



# Ancient Rome & The Origin of Christianity

Outcome: A Republic Becomes an Empire

# Constructive Response Question

2. Compare and contrast the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire using specific examples:
7. What contributions did the Romans make to the cultural advancement of the world?



# What are we going to learn?

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1. Decline of the Roman Republics
2. Rise of Julius Caesar
3. Rome's best emperors
4. Power and accomplishments of the Roman Empire

# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## 1. Setting the Stage

- a. With the defeat of Carthage in the Punic Wars, Rome was proving to be the biggest and most powerful civilization on the Mediterranean
- b. The larger Rome's territory got, the more unstable the republic form of government became



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## 2. The Republic collapses

- a. Rome's increasing wealth and expanding territories brought problems
  - i. Discontent among lower classes
  - ii. Breakdown in military order



Roman Coins



# SPQR



SPQR is from a Latin phrase "Senatus Poulusque Romanus" meaning The Senate and the People of Rome referring to the ancient Roman Republic and used as the emblem of modern day Rome.

# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## b. Economic Turmoil

- i. Gap between rich and poor widened
- ii. Rich lived on huge estates
- iii. Poor worked on estates (possibly as slaves)
- iv. By 100 B.C. one-third of Rome's population were enslaved



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## c. Military Upheaval

- i. Generals seized power for themselves
- ii. Recruited by promising land
- iii. Citizens loyal to generals rather than to Rome itself

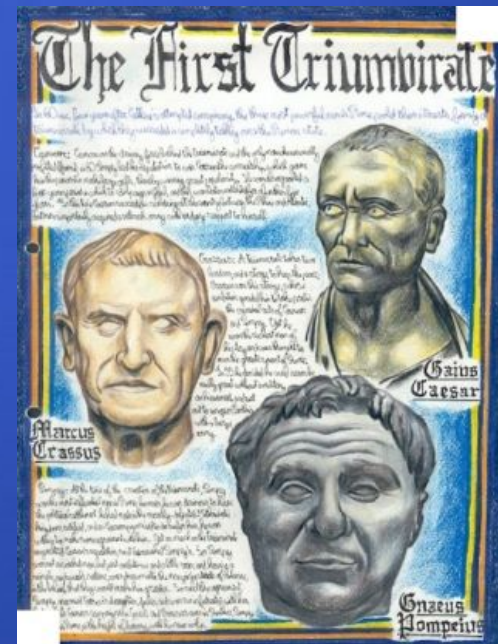
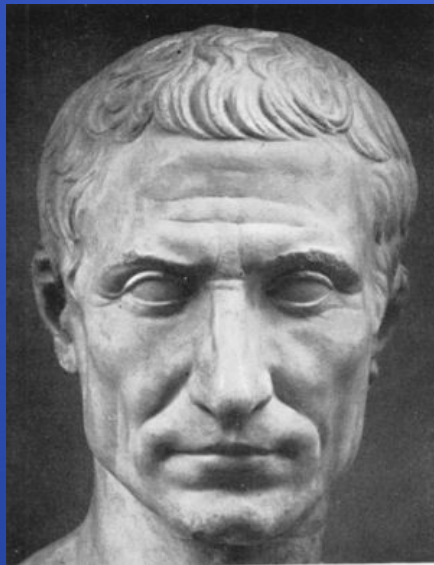


