The ancient **Roman** civilization shares:

- A written language *(Latin)*
- A system of government
- Advances in arts and sciences
- A common culture
Geography

Ancient Rome was....

- Next to the **Mediterranean Sea**
- It covered parts of Europe, Asia and Africa
- A peninsula
- Rocky and **mountainous**
- Built on **7 hills**
- Along the **Tiber River**
The development of civilization is affected by geography. Rome did not spring into being as a power on the Italian peninsula. It began as a tiny village along the Tiber River. It was an excellent location. The soil was good so crops could be grown easily.

- It was surrounded by 7 hills, offering a natural defensive barrier. The people lived on the hilltops.
- The Tiber River, giving these early settlers access to fresh water for drinking and bathing, as well as a waterway for trade. With all these advantages, it's no surprise that Rome grew quickly.
- Click picture of map
Adaptations to the Environment

Ancient Romans adapted to their mountainous land by:

1. Growing **olives and grapes**
2. Having small farms on **terraced hillsides**
3. **Trading** along the Mediterranean Sea
Government:

Republic (similar to a representative democracy, remember?)

- Citizens (wealthy men) voted for representatives to make laws for them.
- Laws applied to everyone.

We use a Republic/Representative democracy in America today!
Jobs of the Romans

- Farmers
- Road builders
- Traders
Romans used **arches** in buildings, bridges and created **aqueducts**.
Aqueducts were designed to pump water into the city. The water was used for humans and for irrigation.
Roman Art

Roman artists created:
- Pottery
- Jewelry
- Tools

Mosaics were a special art form that used small pieces of tile, glass or stone.
The Romans created a network of paved highways. This joined the empire together and allowed soldiers to move swiftly from one area to another.

This helped them be organized (organization) and helped them control their large empire.
Religion

Polytheistic-

The Romans began by worshipping different gods and goddesses (like the Greeks), but eventually become Christians. They had many of the same mythological gods as the Greeks, however they usually had a different name for them.
Social Classes: People of Ancient Rome

- **PLEBIANS**
  - Rome's common people or peasants in Rome
  - revolted for a change in the government where they had more of a say in how the city was run.

- **PATRICIANS**
  - Roman upper class who ran the government.
  - Only they could be elected to office, so they help all political power.

- Men were citizens
- Women were caretakers
- Boys were educated
- Girls learned handicrafts and household chores

What would **you** be doing in Ancient Rome?
A slave or captive, who was forced to fight to the death in a public arena against another person or a wild animal, for the entertainment of the spectators.
Ancient Romans also:

- Changed our calendar to 365 days and named the months
- Gave us 1/3 of our English language
- Used Roman numerals that we still see today on clocks, watches, and in books

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Intro to Rome video