

Unit XII—Roman Civilization and Culture

Lesson 73. HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND ROMAN SOCIETY

PERIODS IN ROMAN HISTORY

Monarchy (from the founding of Rome, 753 B.C., to 509 B.C.). There were seven kings, the first being Romulus, and the last Tarquinius Superbus (Tarquin the Proud), a member of the Etruscan family. Supreme authority of the king was symbolized by a bundle of rods with an ax, called *fascēs*, which is the origin of the term *fascism*. The cruel despotism of Tarquin drove the Romans to rebel, to overthrow the rule of kings, and to establish a republic.

Republic (from 509 B.C. to 27 B.C.). This was the period of struggle and growth. At first it was marked by civil wars and wars against Rome's immediate neighbors, such as the Etruscans, the Volscians, and the Aequians. Later came wars of conquest in Italy itself: against the Samnites, the most warlike people of central Italy, and against the Greek cities of southern Italy defended by Pyrrhus, the famous Greek general. The conquered territories embracing the entire Italian peninsula became incorporated into the Roman state as colonies or as allies, both having limited self-government.

Rome then engaged in wars of conquest outside Italy. In the Punic Wars of the third century B.C., the Romans under Scipio defeated the brilliant Carthaginian general, Hannibal, establishing Rome as the only power in the western Mediterranean. Rome annexed the islands of Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica, and instituted the system of provinces whereby conquered lands were controlled by Roman governors. In the Macedonian Wars, which ended in 168 B.C., Macedonia was subjugated and reduced to a province. Rome acquired in quick succession the provinces of Greece, Africa, and Spain. Even the little kingdom of Pergamum in Asia Minor became a province, bequeathed to Rome in 133 B.C. by its last king, Attalus III.

Finally Rome's victories were climaxed in the first century B.C. by Julius Caesar's conquest of Gaul and his invasion of Germany and Britain. Despite the civil wars that shook the Roman state during this period (the conflicts between Marius and Sulla, and between Caesar and Pompey), Rome nevertheless became the dominant world power, and the Mediterranean Sea was aptly called by the Romans *Mare Nostrum* (Our Sea).



Empire (from 27 B.C. to 476 A.D.). Gaius Octavius, Caesar's grand-nephew and adopted son, defeated his rival Antony and became Rome's first emperor with the title Augustus. He reigned from 27 B.C. until 14 A.D., a period marked by the flowering of Roman genius in art and literature. It has truly been said that Augustus "found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble."

Rome had over twenty-five emperors before its fall in 476 A.D., some famous, others infamous. Tiberius, Augustus' immediate successor, was able though cruel and tyrannical. Nero not only "fiddled while Rome burned," but was notorious for persecuting the Christians. The fame of Titus rests on his destruction of the sacred city of Jerusalem. Under Trajan, in the second century A.D., Rome reached its greatest territorial extent, spreading from the Atlantic on the west to the Caspian Sea on the east, from Africa on the south to Britain and the borders of Germany on the north.

Marcus Aurelius was known as the philosopher emperor, and Constantine the Great was the first Christian emperor. The last of the emperors was Romulus Augustulus.

Many reasons have been given for the fall of Rome and, with it, the collapse of civilization and social order. Among them are: (1) the system of slavery and serfdom that demoralized a large segment of the population, (2) the decay and corruption of the ruling class and the imperial court, (3) heavy taxation, and (4) the inroads made by the enemies of Rome, such as the Visigoths and the Vandals.

An eminent historian has said that "the history of Rome is in truth the same as the history of the world."

GOVERNMENT

The Senate. The most powerful body in ancient Rome was the Senate. It consisted of about 600 members, mostly former officials, who held office for life. It managed foreign affairs, declared war, and controlled taxation. The power of the Senate was symbolized by the abbreviation S.P.Q.R. (*senātus populusque Rōmānus*), found on buildings, coins, and standards.

Popular Assemblies. Two assemblies administered the elective and legislative business of the Roman state. One assembly, called the *Comitia Centuriata*, elected the higher magistrates—consuls, praetors, and censors. The other assembly, called the *Comitia Tributa*, elected the tribunes, quaestors, aediles, and minor officials.

Cursus Honōrum. This was the order in which the various important offices might be held according to law. The highest official was the consul. Before one could become consul, he had to serve as praetor. Before being praetor, he had to serve as quaestor.

Consul. Two consuls, elected annually, held office for one year only. They were the chief executives, and each served as a check upon the other.

Praetor. Eight praetors were elected annually for one year. Their chief duty was to serve as judges in court.

Quaestor. Twenty quaestors were elected annually for one year. They served as public treasurers.

Aedile. Although not in the *cursus honōrum*, the aedile used his position to gain popularity for election to higher office. He was in charge of public games and amusements, public works, markets, streets, etc. There were four aediles in Rome elected annually for one year.

Tribune of the People. Ten tribunes were elected annually for one year. They had the extraordinary right to veto any decree or law passed by the Senate or the assemblies.

Censor. There were two censors elected every five years for a term of eighteen months. Their duties were to assess property, determine the order of society to which each citizen belonged, fix the eligibility of senators, raise revenue for public works, and maintain high standards of morality.

Dictator. In times of extreme public danger, a dictator was appointed with supreme power for a period of six months.

CLASSES OF SOCIETY

The Senatorial Order, also called the Patricians or *Optimātēs*, consisted of officeholders (magistrates) and their descendants.

The Equestrian Order, or *Equitēs*, was the wealthy class, consisting of those whose possessions were equivalent to at least \$20,000.

The Plebian Order, the working class embracing the vast majority of the population, consisted of those free-born citizens who possessed less than \$20,000.

Below these three orders of society were the slaves, who had no rights whatsoever; and the freedmen (former slaves), who had the right to vote and own property, but not to hold office.

EXERCISES

A. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write *true*.

1. Another name for the *Optimātēs* was *Equitēs*.
2. The *Republic* lasted from 509 B.C. to 27 B.C.
3. The first Roman emperor was *Romulus Augustulus*.
4. The *freedmen* had the right to vote and own property.
5. There were two censors elected every *five* years.
6. The consul, praetor, quaestor, and aedile were *all* in the *cursus honorum*.
7. To be in the Equestrian Order, one had to possess the equivalent of at least \$2000.
8. Two consuls were elected annually for a period of only *one* year.
9. The *Senate* had the power to declare war and control taxation.
10. The *quaestors* served as public treasurers.

B. In the following passage, ten words or expressions are italicized and repeated in the questions below. Select the alternative that best explains each of these ten words or expressions as it is used in the passage.