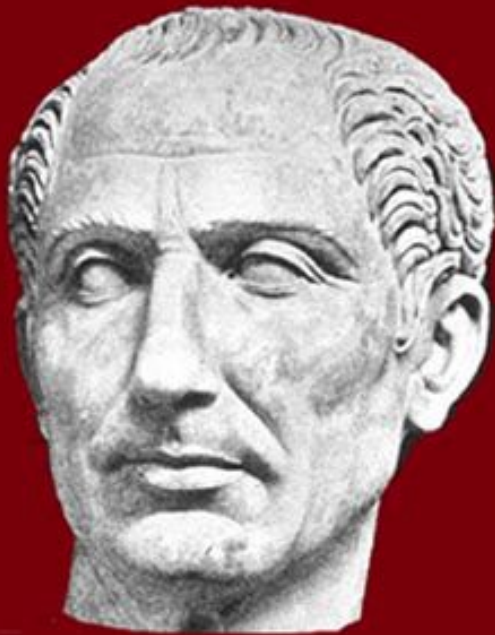


# A Republic Becomes an Empire

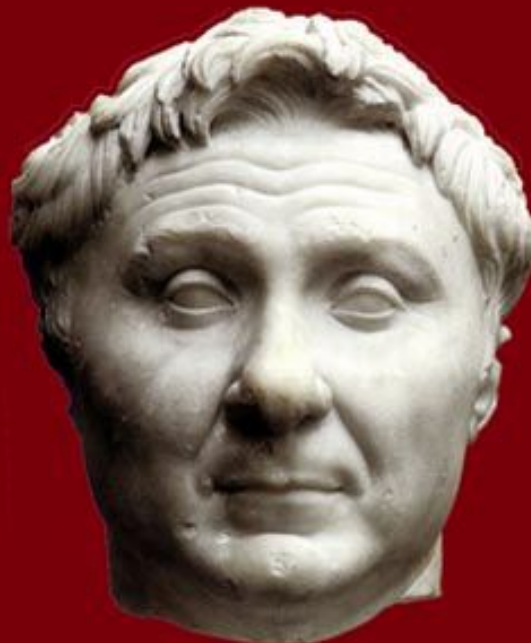
## 3. Julius Caesar

- a. 60 B.C. joins with **Crassus** (wealthy Roman) and **Pompey** (popular general) to create a **Triumvirate**
- b. Triumvirate: **a group of three rulers**
- c. They rule together for **10 years**

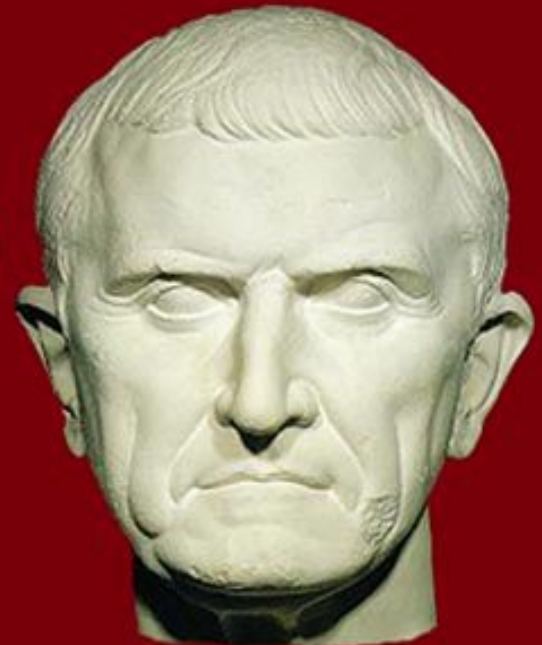




**Caesar**



**Pompey**



**Crassus**

***The First Triumvirate was an extralegal alliance formed in 60 BC by three already famous generals. Pompey and Crassus had been Consuls together in 70 BC but had later fallen out over questions of status and prestige. Caesar, who was younger and something of a protege of Crassus, brought the two back together. Each brought something to the table: Caesar led the Populares, Pompey led the Optimati, and Crassus, the richest man in Rome, led the Equites merchant class. Caesar sealed the deal by giving his daughter, Julia, in marriage to Pompey.***

# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## d. Caesar takes power

- i. Caesar has success in Gaul (France), becomes quite popular
- ii. Political rival Pompey urges the senate to disband Caesar's legions
- iii. Caesar defies senate, marches into Rome
- iv. Pompey flees
- v. Caesar defeats Pompey's troops in Greece, Asia, Spain, and Egypt
- vi. Julius Caesar returns home in 46 B.C.- senate appoints him dictator
- vii. 44 B.C. Caesar is named dictator for life
- viii. Result: Even though Caesar has total control, Rome still embraces some of its republic roots, however it is moving closer to empire

# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## 4. Julius Caesar's legacy

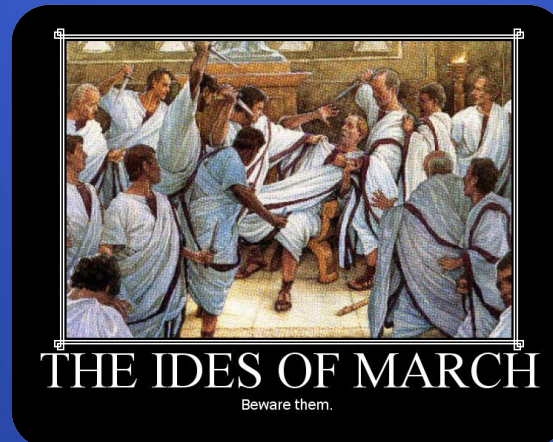
- a. Absolute ruler but he also expanded the senate
- b. Granted citizenship to people in Roman provinces
- c. Helped poor by creating jobs and building projects
- d. Increased pay for soldiers



