

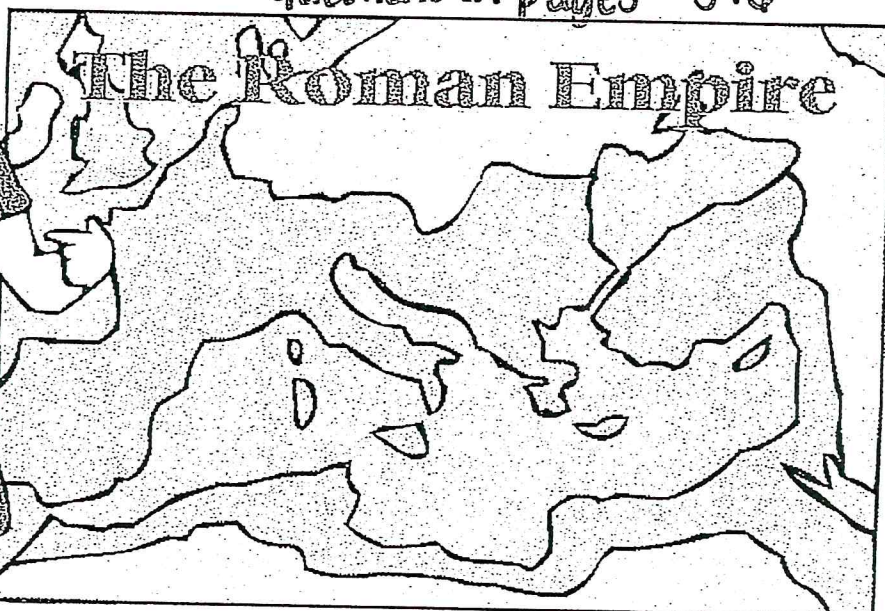
# The Roman Empire

Directions: Talk to the text and highlight the answers from the questions on pages 5+6

READING

answers from the

questions on pages 5+6



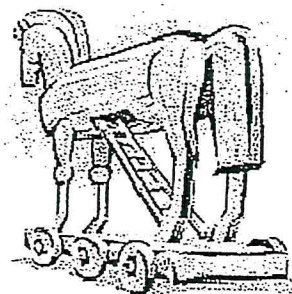
/30  
Summative  
pts

## Introduction

The people of the Roman Empire are actually descendants from the famous Trojans. The Trojans once lived in what is now Turkey. They were forced from their land and home by the ancient Greeks, who at that time were known as the Achaeans, during the Trojan War in about 1200 B.C. Two ancient poems tell the story of the Trojan War. The Iliad, by Homer, tells the story from the Greek point of view. The Roman version called the Aeneid, by the poet Virgil, tells the story of Aeneas, and how his people were tricked by the Achaeans. In this famous story, after ten years of fighting, the Trojan War still wasn't over. Neither the Greeks nor the Trojans seemed to be able to win, until one of the Greek kings, Odysseus of Ithaca, had an idea.

"Build a big wooden horse on wheels," he said, "big enough for a bunch of Greek soldiers to hide inside it." So the Greeks did. Then the Greeks all pretended to sail home (except the ones hiding inside the horse!). They acted like they had given up and left. But really they hid near by.

Soon the Trojans found the horse. Nobody knew what it was or why it was there. (The Greek soldiers hiding inside kept very quiet). Then they found a Greek soldier hiding nearby. He said (though this was part of the trick) that the other Greeks hated him and they had left him behind. So the Trojans asked him what the horse was for. He said it was an offering to the goddess Athena.



Because the Trojans didn't want to upset Athena, they began to roll the big horse into the city of Troy behind its protective walls. It was so big it wouldn't go through the gate so they had to tear down a piece of the city wall to get it in. They took the horse and left it at the temple of Athena, and then the Trojans had a big party to celebrate the end of the war. Still, the Greek soldiers inside the horse kept very quiet.

Finally everyone fell asleep, and then the Greek soldiers came out of the Trojan Horse and killed the remaining guards on the walls. They signaled to the other Greeks to come attack Troy. They could get in now because of the piece of the wall that was torn down. There was a big fire at the