

The Roman Empire
Christoph Suter

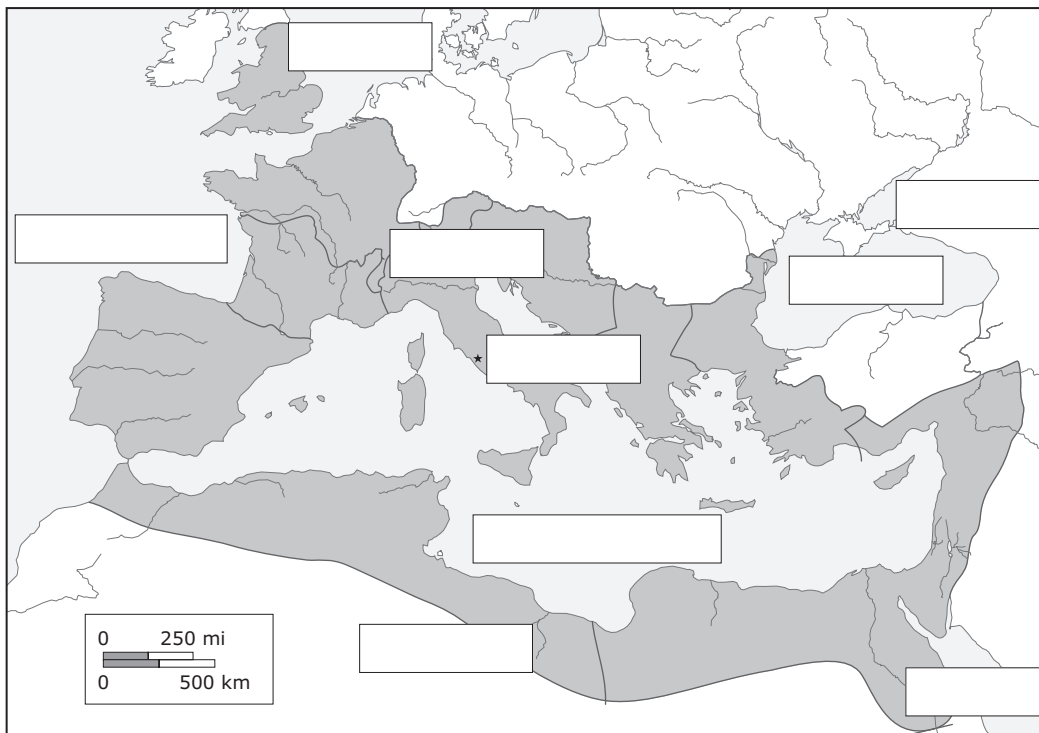
Comparing maps from Roman and from modern times

Reading, Writing

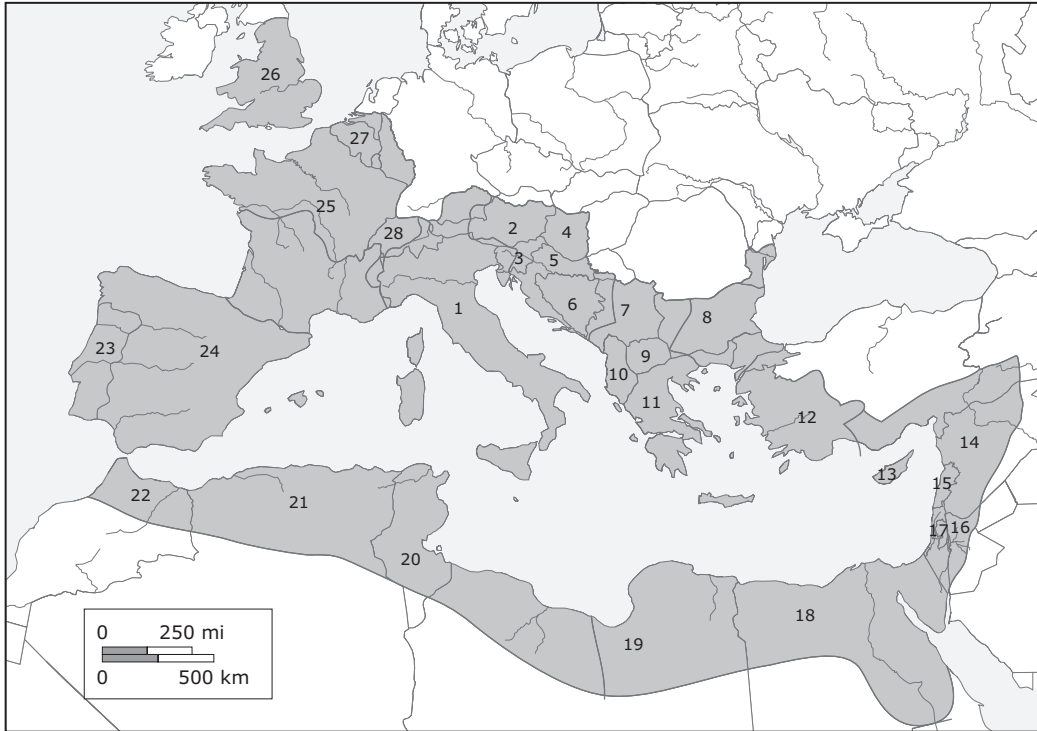
1 Below is a map of the Roman Empire from the 2nd century AD. Read the text and fill in the boxes in the map with these names:

