



Facts about Rome

Break into pairs. Examine each fact. Using the chart, categorize each fact. When you are finished, play the Bell Game: “Name that Theme!”

More advanced: Read facts from your textbook or the encyclopedia.

“Identify the location and describe the rise of the Roman Republic, including the importance of such mythical and historical figures as Aeneas, Romulus and Remus, Cincinnatus, Julius Caesar, and Cicero.”

The Five Themes of Geography

1. Location

Exact location: What is the latitude and longitude?

Relative location: “It is north of such and such.”

2. Place

What’s it like in this place? Describe the characteristics!

Physical features: Natural (land, rivers, mountains, vegetation, climate).

Cultural features: Human (everything that is man-made!)

3. Interaction

How people interact with the environment = land, rivers, sea, climate.

How people adapt to, modify, and depend upon the environment.

Interactions: Grow crops, dig canals, mine for minerals, wear thin clothing for hot climate.

4. Movement

People move in and out. Who? Why? By what means?

Goods move in and out. What? Why? By what means?

Ideas move in and out. What? Why? By what means?

As a result of all this movement, this place is connected to other places.

What places?

5. Region

A region is a territory or area that has common physical or human features.

The Mediterranean Sea is a region with a common physical feature (sea, soil, climate) and cultural features (farming, culture, history).

Location

- Rome lies in Europe.
- Rome lies where three continents meet - Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- Rome lies near the Mediterranean Sea.
- Rome lies west/northwest of Greece.
- Rome lies on the Tiber River.
- Rome lies on the Italian Peninsula.
- The peninsula juts out into the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.
- The peninsula looks like a boot.
- Rome seemed to be protected by geographic barriers: The sea was on three sides and the Alps lay to the north.
- But pirates raided the seacoast and invaders could come through mountain passes in the Alps. After all, Hannibal (and his elephants) walked through a mountain valley and invaded Rome.

Aeneas

- Long before there was a city of Rome, many landless farmers from Greece moved to Italy.
- According to Homer, Aeneas was a hero of the Trojan War.
- According to Virgil, Aeneas helped found the city of Rome.
- Virgil was a famous Roman poet. He wrote an epic poem about Aeneas. It was called the *Aenid*.

Romulus & Remus

- Romulus and Remus were legendary twins - who founded the city of Rome.

Answers

If you can explain your answer, you are correct.

- Location, Region
- Location, Regions
- Location, Region
- Location
- Location
Place - physical feature
- Region
- Region
- Region
- Regions
Place - physical features
- Movement
- Movement

Stories are man-made:

- Place - cultural feature.
- Place - cultural feature.
- Place - cultural feature.
- Place - cultural feature.

The Natural Setting

16. Rome had fertile soil.
17. Like southern California, Rome has a Mediterranean climate.
18. Rome has hot, dry summers and cool winters.
19. The city of Rome was built on top of seven wooded hills
20. The Seven Hills overlook the Tiber River.
21. The most famous hill was *Palatine* Hill. (Notice the word *Latin*.)
22. The city was built for defense.
23. Rome lies 14 miles from the Mediterranean Sea.
24. Pirates roamed the Mediterranean Sea.

Farming

25. Rome began as a small village of shepherds.
26. They raised sheep on the hillsides.
27. Farmers then raised goats, cows, pigs, and chickens.
28. Farmers raised dry crops - wheat, olives, and grapes.
29. The typical farm had wheatfields, olive groves, and vineyards.
30. Farmers chopped down the all the trees for firewood.

The City of Rome

31. Rome had one million people.
32. Rome was built on seven fortified hills.
33. Rome's hills made it a fort against enemy attacks.
34. Ships sailed from Rome, down the Tiber River, to the Mediterranean Sea.
35. Pirates stayed at sea; they did not sail up the Tiber and raid Rome.
36. The most famous hill was Palatine Hill.
37. Most of the buildings were made of marble.
38. The Romans were good architects: They built public baths, government buildings, temple, theaters, and sports arenas.
39. The Romans were great engineers: They built aqueducts that carried water from the mountains to the city of Rome.
40. They built a sewage system.
41. Ancient Rome had open-air forums, open-air theaters, open-air markets, and open-air cafes.
42. An open-air theater is called an amphitheater.
43. The heart of Rome was the Roman Forum, where Senators made laws.
44. The Roman Forum was surrounded by open-air markets.

The Class System

45. Rome had three classes.
46. The Rich: A tiny elite (Roman Senators with vast estates) called *patricians*.
47. The Poor: Everybody else (farmers, soldiers, unemployed) called *plebeians*.
48. The Slaves: After every battle, prisoners of war were enslaved and sent to Rome. By the end of the Republic, **33%** of the people were slaves.

