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Ancient Rome - **KEY** Mrs. Valdes

**Getting the “GIST” of the Roman Republic**

**TASK:** Using the reading on the left, you will write a summary of each paragraph in the space on the right. Use the reading to define, in your own words, key vocabulary (bolded); then you will write a summary of the ideas and structure of the Roman republic.

**KEY VOCABULARY:** Republic, Patricians, Plebeians, Forum, Consuls, Dictator, Tribunes, Veto

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| By 509 Rome had grown from a cluster of villages into a small city. Determined never again to be ruled by a monarch, the Romans set up **a new government in which officials were chosen by the people**. They called it a **republic,** or “thing of the people.” A republic, Romans thought, would keep any individual from gaining too much power. | ***Republic-* A government in which officials were chosen by the people.***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Romans never wanted to be ruled by a king, so they set up a new government called a Republic. Romans didn’t want any one individual to have too much power. |
| Between 509 B.C. and 133 B.C., Rome adapted its republican form of government to meet changing needs. It also developed the military power to conquer not just Italy but the entire Mediterranean world. | Between 509 B.C. and 133 B.C, Rome began to conquer the whole Italian peninsula as well as the surrounding lands. |
| In the early republic, the most powerful governing body was the senate. Its **300 members** were all **patricians**, members of the landholding upper class. **Senators, who served for life, issued decrees and interpreted the laws**. | ***Patricians-* members of the landholding upper class.***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Only the Patrician class could be members of the **Senate.** The Senate had 300 members who served for life (could not ever be removed from office). The Senate made the laws. |
| Each year, the senators elected two **consuls.** Their job was to **supervise the business of government and command the armies**. Like senators, consuls came from the **patrician** class. Consuls, however, could **serve only one term**. They were also expected to consult with the senate. By limiting their time in office and making them responsible to the people through the senate, Rome had a **system of check on the power of government.** | ***Consuls-* Senators elected 2 consuls (Presidents). They could only serve 1 term. They supervised the government and commanded the military. Appointed by the Senate. Consuls were also Patricians***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Form of checks and balances because they had term limits. |
| In the event of war, the senate might choose a **dictator**, or ruler who has complete control over a government. Each Roman dictator was granted emergency powers to rule for six months. At the end of that time, he had to give up power. | ***Dictator-* ruler who has complete control over a government.***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*Senators could appoint a Dictator in time of war but they could only serve for 6 months. |
| As Rome grew, it elected other officials to oversee finances, justice, city government, and religious matters. A government censor kept an accurate list of citizens, or census. | Romans created a bureaucracy to help run the government as the Republic began to grow. |
| At first, all government officials were patricians. **Plebeians, the farmers, merchants, artisans, and traders who made up the bulk of the population**, had little influence. The efforts of the plebeians to pry open the doors to power shaped politics in the early republic. | ***Plebeians-* the farmers, merchants, artisans, and traders who made up the bulk of the population.***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* |
| The plebeians’ first breakthrough came in 450 B.C., when the government had the laws of Rome inscribed on 12 tablets and set up in the **Forum**, or marketplace. Plebeians had protested that citizens could not know what the laws were, because they were not written down. The Laws of the Twelve Tables made it possible for the first time for plebeians to appeal a judgment handed down by a patrician judge. | ***Forum****-* **marketplace where people gathered every day to shop.***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***12 Tables were the laws of the Roman Republic which were written on stone tablets and displayed in the forum where citizens cold read them and know their rights.** |
| In time, the **plebeians gained the right to elect their own officials, called tribunes, to protect their interests.** The **tribunes could veto, or block, those laws that they felt were harmful to plebeians**. Little by little, plebeians forced the senate to choose plebeians as consuls, appoint plebeians to other high offices, and finally to open the senate itself to plebeians who had served the state well. | ***Tribunes- leaders elected to represent the rights of the Plebeians******Veto****-* **to block a law or to say “no” to a law***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***Plebeians eventually gained more and more political rights. They were appointed Consuls and elected to the Senate.** |
| Although the senate still dominated the government, the common people had gained access to power and won safeguards for their rights without having to resort to war or revolution. More than 2,000 years later, the framers of the United States Constitution would adapt such Roman ideas as the senate, the veto, and checks on the power of those who run the government. | **The writers of the United States Constitution would adapt such Roman ideas as the senate, the veto, and checks on the power of those who run the government.** |