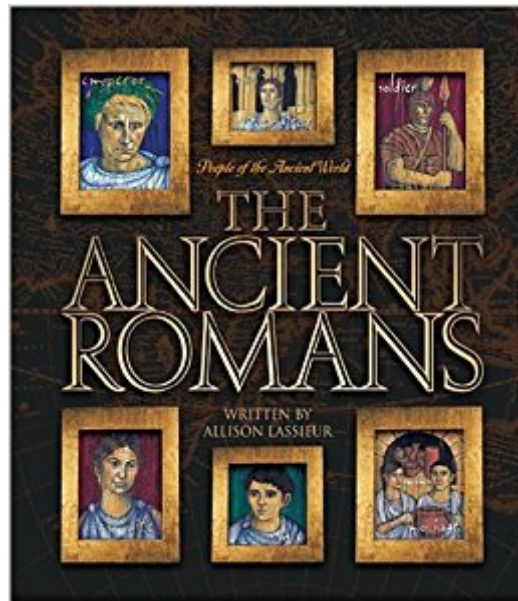


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The Ancient Romans (People Of The Ancient World)



Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. Details the duties of an emperor, the activities of an architect, and describes some of the discoveries and writings that led to our present-day understanding of this fascinating civilization. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Series: People of the Ancient World

Library Binding: 112 pages

Publisher: Children's Press(CT) (September 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0531123383

ISBN-13: 978-0531123386

Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 8.3 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,059,890 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > Teens >](#)

[Education & Reference > History > Medieval](#) #137 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Ancient](#)

Customer Reviews

Grade 4-7 - Even libraries that have plenty of material on the topic may want to consider this volume for the full-color photos and reproductions alone. The writing style is lively and some lesser-known incidents from Roman history are included, which add great interest. For example, a law passed by the Roman Senate in 216 B.C. severely limited the ability of women to gain and hold wealth. By 195 B.C. the so-called "Oppian Law" was up for renewal, and Roman women took to the streets in a massive demonstration against it (described by the historical writer Livy). The law was repealed. Chapters cover not only government, the army, women, religion, and architecture, but also working-class Romans and slaves. The up-to-date bibliography includes videos and Web sites. An excellent introduction. - David Pauli, Hillsboro Public Library, OR Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Gr. 6-8. This attractive, thorough, and comprehensible book, part of the People of the Ancient World series, offers a stellar introduction to life in ancient Rome. Each section covers a different aspect of

Roman life. The first and most complex section describes the often-volatile Roman government as it evolved over several centuries, piecing together enough details about specific emperors and senate bodies to sketch a clear picture of its early rule. Later sections concentrate on Rome's impressive achievements in philosophy, writing, art, and architecture and then cover life for all different strata of the social system, from the aristocratic patricians down to the slaves. Special attention is given to cultural attitudes and how they differ from current perceptions. Several sections go to great lengths to extract from minimal archaeological and literary clues information on women in the culture, even citing one find proving there were female gladiators. This book's beautiful presentation, inviting details, and impressive extras (including a fully illustrated biographical dictionary) help make it an exceptional addition to any upper-elementary and YA collection. Roger Leslie

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This series is a must have for a simple reference guide. The chapters are easy to read to my elementary aged children and yet hold enough information to draw in my 5th grader. The pictures are fabulous and have inspired great works of art by the children. I am well on my way to owning all the books in this series. I use them as a spine unit book for homeschooling history and geography.

There are a million books on Ancient Rome, but this one is a good staple for study. It is comprehensive, covering a lot of information about government, army, culture. It's a step up from Jane Shuter, DK, and other introductory texts for younger elementary students. It's pretty easy to read but the length makes it more suitable for 4th-8th grade. Timelines, illustrations, insets are all good. Text is formatted nicely. I also appreciated how the section on women and religion was not lewd (i.e. the Vestal Virgins was discrete and no strange naked statues). The telling of the Roman history is morally and religiously neutral. I would have liked a little more ethical interpretation, for example, of the gladiatorial games the way Elizabeth Mann does in "The Colosseum." And I think it could have integrated Christianity a little more into the Roman story--Jesus is not mentioned at all and there are basically no touchpoints with church history mentioned except for Constantine's conversion. I don't think it would have rocked the neutrality to give a little more nod to the emperors and Christian martyrs. But these are just small detractions. Overall it forms a good backbone for this subject for the upper elementary age. I agree with the other reviewer who recommended the whole series (People of the Ancient World). We have several by Lassieur and others, and have enjoyed them all.

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