

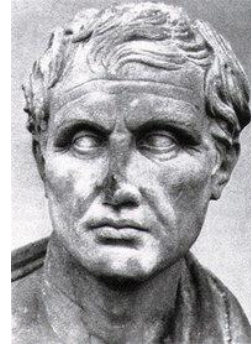
Roman Culture and Society

Impact of Greeks

Greece as artistic model – sculpture, literature, etc.

- **Literature:**

Virgil (70-19 B.C.)



lauds emperor and divine mission of Rome to rule the world; epic poem to rival Homer: The Aeneid est. connection between Troy and Rome; Focuses on Roman virtues of duty, piety, faithfulness

Impact of Greeks cont.

- **Roman Art**

taste for Greek statues;

Portrait sculpture – intensely realistic;

wall paintings and frescoes;

- **Architecture**

practical art

adapted Greek styles

curvilinear forms – arch, vault, domes

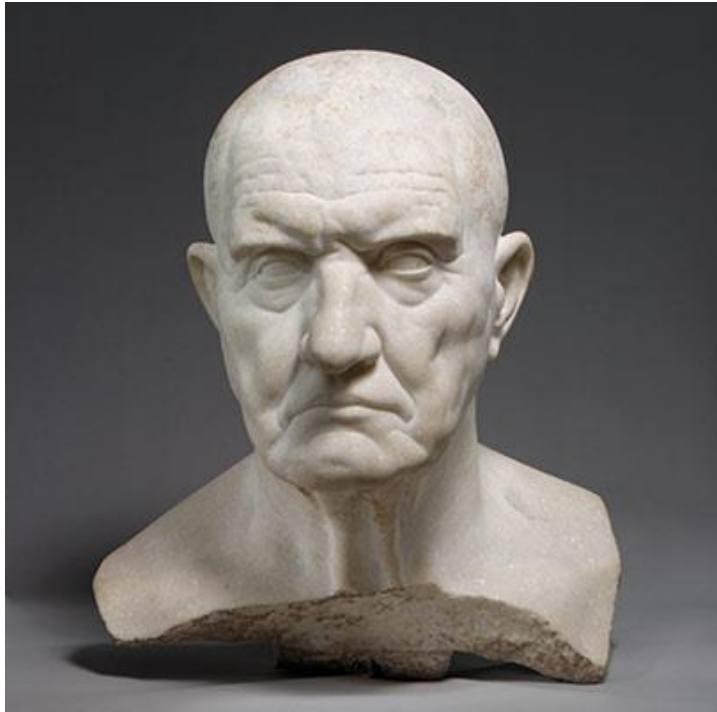
Used concrete on massive scale;

Huge buildings – public baths, amphitheaters, roads(50,000 miles), aqueducts arenas, bridges;