Organized Government

The Roman Republic

49. At first, Rome was a monarchy - ruled by a king. (Romulus was the first king.)
50. Around 500 B.C., Rome became a republic - no king.
51. The Roman Republic lasted for 500 years.
52. The government was based on a written Constitution.
53. The Republic's government had three parts.
54. The Executive part was run by two consuls.
55. The Legislative part was the Roman Senate. (Wealthy landowners.)
56. Another Legislative part was the Assembly. (Regular folks.)
57. Every citizen was equal under Roman Law.

16. Place - physical feature.
17. Place - physical feature.
18. Place - physical feature.
19. Interaction
20. Place - physical feature.
21. Place - physical feature.
22. Place - cultural feature.
23. Location
24. Movement
25. Place - cultural feature.
26. Interaction
27. Interaction
28. Interaction
29. Interaction
30. Interaction
31. Place - cultural feature.
32. Interaction
33. Place - cultural feature.
34. Movement
35. Movement (none)
36. Place - physical feature.
37. Interaction
38. Place - cultural feature.
39. Interaction
40. Interaction
41. Interaction - with the climate.
42. Interaction
43. Place - cultural feature.
44. Interaction
45. Place - cultural feature.
46. Place - cultural feature.
47. Place - cultural feature.
48. Movement
49. Place - cultural feature.
50. Place - cultural feature.
51. Place - cultural feature.
52. Place - cultural feature.
53. Place - cultural feature.
54. Place - cultural feature.
55. Place - cultural feature.
56. Place - cultural feature.
57. Place - cultural feature.

58. The Republic's government was set up so that no one man (or small group of elite) could control the government of Rome.
59. It had checks and balances.

58. - 83.
Place - cultural feature.

Except:

The Roman Forum

60. The Roman Forum lay at the center of the city.
61. The Roman Forum was the heart of ancient Rome.
62. It was the center of the Roman government.
63. What is a forum? It is where people speak their minds about politics.
64. What does *forum* mean? It means "open space" or "market place."
65. Every Roman city had a public square that had government buildings, a marketplace, and religious temples.
66. In the U.S., we would call it the "town square" - courthouse, stores, churches.
67. The public square had to be big enough to fit a crowd.
68. The Senators liked to stand on the steps and give speeches to the crowd!

70. Movement - of an idea.
Roman law was enforced throughout the empire.

77. Region

80. Movement - of an idea.

Roman Senators

69. Who spoke at the Roman Forum? Roman Senators.
70. Roman Senators made law for whom? For people on three continents!
71. Famous orators spoke in the Roman Forum.
72. Cicero, the most famous Roman orator, spoke here.
73. Every speaker wore a toga and spoke Latin.
74. Senators usually studied *rhetoric* - the art of public speaking.

Education

75. There were no public schools.
76. The average boy or girl learned the three R's (reading, writing, arithmetic) from Mom at home.

The Status of Women

77. The Roman world was a man's world.
78. Women were not welcome in politics.
79. In the Roman family, the father reigned supreme. Mother and children had no power. Father's rule was law. (Think of "*The Godfather*.")

Organized Religion

80. The Romans adopted all the Greek gods and goddesses.
81. They gave new names to these gods. The Greek god Zeus was called "Jupiter" by the Romans.
82. The Greek god Eros was renamed "Cupid."

The Classical Civilizations

83. Ancient Greece and Rome are called the *Classical Civilizations* because (much later) Renaissance artists, architects, and authors will copy their style.

A game to learn how to categorize.
A game for those students who learn best by doing.
A game to assess learning.

The Bell Game: “Name that Theme!”

The week before

Go to Office Depot or Office Max and buy 5 bells. You know:
You bop it to call for service.

Make 5 signs: LOCATION, PLACE, INTERACTION, MOVEMENT, REGION

Ask the school custodian for a wide table and 5 chairs.

A panel of “experts”

In the front of the classroom, place the table and chairs.

In front of each, place a sign and bell.

Ask for volunteers to sit as a panel of experts.

"You are responsible only for responding to facts which relate to your category."

The Reader

Choose a student to read the facts.

Explain: "When the reader read a fact which deals with your particular category, ring your bell."

The Answer Man

Choose a student to play this role. We suggest a boy or girl who has been absent.

Give the student the answer sheet.

Explain: "When a student rings the bell, you must say in a strong voice: 'That is correct' or 'That is incorrect.'"

How to begin

Ask students to test their bells.

"Do not ring your bell until the full statement has been read."

"If you engage in frivolous bell-ringing, another student will take your place."

The Reader reads the facts, one by one.

The Answer Man states whether the answer is correct or incorrect.

What if several students ring their bells?

All the better!

Ask the class whether or not the incorrect answer is possible, based upon the student's explanation.

Keep in mind that when you enter higher levels of thinking, certain answers are going to be "in the ballpark" and, therefore, acceptable.

More advanced

Using the same topic, read from the encyclopedia.

Ask students to explain their answers.

That is, exactly why does this fact relate to your category?