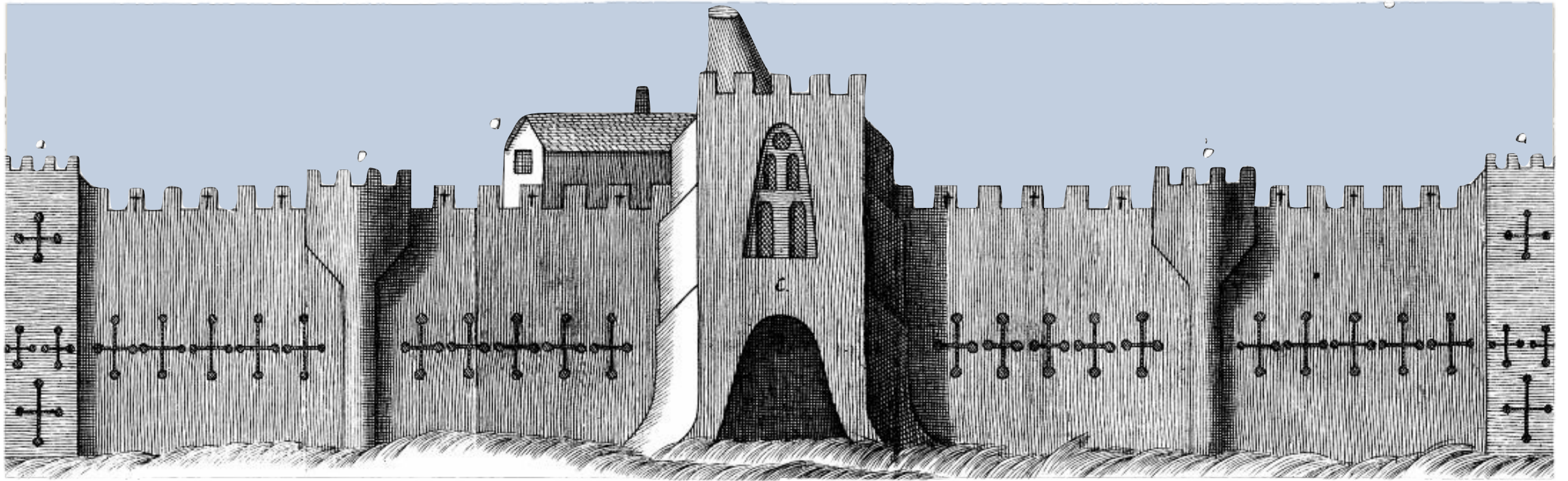


The Beginning of the Middle Ages



An Introduction
The Fall of the Western Roman Empire

The Roman Empire



Background to the Middle Ages

This empire was both “ingenious and brutal” (a phrase from the BBC Website).

Photo by John Bayley



Key Terms 1

empire: a large group of states or countries ruled over by another state

brutal: savagely violent

ingenious: clever, original and inventive

Words to Describe the Roman Empire

ingenious

brutal

powerful

ruled by laws

decadent

all-conquering

inventive

war-like

peace-inducing

corrupt

huge

often ruled by tyrants

influential

slave-dependent

Internal Contradictions

Time Conventions

AD - Anno Domini

The Year of our Lord —> in other words,
the time since the birth of Jesus

Alternative, non-religious version:

CE - Common Era

This means exactly the same thing: the time
since the birth of Jesus. In this expression,
however, there is no reference to Jesus.

Key Terms - 2

A **legacy** is a special skill, idea or cultural achievement that a civilisation leaves behind. It is something that later societies admire, imitate or build upon.

