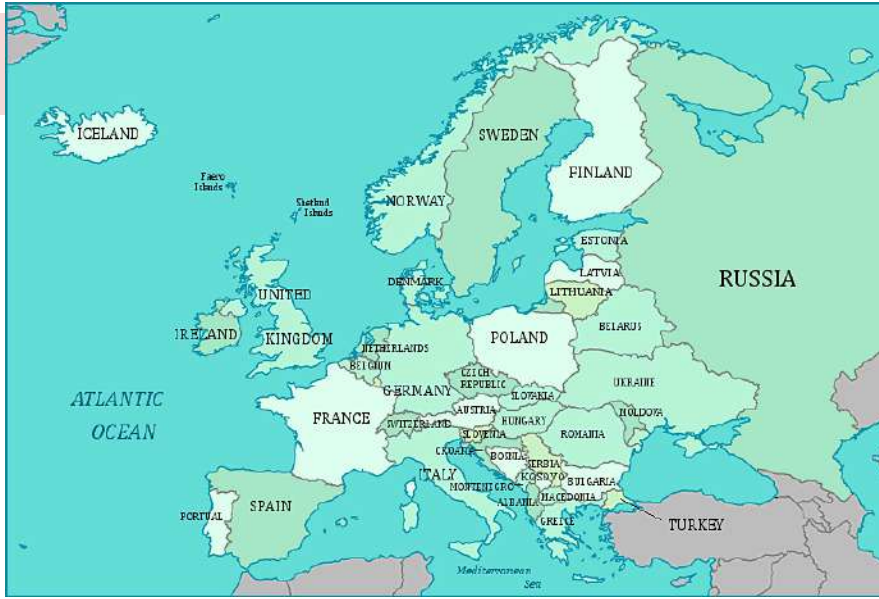


**1 Empire: an area, usually including defeated kingdoms or countries, ruled by an emperor or empress.**

**Learning Objective:** We will identify the location and describe the rise of the Roman Empire!



What continent is shown on this map?

Find the modern country of Italy on the map.

Point at it and show it to your partner.

**Today we will learn about an empire that began on the continent of Europe, in the modern day country of Italy .**



<sup>2</sup> **peninsula: land surrounded by water on 3 sides.**

**The Roman Empire wasn't always big. It began as a city, but grew to eventually control much of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.**

**How did it begin?**

- Around **753 BC** a Latin tribe built a village by a river. That village became the city of Rome.
- As the city **grew**, it **conquered** all of today's *Italian peninsula*<sup>2</sup>. Rome would eventually become the capital city of Italy.
- Rome eventually conquered, **or took over by force**, many surrounding lands around the **Mediterranean Sea**. As it did so, the **political** map of the lands Rome controlled **changed** many, many times.



Pair-Share: Pointing at the three maps, explain to your partner how Rome's boundaries grew over time.

RED= area controlled by Rome

**Also, the Roman Empire didn't start as an empire, either.**

<sup>1</sup> **Empire:** an area, usually including defeated kingdoms or countries, ruled by an emperor or empress.

<sup>3</sup> **Republic:** a form of government with in which people vote for leaders to represent them.

**At first**, the Romans created a “**Republic**”<sup>3</sup>. In a Republic, **elected** officials are supposed to work for the interests of the **people**.

However, to the creators of the Roman government “the people” meant the **wealthy** (*Patricians*), not the workers or the poor (*Plebeians*). Romans put most of the power in the hands of the Senate. The **Senate** was a group of 300 men that the wealthy elected. A Senator would serve for life and he appointed other government officials. Senators also served as judges during their lifetime.



<sup>4</sup> **civil war**: a war fought between the people of a single country (against each other).

The Senate controlled the army and began ordering it to **expand** the boundaries of Rome by force. Rome became very wealthy. With each victory, thousands of prisoners were brought to Rome as slaves. Unfortunately, jobs once held by loyal Romans were now done cheaply by slaves. For both jobless Romans and slaves, life got worse instead of better. As a result many became violent and fought each other in a civil war<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>5</sup>**dictator**: a leader who rules a country with absolute power, usually by force.

As unrest increased, Romans looked for a strong leader who could restore order. They found such a leader in a popular military hero named Julius Caesar. Caesar marched his army on Rome across the Rubicon River determined to stop the unrest. Those opposed to Caesar's control lost the civil war, and in 44 BC Julius Caesar **declared himself** "**Dictator**<sup>5</sup> for life". From now on he would make all the decisions. But people soon grew to hate him and he was killed on the Senate steps.

