

Name _____

Date _____



All About the Roman Republic

Who or What Am I?

Identify people or things in Roman society by entering the appropriate answer for each question.

- I am one of the two officials responsible for overseeing the government. Who am I? **Consuls**
- I am the most powerful body in the Roman Republic. What am I? **Senate**
- I am the written laws of the Roman Republic. What am I? **Twelve Tables**
- I am a member of the common people or class. Who am I? **Plebeians**
- My members came from wealthy, landowning families. What am I? **Patricians**
- I eventually gained a voice in the Roman Republic. Who am I? **Plebeian**
- I am elected to a one-year term. Who am I? **Consuls**

Comparing Republics

Use the Word Bank to help you compare the governments of ancient Rome and the United States. Complete the chart and answer the questions.

Word Bank		
Guarantees that the law is the same for all	Consuls	Legislative branch, which proposes and approves laws
Roman Republic	United States Government	Role
Consuls	President	Executive branch, which executes (enforces) laws
Senate and Assemblies	House of Representatives and Senate	Legislative Branch: Proposes and approves laws.
Twelve Tables	Constitution	Guarantees that the law is the same for all.



Thinking Cap Question: What role did the plebeians eventually play in the government of the Roman Republic?

By the 4th century B.C. Romans decided that one of the consuls always had to be a plebeian.

Did You Know? The Roman Republic allowed a practice that might seem odd today. In times of extreme crisis the consuls could choose—and then the Senate would appoint for six months—a dictator who had absolute power to make laws and command the army. How did this practice contribute to the stability of the Roman Republic?

In times of crisis, decisions must be made quickly and even with some secrecy such as in time of war. A dictator can do this but not a Senate. In our country we do not turn power over to a dictator, but the President does get special emergency powers in times of war.

Thinking Back: Rome had a republic or representative government. Athens had a direct democracy. Can you explain the difference? Which style of government does the United States have?

In a direct democracy, each person actually votes. In a representative republic, the people elect representatives who will spend the time to suggest, debate, and pass laws. The United States is a representative government.