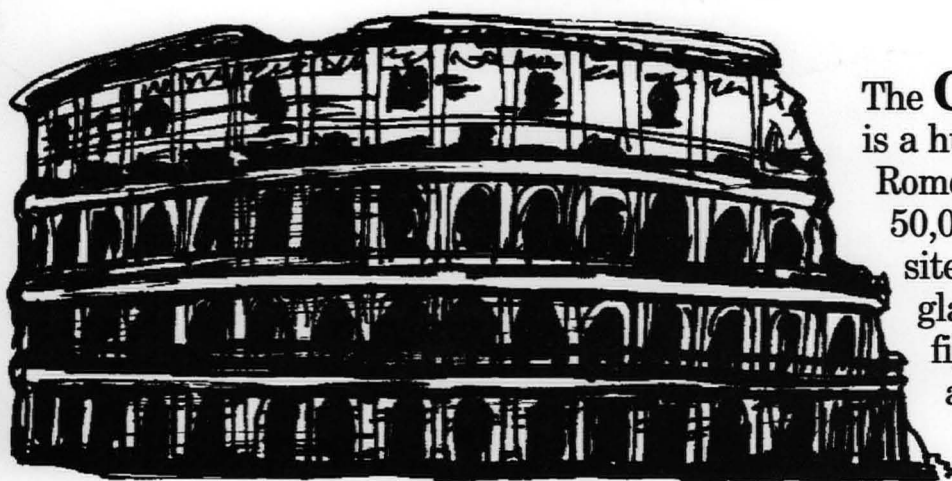


By BETTY DEBNAM

from The Mini Page by Betty Debnam © 1998 Universal Press Syndicate

An Amazing People

Ancient Rome ABCs

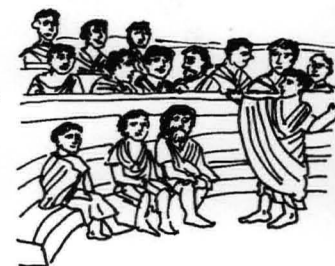


The Colosseum

The Colosseum is a huge outdoor theater in Rome, seating about 50,000 people. It was the site of sporting events, gladiator fights, and fights between people and animals.

Ideas

about the law and courts can be traced back to the Romans. They had elected leaders called consuls, a Senate and a citizens' voting group or assembly. (Only men could hold any of these positions.)

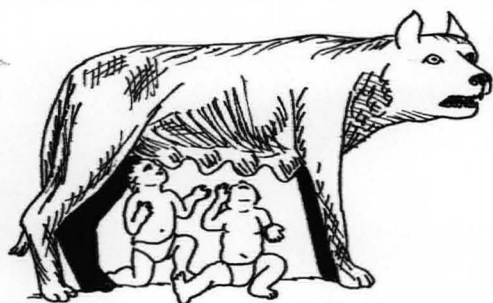


Engineers today are still using Roman ideas about buildings, roads and bridges. Romans invented concrete.

Ancient Rome

is studied today because the Romans gave us many of our present-day ideas. They had an amazing civilization, or way of life, more than 2,000 years ago.

Our language, our laws, our buildings, our capital letters, and many other ideas are gifts from the Romans.



Brothers Romulus and Remus are given the credit for founding Rome. The myth is that a mean king ordered the boys killed because they might inherit his throne.

A servant put the twins in a basket and floated it down a river. A wolf found them and nursed them until a shepherd adopted them.

The brothers decided to found a city. But they fought and Remus was killed. The city was called Rome after Romulus.



The Forum was the gathering place for anyone wishing to hear politicians, war heroes and religious leaders. Government buildings surrounded this large space.

The Decline of Rome began when the empire got too big to rule. People invaded from the area of what is today Germany.



Gladiators often were slaves, conquered people or criminals who were trained to fight for their lives in front of huge crowds.

Hills that could easily be defended are the site of Rome's beginnings.



Julius Caesar (SEE-zur) conquered huge areas, adding greatly to the Roman Empire. In 49 B.C., he won a civil war and became the only ruler.

After another war, he fell in love with Cleopatra. He fought to make her queen of Egypt, then took her to Rome with him.

A small group of Roman leaders, worried that Caesar had become too powerful, killed him in 44 B.C.

After his death Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, ruled Rome together with an army hero, Mark Antony. But they fought.

