

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Name: _____
Date: _____

Who's Who in Roman History Planning Guide

As part of your study of the Roman Empire, it is important that you have a broad knowledge of many historically significant people, not just the most famous emperors. To teach one another about famous Romans, each student will be assigned a role in a classroom documentary that will be taped and aired as part of our study of the Roman Empire. All students will work individually to complete the following requirements:

Research your historical figure and record information such as:

- The person's complete name
- The time period during which the person lived
- Why this person would be considered a famous Roman
- Three examples of the person's work or three of their major accomplishments
- Details about how other Romans felt about this person
- Information about this person's social class, educational level, and family life
- Details about his/her personality and personal conduct
- Any other information that will be of interest to others

Note: You will use this information to construct your script and to assist you during class discussion activities.

The following resources will be helpful to you as you conduct your research:

The Roman Empire in the First Century Web site

[<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/index.html>], and

- Virtual Library [<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/special/library.html>]
- Timeline [<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/special/timeline01.html>],
- Enemies and Rebels [<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/enemies.html>]
- Writers [<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/writers.html>]
- Religion [<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/religion.html>]
- Emperors [<http://www.pbs.org/empires/romans/empire/emperors.html>]

The Famous Romans [<http://www.roman-empire.net/children/famous.html>]

section on the Roman Empire Web site [<http://www.roman-empire.net>] has information on some of the military leaders and emperors.

The About.com Web site [<http://about.com/>] has a section, Famous Men of the Ancient Roman Empire [http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_list_roman.htm], which provides a list of key Roman historical figures.

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- Create a poster board to represent your person on the timeline. On it, include:
 - A picture of your person
 - Dates when s/he lived
 - Three details about the person and his/her work or achievements
 - A sentence that summarizes why this person was important in Roman history

Note: This should be a high quality poster with clear, easy-to-read text, a clear color picture or drawing, and no spelling, grammar, or usage errors.

- Write your script. Keep in mind that your job is to teach other people about the person you have researched by portraying the person in a scene that you act out. You may need to enlist the help of your classmates for acting out the script if you write lines for multiple characters. Include no more than three characters in your script. With your script, you should include the following information:
 - A cast of characters (no more than three)
 - A description of the setting (keep it simple)
 - A list of props (not too many)
 - A title for the scene
 - Specific lines for each character along with directions for how the lines should be read (for instance, sadly, quietly or with excitement.)
 - Stage directions (when does a specific character enter, where should he move on the stage/performance area, etc.)

Scripts should have a beginning, middle, and an end. They should tell the story of the person you are depicting. It could be a story that focuses on a major event in the person's life or an original story you create where we are able to learn lots of information about the character through his words and actions. Note: scripts should be neat and easy to read and understand. There should be no spelling, grammar, or usage errors in the writing.

- Practice your scene so that you know your lines and the other actors do as well. You will be required to perform the scene for taping without using your script.
- Make and collect all props and costumes needed for performing your scene. Be sure to conduct a dress rehearsal of your scene before you are scheduled to tape.
- Record your scene, from memory and in full costume, at the appointed time.
- Plan and practice your one to two minute presentation of the poster you will place on the display timeline. In this presentation, your job is to summarize your person by discussing the content of the poster and what you learned from your research.