

ANCIENT
CIVILIZATIONS

ANCIENT

ROME



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AT THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS



CIRCUS MAXIMUS, ROME

A boy and his father approach the Circus Maximus **arena**. The huge building stands in the center of Rome. Thousands of excited Romans push through the rows of archways. The boy's father squeezes them into some open seats.



Soon, the race begins. Teams of horses burst from the starting gates. They sprint around the track pulling chariots. The boy claps and cheers loudly. He loves afternoons at the chariot races in the Roman Empire!



WHO WERE THE ANCIENT ROMANS?

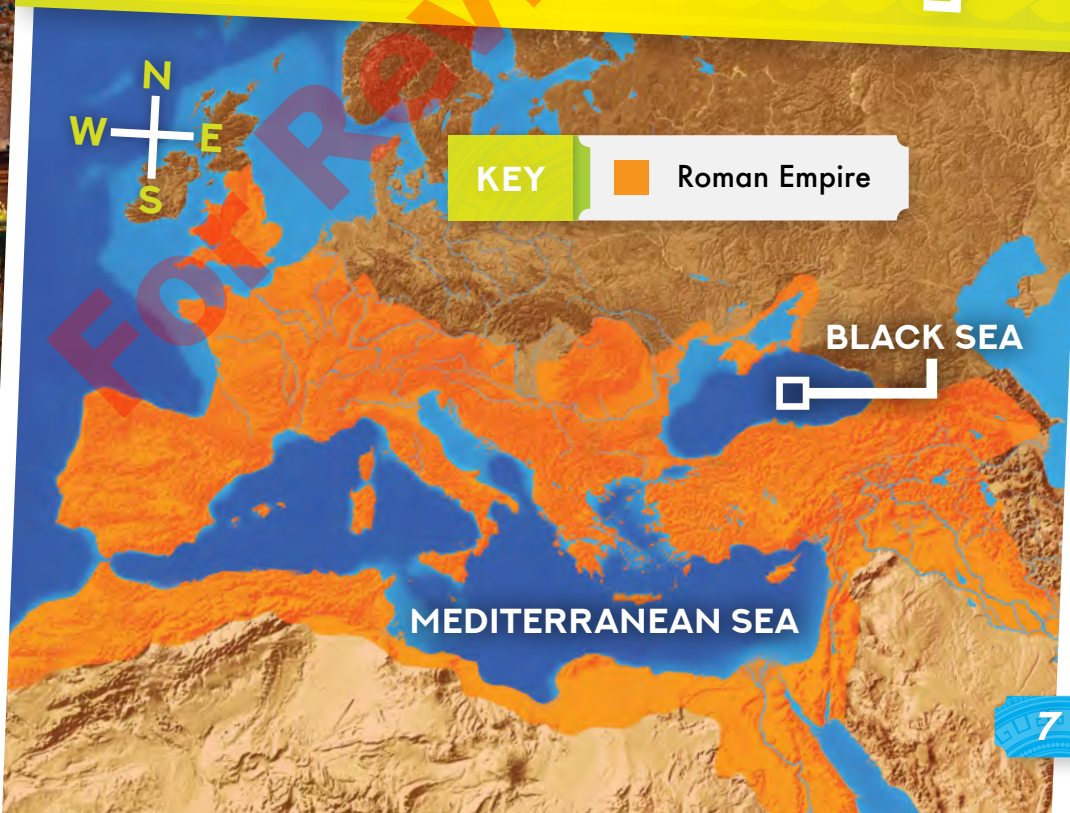
ROMAN FORUM, ROME



Ancient Rome began in what is now Italy. The civilization lasted from 753 BCE until 476 CE. Over centuries, it became a broad empire.

The Roman Empire reached its largest size around 117 CE. A powerful military helped it spread across three continents. At its height, Rome's rule reached today's Britain, Egypt, and Iraq. The empire numbered about 60 million people. About one in four people alive on Earth lived under Roman rule!

「117 CE ROMAN EMPIRE」



Rome's location made it easy to exchange goods and ideas with many different **cultures**. Rome was founded along the Tiber River. The river created a clear trade route to the Mediterranean Sea. Wealth from trade helped Rome grow.

Rome gained strength by embracing other cultures. Romans learned about trade from the **Etruscans** to the north. Much of Roman religion came from the Greeks to the east. Bringing in other cultures built loyalty to Rome as areas were taken over.



OVERLOOK OF TIBER RIVER

CASTEL SANT'ANGELO AND TIBER RIVER, ROME



THE FOUNDING MYTH

Stories claimed that twin brothers founded Rome. Romulus and Remus were raised by a wolf. They built Rome near where the wolf first found them. The city was named after Romulus.

