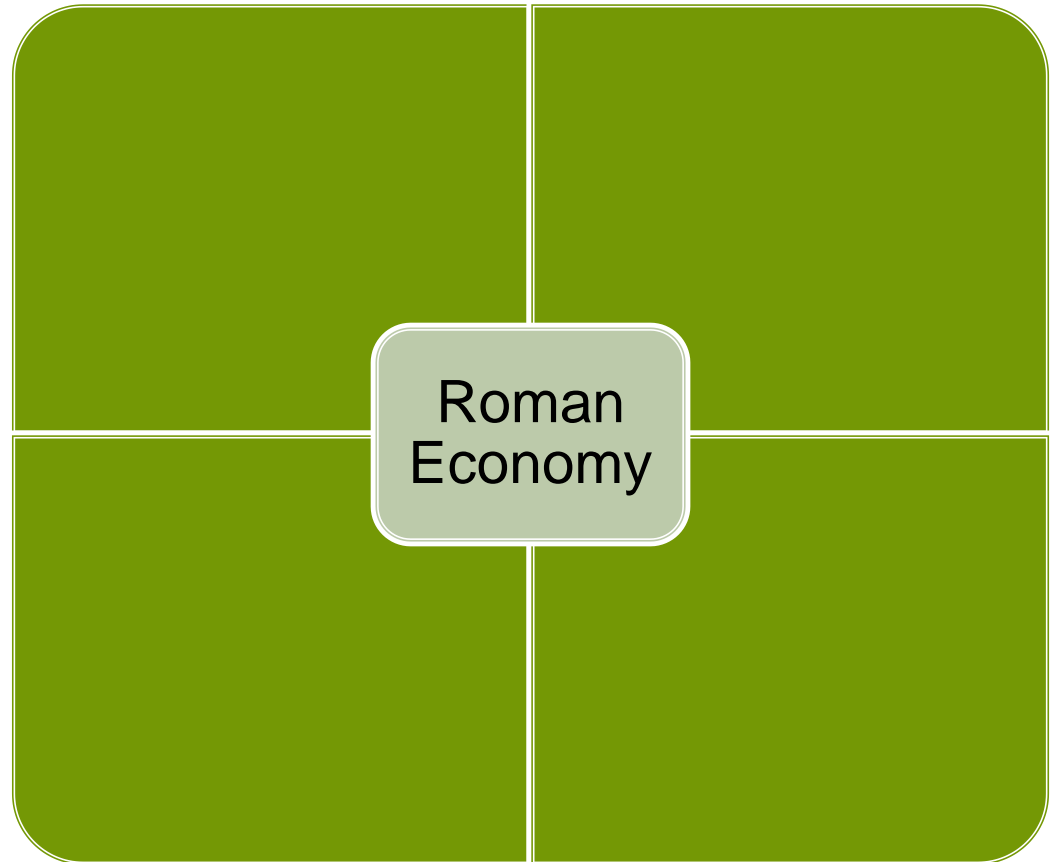


Bellwork

- Take out your Political Systems of Ancient Rome Vocab and study your words.
- Our quiz will be in 5 minutes.



Page 22 – Ancient Roman Economy



Roman Agriculture

- Include pictures
- Definition of Agriculture
- What types of crops did the Romans grow?
- Since the Romans had to grow crops what group of people were responsible for growing these crops?
- Why would farmers donate crops to the Roman government?
- Why was it so important for Rome to have so much grain?



Roman Agriculture

- For all of the glory and grandeur of Ancient Rome, the **Roman economy** never developed into anything terribly complex compared to modern economies. Ancient Rome was an agrarian and slave based economy whose main concern was feeding the vast number of citizens and legionaries who populated the Mediterranean region. Agriculture and trade dominated *Roman economic* fortunes, only supplemented by small scale industrial production.
- The staple crops of Roman farmers in Italy were various grains, olives, and grapes. Olive oil and wine, outside of direct food stuffs, were among the most important products in the ancient civilized world and led Italy's exports. Romans did use a limited form of 2 tier crop rotation, but crop production was largely low output and required a vast number of slaves to operate at any volume.
- Farmers could donate surplus crops to the government in lieu of a monetary tax. This system allowed both Republican and Imperial rulers to gain popularity with the masses through free grain distribution and also help to feed the legions at no direct monetary cost. Unfortunately it also left farmers with little incentive to increase productivity or output, since more crop translated to more taxes (and more free grain distributions). Citizens grew dependent on these grain doles and the large volume of trade that ensued. The need to secure grain providing provinces was one important, of many factors that would lead to the expansion and conquests of the Roman State.



Roman Manufacturing

- Definition of Manufacturing
- Definition of Industry
- What was the largest industry in the Roman Empire and why was it important?
- Name where Rome got some of its items (Ex Gold, Silver).



Roman Manufacturing

- The importance of industry and manufacturing was comparatively light to that of agriculture. The growth and influence of the Empire can not be underestimated, however. The largest industry in ancient Rome was mining, which provided the stones for the enormous building projects and metals for tools and the weapons that conquered the western world. Greece and northern Italy provided marble for the buildings that awed the ancients and modern people alike. Large quantities of gold and silver were mined in Spain to mint coins and create jewelry, while mines in Britain produced iron, lead and tin for weapons. Cities and towns throughout the empire established small-scale manufacturing plants which turned out hand-made pottery, glassware, weapons, tools, jewelry and textiles.



Roman Trade by Land and Sea



- Why were roads so important to the Roman Empire when it came to trade?
- Name one advantage of trading by land and one disadvantage.
- Why did the Roman Empire trade by sea?
- Explain the reasons behind trading by land and sea.

Roman Trade by Land and Sea

- Extensive Trade routes were established on land and sea. The Roman roads are one lasting legacy of Roman domination and many are still in use today. While a benefit of a large network of roads was the transport of goods, their most significant purpose was the fast mobilization of the Legions.
- Following in the wake of marching soldiers, vast numbers of goods were carried along these roads. Transporting goods by land was slow and expensive, however, as large loads in wagons and carriages were pulled by lumbering oxen. Large, slow shipments were vulnerable to raids and adverse weather so faster horse drawn loads were used, but they could only deliver lighter cargos. Caravans of camels or donkeys carried loaded baskets called panniers and some goods were hauled by slaves, providing cheap labor. Trade by land was only profitable if goods were going short distances or if the cargo was small, expensive luxury items.
- Most large-volume, cumbersome goods, such as food, precious metals, stones and building supplies, were shipped by water. Numerous sea lanes provided cheap and easy access to all parts of the Mediterranean. The consolidation of the Roman navy under Augustus virtually wiped the threat of piracy out, but inclement weather, inaccurate charts and poor navigational equipment could still wreak havoc on a convoy. Still despite the dangers, there was no better way to move cargo than by ship.



Roman Coin



- Definition of barter
- Name two advantages of having a coin system in Ancient Rome.
- Definition of Imports
- What other reasons did the Roman Emperors use coins?

Roman Coin

- Romans thrived off of its imports, and importers were among the wealthiest citizens of the Empire. The trading of goods for goods barter system was alive and well in the ancient world, but the Romans also used one of the world's most developed coinage systems. Coins of brass, bronze, copper, silver and gold in the Imperial system were minted and circulated under strict rules for weights, sizes, value and metal composition. The popularity and value of Roman coins became so great that they could be found as far east as India. Roman coins were greatly detailed and of high artisanship, and often were used as tools by the Emperors to circulate various forms of news and propaganda to the people and the world.