Roman Statues



Roman Statues



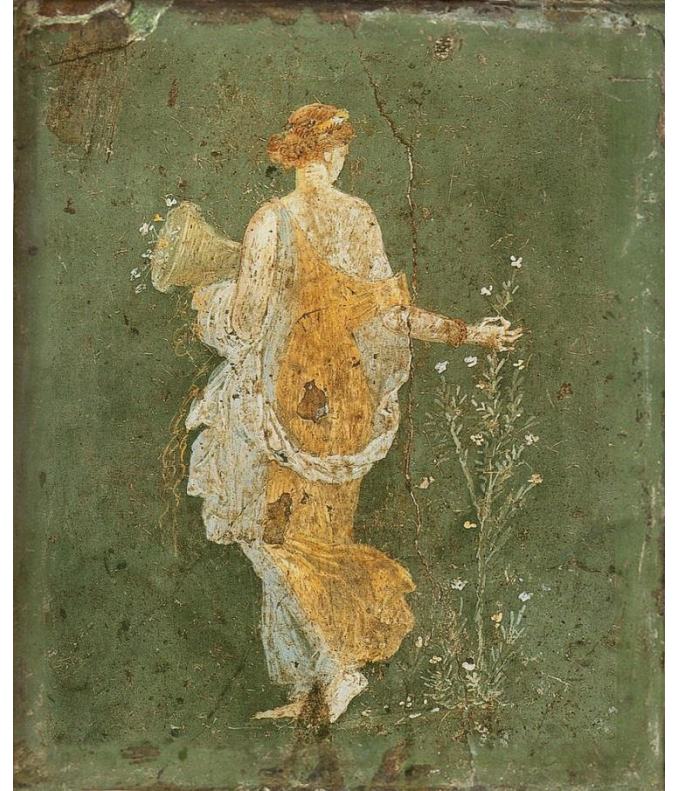
Roman Statues



Roman Frescoes

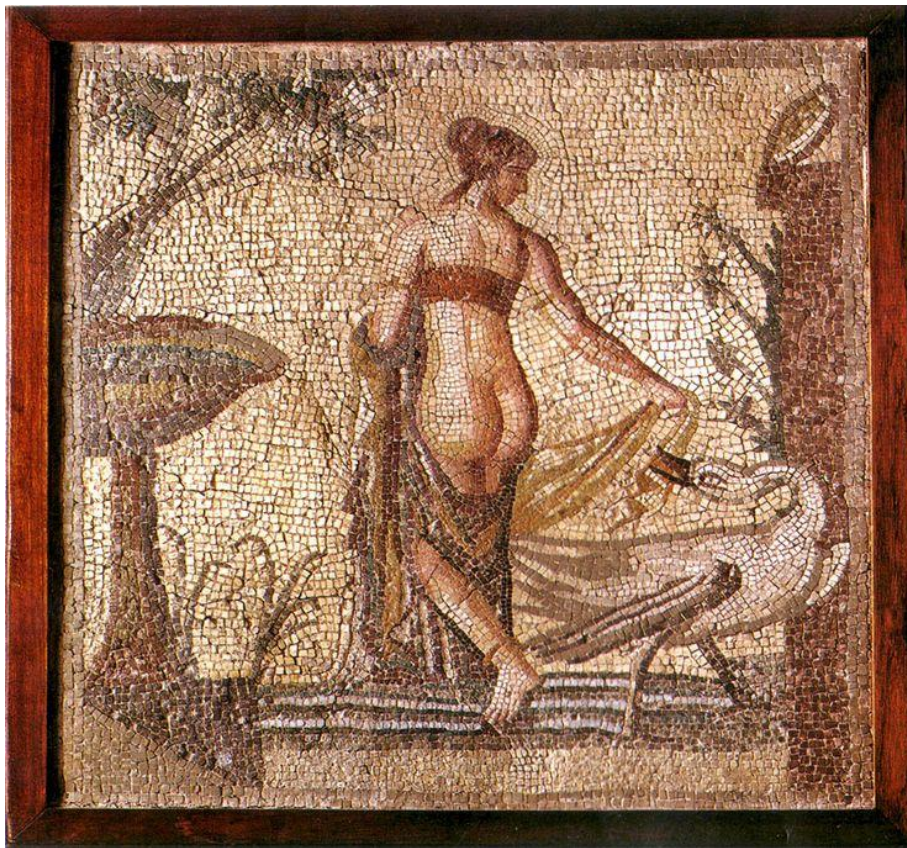


Roman Frescoes



Mosaics





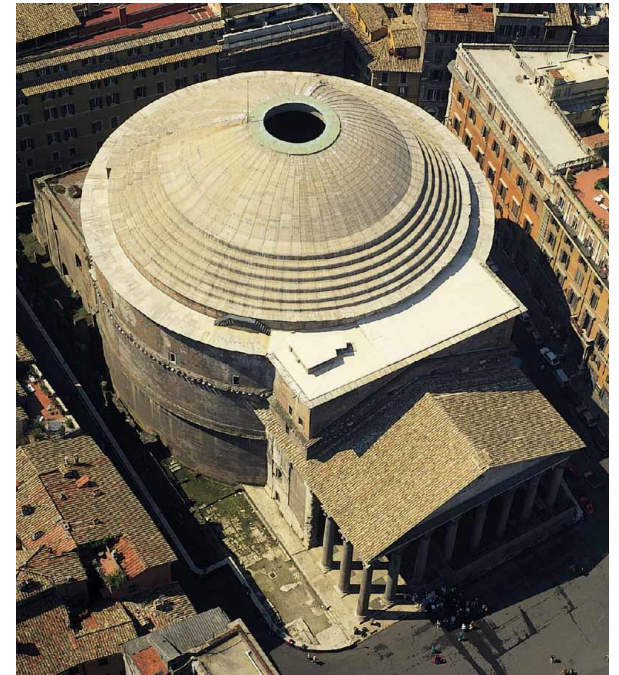
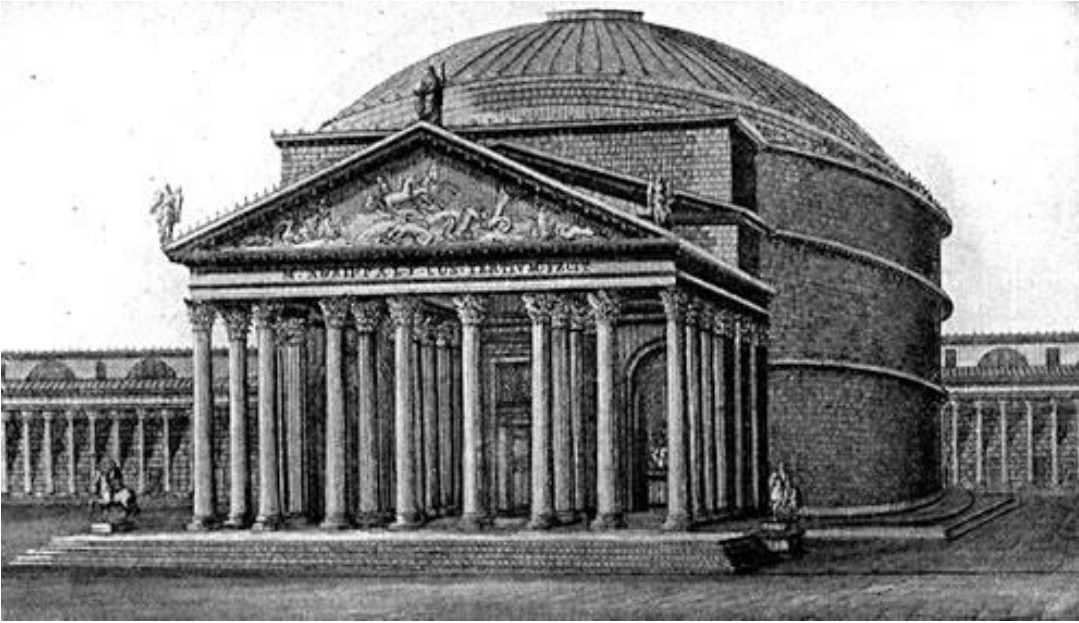
Roman Architecture







The Dome - Pantheon



Roman Law

- 12 Tables (450 B.C.)
- Civil law applied to all citizens of Rome
- Law of nations – part of the law that applied to both Romans and foreigners
- Natural law – a set of universal laws based on reason; established standards of justice that applied to all people;
- Concepts: innocent until proven guilty; defense before a judges; judges weigh the evidence;

Roman Family

- **Paterfamilias** – dominant male

absolute authority over wife and children – may kill wives; sell children into slavery etc.

- Arranged marriages for daughters; legal control from father to husband; eventually legal control remained with father; allowed greater freedom for woman when father passed;
- Sickly or deformed infants often left to die of exposure;
- High infant mortality rate;
- end of childhood: male 16; female 14;
- Upper class women – considerable freedom and independence; right to own and inherit property; attended public events; no participation in government

Slaves and Masters

- Slavery common in ancient world; but none relied so much on slave labor as the Romans
- Prestige, status
- Farm laborers, cooks, cleaners, gardeners
- Tutors, musicians, doctors and artists;
- Craftspeople
- gladiators
- treatment varied
- Large scale revolts ex. 73 B.C. Spartacus revolt of 70,000 slaves; eventually crushed and 6,000 crucified;

Bread and Circuses for Romans

Enormous gap between rich and poor;

- Rich lived in lavish villas
- Poor in large concrete or wooden apartment complexes; little space, unsafe conditions – danger of fire;
- Poor fed with government distributed grain;