Antony fell in love with Cleopatra, and they went to war against Octavian. Octavian won and conquered Egypt. He changed his name to Caesar Augustus and became first emperor of Rome.



Roman Gods and Goddesses

The Romans believed in many gods. When Romans conquered other lands, they often adopted the gods of those countries. Many Greek gods were given Roman names. For example, Jupiter was the same as Zeus. Venus was patterned after Aphrodite. Within 300 years after Christ was born, Christianity had become the main religion.

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Jupiter was king of the gods, hurling thunderbolts and lightning.



Juno was queen of the gods, goddess of the moon, and protector of women in childbirth.



Neptune was god of the sea, earthquakes and horses.



Vesta was goddess of the home and hearth.



Diana was goddess of the hunt and the moon. She looked after women and young animals.



Vulcan was god of fire, patron of metal-workers and crafts-people, and blacksmith for the gods.



Apollo was god of light, music and archery. He drove the chariot of the sun.



Venus was goddess of love and beauty, and patron of growing plants.



Minerva was goddess of wisdom, patron of schools and learning.



Mars was god of war and farming.



Ceres was goddess of farming and grain.



Mercury was messenger of the gods. He was also patron of travel and trade.

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Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy and her friends are looking at ancient Roman scrolls. See if you can find:



• book

- word MINI
- sheep
- bird
- ladder
- elephant
- toothbrush
- number 3
- heart
- yardstick
- number 8
- bat
- letter Z
- knife
- letter V

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BASSET BROWN THE NEWS HOUND'S ANCIENT ROME TRY 'N FIND

Words about ancient Rome are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: ANCIENT, ROME, CIVILIZATION, LANGUAGE, LAWS, LETTERS, ROMANS, COLOSSEUM, EMPIRE, FORUM, HILLS, COURTS, CAESAR, LATIN, TIBER.

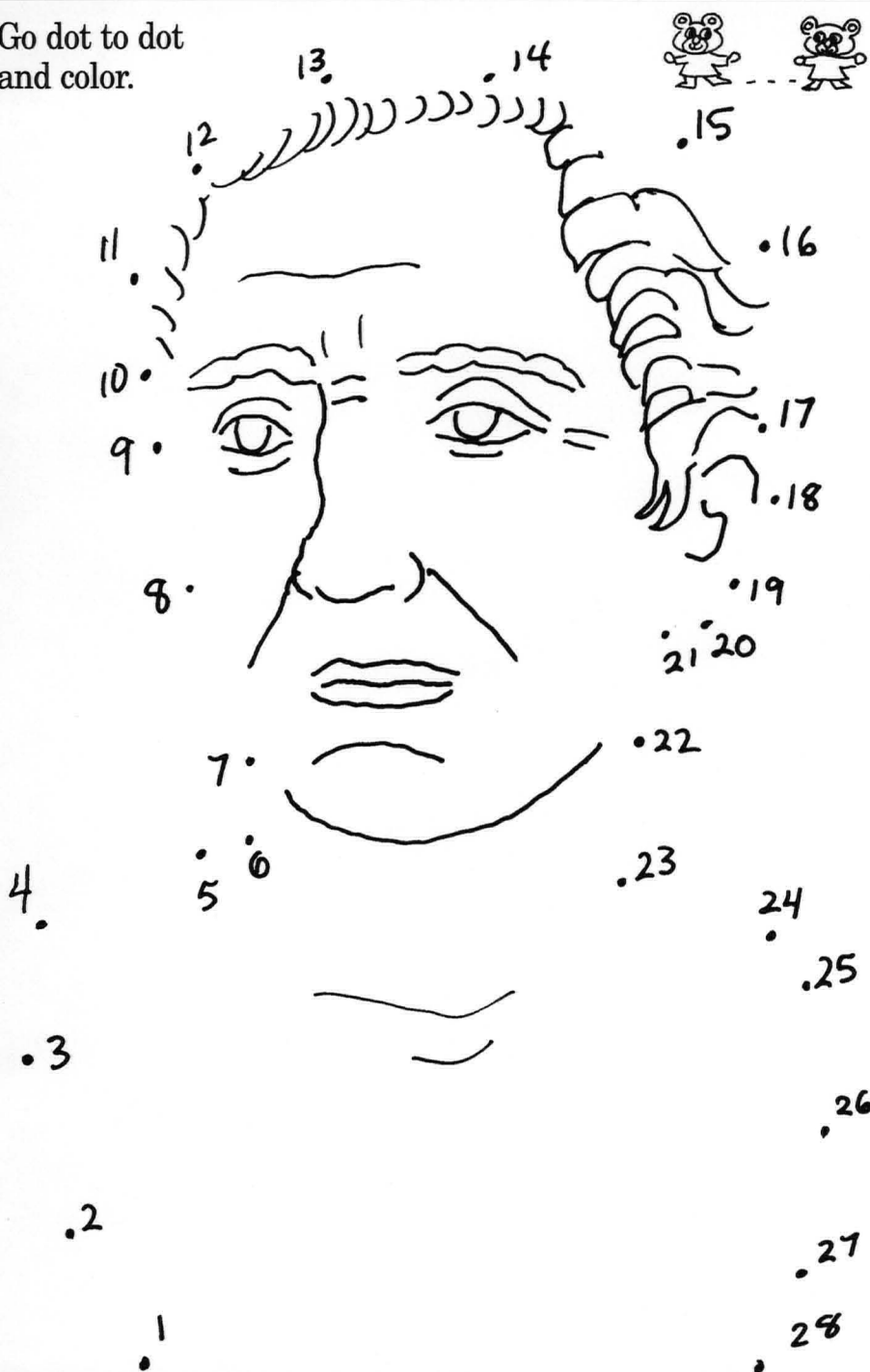
ROME IS FULL OF FASCINATING SITES!