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## e. Beware the Ides of March

- i. Many nobles and senators expressed concern over Caesar's growing power, success, and popularity; feared losing their influence
- ii. Others considered Caesar a tyrant
- iii. Many felt Rome would suffer due to his ego
- iv. Caesar is stabbed to death in the senate by a gang of senators led by Marcus Brutus and Gaius Cassius on March 15, 44 B.C.



# Death of Caesar



# Really?

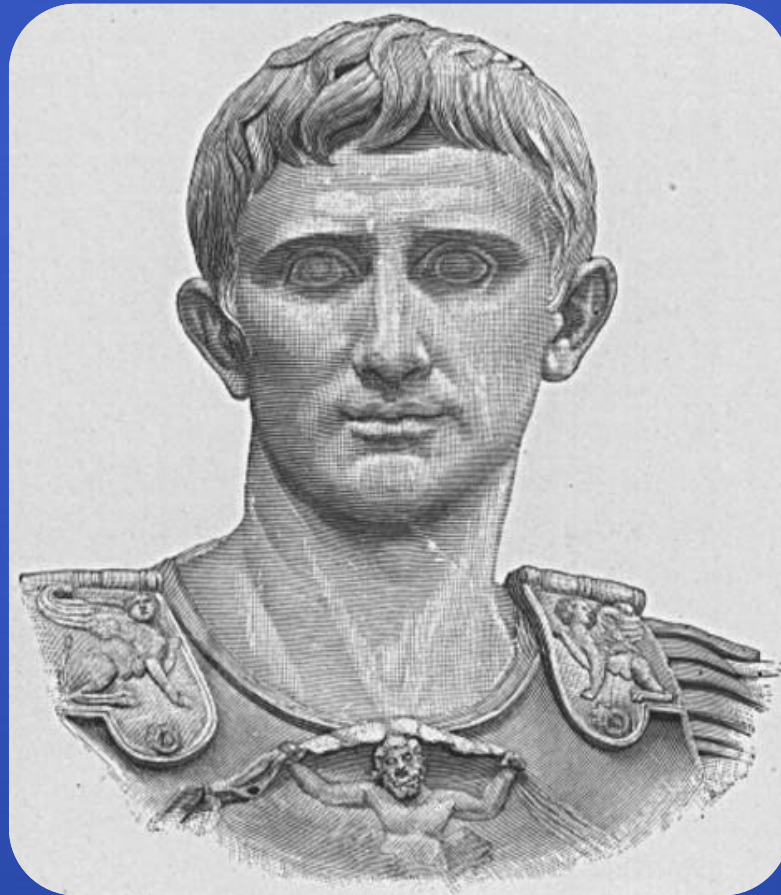


# Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas





# Octavian



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## 5. Octavian

- a. Caesar's 18 year old nephew and adopted son
- b. Takes power with Mark Antony and Lepidus = Second Triumvirate
- c. Octavian forces Lepidus to retire
- d. Mark Antony falls in love with Queen Cleopatra of Egypt

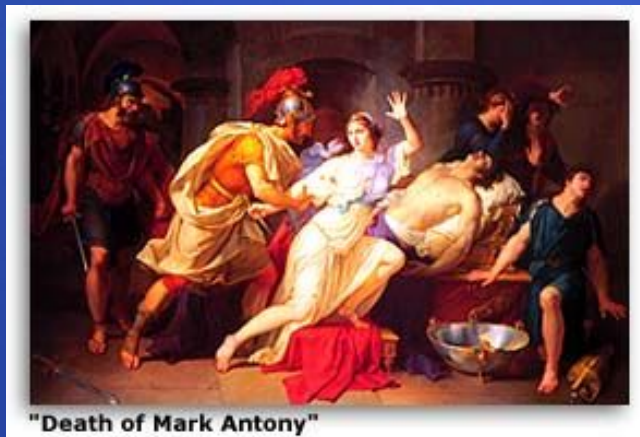




# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## 5. Octavian

- e. Octavian accuses Antony of plotting to rule Rome from Egypt and this leads to another civil war
- f. Octavian defeats Antony & Cleopatra's forces at naval battle of Actium (31 B.C.)
- g. Mark Antony and Cleopatra commit suicide; leaving Octavian sole leader
- h. Octavian takes name Augustus meaning "exalted one" -27 B.C.