Historically, Rome *began* as a monarchy and ended as an *empire*. There were seven kings whose symbol of authority was a *bundle of rods* with an ax. This symbol still appears on the American dime.

Civil wars and wars of conquest kept Rome in a state of turmoil during the Republic. Rome's greatest threat was removed when Scipio defeated the brilliant *general* sent by Carthage. Because of Rome's vast conquests by Scipio, Pompey, Caesar, and other outstanding generals, the Mediterranean became practically a *Roman lake*.

Caesar's *heir* became the first Roman emperor with the title Augustus. His reign was marked by a period of peace and the development of the arts. Not all of Augustus' successors, however, were famous. One *emperor* was notorious for persecuting the Christians. The Emperor Titus destroyed a *famous city*.

Rome reached its *greatest extent* under Trajan in the second century A.D. Many emperors followed, and finally, because of internal slavery and corruption, Rome became an easy target when her *enemies* invaded her territory in the fifth century A.D.

1. *began*

1. 509 B.C.

2. 27 B.C.

3. 753 B.C.

4. 1000 B.C.

2. *empire*

1. 27 B.C.-476 A.D.

2. 509 B.C.-500 A.D.

3. *bundle of rods*

1. *vigilēs*

2. *rationēs*

4. *general*

1. Pyrrhus

2. Hannibal

5. *Roman lake*

1. Mare Nōtum

2. Mare Rōmānus

6. *heir*

1. Octavius

2. Antonius

7. *emperor*

1. Aurelius

2. Constantine

8. *famous city*

1. Carthage

2. Alexandria

9. *greatest extent*

1. from the Atlantic to the Pacific

2. from Spain to Greece

3. from the Atlantic to the Caspian Sea

4. from Britain to Gaul

10. *enemies*

1. Goths

2. Britons

3. 100 A.D.-1000 A.D.

4. 1 B.C.-500 A.D.

3. *ordinēs*

4. *fascēs*

3. Attalus

4. Philip

3. Mare Nostrum

4. Mare Vestrum

3. Tiberius

4. Pompeius

3. Nero

4. Augustulus

3. Athens

4. Jerusalem

C. For each item in column A, write the letter of the appropriate item in column B.

Column A

1. Rome founded
2. wealthy class
3. right to veto decrees
4. elected the higher magistrates
5. beginning of the Republic
6. magistrates
7. public treasurer
8. elected minor officials
9. first Roman king
10. last of the kings

Column B

- a. Patricians
- b. quaestor
- c. 509 B.C.
- d. Romulus
- e. Comitia Tribūta
- f. 753 B.C.
- g. Comitia Centūriāta
- h. Equitēs
- i. Tarquinius Superbus
- j. tribune of the people

D. Complete the following statements:

1. The chief duty of a praetor was to serve as a
2. The abbreviation S.P.Q.R. stood for
3. Under the Emperor, the Roman Empire reached its greatest extent.
4. A dictator was appointed for a period of
5. Before running for the praetorship, one had to serve as
6. The man in charge of public games and amusements was called
7. was the name given to the Mediterranean by the Romans.
8. The bundle of rods with an ax, symbolizing supreme power, was called
9. The highest Roman official was called a
10. The Order was the wealthy class of Rome.

E. For each name in column A, write the letter of the appropriate item in column B.

Column A

1. Marcus Aurelius
2. Trajan
3. Nero
4. Scipio
5. Constantine the Great
6. Hannibal
7. Tiberius
8. Attalus
9. Tarquinius Superbus
10. Octavius

Column B

- a. succeeded Augustus
- b. conquered Carthage
- c. first Christian emperor
- d. bequeathed land to Rome
- e. philosopher emperor
- f. last Roman king
- g. Rome's first emperor
- h. greatest expansion of Rome
- i. Carthaginian general
- j. persecuted the Christians

Lesson 74. ROME, ITS ROADS AND HOUSES

THE CITY OF ROME

Founding. Legend has it that Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by Romulus, after whom the city was named. Romulus and his twin brother, Remus, who were reared by a she-wolf, were the sons of Rhea Silvia and Mars, the god of war.

Location. Situated on the Tiber River near the west central coast of Italy, Rome encompassed seven hills. The most famous were the Capitoline hill, on which were located the Temple of Jupiter and the citadel; and the Palatine hill, which contained the homes of prominent, wealthy Romans.

The area in which Rome was situated was called Latium, which is the origin of the word *Latin*. Rome's outlet to the sea was at Ostia, a seaport about sixteen miles away. Because of its strategic location—on a group of hills, on an important river, and almost in the center of Italy—Rome obtained military and commercial advantages that contributed greatly to her rapid growth in wealth and power.