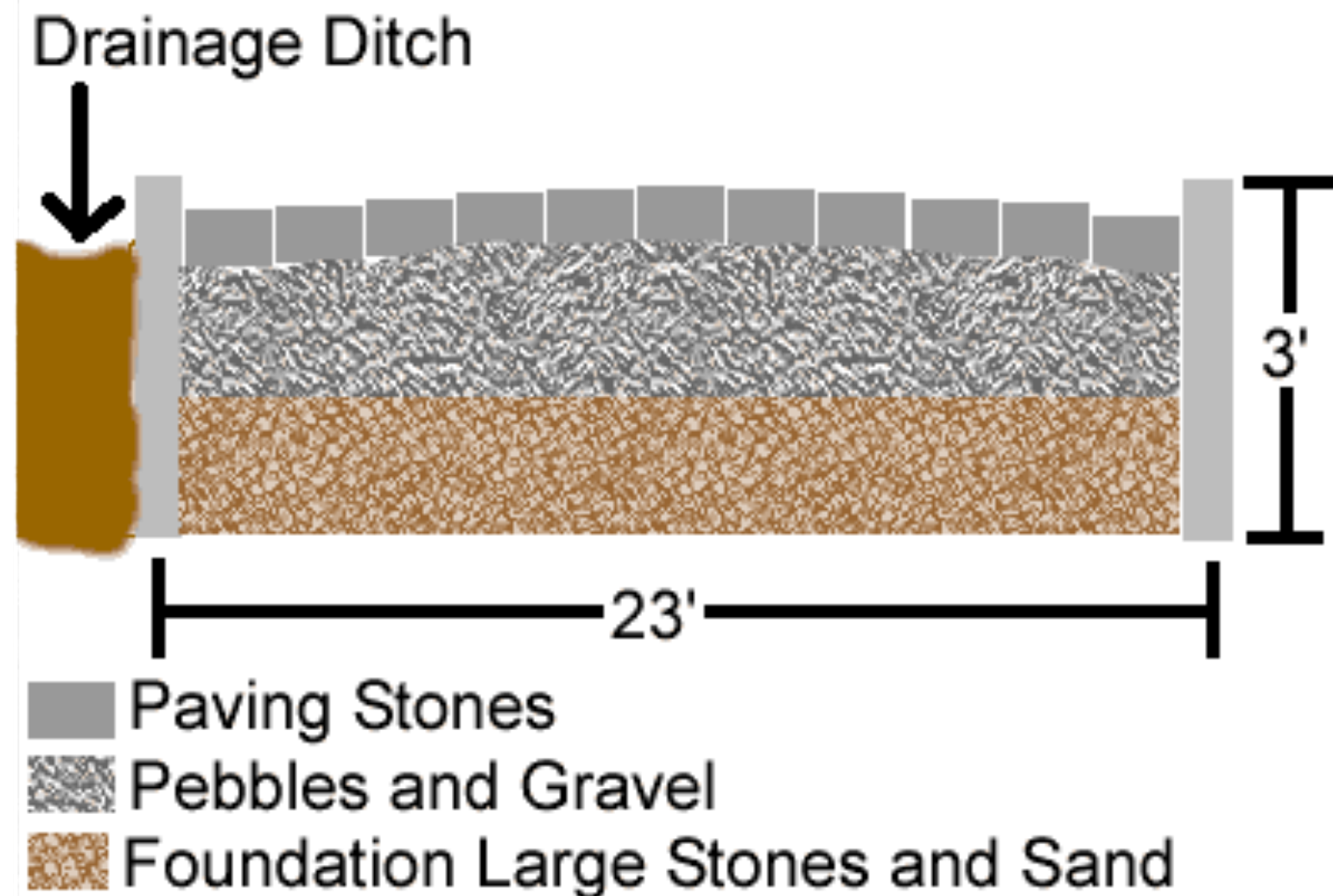
Ancient Roman Ingenuity —> Legacy One

The Romans built — — — — —
to carry clean water long distances - a
remarkable feat of engineering.



Ancient Roman Ingenuity - Legacy Two

The Roman road was another feat of engineering. It was not to be equalled until the 19th century.



QUOTATION

"The extraordinary greatness of the Roman Empire manifests itself above all in three things: the aqueducts, the paved roads, and the construction of the drains."

Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Greek teacher and historian



Ancient Roman Ingenuity

Legacy 3

S · P · Q · R

Order. Administration.
System. Government. Law.
Military structure.

Senātus Populusque Rōmānus —> The Roman Senate and People



“What have the Romans ever
done for us?”

A MONTY PYTHON INTERPRETATION

Another Legacy of the Romans...

Can you guess which one this is?

Here are some hints:

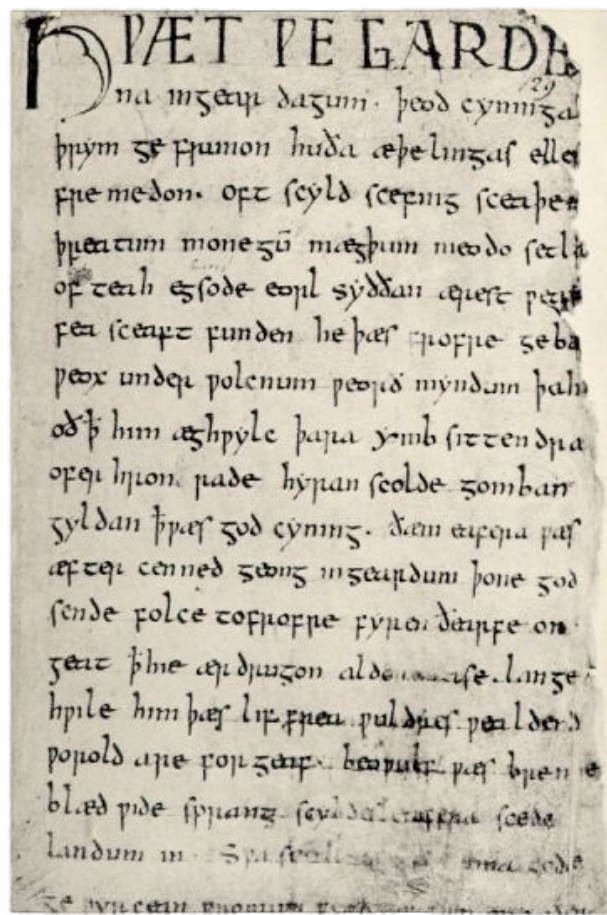
- It's something you are all experts at deciphering.
- It is curly, not angular like the runes of the Saxons and Vikings.
- It conveys a multitude of meanings and sounds.
- It is used by more countries and peoples than any others of its kind.
- It is made up of many simple symbols.