# Rome's Best Emperors

- Octavian Augustus
- First Roman Emperor
- Senate named him Augustus meaning “revered personage” or “exalted one” in 27 BC
- Rules from 27 BC to 14 AD
- Ended years of civil war
- Was not interested in dictatorial rule; shared power with close advisors
- Successfully discharged soldiers reducing army (still kept 28 legions for auxiliary strength)
- Died of illness on August 19, 14 AD



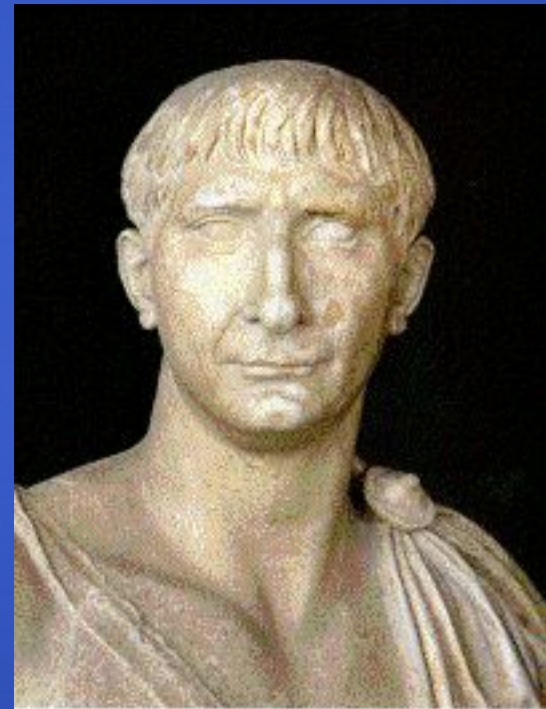
# Rome's Best Emperors

- Vespasian
- Ruled from 69-79 AD
- Worked hard and lived in a stable relationship with a woman he loved (odd for emperors)
- First rate soldier
- Built the Flavian Amphitheater later known as the Colosseum
- Died in 79 AD just before completion of the Colosseum