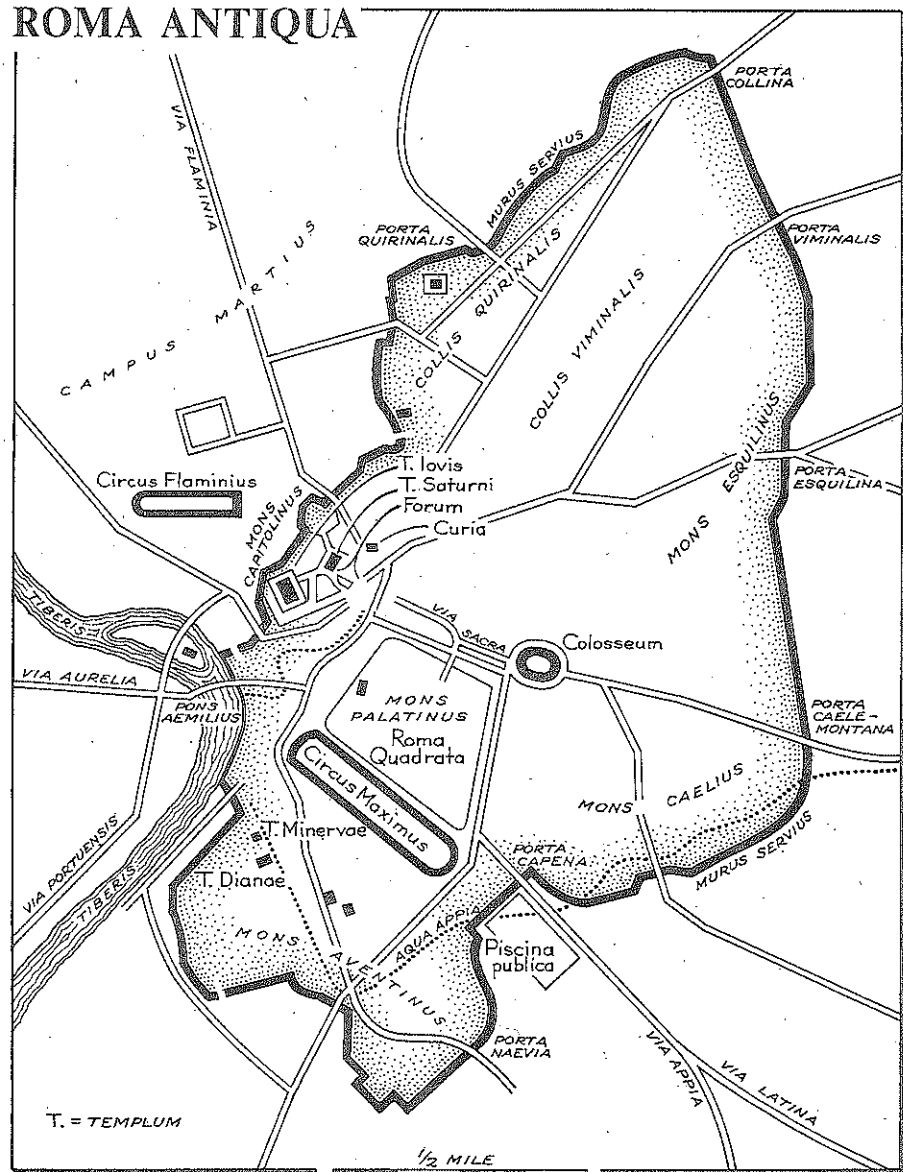
The Forum. The Forum was the marketplace of Rome and the center of civic life. Besides shops, it contained temples, law courts (*basilicae*), the senate house (*cūria*), the speaker's platform (*rōstra*), and other public buildings. The Forum, where so much argumentation and wrangling in the courts took place, has given us the word "forensic."

STREETS AND ROADS

Streets were narrow and crooked, often unpaved. At corners, stepping stones were placed at intervals to assist in crossing to the other side. Streets were unlighted, and *vigilēs* (police-firemen) carrying small lanterns walked the dark alleys to afford protection.

The Romans constructed an extensive system of highways connecting the principal cities of Italy with Rome. Hence the expression, "All roads lead to Rome." The most famous road was the *Via Appia* (the Appian Way), also called *Rēgīna Viārum*, connecting Rome with Brundisium on the southeastern coast of Italy. Other roads were the *Via Flāminia*, leading northeast toward Umbria; and the *Via Aurēlia*, a military road running along the west coast toward Gaul.

ROMA ANTIQUA



THE HOUSE

atrium—the spacious front hall beyond the entrance used as a reception room.

compluvium—the opening in the ceiling of the atrium to admit light and air, since the Roman house usually had no windows.

impluvium—the marble basin built directly beneath the compluvium, to catch the rainwater that came through the opening.

tablinum—the study or office of the master of the house, located opposite the entrance in full view of the atrium.

peristylum—the open courtyard, usually with garden and columns, entered by a passageway from the atrium. The peristyle was the center of family living.

triclinium—the dining room adjoining the peristyle, containing a dining table flanked by three couches.

Bedrooms, kitchen, and bath were built around the peristyle.

The above is a description of a city house belonging to a wealthy Roman, many of whom also had elaborate country homes called *villae*.

Most Romans, however, lived in tenement or apartment houses called *insulae* (islands), a name originally applied to city blocks, detached from one another. Tenements were usually five or six stories high and were unsafe, especially in the event of fire.

Fires were frequent, and, before the system of *vigilēs* was established, private fire companies were organized. When a fire broke out, these companies would buy up burning buildings at prices far below their value and then extinguish the fire before much damage was done.

EXERCISES

- A. Select the word or expression that correctly completes the sentence.
1. The road connecting Rome with Brundisium was called the Via (Aurēlia, Appia, Flāminia).
2. The study or office in a Roman house was called the (tablinum, triclinium, peristylum).
3. *Insulae* was the name given to (country homes, apartment houses, reception rooms).
4. The traditional date for the founding of Rome is (753 B.C., 509 B.C., 476 B.C.).
5. The *cūria* was the (speaker's platform, law court, senate house).

6. Men performing the services of modern policemen were known as (*vīgintī, vīgilēs, virī*).
7. The compluvium was the (opening in the ceiling, basin to catch rain-water, spacious front hall).
8. The dining room was called the (*impluvium, ātrium, triclīnium*).
9. The citadel was located on the (*Palatine, Capitoline, Aventine*) hill.
10. A law court was called (*rōstra, basilica, villa*).

B. For each item in column A, write the letter of the appropriate item in column B.

| Column A | Column B |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. rōstra | a. road leading south |
| 2. Via Flāminia | b. country home |
| 3. ātrium | c. open courtyard |
| 4. basilica | d. marble basin |
| 5. Forum | e. road leading northeast |
| 6. Via Appia | f. front hall |
| 7. villa | g. speaker's platform |
| 8. impluvium | h. famous hill |
| 9. Palatine | i. marketplace |
| 10. peristylum | j. law court |

C. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write *true*.

1. The most famous Roman road was the *Via Appia*.
2. Most Romans lived in *villae*.
3. Roman tenements were often *firetraps*.
4. The Temple of Jupiter was located on the *Palatine Hill*.
5. Streets in Roman times were *well lighted*.
6. Rome was built on *seven* hills.
7. The *ātrium* was used as a reception room.
8. The Roman house generally had *many* windows.
9. The *peristyle* was the center of family living.
10. The *Forum* contained shops, temples, and law courts.

Lesson 75. FAMILY LIFE

THE FAMILY

The Latin word *familia*, although generally translated "family," more accurately meant "household." In addition to the father, mother, and children, the *familia* often included the wives of sons, relatives, slaves, and clients. The father (*paterfamiliās*) was supreme in his own home. He had absolute power over his children and commanded complete obedience.

The mother (*māter familiās*) held a position of honor and influence in the home. She managed the usual household affairs, supervised the slaves, conducted the early training of her children, and was a helpmate to her husband in matters of business and politics.

Families descended from a common ancestor often formed a clan, called *gēns*. Like the family, the *gēns* was united by common religious rites and was governed by a common ruler.