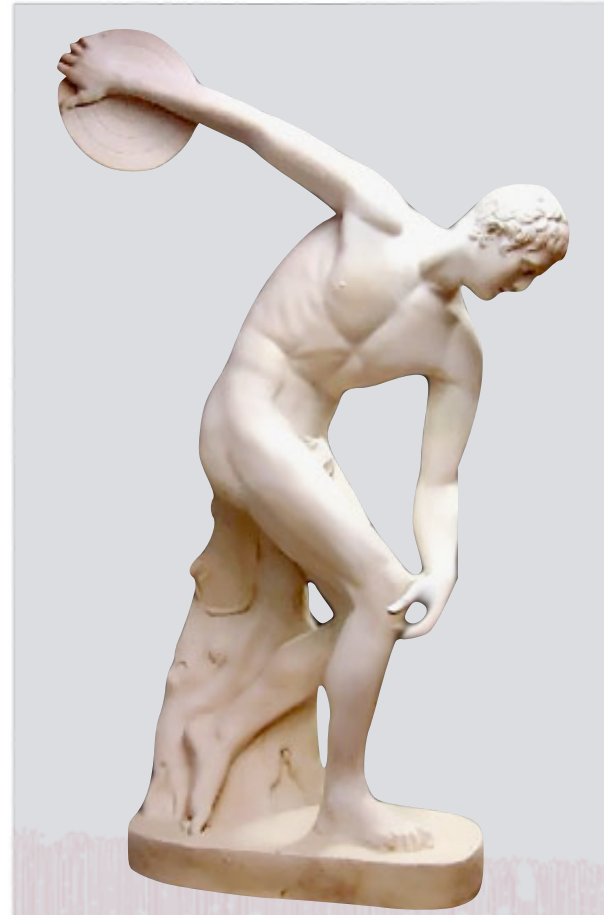
The Latin Alphabet

More Examples of Legacies

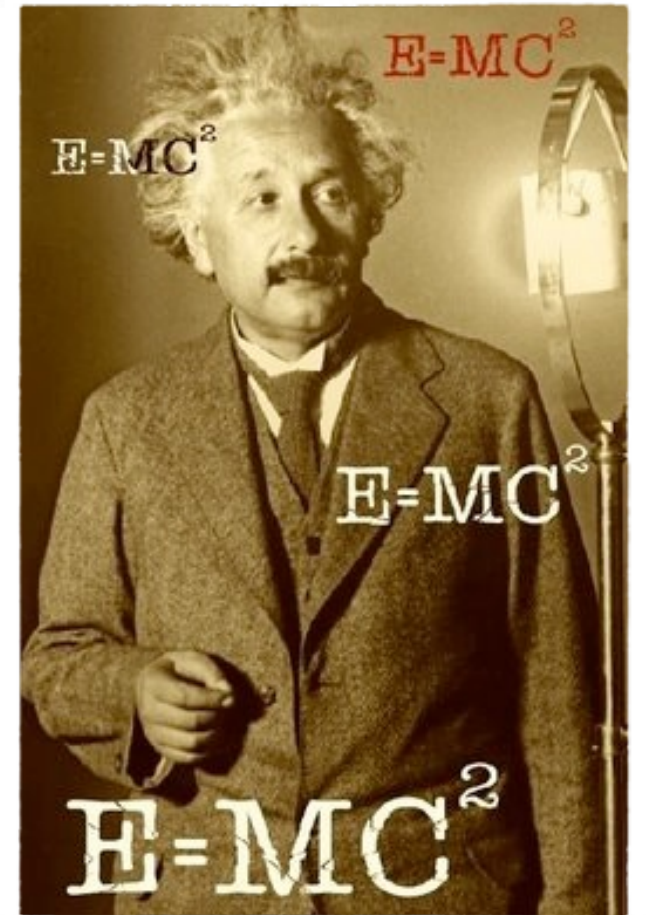
A **legacy** can be a work of literature, art or architecture. It can also be scientific knowledge, a type of government or an invention.



◆ Words and stories, such as *Beowulf*



◆ Art works, such as this sculpture



◆ Scientific knowledge

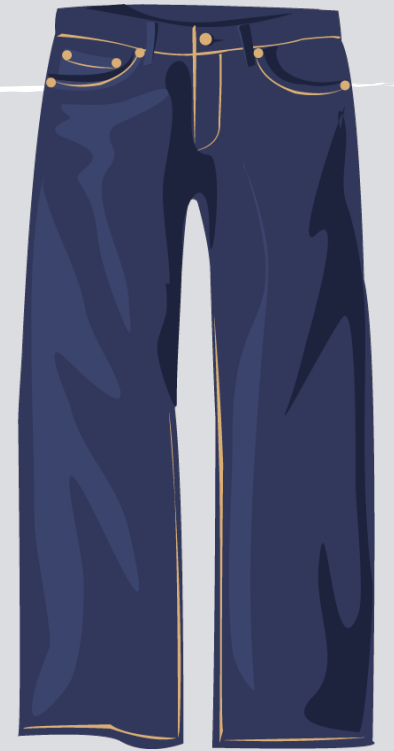
More Legacies...



