Augustus and the Pax Romana

Augustus transformed Rome from a violent republic into a peaceful empire

## A New Empire

* Caesar’s heir, Octavian found himself in a war for power. He killed his enemies and destroyed rebellions and opposition.
* He also got the senate to side with him, giving him dictator-like powers, while appearing to withhold republican principles.
* He was nicknamed **Augustus**, “The exalted one”.

# Pax Romana

* Augustus began the Pax Romana – 200 years of peace.
* Augustus made military and societal changes that turned Rome into an empire
* He solved issues in society, such as the wealth gaps between plebians and patricians. He also made soldiers swear an oath of loyalty to the emperor, not their general.

Growth and Trade

As the roman empire expanded, trade became easier, and the economy boomed

## Imperial Expansion

* Under Augusts, the Roman empire became the mightiest in the world.
* Some of the frontier military camps became permanent settlements.
* The Roman empire did not always rely on military conquest to expand its borders
* A network of roads, bridges, and tunnels, built by soldiers, connected these far-flung frontiers.

## A Booming Economy

* These excellent roads also stimulated the economy by making it easier to transport goods.
* Rome’s craft people produced beautiful objects that archaeologists have found as far away as Vietnam.
* Rome’s biggest industry was agriculture, focuses on luxuries like fruit.
* The most important Roman goods in terms of quality traded were wine, olive oil, and grain.
* The introduction of a standard currency, or money, throughout the empire made it easy to trade and collect taxes.

Roman Engineering

The Romans were skilled engineers who helped transform how things were built

## Roads

* Before the Romans began building their network of roads, travel generically meant following dirt tracks.
  + “All roads lead to Rome” – as the Empire expanded, they built new roads
* The Army used specialized tools and lots of human power to build roads.
* Where possible, the soldiers built the road wide and straight.
* By 300 BCE , the Romans had built around 53,000 miles of roads.

## Arches and Aqueducts

* The Romans developed a new, stronger type of concrete and used it to build huge freestanding structures, like the Pantheon.
* Roman architecture was based of Greek architecture
* Roman engineering marvels:
  + An arch is a curved structure over an opening
  + Long stone channels, called aqueducts carried water into town
  + A vault is an extended series of arches
  + A dome is a rotated series of arches