

Facts to Know

Virgil

Roman Poet

Mediterranean Sea

main body of water south of Rome

Vocabulary

1. **deftly** skillful and quick in one's movements
2. **uncouth** lacking good manners

Comprehension Questions

1. According to Virgil, what was the mission of Rome?

The mission of Rome was to conquer the world and then rule her empire with law and order.

2. What are the three ways that the author believes that the spirit of a nation expresses itself?

The spirit of a nation is displayed in its political history, its language or literature, and in its architecture.

Activities

1. Create a timeline to track the major events of ancient Rome.

Facts to Know

the Apennines	<i>mountains on the eastern side of the Italian Peninsula</i>
the Alps	<i>northern mountains that block Italy from the rest of Europe</i>
the Tiber	<i>river nearest to the founding of Rome</i>
Adriatic Sea	<i>sea to the east of Italy</i>
Latin League	<i>group of about 30 communities joined together for protection</i>

*"Hail! land of Saturn, mighty mother thou
Of fruits and heroes."*

Virgil

Vocabulary

1. **character** the mental and moral distinctives of a person
2. **precipice** a very steep cliff
3. **augury** a sign of what will happen in the future

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Italy's mountains affect her relations with other lands?

Italy's eastern mountains gave her more relations with western lands, rather than with Greece and other ancient civilizations. Her northern mountains made her vulnerable to attack because they were easily crossed from the north, but not the south.

2. Describe the Roman attitude that arose from the danger of attack.

The early Romans faced the sternness and seriousness of life. They were forced to unite for self-defence, and depended on a life of the strictest self-discipline and control. They were stern, practical, and capable.

3. How did the Sabines create new colonies?

While at war with the Umbrians, they vowed to consecrate the Sacred Spring. All the children born that season were consecrated to Mars. When they had grown, they were sent forth to find new homes. They were led by bulls to different locations where they would drive out the inhabitants of a place and establish new colonies.

4. What were some ways that the Etruscans and Greeks influenced the Latins?

Etruscans influenced the Latins with their early art and architecture. They also had amusements, such as gladiatorial shows that the Latins copied.

Greek influence came from the powerful, wealthy, and luxurious region of Magna Graecia in southern Italy. They were prosperous traders and were noted for fine wool and purple dye.

Activities

1. Create a map of Italy. Locate the following:

Tribes

Umbrians

Sabines

Latins

Etruscans

Bodies of Water

Tiber River

Adriatic Sea

Bay of Naples

Mountains

Apennines

Alps

Regions

Magna Graecia

2. Add to your timeline: *700 B.C. Height of Etruscan Power*