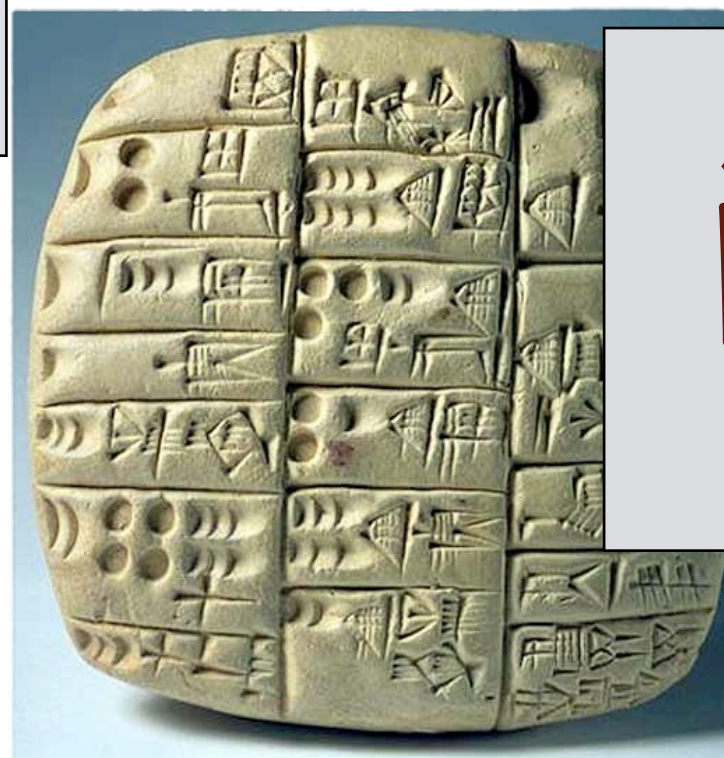
Photo
from Mrs
McQueen

◆ an invention

◆ architecture



◆ a particular way of
dealing with a problem



◆ a
brilliant
idea

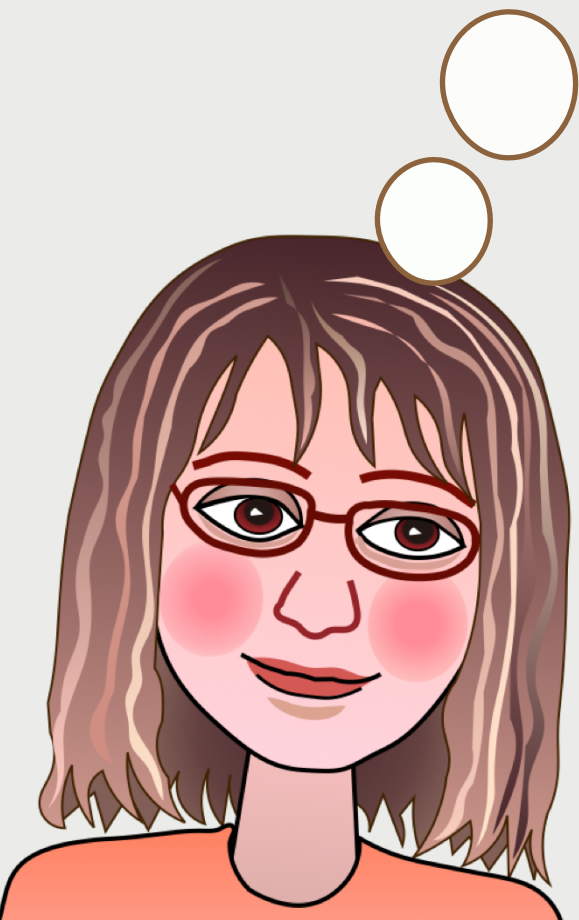
Using and Leaving Legacies

- What are some legacies from the past (even the recent past) that you appreciate?
- How could you employ your own skills, ingenuity and opportunities to leave a legacy of some kind to the world?

My Examples

Some of my favourite legacies from others are:

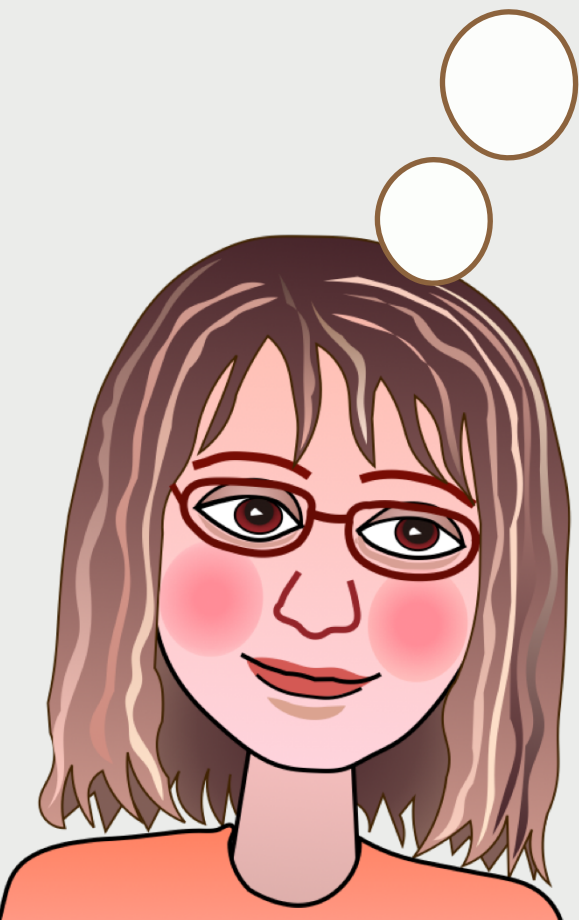
- the principles of kindness and honour that my mother taught me
- the books I read
- the technological possibilities of the internet and corresponding gadgetry
- the democratic ideas that make Australia a pleasant place to live in (mostly)



My Examples

I'd like to leave these legacies:

- children and students who treat others with respect and integrity
- the blogs that I've created
- scarves and blankets that I've knitted for people
- my work as a teacher



60000



Now, steel yourselves for the
brutal part of Rome's history.



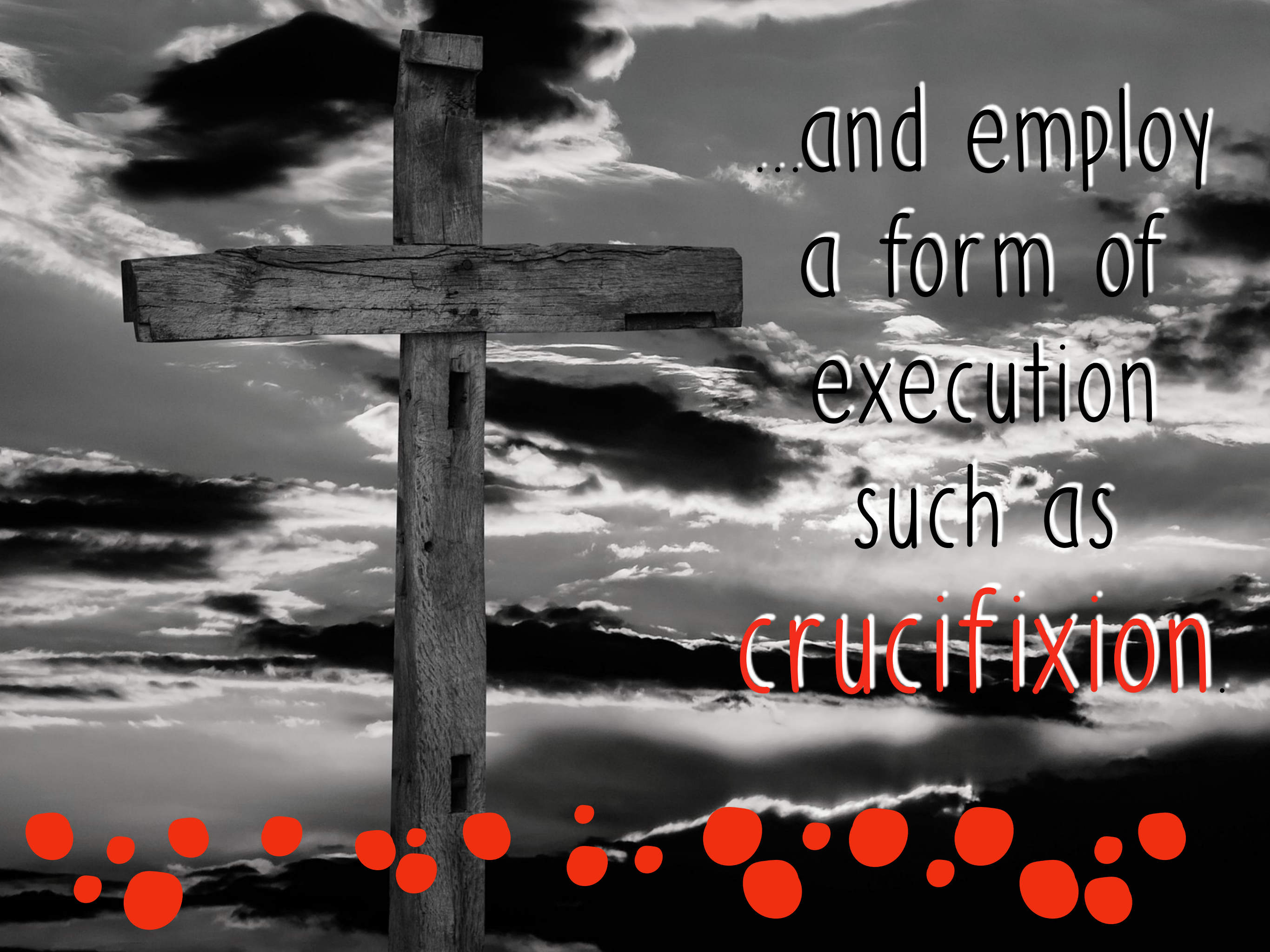
The human rights record of the
Romans was atrocious.

