

How Did the Roman Empire Become the Greatest in the World?

Lesson plan for an individual writing assignment

Suggested length: 1-2 class periods (45-55 minutes each)

Lesson components:

- Pre-activity (25-30 minutes)
- Opener (focus of partial class period)
- Activity (focus of one class period)
- Optional closer (5-10 minutes)

Assessment

Students will each write a letter in which they pretend to be a Roman soldier, explaining the reason for the empire's greatness to their daughter.

Pre-activity (25-30 minutes)

1. To prepare for this lesson, direct students to explore the Kialo Edu discussion "How Did the Roman Empire Become the Greatest in the World?" at home. Students should spend about 30 minutes to:
 - a. Read the discussion, following any links that interest them.
 - b. Comment on any claims that they would like to discuss in class.
 - c. Vote on the 5 claims that students find most important, giving each a score of "4."

TIP: You may wish to demonstrate [voting](#) to your students. Pick any claim and model how to give it a score of "4." You can then revoke your vote by clicking on the "4" again.


TIP: This portion of the lesson can be done in class as well, if at-home home device access is a concern. In this case, it is recommended to adapt this lesson for a double-block period or two class periods.

Opener (10-20 minutes)

1. Watch this [TED-Ed video](#), "A day in the life of a Roman Soldier," to activate student knowledge and spark interest.

2. Discuss any points of interest that arose from the Pre-activity, such as highly-voted claims, embedded sources, student comments, or questions.

Activity (focus of one class period)

1. Review the student instructions located in the discussion Background Info (this can be found by clicking the  button in the top-left corner of the discussion).
2. Direct students to begin the writing activity, consulting the Kialo Edu discussion or other resources as necessary.

TIP: Encourage students to imagine how a soldier would feel about Rome: Would they like their emperor? What would they feel proud of? What would they hate?

Optional closer (5-10 minutes)

1. Ask students what they think was the most important factor that determined the Roman Empire's unprecedented expansion. Encourage them to support their answer with reasons.