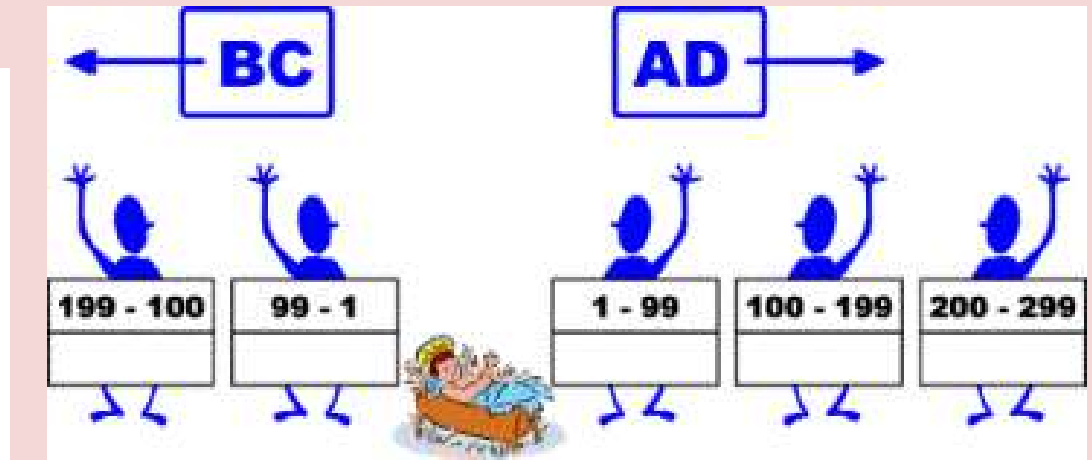
In his place in 27 B.C., Julius Caesar's nephew, Caesar Augustus, was named Rome's **first emperor**. The emperor held the power. The Roman Republic was over and the Roman Empire had begun. Many other emperors would follow.

## Sequencing and using a timeline.

**B.C. = Before Christ. Can also use B.C.E., meaning Before Common Era.**

**A.D.= Anno Domini (in Rome's language, Latin, this means "the year of our Lord.") Many falsely think of it as "after death". Can also use C.E., meaning Common Era.**

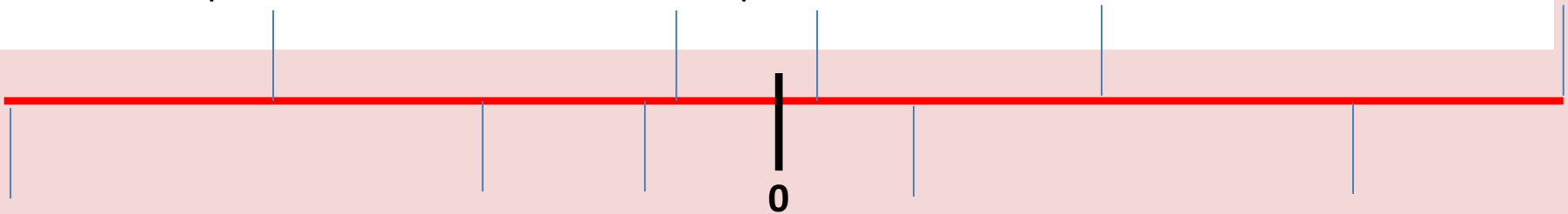
**B.C dates run backwards from the year 0.  
A.D. dates run forwards from the year 0.**



Read the box with the following dates and events. 1) Circle all of the B.C. dates. Place the dates in the backwards order on the timeline before 0. 2) Underline all of the A.D. dates. Place them in forwards order on the timeline after 0.

44 BC: Julius Caesar becomes "dictator for life"  
241 BC Rome conquers the island of Sicily  
27 BC Augustus is made Rome's first emperor  
284 AD Diocletian becomes 51<sup>st</sup> emperor  
476 AD the Roman Empire ends

753 BC: The city of Rome is founded  
121 AD Emperor Hadrian conquers England and builds a wall  
33AD the Romans crucify Jesus (kill him on a cross)  
306 AD Constantine becomes 57<sup>th</sup> emperor  
146 BC Rome conquers North Africa



2014 A.D. →

## Independent Practice:

Use your notes to complete the following.

1. Where is Rome located? Be sure to describe **the continent** and the modern day **country** where it is located.

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2. How did Rome change over time? Be sure to use the words “**republic**” and “**empire**”. Explain.

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3. The Roman Empire **began in 27 B.C.** and **ended in** \_\_\_\_\_.

### Relevance:

Since we also live in a republic, studying Rome can be informative for understanding the United States. In fact, many of the men who began this country admired the Romans and copied many of their ideas!