

# **7.1 Analyze the legacy of the Roman Empire**

# The Legacy of Rome

- Main idea:
  - Rome passed on many achievements in government, law, language, and the arts to future generations.
- Our world would be very different if the Roman Empire had never existed.
- The same is true for our system of laws and our knowledge about construction.

# Roman Influence on Architecture and Building

- Early Romans borrowed architectural ideas from the Greeks, but they also developed their own style.
- Roman designs often included vaults, columns, domes, and arches.
- New architectural ideas meant that buildings could be constructed in brand new ways.
- Because of concrete and a new design, Roman theaters did not have to be built on natural slopes to have tier seating...early Greek theaters are only found on slopes.
- Columns, domes, and arches still appear in many modern buildings.
- Banks, homes, and government buildings often use a Roman style.





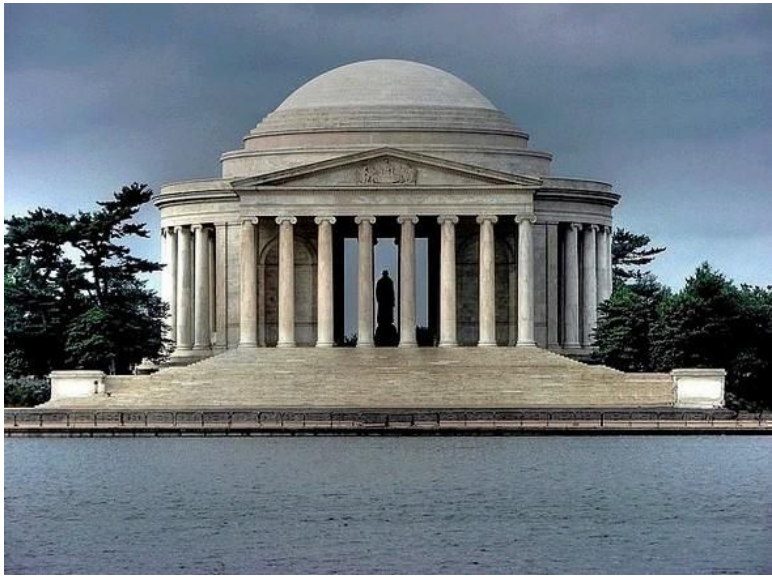




← Greek theater

Roman theater (the  
Colosseum)







# Roman Influence on Government

- Roman ideas about law, as first written in the Twelve Tables, are with us today.
- We, like the Romans, believe that people are equal under the law and should be treated fairly.
- We expect our judges to decide cases fairly and we consider a person innocent until proven guilty.
- Roman ideas about government and citizenship are also important today in the US.
- Like early Romans, Americans believe that a republic made up of equal citizens is the best form of government.
- We also believe that a republic works best if citizens do their duty, participate in government, and work to make a better society.

# Roman Influence on Culture

- Today the alphabet of the Latin language, which expanded from 22 to 26 letters, is used throughout the Western World.
- Latin shaped the languages of Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, and Romania
- Many English words also come from Latin.
- Scientists, doctors, and lawyers still use Latin phrases throughout the daily lives.
- Every known species of plants and animals has a Latin name.
- Today, we also still admire the works of Roman writers such as Virgil, Horace, Livy, and Tacitus.

# Roman Influence on Religion

- As you probably know, Christianity is one of the major religions in the world today.
- Christianity really began in the Roman Empire.
- When Rome's government adopted Christianity in the 300s CE, it helped the new religion to grow and spread.
- After Rome's fall, many Roman ideas blended with those of Christianity.

# What was the legacy of Rome?

1. What elements of Roman architecture are still in use?
2. Which elements of Roman law are found in US law?
3. How did Roman culture influence the languages of Europe?
4. Why did the Roman government's recognition of Christianity help the religion spread?