NAMES

A Roman citizen generally had three names: a *praenōmen*, a *nōmen*, and a *cognōmen*.

praenōmen—corresponded to our given name. The Romans had very few given names and often abbreviated them in writing. Some common ones were:

| | |
|------------|--------------|
| A. Aulus | P. Pūblius |
| C. Gāius | Q. Quīntus |
| D. Decimus | S. Sextus |
| L. Lūcius | T. Titus |
| M. Mārcus | Ti. Tiberius |

nōmen—the family name, indicated the clan (*gēns*).

cognōmen—indicated the particular branch of the *gēns*.

Thus, in the name Gāius Iūlius Caesar, Gāius is the *praenōmen*, Iūlius is the *nōmen*, and Caesar is the *cognōmen*.

An honorary *cognōmen* was sometimes given a person for some noteworthy accomplishment. Thus, Pompey received the title *Magnus* for his military exploits. Scipio, after destroying Carthage, was surnamed *Africānus*, and the *cognōmen Augustus* was bestowed upon Octavius by the Roman senate.

EDUCATION

Up to the age of seven, children received their training in the home. They were taught obedience, reverence, patriotism, and respect for the law.

There was no compulsory public education. At the age of seven, the Roman boy was sent to a private elementary school (*lūdus*), where the teacher (*litterātor*) taught him reading, writing, and simple arithmetic. He often had an educated slave, called a *paedagōgus*, who served as tutor and accompanied him to school.

Upon completing elementary school, the Roman boy went to a grammar school, where the teacher (*grammaticus*) taught him Latin and Greek literature. After school hours, the father taught his son the manly sports of horseback riding, swimming, boxing and wrestling, and the use of arms.

Next came the school of rhetoric, or college, where the boy received training in oratory and politics. Finally, as a youth, he could complete his education by traveling abroad to Greece, Rhodes, or Asia Minor to study philosophy, law, and oratory under famous teachers.

The Roman girl rarely attended school. As a rule, she received all her training at home. From her mother she learned to sew, spin, and weave, and the details of housekeeping.

Books, as we know them today, did not exist in Roman times. Instead, writing of permanent value was done with pen and ink on parchment, which was rolled up for convenience in handling. Letters were written on papyrus, a kind of paper made from a reed which grew on the banks of the Nile River. The Romans also wrote on wax tablets (*tabellae* or *tabulae*), made with wooden boards covered with a thin layer of wax. Writing was done by scratching the wax with a pointed instrument called a *stilus* (*stylus*).

DRESS

FOR MEN

tunica (*tunic*) — a short-sleeved woolen shirt reaching to the knees. It was the usual garment for indoor wear.

toga — a large white woolen cloth draped gracefully around the body and extending to the feet. It was worn over the tunic. The toga was the formal garment of Roman citizens.

toga candida — a pure white toga worn by a man seeking public office (hence our word "candidate").

FOR WOMEN

Over a tunic, women wore the

stola — a long, full garment extending to the feet and fastened by a girdle at the waist. It was worn indoors.

palla — a woolen, shawl-like wrap for use outdoors.

FOR CHILDREN

toga praetexta — a toga with a purple border, worn by a boy of aristocratic family until about the age of 16. The adolescent then assumed the *toga virilis*, or adult male toga. Priests and magistrates also wore the *toga praetexta*.

Other articles of clothing worn by the Romans were sandals and shoes. Stockings were unknown. Hats were rarely used.

Roman women were very fond of jewelry. Necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings, all made of expensive materials, were some of the ornaments worn by wealthy matrons. Styles in hairdressing were varied and often elaborate. Some women even dyed their hair and wore wigs.

MEALS

ientāculum — a light breakfast consisting chiefly of bread and wine. Cheese and olives were sometimes added.

prandium — lunch eaten around noon. Among the foods served were bread, wine, cheese, olives, fruit, cold cuts, vegetables, and nuts.

cēna — the dinner or principal meal eaten in the evening. It was usually a hot meal consisting of soup, fish, fowl or meat, vegetables, and fruit.

Foods eaten by the Romans were similar to those eaten today. However, there were some exceptions. Instead of sugar the Romans used honey for sweetening purposes. Olive oil was used instead of butter. In fact, olive oil had a variety of uses besides being a food. It was used as an ointment after bathing, as fuel for lamps, and as an ingredient in the making of perfume.

The following foods, which are very common today, were unknown to the Romans: oranges, potatoes, tomatoes, tea, and coffee. Wine, usually mixed with water, was the favorite drink of the Romans.

Instead of sitting on chairs while eating, guests at banquets reclined on couches. Food was generally picked up with the fingers, since table knives and forks were unknown. Slaves would provide water and towels for the diners to wash their hands.

EXERCISES

A. In the following passage, ten words or expressions are italicized and repeated in the questions below. Select the alternative that best explains each of these ten words or expressions as it is used in the passage.

L. Appulēius Sāturnīnus, son of a prominent Roman family, started his education at a private *elementary school* with an excellent *teacher*. He was fortunate also in having a *Greek slave* who accompanied him to school and helped him in his studies. He went on to grammar school and then to college, where he excelled in the *subjects* usually taught there. Having *relinquished his toga praetexta*, he now assumed the *toga of the adult male*. He completed his education by *studying abroad* under famous teachers.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. L. | 1. Lepidus | 3. Līvius |
| 2. Appulēius | 1. Lūcius | 4. Laelius |
| 1. nōmen | 2. praenōmen | 3. cognōmen |
| 2. cognōmen | | 4. gēns |
| 3. Sāturnīnus | 1. familia | 3. praenōmen |
| 2. cognōmen | | 4. nōmen |
| 4. elementary school | 1. schola | 3. lūdus |
| 2. tabula | | 4. prandium |
| 5. teacher | 1. grammaticus | 3. pontifex |
| 2. magister | | 4. litterātor |
| 6. Greek slave | 1. plēbs | 3. paedagōgus |
| 2. servus | | 4. stilus |
| 7. subjects | 1. oratory and politics | 3. music and psychology |
| 2. history and drama | | 4. economics and sociology |
| 8. relinquished his toga praetexta | 1. at age 12 | 3. at age 21 |
| 2. at age 16 | | 4. at age 40 |
| 9. toga of the adult male | 1. toga praetexta | 3. toga virilis |
| 2. toga candida | | 4. toga antiqua |
| 10. studying abroad | 1. Britain | 3. Germany |
| 2. Gaul | | 4. Greece |

B. For each item in column A, write the letter of the appropriate item in column B.

- | Column A | Column B |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. palla | a. lunch |
| 2. T. | b. a pointed instrument |
| 3. prandium | c. worn by a magistrate |
| 4. stilus | d. stands for Titus |
| 5. stola | e. stands for Tiberius |
| 6. ientāculum | f. a woolen wrap for outdoors |
| 7. toga candida | g. a writing board |
| 8. toga praetexta | h. worn by an office seeker |
| 9. Ti. | i. a garment for indoors |
| 10. tabella | j. breakfast |

C. Complete the following statements:

- Letters were written on _____, a kind of paper made from reeds.
- The abbreviation P. stood for _____.
- The Latin word "familia" is most accurately translated _____.
- A man's short-sleeved, knee-length shirt was called _____.
- The principal meal eaten in the evening was called in Latin _____.
- A Roman citizen usually had a nōmen, a praenōmen, and a _____.
- Roman tabellae were covered with a thin layer of _____.
- Instead of sugar, the Romans used _____.
- As far as education was concerned, the Roman girl received most of her training _____.
- In the name Mārcus Tullius Cicerō, Tullius was called the _____.

D. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write *true*.

- Instead of butter, the Romans used *margarine*.
- The abbreviation L. stood for *Lucullus*.
- Hats were *rarely worn* by the ancient Romans.
- The paterfamiliās had *absolute power* over his children.
- The toga was the *formal garment* of Roman citizens.
- The *cognōmen* corresponded to our given name.
- The māter familiās held a very *inferior* position in the home.
- Wine mixed with water* was the favorite drink of the Romans.
- Public education in ancient Rome was *compulsory*.
- The *cēna* was usually a light meal consisting of bread, wine, and cheese.

Lesson 76. AMUSEMENTS, RELIGION, ROMAN CONTRIBUTIONS

AMUSEMENTS

The Romans were very fond of games of excitement. Their chief public amusements took place in the circus, the theater, and the amphitheater. To pacify the mob, the government provided free amusements and bread lines, exemplified by the expression "*pānem et circēnsēs*" (bread and circus games). The most popular amusements were gladiatorial combats, chariot races, and theatrical performances. A visit to the baths was also a favorite pastime of the Romans.

The Colosseum, completed in 80 A.D., was the greatest amphitheater in Rome and the scene of combats between gladiators, or between gladiators and wild beasts. These contests were often spectacles of human suffering, and served to brutalize the populace. Schools for training gladiators were established in various parts of Italy, and slaves were selected for their skill as fighters. Perhaps the most famous gladiator in Roman history was a Thracian slave named *Spartacus*, who led a formidable uprising of slaves against the Roman state.

In imperial times, the amphitheater was also the scene of religious and political persecutions. Sometimes the Colosseum was flooded with water, and sensational naval battles were fought to amuse the crowd.

The Circus Maximus, the most famous arena in Rome, was used chiefly for chariot races. It was about two thousand feet long and six hundred feet wide. In the center, for about two-thirds of its length, was a dividing wall called the *spina* around which the chariots raced. The number of horses harnessed to a chariot varied, but the four-horse team was the most popular. There were usually seven laps to a race, with sharp turns at each end of the arena. The reckless driving of the charioteers and the frequent accidents that occurred provided the thrills and excitement that the Romans were so fond of.

The Campus Martius was a large area set aside for athletic exercises and military training. Here the young men of Rome were participants rather than spectators, as at the Colosseum and the Circus. They engaged in track and field athletics, such as running, jumping, discus throwing, archery, wrestling, and boxing.

Theatrical performances, mainly pantomimes, comedies, and dances, were held in open-air theaters in the daytime, since there were no lighting facilities. The actors were all slaves, and men played the roles of women.

In 55 B.C. Pompey the Great erected the first permanent theater at Rome. It was built of stone and was supposed to accommodate about twenty thousand people. The seats in front were assigned to the senators. The first fourteen rows behind them were reserved for the knights (*equitēs*). The common people occupied the rest of the seats.

Thermae or *balneae* were elaborate baths corresponding to our country clubs. In addition to all sorts of bathing facilities, the buildings contained gymnasiums, libraries, lounging rooms, and gardens. Among the most famous were the Baths of Caracalla, after which the Pennsylvania Railroad Terminal in New York City was modeled.

RECREATION

Children's games, similar to those of today, were played with dolls, marbles, jacks, tops, kites, hoops, and various other toys. Hide-and-seek, blindman's buff, and leapfrog were also played by Roman children.

Older children and adults played board games, not much different from our chess and checkers. Among the outdoor sports were handball, fishing, hunting, running, jumping, swimming, discus throwing, boxing, wrestling, and fencing.

RELIGION

The Romans lived constantly in the presence of the gods, and their numerous festivals, offerings, and prayers testified to their eagerness to please their deities and obtain favors. From earliest times, the imagination of the Romans saw gods everywhere in nature, and *polytheism*, or the belief in many gods, was universally practiced. There were gods who protected the crops and herds, gods of the weather and seasons, gods of the earth and sky. Gods had to be appeased, and when a disaster struck it proved that some god was offended.

Festivals were held all the year round, the most famous being the *Saturnalia*, dedicated to the god Saturn. This holiday took place at about the time we celebrate Christmas. It was a period of riotous merrymaking when even slaves were allowed their freedom.

Since religion was the function of the state, all temples, statues, and altars to the gods were built by the government. A very important temple was the temple of Vesta, where six Vestal Virgins kept the sacred fire forever burning. The priests, including the *pontifex maximus* (chief priest), were government officials, not necessarily trained for the priesthood.

After the conquest of Greece, the Romans identified their own gods with those of Greece. A list of Roman deities with their Greek equivalents appears on the next page.

| ROMAN | |
|-------------------|--|
| Jupiter | king of the gods |
| Juno | queen of the gods |
| Mercury | messenger of the gods |
| Mars | god of war |
| Neptune | god of the sea |
| Saturn | god of the harvest |
| Apollo | god of the sun, song, and prophecy |
| Vulcan | god of fire |
| Bacchus | god of wine |
| Cupid | god of love |
| Venus | goddess of love and beauty |
| Minerva | goddess of wisdom |
| Diana | goddess of the chase and moon |
| Ceres | goddess of agriculture |
| Vesta | goddess of the hearth |
| Janus | strictly a Roman god; the god of beginnings and doorways. He is always represented with two faces. |
| Larēs and Penātēs | gods of the household |

| GREEK |
|------------|
| Zeus |
| Hera |
| Hermes |
| Ares |
| Poseidon |
| Cronus |
| Apollo |
| Hephaestus |
| Dionysus |
| Eros |
| Aphrodite |
| Athena |
| Artemis |
| Demeter |
| Hestia |

ROMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVILIZATION

1. **Language.** The Roman alphabet, derived originally from the Phoenicians, is in use today throughout most of the world. Latin is the basis of the Romance languages, the chief ones being Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Roumanian. English, though not a Romance language, has been profoundly influenced by Latin. Roman numerals are still in limited use: as chapter headings in books, as hours on the face of clocks, and as dates on the cornerstones of buildings.

