

Name: _____

Rome Overview Notes: Learning what is noteworthy

For many of you notetaking is difficult. You wonder what is important to highlight, circle, or underline, and you're not quite sure how to write your thoughts down in the margin. Admittedly, note taking is a tough habit to pick up unless you practice is constantly. Notetaking for fiction and nonfiction is different. Today, we will practice nonfiction note taking (which tends to be a little easier).

Article	Notes/Questions/Comments
<p>Rome at the height of her power in the early second century CE was very different from Athens more than half a millennium earlier. In the first century BCE, Dionysius of Halicarnassus said the three most significant works of Rome were its aqueducts, paved roads, and sewers. The Roman geographer Strabo agreed, saying that the Romans 'had the best foresight in those matters which the Greeks made little account of,' and this was a view also shared by other ancient writers. Perhaps the best-known acclamation of aqueducts of Rome was given by Frontinus, Rome's Water Commissioner at the end of the first century CE. He said, 'With such an array of indispensable structures carrying so many waters, compare, if you will, the Pyramids or the useless, though famous, works of the Greek!'</p> <p>Rome had developed from a collection of small hill settlements on the banks of the Tiber into a formidable political and military power. By the early second century CE Rome was <i>caput mundi</i>, 'head of the world', and as such was a model for the cities of her vast empire.</p> <p>The city's development was shaped by many factors. One of the most significant was its location on the Tiber, which provided a gateway to the Mediterranean via the port at Ostia. Another factor was the important technical development of Roman concrete and the use of large-scale vaulting. This was shown to greatest effect after the great fire of CE 64. Much of the city center had to be rebuilt, and some of Rome's greatest public buildings - the Colosseum, the Baths of Trajan, and the Temple of Venus and Rome - were built over the next 60</p>	

years.

In the late Republic, the city's history was dominated by the activities of the famous: Catop, who demanded the destruction of Carthage; Cicero, the great orator, and Pompey the Great and Julius Caesar, both prominent figures in the politics of Rome in the first century BCE, who were responsible for major building programs within the city.

By the early fourth century CE, Rome was no longer the political center of the Empire. After the disintegration of the Empire in the West in the fifth century, Rome's importance continued as the center of the Christendom. Today, it is still a major center of pilgrimage.