Europe	Africa	Asia	Mediterranean Sea	Atlantic Ocean
North Sea	Black Sea	Caspian Sea	Red Sea	Rome </td

The Roman Empire was one of the biggest and most powerful empires in human history. Starting from the city of Rome in Italy, it reached over three continents: Europe in the north, Africa in the west, and Asia in the east. It went all round the Mediterranean Sea. It stretched to the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the North Sea to the north, the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea to the east, and the Red Sea to the south.



2. Mark the place where you live in the map. Was it part of the Roman Empire?
3. Below is a modern map of the same area. Colour the countries which were part of the Roman Empire. Use two different colours. Colour the countries that were all Roman in one colour and the countries that were only partly Roman in another colour.

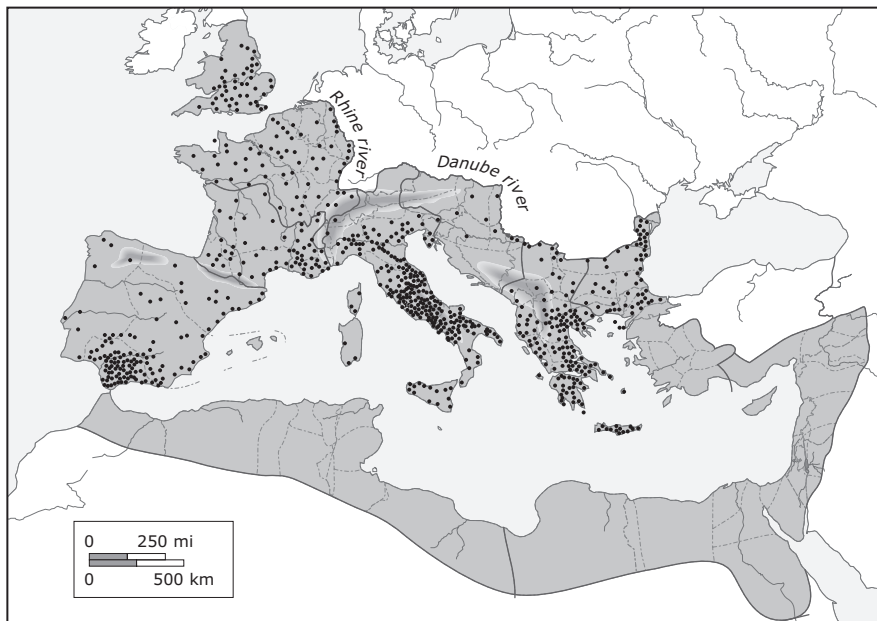


Roman towns

Reading, Writing

In the Roman era, a large number of towns were founded by Roman settlers. They designed their towns and houses according to typical Roman examples, and in this way the Roman way of living was spread all over the Empire, even to the remotest areas. Many of these towns were built by legionaries near military camps. These camps were situated in strategically important places; for example on banks of rivers or lakes, or at the seashore.

The map below shows Roman towns in Europe.



Look at the map. Use the writing frame below to write a paragraph that describes the distribution of towns on the map:

Writing frame

In the far (north/south/east/west)	Roman towns would be in (Portugal... etc) today
Town grouping was especially dense	in the (north/south/east/west/centre) of (Italy etc)
usually, towns were founded along	(rivers/mountains/islands/coasts)
The densest grouping was found in	...

Exploring Roman Town names

Reading, Speaking

Many ancient towns still exist today. You can still find the Roman names in some modern town names, for example, *Milan* in Italy, was called *Mediolanum* in Roman times. Other names have been lost, such as *Eboracum* in England which is *York* today.

Work with a partner. Match the Roman names of ancient cities to their modern names. Say which town names go together and what makes you think they are a matching pair.