2. **Law.** Considered by many to be Rome's most valuable gift to the modern world, Roman law forms the basis of many legal systems today. The Laws of the Twelve Tables, engraved on bronze tablets and displayed in the Forum, were the foundation of Roman law.

Rome's greatest jurists recognized the equality of man before the law and the need for equal protection of the rights of person and property. Our own Declaration of Independence has embodied these ideas of justice. The Emperor Justinian codified the great mass of laws and thus facilitated the transmission of Roman law to the modern world.

3. **Literature.** In prose and poetry, Roman writers have left us a rich legacy, outstanding in the field of world literature. We need but mention Caesar and Livy in the field of history; Cicero in the field of oratory, philosophy, and letters; and Vergil and Horace in the field of poetry. These authors are still read and enjoyed today in schools throughout the world, and have exercised a profound influence upon modern writers.

4. **Government.** In the organization and administration of the republic, the Romans have left their imprint on modern political systems. With the expansion of her territory and the formation and administration of her provinces, Rome showed a genius for organization that became a model for many modern governments.

5. **Engineering and Architecture.** The Romans were famous for their construction of roads, aqueducts, and bridges. They also perfected the rounded arch and the dome.

In imperial times Rome became an imposing city of magnificent public buildings, temples, aqueducts, basilicas, theaters, columns, triumphal arches, and tombs. Today's tourist can still see the ancient Roman Forum with its ruins, the Colosseum, the Pantheon, the mausoleum of Hadrian, the arches of Titus, Severus, and Constantine, and other monuments of a bygone day.

6. **The Calendar.** The calendar in use today is based essentially on the calendar revised by Julius Caesar. It was thus known as the *Julian calendar*. In the sixteenth century, Pope Gregory XIII made some further minor corrections, whence the term *Gregorian calendar*.

EXERCISES

A. In the following passage, ten words or expressions are italicized and repeated in the questions below. Select the alternative that best explains each of these ten words or expressions as it is used in the passage.

It was the time of the *Saturnalia*. Lucius and I decided to go to the *arena* to watch the chariot races. We would have preferred to see a gladiatorial contest in Rome's greatest *amphitheater*, but none was scheduled for that day. On the way, we passed the *Thermae* Caracallae and the *Campus Martius*, which was named after the *god of war*. In the arena itself, the charioteers were getting ready for their seven-lap race. Enthusiasm ran high, and the joys of *Bacchus* and *Venus* were in evidence everywhere. One charioteer, making a sharp turn around the *dividing wall*, suffered a spill and had to be carried off the track. This accident, plus the fact that the arena was so *long*, delayed the close of the contest until after sundown.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>Saturnalia</i> | |
| 1. February | 3. July |
| 2. May | 4. December |
| 2. <i>arena</i> | |
| 1. Colosseum | 3. Campus Martius |
| 2. Circus Maximus | 4. Comitium |
| 3. <i>amphitheater</i> | |
| 1. Cūria | 3. Campus Martius |
| 2. Thermae | 4. Colosseum |
| 4. <i>Thermae</i> | |
| 1. amphitheater | 3. arena |
| 2. baths | 4. temple |
| 5. <i>Campus Martius</i> | |
| 1. athletic exercises | 3. chariot races |
| 2. gladiatorial combats | 4. theatrical performances |
| 6. <i>god of war</i> | |
| 1. Vulcan | 3. Mars |
| 2. Janus | 4. Saturn |
| 7. <i>Bacchus</i> | |
| 1. god of fire | 3. god of love |
| 2. god of the household | 4. god of wine |
| 8. <i>Venus</i> | |
| 1. Aphrodite | 3. Athena |
| 2. Eros | 4. Hera |
| 9. <i>dividing wall</i> | |
| 1. mūrus | 3. vāllum |
| 2. spīna | 4. circēnsēs |
| 10. <i>long</i> | |
| 1. 200 feet | 3. 2000 feet |
| 2. 500 feet | 4. 5000 feet |

B. Complete the following statements:

- Latin is the basis of the languages.
- The chief priest was called by the Romans
- The translation of pānem et circēnsēs is
- The Larēs and Penātēs were
- The calendar in use today is essentially the one revised by the Roman
- Vulcan was the god of
- The Roman goddess of wisdom was called
- The Greek god Hermes was called by the Romans.
- The god with two faces was called
- Roman baths corresponded to our

C. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write *true*.

- The Laws of the Twelve Tables formed the foundation of *Roman* law.
- Penn Station in New York City was modeled after the *Colosseum*.
- The Romans practiced polytheism, the belief in *gladiatorial combats*.
- Saturn was the god of the *harvest*.
- Poseidon was the Greek counterpart of *Apollo*.
- Children's games in ancient Rome were *similar* to those of today.
- The Romans perfected the dome and the *pointed* arch.
- Diana* was the goddess of the chase and of the moon.
- Theatrical performances in Rome were held in open-air theaters in the *daytime*.
- Eros among the Greeks corresponded to *Cupid* among the Romans.

Lesson 77. REVIEW OF CIVILIZATION

A. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write *true*.

1. The period of the Republic was marked by *civil* wars.
2. Conquered lands were governed by Roman *consuls*.
3. Marius was a bitter enemy of *Sulla*.
4. *Parchment* and *papyrus* were used by the Romans for writing.
5. *Antony* found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble.
6. The *impluvium* was the opening in the ceiling of the *atrium*.
7. The pontifex maximus was *one of the Roman deities*.
8. The system of slavery was one of the reasons for the *growth* of Rome.
9. Romulus and Remus were the sons of *Mercury*.
10. The *triclinium* was an open courtyard with garden and columns.
11. Rome was located practically in the *center* of Italy.
12. The traditional date of the founding of Rome is *753 B.C.*
13. *Pompey* was given the cognomen Augustus.
14. Guests usually *sat on chairs* while eating.
15. Vergil and Horace were outstanding in the field of *prose* writing.

