

How geography influenced the development of Ancient Rome

Lesson Map: <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education/SpatialActivity90>

Engage

Where is Rome and how was it founded? (context)

- ➔ Click on the URL above to open the lesson's Story Map, *Ancient Rome*. Scroll down to get started.
- ➔ The first section – titled *Where is Rome?* – is a slideshow. Read through the information on each slide. Click on the **arrow** icon on the right-hand side of the slide to transition to the next slide. The map is interactive. You can zoom in or out by pressing the + or - icons. You can also click and drag to move the map view.
- ➔ Scroll down to bring up the next section, titled *Rome's rise to power aided by geography*. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- ➔ Scroll down to bring up the next section, titled *The foundation of Rome*. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- You can take a closer look of Rome, and its position near the Tiber River, by engaging with the map. You can zoom in or out by pressing the + or - icons. You can also click and drag to move the map view.
- ? How did Rome get its name? [*According to Roman tradition, Rome was named after its founder, Romulus.*]
- ? Although the Roman legend about the origin of Romulus and Remus is myth, why might Ancient Romans maintain this legend? [*By maintaining that Romulus and Remus were the sons of a god and raised – in part – by a she-wolf, Roman citizens distinguished themselves from other peoples. They established themselves as the descendants of the gods.*]

Download student worksheet [here](#).

Time

60 minutes

Activity

Investigate how geography shaped Ancient Roman civilization.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to:

- Investigate how geography influenced the development of Ancient Rome
- Examine how physical geography aided in Rome's foundation
- Examine how Rome used its geographic location and surrounds to further its expansion

ACARA Curriculum Link

[Year 7 History: The Mediterranean world - Rome](#)

[ACDSEH004 | ACDSEH040 | ACHHS205 | ACHHS214](#)

[Senior Ancient History: Ancient Rome](#)

Teacher Feedback:

To share your feedback on this, or any Spatial Activity, please contact education@esriaustralia.com.au

Explore

How did Rome's location and local geographic features impact its initial development?

- ? Before you continue through the Story Map on Ancient Rome's development, access and open the student worksheet. As you progress through the Story Map, complete the worksheet to identify how geography, and Rome's location, impacted upon its development. *[Teachers can access the answers on the final page of this document.]*

Access the student worksheet [here](#)

- Scroll down to the section titled *The seven hills of Rome*. Read the information and complete the worksheet as required.
- Scroll to the next sections titled *The Tiber River* and *The Tiber River as a water supply*. Read the information and complete the worksheet as required.
- Scroll to the next section titled *Rome's climate*. Read the information and complete the worksheet as required.
- You can take a closer look of the climate of the Mediterranean by engaging with the map slider. Move the slider left or right to see the climate in summer (left) and winter (right). You can zoom in or out by pressing the + or - icons. You can also click and drag to move the map view.

Explain

How did geography support Rome's growth as it extended its control across the Mediterranean?

- Scroll to the next section: *Rome's expansion*. Read the information. Take notes if required.
- Engage with the map by clicking on the different colours. Each colour represents a time that Rome brought an area under its control through military expansion. By clicking on a colour, you will see what year it came under Rome's control.
- ? What areas/countries had Rome brought under its control by 146 BCE? *[Rome had conquered Spain, parts of the French Coast, Greece, islands in the Mediterranean, and a part of the north African coastline by 146 BCE.]*
- Scroll to the next section titled *Geographic advantage: Masters of the Sea*. Read the

information and complete the worksheet as required.

- Scroll to the next section titled *Geographic advantage: Location, Location, Location!*
Read the information and complete the worksheet as required.
- Scroll to the next section: *Take your turn to travel through the Roman World.*
- Engage with the visual on the right-hand side of the Story Map by clicking on 'Start exploring the Roman World'. This interactive mapping technology allows users to discover how long it would have taken to travel from place to place in the Roman Empire.
- Some suggestions have been provided on the left-hand side of the Story Map to help you get started with a route.
- ? How many days would it take to make a journey from Rome (Roma) to London (Londinium) by foot in summer? Hint: Change the route details and select 'Calculate Route' to find out. *[The journey would take 27.1 days by foot if all network modes (road, river, coastal, open sea) were used. If only roads were used where possible, the trip would take over 63 days.]*
- Scroll to the next section titled *Geographic advantage: Italy's natural defensive barriers*. Read the information and complete the worksheet as required.

Extend

Rome - a city with the perfect geographic location.

- Scroll to the next section: *The perfect geographic location*. Read the information and take notes as required.
- Ensure that your worksheet has been completed and save this to your laptop/computer. If you are working on a paper copy, store it safely.

Next Steps:

Request a free ArcGIS Online Account for your school:

Australian schools can request a free ArcGIS Online account as part of Esri Australia's Classroom GIS Initiative. A school subscription provides additional map layers, content, features and privacy.

Learn more about ArcGIS Online, and apply for your ArcGIS Online School subscription at <http://esriaustralia.com.au/education>

Student worksheet answers:

Geographic feature	How did this feature help in the development of Rome?	What type of advantage was this? (Political, economic, social, cultural, militaristic)
Seven Hills of Rome	• Provided residents with a sense of security and protection • Provided a strong military position to defend from (elevation and natural roadblocks) • Servian Wall built around hills to strengthen town's defence	Social Militaristic
Tiber River	• River provided source of fresh water during Rome's foundation • As Rome developed further, it harnessed this fresh water source via aqueducts to deliver water throughout the city from as far as 92km away • River used for transport and trade with other settlements along the banks and the Mediterranean	Social, economic
River valley	• Gave Rome access to fertile lands, characterised by rich volcanic soils • Were able to produce a surplus in crops, which attracted more people to the city and developed trade	Social, economic
Climate	• Warm summers and mild winters made Rome an attractive place to settle and drove population growth and its importance as an economic hub	Social
Access to Mediterranean Sea	• Rome's vast access to the Mediterranean Sea allowed it to develop a strong navy that controlled the waters for centuries • This control would have protected Roman economic and political interests too	Militaristic Economic, political
Central location in the Mediterranean	• Central hub for trade and exchange of cultural ideas • Central position allowed for quicker communications and travel across the Empire • Central location allowed for greater control of empire through military response	Economic, cultural Political
The Alps and Apennines	• The Alps protected Rome from enemy invasion from the north. It sealed off the Italian Peninsula from the rest of Europe during the winter months, and in the summer months large groups were forced to move slowly through the high passes. This allowed Rome to prepare for any 'would-be' attackers. • The Apennines divided the Italian Peninsula in half, which reduced the ability of an invading force to gain a strong foothold in Italy. It also allowed for Rome to launch a counterattack from the enemy's flank by sending forces from the other side of the mountain.	Militaristic Militaristic
		Militaristic