Along the Appian Way, for instance,
thousands of slaves were crucified
for mounting an embarrassingly
effective rebellion.

The same people
who could build
roads and
aqueducts that
were to last for
thousands of
years could also
bay for **blood** at
the Colosseum...

Photo by Mrs
McQueen





...and employ
a form of
execution
such as
crucifixion.

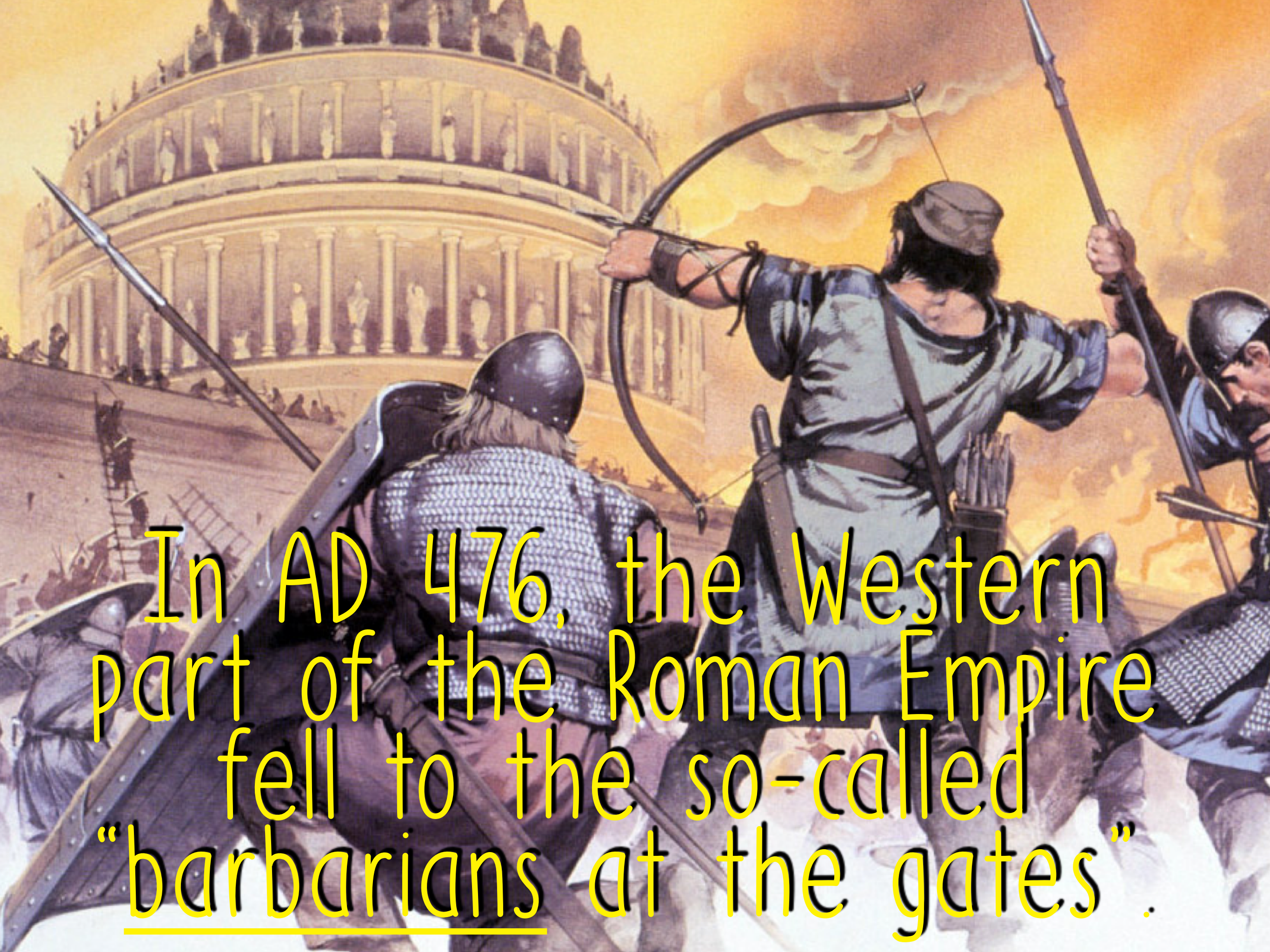
Although the Romans were brutal and war-like, their power ensured a long period of peace.



This kind of contradiction is called a paradox.



Historians call this period
of peace the
Pax Romana.



In AD 476, the Western
part of the Roman Empire
fell to the so-called
“barbarians at the gates”.



In reality, the Roman Empire had been weakened over centuries by a multitude of factors, including the admission of German mercenaries into the Roman army.

