

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 4–5

Ancient Rome

From village to empire

Quick facts

When	Founded c.753 BCE — Western Empire fell 476 CE.
Where	Italy, then most of Europe, North Africa, the Middle East.
Three eras	Kingdom (753–509 BCE), Republic (509–27 BCE), Empire (27 BCE–476 CE).
How big at peak	Around 5 million km ² — 60+ million people in 117 CE.
Government	Started as monarchy → senate-led republic → emperor (Caesar / Augustus changed it).
Famous emperors	Augustus, Nero, Trajan, Marcus Aurelius, Constantine.
Engineering	Roads (still used), aqueducts, concrete, sewers, central heating.
Latin	Their language. The basis of French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian.
Numerals	I, V, X, L, C, D, M — still used today on clocks, kings' names.
Why it fell	Many causes: invasions, civil wars, economic decline, splitting of empire.

