

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Core: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **ANSWER KEY: End of Roman Republic/Start of Roman Empire**

**59 BC** - “The fall of the **Roman Republic** began with an alliance between three powerful Roman politicians: **Julius Caesar**, **Pompey the Great**, and Marcus Licinius **Crassus**. This alliance became known as the First Triumvirate. These three men essentially ruled Rome. However, when Crassus died in battle in 53 BC, Pompey turned on Caesar and the two became **enemies**.”

**45 BC** - **Julius Caesar** becomes the first **dictator** of Rome. Caesar makes his famous Crossing of the **Rubicon** and defeats **Pompey** in a civil war to become the supreme ruler of Rome. This signals the **end** of the Roman Republic.

**44 BC** - Julius Caesar is **assassinated** on the Ides of March by Marcus **Brutus** and other senators. They hope to bring back the republic, but **civil** war breaks out.

**27 BC** - The Roman Empire begins as **Caesar Augustus** (formerly named **Octavian**) becomes the first Roman Emperor (**autocratic** government--he was only ruler and made all decisions). He “established a standing Roman **army**, a network of **roads**, and rebuilt much of the **city** of Rome”. This begins **Pax Romana**, which literally means “Roman peace”. The Roman empire “protected and governed individual provinces, permitting each to **make** and administer its own **laws** while accepting Roman taxation and military control.” Note that **Jesus Christ** was born under Augustus’ rule.

Other emperors included:

- 1) **Tiberius**, Augustus’ stepson and son-in-law (as he married Augustus’ daughter), was the next emperor. Pontius Pilate was a governor under Tiberius--Pilate ordered the crucifixion of Jesus.
- 2) **Caligula** - infamous Roman emperor known for killing people “just for fun” (khanacademy.org); did not rule long as he was quickly assassinated
- 3) **Claudius**

**64 AD** - Much of Rome **burns**. Legend has it that **Emperor Nero** watched the city burn and had the fire set to clear out space for his **palace**. He **killed** many people, including his **mother**, and persecuted countless Christians. He eventually took his own life.

**80 AD** - The **Coliseum** is built. One of the great examples of Roman **engineering** is finished. It can seat **50,000** spectators.

## **The Height of the Roman Empire**

**121 AD** - The **Hadrian** Wall is built. To keep out the **barbarians**, a long wall is built across northern England.

**284 to 305 AD** - “When **Diocletian** became **emperor**, he realized that the Roman Empire had grown too large to manage from Rome. He decided to **split** the Roman Empire into **two** sections:

- a) the **Eastern** Roman Empire (also known as the Byzantine Empire) -- ruled out of city of Byzantium (later Constantinople)
- b) the **Western** Roman Empire -- ruled out of the city of Rome.

“This enabled the huge Empire to be ruled more easily and to defend its borders. However, he also was one of the worst emperors when it came to human rights, persecuting and **killing** many people, especially Christians, because of their **religion**.”

**306 AD - Constantine** becomes **Emperor**. He changed the name of the city of Byzantium to **Constantinople**. He ruled for 30 years. The empire **flourished** under his leadership and gained power. He would eventually **convert** to Christianity, and Rome would become a **Christian** empire. Christianity would become a large part of the Roman Empire for the next 1000 years. Prior to this time, Rome **persecuted** the Christians.

**380 AD - Theodosius I** declares Christianity to be the sole religion of the Roman Empire.

**476 AD - Western** Roman Empire (including Rome) **collapses** “when the last Roman Emperor, **Romulus Augustus**, was defeated by the German, Odoacer.”

**527 AD** - “The peak of the Byzantine Empire occurred during the **Justinian** Dynasty. In 527 **Justinian I** became Emperor. Under Justinian I, the empire gained territory and would reach the peak of its power and wealth.

“Justinian also established many **reforms**. One major reform had to do with the law. First, he had all the existing Roman laws reviewed. These laws had been written down over the course of hundreds of years and existed in hundreds of different documents. Then he had the laws **rewritten** into a **single** book called the **Corpus** of Civil Law, or the **Justinian** Code.”

Justinian also encouraged the **arts** including music, drama, and art. He funded many public works **projects** as well including bridges, roads, aqueducts, and churches. Perhaps his best known project was the **Hagia** Sophia, a beautiful and massive church built in Constantinople.

**1453 AD** - The Eastern Roman Empire **ended** with the fall of Constantinople to the **Ottoman** Empire

*Note: This information was taken from both ducksters.com and khanacademy.org.*