A N C I E N T B M U R O F R L
 C B L K S E C D C T K S V O E
 D C L A F E M O Q A I T W M T
 F D M U W F R P U U E B X E T
 N I T A L S E N I R V S E I E
 C O L O S S E U M R T G A R R
 H L A N G U A G E P E S W R S
 I Q Z H I L L S R O M A N S J
 J R B N O I T A Z I L I V I C

The Mini Page Dinosaurs From A to Z Poster-Plus is ideal for classrooms or kids' bedrooms at 21 1/4" by 32" with information on both sides. To order, send check or money order only, for \$3.00 plus 75¢ postage and handling per copy to: Dinosaurs From A to Z Poster-Plus, P.O. Box 419242, Kansas City, Mo. 64141. Make checks payable to Andrews McMeel Publishing.

Go dot to dot and color.



Entertainment in Ancient Rome

Children would play games such as dice made of bones or marbles using round nuts. They would also play a game like football using a pig's bladder filled with air.

Public baths were a place for people to gather. They were somewhat like our gyms or health clubs. People would meet to exercise, play games, read and get clean.

Romans did not bathe with soap. Instead, they would rub oil into their skin and scrape it off along with the dirt and sweat.

Ancient Rome was known for its impressive art and architecture. There were statues everywhere.

Theater was a popular form of entertainment, especially comedies.



Eating in Ancient Rome

Eating in ancient Rome was different from our eating customs today.

The main meal, called the cena, was eaten in the afternoon and would last several hours.

Food would include grapes and other fruits, bread, poultry, beef, fish and cheese. They drank wine.

In the early times only men were invited. In later years, women were often included.

Sometimes the guests ate while lying on couches. They did not use knives, forks or spoons. Instead, they ate with their fingers. Slaves would come around and wipe their hands between courses.

While eating, diners were entertained by poets, singers and dancers.



Sports in Ancient Rome

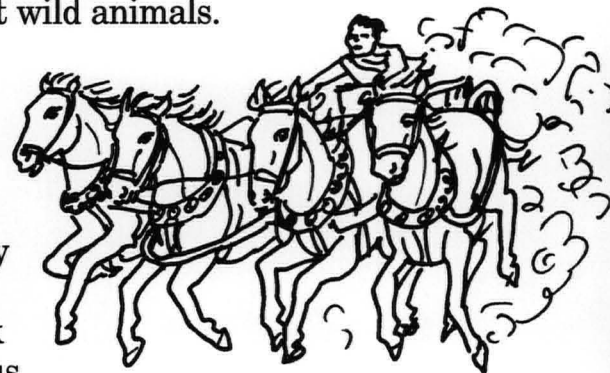
Sports in ancient Rome were often bloody and violent.

