**Ancient Rome Vocabulary**

1. Byzantine Empire- The name by which the eastern half of the Roman empire became known some time after AD 400.
2. Carthage- An ancient city on the north coast of Africa. This city is famous for fighting against Rome in the Punic Wars.
3. Colosseum- A large stadium in ancient Rome where athletic events and gladiator matches took place.
4. Constantinople- A city established as the new eastern capital of the Roman empire by the emperor Constantine in AD 330, now called Istanbul.
5. Forum- The city market and meeting place in the center of ancient Rome.
6. Pantheon- A large, domed shaped temple built in ancient Rome to honor many gods and goddesses.
7. Pompeii- An ancient city in southwestern Italy that was buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.
8. Tiber River- A river flowing through the city of Rome.
9. Augustus- First Roman emperor, won the civil war following Julius Caesar's assassination and went on to unify the empire and establish the Pax Romana.
10. Constantine- Roman emperor who founded Constantinople as the new eastern capital of the Roman Empire.
11. Diocletian- Roman emperor who divided the empire in two and oversaw the eastern part.
12. Hannibal- General of Carthage who marched his army and elephants from Spain to Rome in the Second Punic War.
13. Julius Caesar- Roman general who became the republic's dictator. Part of First Triumvirate led to a civil war 49-45 BCE.
14. Aqueducts- A high, arched structure built to carry water over long distances.
15. Consuls- One of two elected officials of the Roman Republic who commanded the army and were supreme judges. These elected officials had veto power.
16. Dictator- A ruler who has absolute power.
17. Gladiator- A Roman athlete, usually a slave, criminal, or prisoner or war, who was forced to fight for the entertainment of the public.
18. Patricians- A member of the noble families who controlled all power in the early years of the Roman Republic.
19. Pax Romana- A period of peace for the Roman Empire that began with the rule of Augustus and lasted for about 200 years.
20. Plebeians- A common farmer, trader, or craftworker in ancient Rome.
21. Polytheism- The belief in many gods and goddesses.
22. Punic Wars- A series of conflicts between Rome and Carthage ending in a victory for Rome.
23. Republic- A form of government in which citizens elect representatives to speak or act for them. The period from 507 to 31 BCE during which Rome was largely governed by the aristocratic Roman Senate.
24. Senate- The lawmaking body and most powerful branch in ancient Rome's Republic. A council whose members were the heads of wealthy, landowning families.
25. Tribunes- Elected leaders of ancient Rome who represented the interests of the plebeians. One of the branches of the Roman Republic government. Could veto, or block, actions that threatened the interests of the lower class.
26. Twelve Tables-The earliest written collection of Roman laws, drawn up by patricians, became the foundation of Roman law.
27. Principate- Period following the Roman Republic; adopted by Augustus to conceal his military dictatorship
28. Equites- Prosperous landowners second in wealth and status to the senatorial aristocracy. The Roman emperors allied with this group to counterbalance the influence of the old aristocracy and used these people to staff the imperial civil service (governmental bureaucracy).
29. Romanization- The process by which the Latin language and Roman culture became dominant in the western provinces. Indigenous peoples in the provinces often chose to Romanize because of the political and economic advantages that it brought, as well as the allure of Roman success.
30. “Third-Century-Crisis”- Historians’ term for the political, military, and economic turmoil that beset the Roman Empire during much of the third century CE; frequent changes of ruler, civil wars, barbarian invasions, decline of urban centers, and near-destruction of long-distance commerce. Diocletian restored order by making fundamental changes.