When
Western
Rome fell,
the
Pax Romana
collapsed too.



- There was no longer a **single, unified power**.
- This is sometimes called a **power vacuum**.
- A period of **reshuffling** occurred.



Whenever there is a
power vacuum, ...

...there is an ongoing
struggle for power.

—> This can lead to
many conflicts.

—> Some groups of people may decide to
find more land or better places to live.

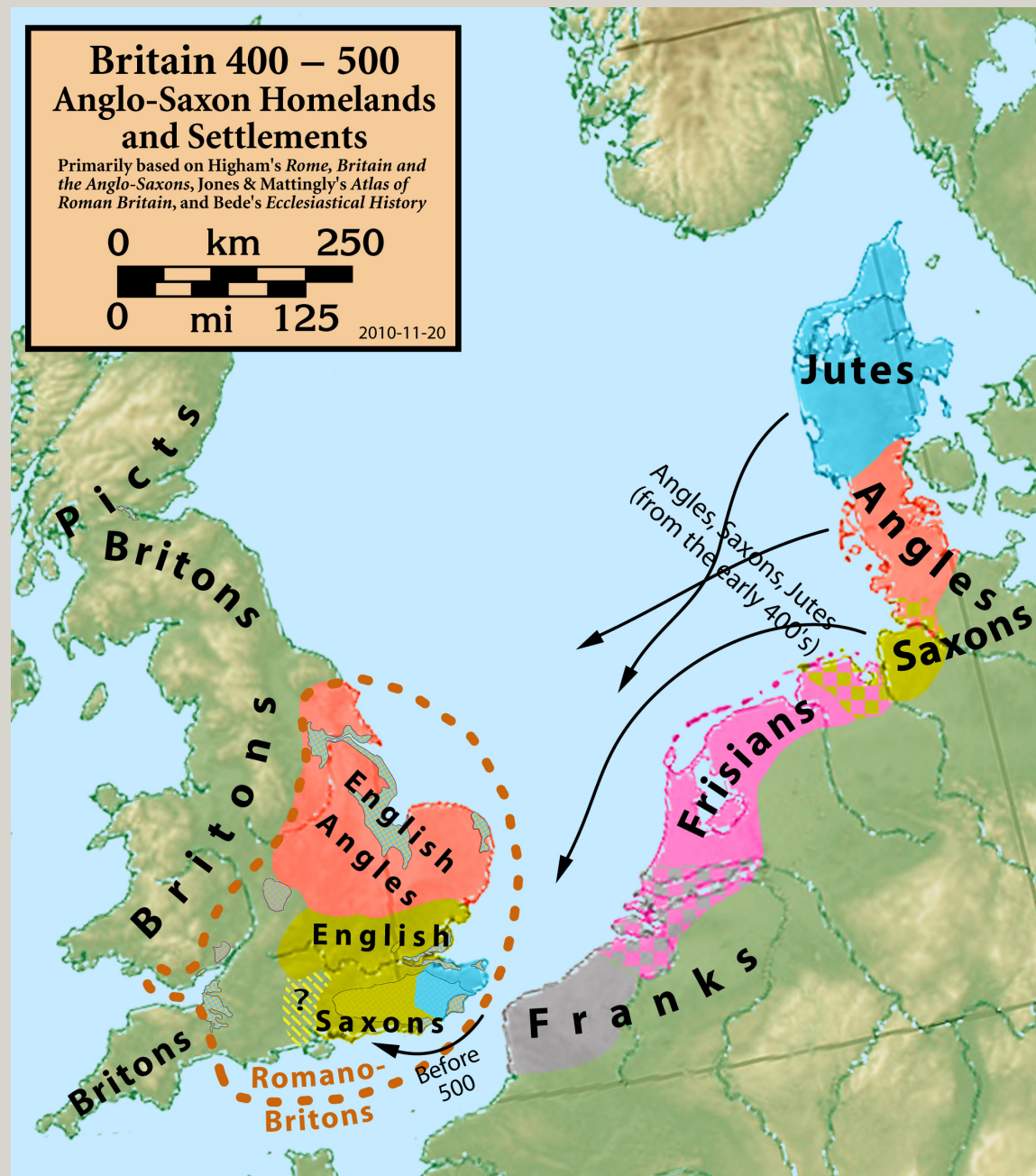
—> Consequently, there are often
invasions, skirmishes and battles.



Whenever there is a power vacuum, ...

- New groups and regimes rise to power, taking advantage of the disintegration of the old regime.
- Powerful leaders figure out new ways to hold on to power and control people.

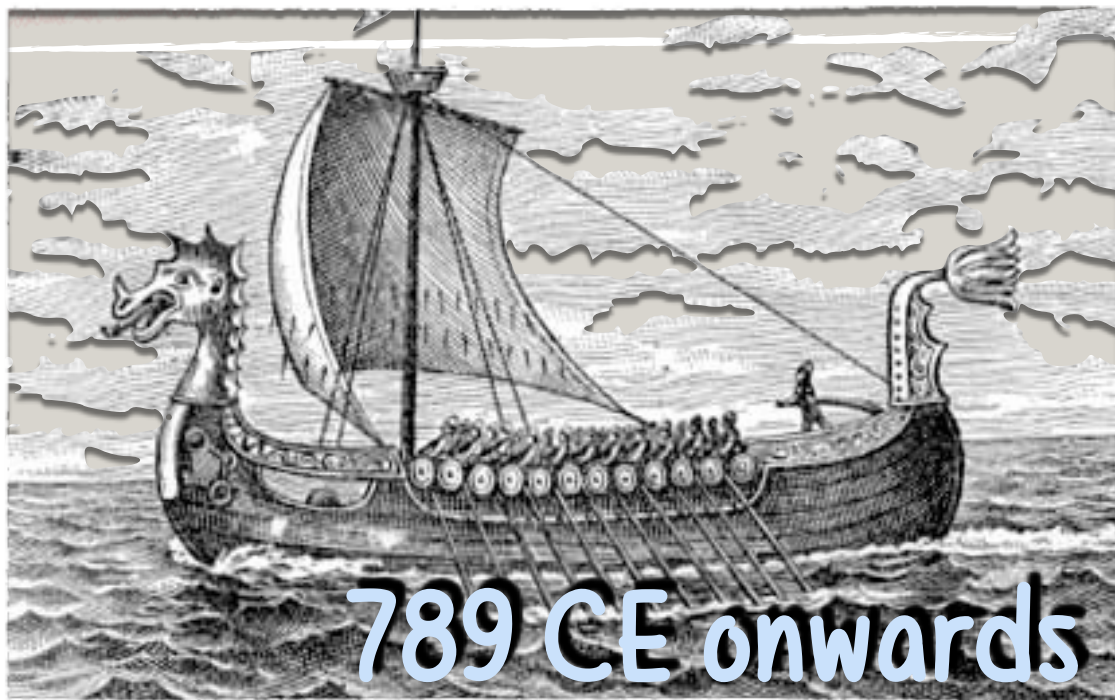
NEW POWERS, WARS AND INVASIONS - EXAMPLES