B. For each item in column A, write the letter of the appropriate item in column B.

Column A

1. Vulcan
2. Mercury
3. Apollo
4. Diana
5. Vesta
6. Neptune
7. Mars
8. Minerva
9. Ceres
10. Bacchus

Column B

- a. god of the sun
- b. goddess of the hearth
- c. god of the sea
- d. goddess of wisdom
- e. god of fire
- f. goddess of agriculture
- g. god of wine
- h. god of war
- i. messenger of the gods
- j. goddess of the chase

C. Select the word or expression in parentheses that best completes each statement.

1. The stilus was used as a (sword, dagger, writing instrument, spear).
2. The spacious reception room in a Roman house was the (tablinum, atrium, impluvium, compluvium).
3. A common drink at a Roman meal was (wine, water, milk, beer).

4. Gladiatorial combats took place in the (Thermae, Circus Maximus, Campus Martius, Colosseum).
5. The senate house was called the (basilica, rōstra, cūria, balnea).
6. The road that connected Rome with Brundisium was the Via (Flāminia, Appia, Aurēlia, Latīna).
7. The class of society that connoted wealth was the (patrician, plebeian, equestrian, senatorial).
8. The highest official in government was the (consul, praetor, quaestor, aedile).
9. The consul held office for (1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years).
10. Mare Nostrum referred to the (Atlantic Ocean, Black Sea, Adriatic Sea, Mediterranean Sea).
11. Tenement houses were known as (villae, insulae, silvae, pallae).
12. The stola was worn by (men, magistrates, women, priests).
13. The man who accompanied the child to school was called (grammaticus, lūdus, litterātor, paedagōgus).
14. The first or given name of a Roman was called the (cognōmen, prae-nōmen, nōmen, gēns).
15. The Romans annually elected (one, two, three, four) consul(s).
16. The Roman girl received most of her training (in school, at temple, at home, with a private tutor).
17. The freedman was not permitted to (hold office, vote, hold property, marry).
18. The aedile was a (judge, treasurer, censor, administrator of public works).
19. The power to veto any law was exercised by the (quaestor, tribune, aedile, praetor).
20. The first Roman emperor was (Caesar, Augustus, Tarquinius, Romulus).

D. Complete the following sentences by supplying the missing words:

1. The Larēs and Penātēs were Roman gods of the -----.
2. The god ----- is always pictured with two faces.
3. Priests and magistrates wore the toga -----.
4. In New York City, ----- was modeled after the Baths of Caracalla.
5. Rome is said to have been founded in 753 B.C. by -----.
6. The police-firemen who patrolled the streets at night were called -----.
7. The three orders of society were the senatorial, the equestrian, and the -----.
8. The three officials in the cursus honōrum in descending order were the consul, the praetor, and the -----.
9. Rome reached its greatest territorial extent during the reign of Emperor -----.

10. The initials S.P.Q.R. and the *fascēs* both symbolized Roman -----
11. Apollo was the god of the sun, song, and -----
12. The three names of a Roman citizen were called the *praenōmen*, the *nōmen*, and the -----
13. Q. is the abbreviation for the Roman name -----
14. The wax tablet used for writing purposes was called a -----
15. The pure white toga worn by a man seeking public office was called a toga -----

E. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write *true*.

1. In Roman theatrical performances *men* played the parts of women.
2. Latin is the basis of the *Romance* languages, such as French, Spanish, and Portuguese.
3. The *Colosseum* was used principally for chariot racing.
4. Spartacus was a *gladiator* who led a revolt against the Roman state.
5. The spina was the *arena* in the Circus Maximus.
6. *In back* of the *equitēs* in a Roman theater sat the senators.
7. The Emperor *Justinian* put Roman law into a complete codified form.
8. *Pompey* erected the first permanent theater at Rome in 55 B.C.
9. During the *Saturnalia*, slaves were permitted temporary freedom.
10. Rome's outlet to the sea was at *Naples*.

F. In the following passage, ten words or expressions are italicized and repeated in the questions below. Select the alternative that best explains each of these ten words or expressions as it is used in the passage.

Ancient Rome has made many contributions to modern civilization, and her influence still continues. When the *Rēgīna Viārum* was built in the 4th century B.C., who would have realized that it would still be used in the 20th century A.D.? The great *amphitheater* in Rome is still in use, and operatic performances can be seen today in the *Baths of Caracalla*. The *foundations of Roman law* still serve as a guide to modern legal systems. The *Romance languages* spoken today have their origin in Latin. In literature Rome's influence is still felt in the writings of her *most illustrious orator* and her *poets*. In architecture the *structures* dedicated to the Emperors Titus, Severus, and Constantine still stand as a reminder of Roman grandeur. Even our calendar underwent reform by a *famous Roman*. In its *long history* Rome has been called the epitome of Western civilization.

1. *Rēgīna Viārum*
 1. Via Aurelia
 2. Via Flāminia

3. Via Appia
4. Via Sacra

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. <i>amphitheater</i> | |
| 1. Colosseum | 3. Circus Maximus |
| 2. Campus Martius | 4. Capitōlium |
| 3. <i>Baths of Caracalla</i> | |
| 1. basilicae | 3. comitia |
| 2. thermae | 4. rōstra |
| 4. <i>foundations of Roman law</i> | |
| 1. cūria | 3. Twelve Tables |
| 2. familia | 4. balneae |
| 5. <i>Romance languages</i> | |
| 1. English and French | 3. Greek and French |
| 2. Spanish and German | 4. Italian and Portuguese |
| 6. <i>most illustrious orator</i> | |
| 1. Cicero | 3. Augustus |
| 2. Demosthenes | 4. Pompey |
| 7. <i>poets</i> | |
| 1. Caesar and Livy | 3. Vergil and Horace |
| 2. Cato and Octavius | 4. Cicero and Scipio |
| 8. <i>structures</i> | |
| 1. domes | 3. aqueducts |
| 2. arches | 4. columns |
| 9. <i>famous Roman</i> | |
| 1. Pliny | 3. Hadrian |
| 2. Gregory | 4. Caesar |
| 10. <i>long history</i> | |
| 1. 500 years | 3. 2000 years |
| 2. 1200 years | 4. 3000 years |

G. The English words in column A are derived from the names of Roman gods or goddesses. Write the name of the deity connected with each word. Then for each word in column A, write the letter of its meaning in column B.

