

The Roman Empire, About 117 C.E.



Geography Skills

Score 1 point for each correct answer. Use the map on the previous page to check shading and labeling.

1. Students should label the Alps on their maps.
2. Students should label the Apennine Mountains as the range that runs the length of Italy.
3. Students' label should show that Rome is located on the Tiber River.
4. A peninsula is a land mass that is surrounded on three sides by water. Check that students label the seas that make Italy a peninsula—the Ionian, Tyrrhenian, Mediterranean, and Adriatic seas.
5. Check that students label the Po River. The Po River runs in an east-west direction. The Tiber runs in a north-south direction. The Romans could use the Tiber River as a route to the sea. Also, because the city was located at the best place to cross the river, it became a center of trade.
6. The Roman Empire expanded as far north as Britain, and in Europe, as far west as Spain.
7. Students should label the Sahara as the southernmost boundary of the Roman Empire.

Critical Thinking

Questions may have more than one correct answer. Score 1 to 3 points for each reasonable answer, depending on the strength of students' geographic reasoning.

8. The Italian peninsula was centrally located in the Mediterranean region, which made it easier for the Romans to trade with other countries, as well as to transport armies and supplies.
9. The altitude of the Alps would have made it difficult for people to interact with cultures in northern Europe. The Apennines would have made it difficult for people on Italy's east coast to interact with those on the west coast. It is likely that the mountainous geography isolated individual communities in ancient Italy,

allowing little contact with other Romans or other cultures. This would change as Roman technological advances made travel easier.

10. The Romans would have been more likely to choose a water route to Spain. A water route would have been much shorter, and stops to restock supplies could have been made at Sardinia and other islands along the way.
11. The evidence lies in the expansion of the Roman Empire itself, eventually extending as far north as Britain, as far east as Spain, south to Africa, and west to Syria. It is unlikely that the Romans could have succeeded without sea travel.

Using Scores to Inform Instruction

Geography Skills A score of 4 out of 7 or better indicates that students have acquired sufficient geographic information to proceed.

Critical Thinking A score of 7 out of 12 or better indicates that students are beginning to understand the relationships between physical geography and the different ways in which people live.

Modifying Instruction

ELL or Learners with Special Education

Needs Consider focusing on map-reading questions or limiting the number of "Critical Thinking" questions.

Students with Weak Map or Critical Thinking Skills

Assign appropriate pages from the Social Studies Skills Toolkit in the back of the Lesson Masters.