Thousands of people would come to the Colosseum to watch gladiators fight wild animals.

Sometimes the arenas would be flooded so they could stage sea battles.

Chariot races were also popular. As many as 12 chariots would race around the track of the Circus Maximus, a large, oval-shaped arena. People would gamble on who would win. There were many crashes and drivers would fall out. The winner was the chariot that crossed the finish line first, even if the driver had fallen out.

There were so many people watching that some would be crushed to death trying to get into the arena.



MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes



WHY IS A SNAKE THE MOST CARELESS THING IN THE WORLD?

IT KEEPS LOSING ITS SKIN!

THAT'S MIGHTY FUNNY!



Q: What did the big chimney say to the little chimney?

A: "You're too young to smoke!"

Q: Why is a train like gum?

A: One goes choo-choo, and the other you chew, chew!

(all jokes sent in by Taryn Mullen)

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Kings ruled Rome at first. They ruled jointly with the Senate and citizens' assemblies. About 509 B.C., Romans

overthrew the king.

The Senate and assemblies ruled until Julius Caesar took away much of their power. They lost almost all rights under Augustus.

Languages

of many countries are based on the Roman language, Latin. These include French, Italian and Spanish. We call these the Romance languages.



About half of our English words have Roman roots. Many science and law words still come from Latin.

Months

have Roman names. Julius Caesar and his astronomers designed a more accurate calendar. Ours today is based on it.

JULY WAS NAMED AFTER JULIUS CAESAR.



Nero

(37-68 A.D.) was a cruel dictator. He ordered the murders of many people, including his mother and wife.

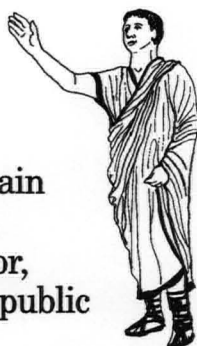


Many believe he ordered Rome set on fire, then played the lyre while he watched it burn.

In 68 A.D., the army forced him to step down and he killed himself.

Orators

were excellent public speakers who tried to persuade people to do something or think a certain way. Cicero (SIS-uh-roe), Rome's most famous orator, wrote books on the art of public speaking.



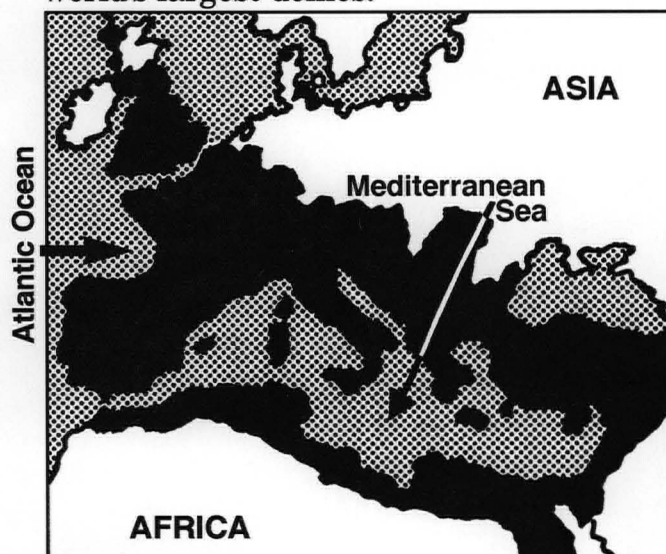
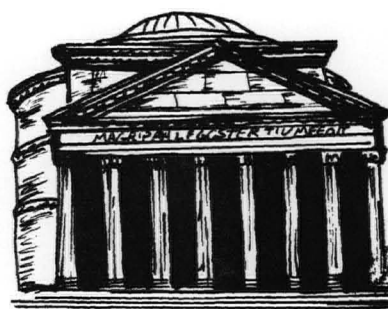
Next week The Mini Page honors Women's History Month with a look at the first women's rights convention.

Look through your newspaper for scientific or legal words.



The Pantheon

(PAN-thee-on) is a temple built with a huge circular roof, or dome. Its dome is about 142 feet across and 142 high. It is still one of the world's largest domes.



Rome

was built by shepherds and farmers on the Tiber River. It grew to a city of about 1 million people. Its people ruled over a huge empire (shown in dark areas above) that included the lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea, north to include part of the British Isles and south to parts of Africa.



