

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Name: _____
Date: _____

Economics of Ancient Rome Study Guide

Directions:

Use information from The Roman Empire in the First Century Web site's [\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/index.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/index.html) features on:

- Social Order [\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/order.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/order.html).
- Patricians [\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/patricians.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/patricians.html)
- Senators [\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/senators.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/senators.html)
- Equestrians [\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/equestrians.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/equestrians.html)
- Plebeians [\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/plebians.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/plebians.html)
- Slaves and Freemen [\[http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/slaves.html\]](http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/slaves.html).

Answer each of the questions presented. Be prepared to discuss your answers with your classmates.

1. Since slavery in the Roman Empire was not based on race, how did one become a slave?
2. How was Rome able to acquire so many slaves?
3. In what ways was slave labor essential to the success of the Roman economy? Give at least three examples.
4. What was manumission?

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5. What social programs and systems were put in place by the emperor and the government to keep the slaves, freemen, and plebeians from rebelling against the upper class?

6. Describe the types of work typically done by:

- slaves:
- freemen:
- plebeians:

7. How did the jobs completed by the slaves, freemen, and plebeians allow the Roman economy to prosper?

8. Why were slaves allowed to wear the same types of clothing as regular Roman citizens rather than special garments that would mark them as slaves?

9. Explain the system of public welfare used in the Roman Empire and how this system actually decreased the productivity of the people.

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10. True or False: Without the use of slave labor and the work of the freemen and plebeians, the Roman Empire would not have succeeded. Circle your answer and explain it using specific reasons, facts, and examples in your response written below.