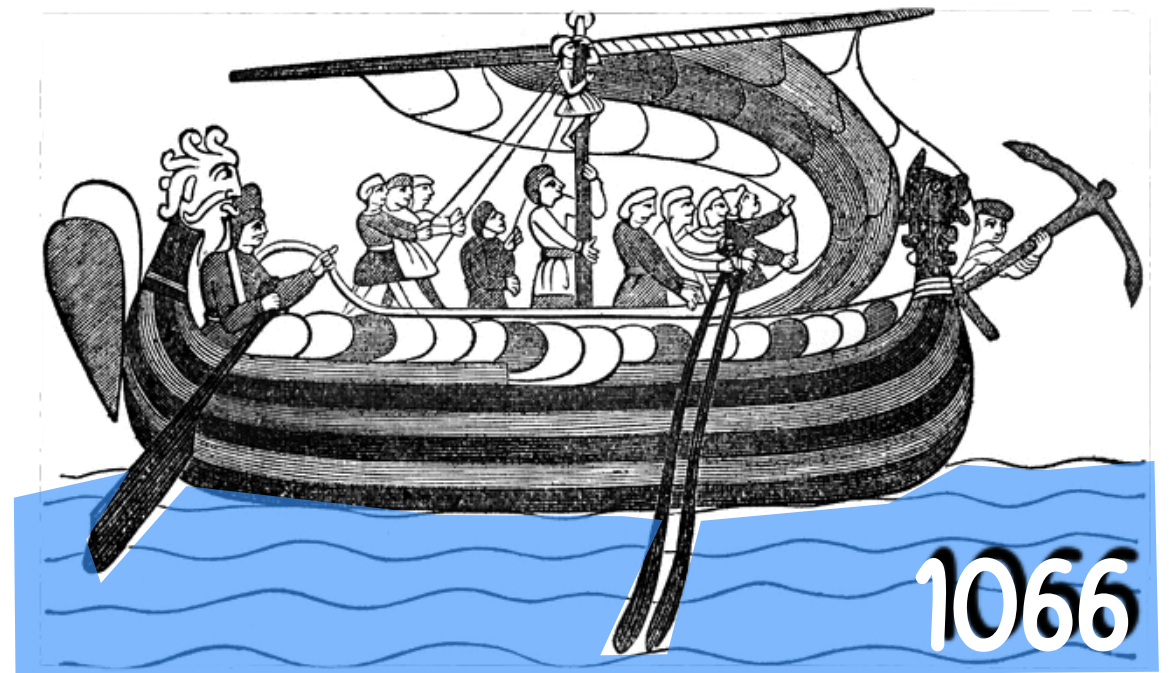
Charlemagne became the King of the Franks and waged war on the Saxons over decades (late 8th century)

Germanic tribes invaded Britain - and gave us our language (410-550 CE).

NEW POWERS AND INVASIONS - EXAMPLES



The north men
(Vikings) invaded
countries all over
Europe.



The Normans invaded
England, with long-term
consequences for the
English language and the
balance of power in Europe.

Key Terms - Crash Course History

Match the terms with their definitions below:

1 mercenaries

a the term for a person who rules an Empire

2 legions

b the name given by the Romans to anyone who wasn't Roman and didn't speak Latin

3 barbarians

c Roman army companies of between 3000 and 6000 men

4 emperor

d a conflict between groups within a single state or country

5 civil war

e soldiers who fight for money rather than loyalty to a specific regime

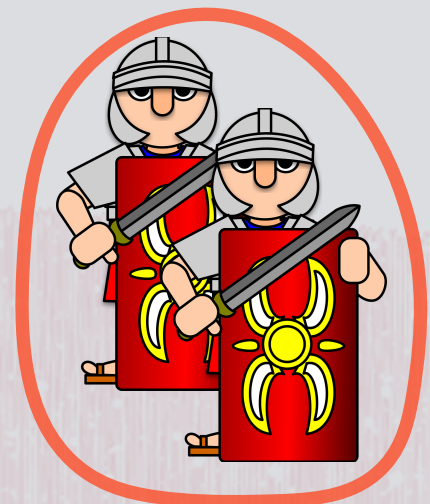
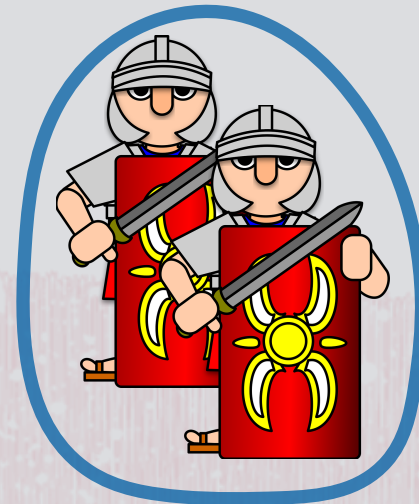
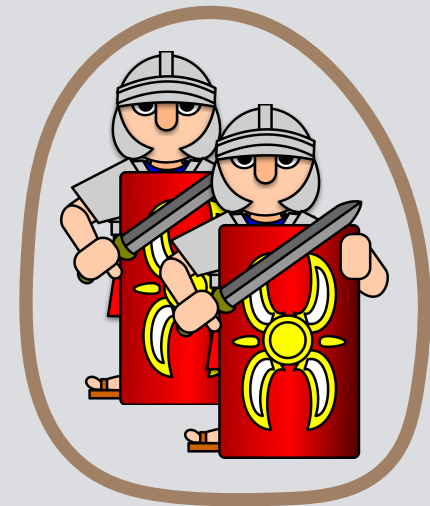
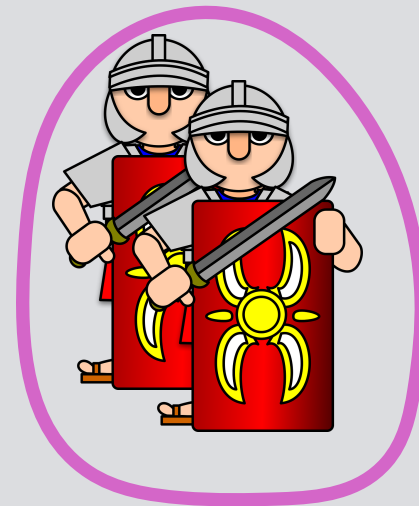
Insights into the fall of Rome from the lively and brilliant John Green of Crash Course History

