

Chapter 10: Rome: From City-State to Empire: 10-5 Roman Culture  
Book Title: World Civilizations  
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## 10-5 Roman Culture

In general, the Romans borrowed heavily and willingly from the Greek heritage in philosophy, the sciences, and the arts, but that does not mean that they developed no native culture. Their own genius and inclinations lay more in the fields of law and administration than in the realm of imagination or the fine arts. In the practical aspects of public life—such as engineering, sanitation, finance, and a system of justice—the Romans had few equals. They were always willing to experiment until they found a winning combination—or at least one that was acceptable to the majority of citizens. At the same time, they never failed to make elaborate bows to a sometimes-fictional tradition and to insist that they were following in the footsteps of the hallowed past when, in fact, they were making changes demanded by new circumstances.

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