Column A

1. vulcanize
2. martial
3. cereal
4. janitor
5. mercurial
6. bacchanalian
7. vestal
8. jovial
9. junoesque
10. saturnine

Column B

- a. lively, fickle
- b. pertaining to drunken revelry
- c. chaste, pure
- d. treat with high temperature
- e. queenly, haughty
- f. gloomy, grave
- g. warlike
- h. a grain
- i. doorkeeper, porter
- j. favorable, merry

H. For each name in column A, write the letter of the Greek equivalent in column B.

Column A

1. Mars
2. Jupiter
3. Cupid
4. Minerva
5. Ceres
6. Mercury
7. Bacchus
8. Juno
9. Neptune
10. Venus

Column B

- a. Eros
- b. Demeter
- c. Poseidon
- d. Hera
- e. Ares
- f. Dionysus
- g. Athena
- h. Aphrodite
- i. Zeus
- j. Hermes

**Lesson 78. FAMOUS PEOPLE AND MYTHS
IN ROMAN HISTORY**

FAMOUS PEOPLE

Aeneas — Trojan leader and reputed ancestor of the Romans. He displayed exemplary devotion to father, country, and the gods.

Brutus — Rome's first consul. He was known for his heroic devotion to duty by putting to death his own sons for plotting treason.

Cato the Elder — Roman censor famed for his frugality, self-sacrifice, and devotion to duty.

Cincinnatus — Roman farmer-patriot who was called from his plow to lead the Roman army. After defeating the enemy, he modestly returned to his farm, rather than continue in high position.

Cornelia — Devoted mother of the Gracchi brothers, who, pointing to her sons, exclaimed, "These are my jewels."

Decius Mus — Roman consul and general. He rushed into the midst of the enemy and sacrificed his life, thereby bringing victory to the Romans.

Fabricius — Displayed integrity of character by refusing to be bribed by Pyrrhus, the famous Greek general.

Gracchi brothers (Gaius and Tiberius) — Sons of Cornelia. As tribunes of the people, both showed sympathy for the underprivileged and tried to enact laws in their favor. In the course of duty, they were slain by their opponents.

Horatius — Courageous Roman who defended a bridge over the Tiber to delay the Etruscans who were advancing on Rome.

Mucius Scaevola — Roman patriot. Ordered to be burnt alive by King Porsena, Mucius showed extreme physical endurance and open defiance of the Etruscans by thrusting his right hand into the fire prepared for his execution. Subsequently, he was nicknamed "Scaevola" (left-handed), since he lost the use of his right hand.

Regulus — Roman general captured in the First Punic War. He kept his word of honor to return to his Carthaginian captors, even though he knew that it meant death.

Remus — Twin brother of Romulus.

Romulus — Legendary founder of Rome.

FAMOUS MYTHS

Baucis and Philemon — An aged couple who, having hospitably entertained Jupiter and Mercury in disguise, were later rewarded by the gods.

Ceres and Proserpina — Ceres was the goddess of agriculture whose daughter, Proserpina, was carried off by Pluto to the underworld. Through the intervention of Jupiter, it was arranged that Proserpina spend one-third of the year with Pluto and the remaining part on earth with her mother.

Daedalus and Icarus — Daedalus, a craftsman, made the first successful flight by using wings fastened with wax. His son Icarus, despite his father's warning, flew so near the sun that the wax melted. Icarus fell into the sea and drowned.

Hercules — Greek hero noted for his strength. He performed the "Twelve Labors."

Medusa — One of three Gorgons, pictured with wings and claws and a head covered with serpents. Until finally beheaded by Perseus, the famous Greek hero, she could turn to stone anyone who looked at her.

Midas — King of Phrygia renowned for his wealth. Whatever he touched turned to gold.

Orpheus and Eurydice — Orpheus, a celebrated Greek poet, enchanted with his lyre wild beasts, trees, and even rocks. When his wife Eurydice died, he was able, with the charm of his music, to enter Hades and bring her back, only to lose her again when he gazed back.

Perseus and Andromeda — Perseus, a Greek hero, slew a sea monster which threatened the life of Andromeda, chained to a rock as a sacrifice. Perseus later married the girl he had saved. He also cut off the head of Medusa.

Pyramus and Thisbe — Famous lovers whose parents refused to give consent to their marriage. Their young lives ended in tragic death.

Theseus and the Minotaur — Theseus, a Greek hero, slew the Minotaur, a monster half-man and half-bull. Theseus was aided by Ariadne, daughter of King Minos.

EXERCISES

A. Name the person referred to in each of the following statements:

1. He was called from his farm to lead the Roman army.
2. He kept his word of honor after being released by his Carthaginian captors.
3. He performed the famous "Twelve Labors."

4. He was the legendary founder of Rome.
5. He defended a bridge against the enemy.
6. By thrusting his right hand into a fire, he showed his defiance of King Porsena.
7. He was a king famous for his golden touch.
8. She was the devoted mother of the Gracchi brothers.
9. His own sons were put to death by this consul.
10. He was a Trojan leader and reputed ancestor of the Romans.

B. Each statement below is followed by four words or expressions in parentheses. Select the one that will complete the statement correctly.

1. Perseus slew a sea monster, thereby saving the life of (Eurydice, Andromeda, Helen, Proserpina).
2. Daedalus is famous in mythology for having fashioned (wings, sandals, precious stones, wax tablets).
3. Medusa is always pictured with a head full of (serpents, jewels, curls, thorns).
4. Pyramus and Thisbe were famous (consuls, lovers, craftsmen, heroes).
5. Theseus slew the Minotaur with the aid of (Minos, Andromeda, Proserpina, Ariadne).
6. Baucis and Philemon were (an aged couple, young lovers, a god and goddess, a craftsman and his son).
7. The girl carried off by Pluto to the underworld was (Medusa, Cornelia, Proserpina, Ceres).
8. Eurydice was almost rescued from Hades by (Orpheus, Perseus, Theseus, Hercules).
9. Decius Mus is famous in Roman history for having (enacted good laws, sacrificed his life, saved a Roman's life, defended a bridge).
10. The Roman who showed integrity of character by refusing to be bribed by Pyrrhus was (Cato, Brutus, Fabricius, Regulus).

C. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write *true*.

1. Scaevola was so called because he lost the use of his *right hand*.
2. Whatever King *Midas* touched turned to gold.
3. Daedalus' son, *Baucis*, fell into the sea and drowned.
4. The Minotaur was a monster, half-man and *half-goat*.
5. Medusa was beheaded by *Perseus*.
6. *Julia* was the mother of the Gracchi brothers.
7. Pyramus and Thisbe were a pair of famous *lovers*.
8. Orpheus was almost successful in bringing *Eurydice* out of Hades.
9. Cato the Elder was known for his *lavish spending*.
10. Brutus *refused* to put to death his own sons accused of treason.