Useful phrases

I think Milan may be Mediolanum	because	they both start with the letter ...
		they share the syllable ...
		they are almost the same
		they look similar
		I've been there
		I've heard it before
		I've read it in Asterix
		there's nothing else left

Roman name	Modern English name
Londinium	Toledo
Lutetia	Augst
Roma	Naples
Athenae	Marseille
Colonia	Paris
Panormus	Palermo
Toletum	Cologne
Corinthus	Athens
Augusta Raurica	London
Augusta Treverorum	Rome
Neapolis	Trier
Massilia	Corinth

Roman towns in my country

Writing

Are there any Roman towns in your country? Make a list of their Roman names and their names in modern English.

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Overview

In the first part, students compare a map of the Roman Empire to a modern map. Then, the focus is on towns founded by the Romans and their distribution in the Empire. Finally, there is an activity to compare ancient and modern names of Roman towns.

Learning objectives

- to perceive the area of the Roman Empire at the time of its largest expansion
- to relate this area to a modern map
- to learn about the number and dispersion of Roman towns
- to compare ancient and modern town names
- to practise giving reasons for a statement

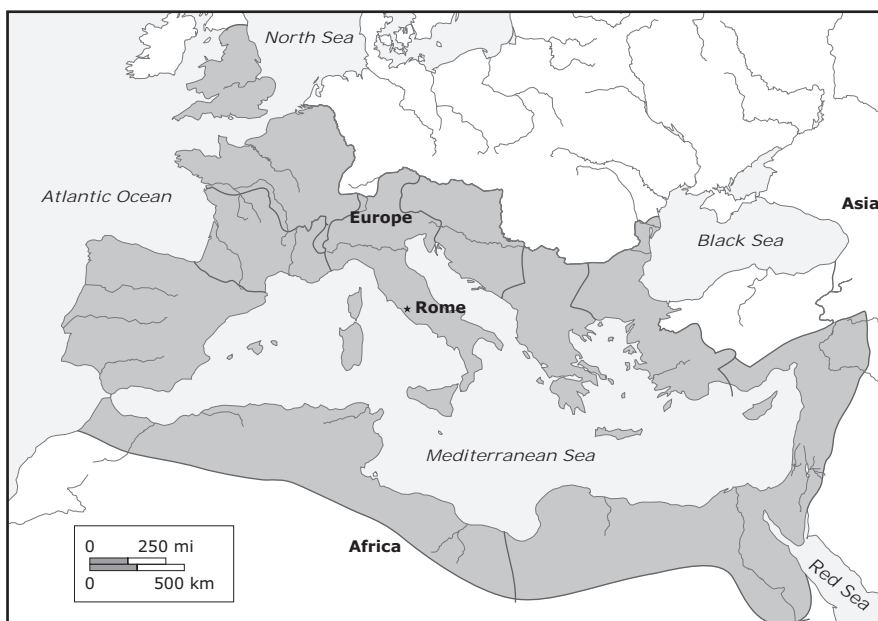
Comparing maps from Roman and from modern times

Reading, Writing

- Students can work individually or in pairs
- Ask them to re-read the text after filling in the names on the map in order to check if it is correct
- Do two examples for colouring in countries with the class first, possibly starting with your country
- Point out that rivers and coastlines are a reliable reference for comparing the modern map to the map of the Roman Empire

Answer key:

1. Map of the Roman Empire from the 2nd century AD.



2 Colour the countries which were part of the Roman Empire

W	Albania	W	Israel
P	Algeria	W	Italy
P	Armenia	P	Jordan
P	Austria	W	Lebanon
P	Azerbaijan	P	Libya
W	Belgium	W	Macedonia
W	Bosnia and Herzegovina	P	Morocco
P	Bulgaria	W	Portugal
W	Croatia	W	Romania
W	Cyprus	W	Serbia
P	Egypt	W	Slovenia
W	France	W	Spain
P	Georgia	W	Switzerland
P	Germany	P	Syria
W	Greece	W	Tunisia
P	Hungary	W	Turkey
P	Iran	P	United Kingdom
P	Iraq		

W = whole country Roman, P = part of the country Roman

Roman towns

Reading, Writing, Speaking

- Read the introductory text in class
- Give some comments on the map and ask students what they find interesting about it.
- Students individually write a short paragraph on the basis of the writing frame.
- Students could also extend their texts on the basis of the class discussion

Exploring Roman town names

- Students work in pairs
- Ask them to read the introduction
- After students have completed the matching task, have a feedback session in class. Ask for the reasons why they have matched a pair.

Answer key:**1. Match Roman names of ancient cities with their modern names.**

Roman name	modern English name
Londinium	London
Lutetia	Paris
Roma	Rome
Athenae	Athens
Colonia	Cologne
Panormus	Palermo
Toletum	Toledo
Corinthus	Corinth
Augusta Raurica	Augst
Augusta Treverorum	Trier
Neapolis	Naples
Massilia	Marseille

Roman towns in my country

- This is an option for homework or for project work.