Soldiers

were needed to conquer new lands. During the height of the empire, there were about 300,000 men in the army.

At first soldiers had to own property. But as the empire grew, this changed. Most soldiers made the army their career, serving for as long as 25 years.

Roman soldiers also built roads and water supply systems, or aqueducts, and buildings.

Tunics

were made by sewing together two pieces of cloth at the shoulders. Men's tunics were usually white, with purple on those worn by rulers. Women's were brightly colored.



Uniting

many different peoples under the laws that applied to all was one of the gifts of the Romans. Men of conquered lands were offered Roman citizenship. Some slaves had a chance to earn their citizenship.



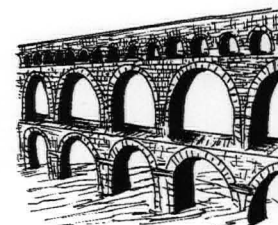
Virgil

is best known for his poem "The Aeneid," a legend about the beginnings of the Roman Empire. Aeneas, founder of Rome, is the hero of this long poem — so long it filled 12 books!



Water

was often carried from the mountains to the low-lying areas by aqueducts (AK-wuh-dukts), or stone channels.



Romans were **eXtraordinary** builders. Much of what they built is still used today, 2,000 years later. Their 50,000 miles of roads connected every

part of the empire. They did not invent the arch, but developed it to help support large structures.

Years

The Roman Empire lasted from 753 B.C. until 476 A.D. Today we divide years into B.C., before Christ, and A.D., after Christ.

753 B.C. to 476 A.D.

Jesus of NaZareth

was the center of a new religion, Christianity. Roman officials convicted Jesus of treason and crucified him.

Christians refused to worship the Roman gods or the emperors, so they were persecuted. They were fed to lions in the Colosseum. But by 394 A.D. Christianity had become the main religion of the Roman Empire.



Step back in history to ancient Rome



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by Betty Debnam

Appearing in your
newspaper on _____.

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(Note to Editor: Above is
camera-ready, one column-
by-4 1/4-inch ad promoting
Issue 11.)



Teacher's Guide

For use by teachers and parents at home and at school.
For use with issue: **Ancient Rome**

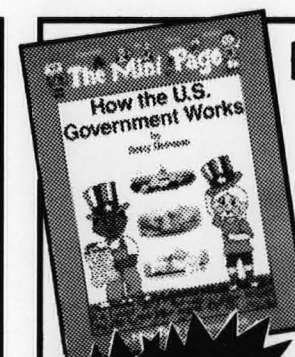
Main idea: This issue is about ancient Rome. The following is a list of activities to be used with this issue. They are listed in order of difficulty, with the easier pre-reader assignments listed first. Most of the activities are for younger readers. Ask the children to do the following:

1. Draw a picture of the way you might have looked if you lived in ancient Rome.
2. Look through your paper for pictures you could show a child living in Rome about what life is like where you live.
3. If you could interview a child living in ancient Rome, what five questions would you ask him or her?
4. Discuss the following: What would it have been like to live in ancient Rome? Would you like to visit Rome today? If so, what would you most like to see? For what can we thank the ancient Romans? What are some ways life is better today than it was in ancient Rome?
5. Find Rome on a map that features Italy.
6. Find the following words in this issue: credit, assemblies, gladiator, dome, legend, consuls, orator, decline, emperor, worship, ancient, Latin, empire. Define and make up a new sentence for each one.
7. Look through your newspaper for news about Rome or Italy. What is the weather forecast?

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(Note to Editor: Above is the Teacher's Guide for Issue 11.)

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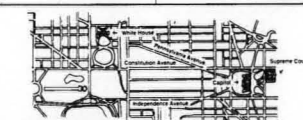
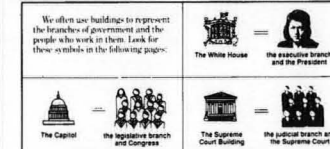
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What Happens in Washington, D.C.?

Washington, D.C., is our nation's capital. Do you know what happens there? The Mini Page book will take you to some of the city's most important buildings to show you who works there and what their jobs include.



Draw It
Does your own hometown have certain buildings where people work to help run the government? Where are they? Work with a partner to draw and label a map of your town, showing these buildings. Make a list of what goes on in each one.

Sample Page
(Actual size 8 1/2" x 11")