John Green's Account of the Fall of the
Roman Empire (with several points about
the part that didn't fall, the Eastern Empire)

Effects of the Fall of Western Rome

When Rome fell,...

... elite landowners developed their own bands of soldiers.



Effects of the Fall of Western Rome

When Rome fell,...

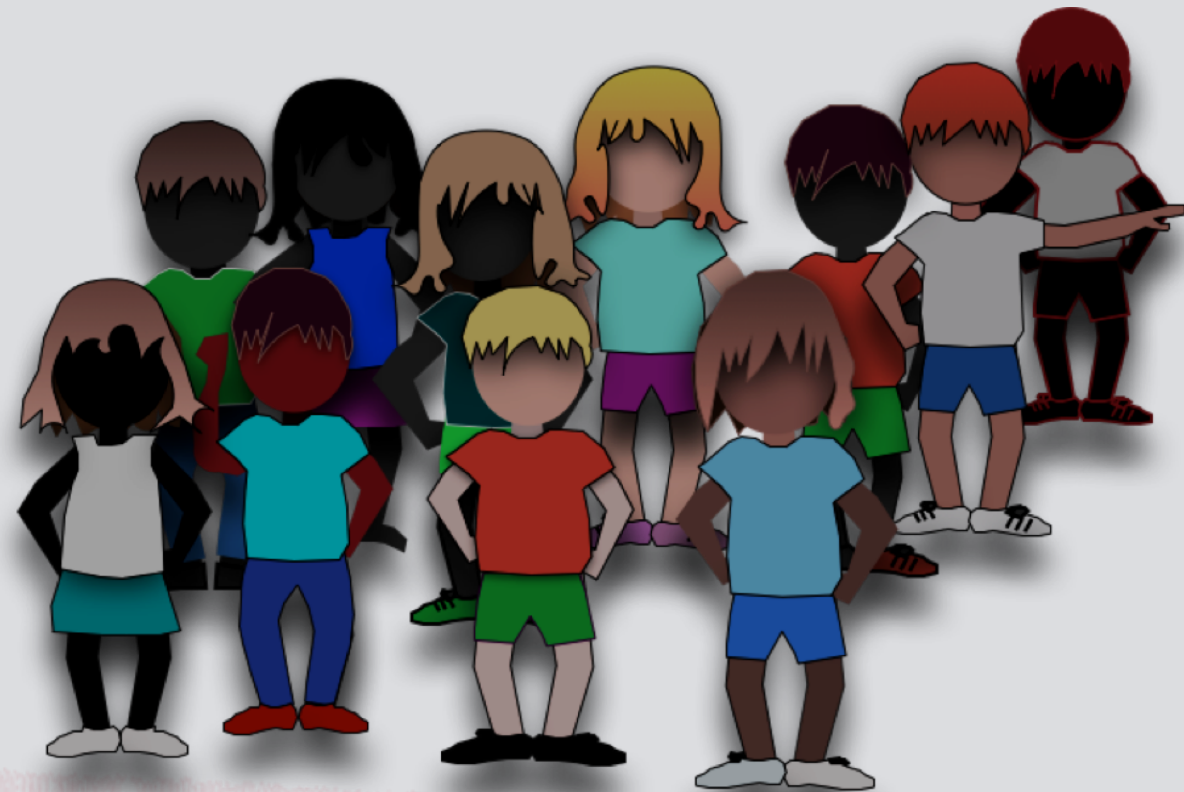
...many smaller states gradually emerged.



Effects of the Fall of Western Rome

When Rome fell,...

...it became harder for the common people to survive.



The population dropped.

Effects of the Fall of Western Rome

Instead of decisions
being made by an
established
government,...



Roman Senate

... issues tended
to be resolved
more often
through violent
conflict.



Additional Activities

- ① Complete your handout, back and front. Then show me your work.
- ② Complete this interactive online quiz. The link is on the blog or on Compass in your lesson plan. Show me your final (perfect) score.
- ③ Watch John Green's video again, but this time with some questions attached by me.
- ④ Visit two of the following websites (next slide, also on Compass) and make a list of key terms about the fall of Western Rome.

Links on the Fall of Rome

- [Mr Giotto's site: Barbarian Invasions](#)
- [Ancient Rome for Kids](#)
- [E-how: Causes and Effects of the Fall of Rome](#)
- [BBC Website: The Fall of Rome](#) (challenging but highly recommended)
- [The Telegraph: The Fall of Rome](#)
- [History Learning Site: The Decline and Fall of Rome](#)
- [Ancienthistory.about: The Fall of Rome](#)