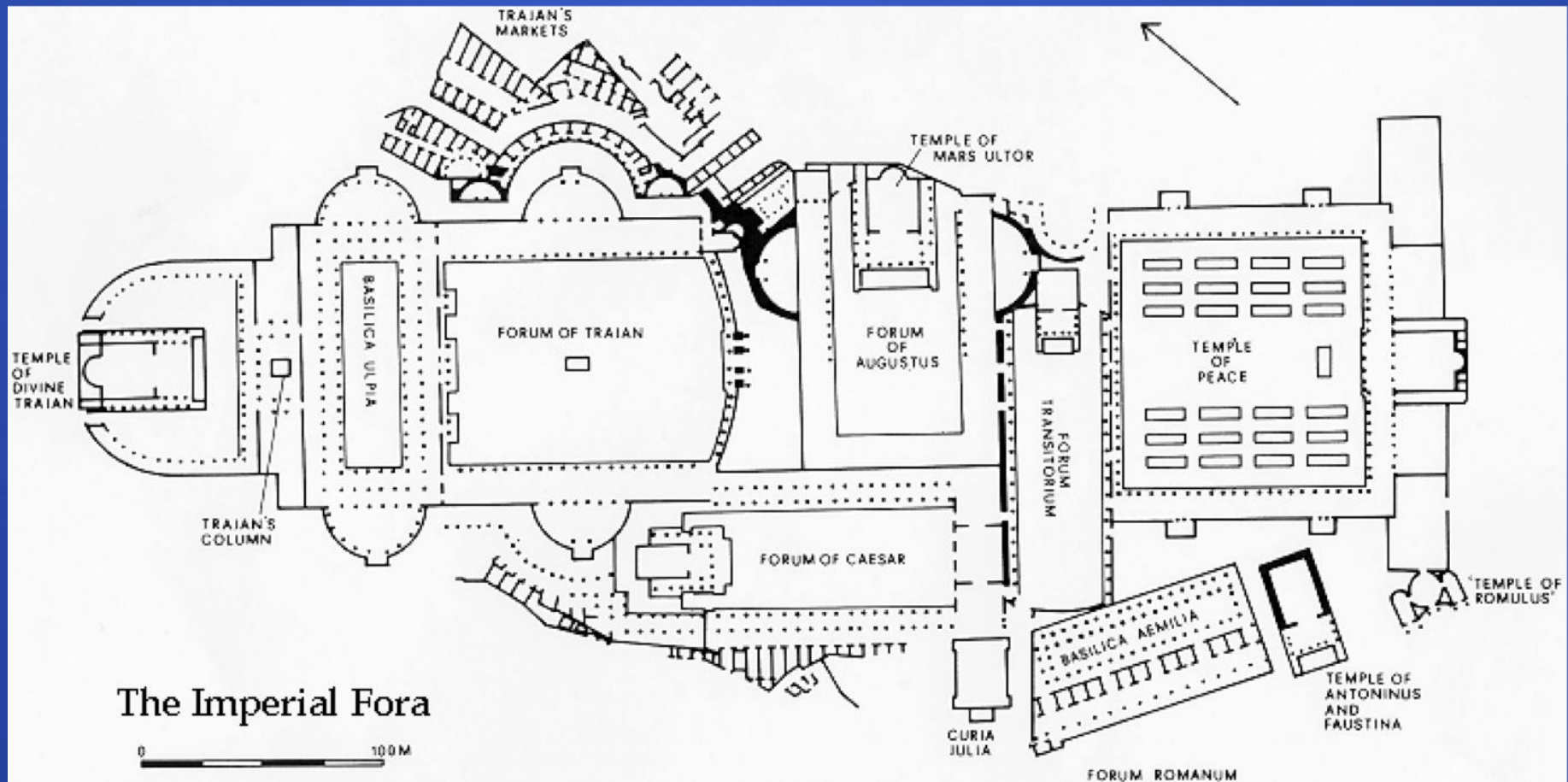


# Rome's Best Emperors

- Trajan
- Ruled from 98-117 AD
- Public works:
  - Built Trajan's Forum
  - Extensive reconstruction of the Circus Maximus, the great arena for chariot races
- Great reputation and very efficient
- Expanded Rome militarily
- Fell ill and died on August 9, 117 AD



# Trajan's Forum





# Trajan's Forum



# Trajan's Column (Depicting success in Dacia)



# Trajan's Forum Today



# Rome's Best Emperors

- Marcus Aurelius
- Ruled from 161-180 AD
- Gifted general
- Philosopher
- Fell ill and died on March 17, 180 AD
- Empire began to erode under his son Commodus (end of Pax Romana)



# Marcus Aurelius in the film Gladiator



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

- i. Result: Rome is officially an empire.



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

## 6. A Vast and Powerful Empire

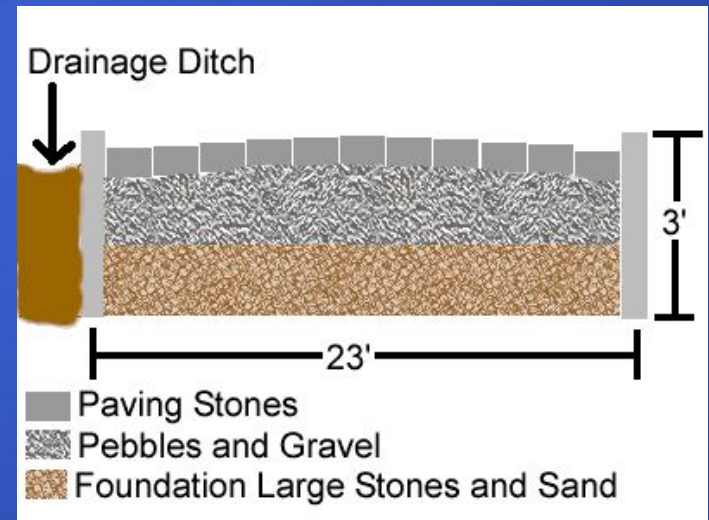
- a. Peak of Rome's power 27 B.C. to 180 A.D.
- b. Period known as the Pax Romana or "Roman Peace"
- c. Population of 60-80 million with 1 million in the city of Rome
- d. Rome held together through efficient means of government started by Augustus however many terrible emperors would gradually weaken the empire over the next 400 years
- e. Common coinage made trade easier

More Roman Coins



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

- f. "All roads lead to Rome;" the Romans built about 250,000 miles of roads

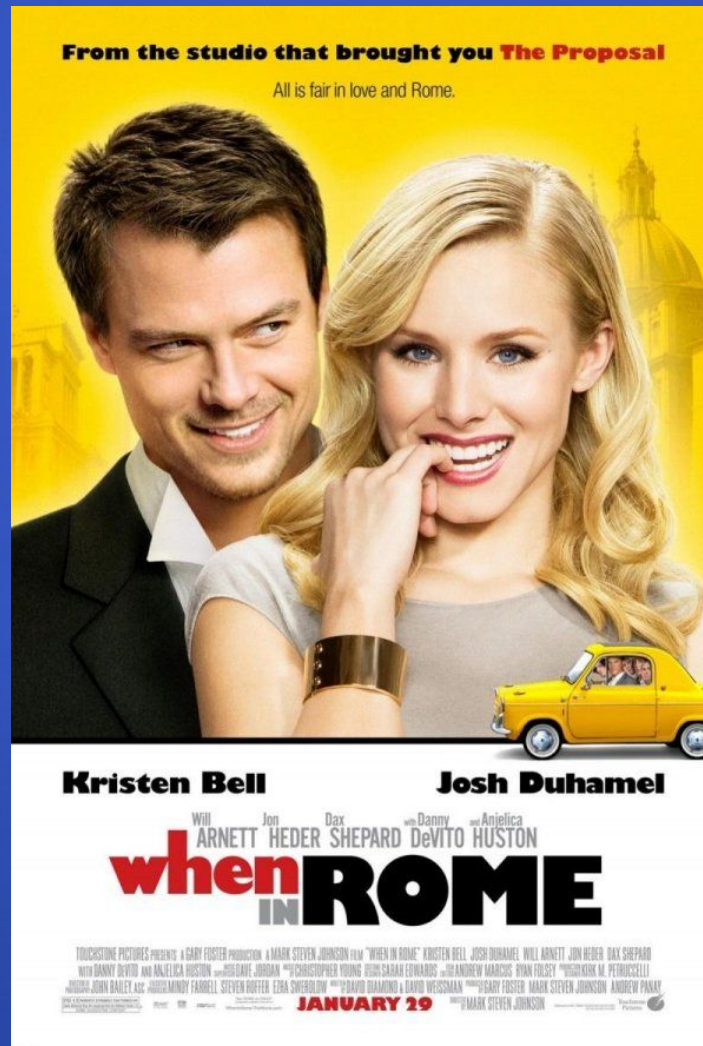




# Ever heard this phrase...?



# Not so much...



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

- h. 90% of the population were poor and slavery was common
- i. The Colosseum was used to distract the masses because much of city of Rome was unemployed; gladiatorial battles were popular for entertainment
- j. Rich continued to live extravagantly



# Gladiatorial Battles

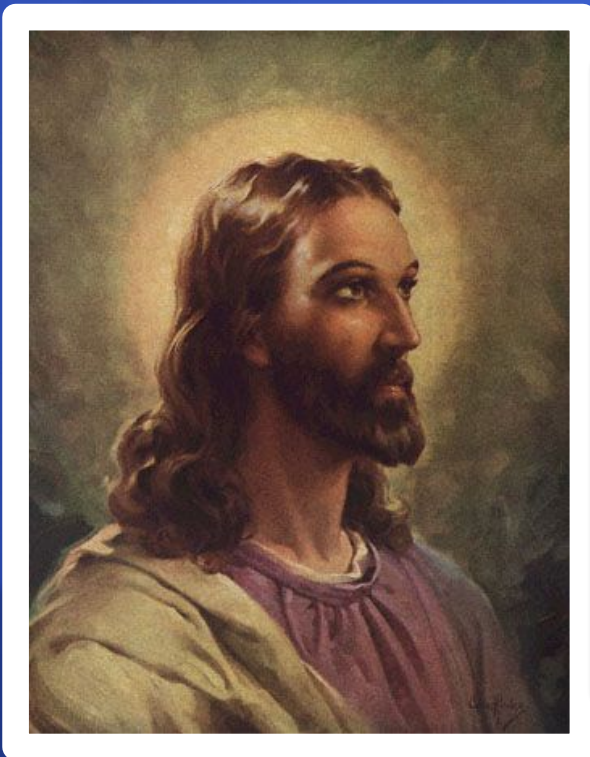


# The Colosseum at Caesar's Palace



# A Republic Becomes an Empire

- j. **Coming up next:** The works of Jesus of Nazareth and Christianity would change the world forever



# Constructive Response Question

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