

Rome: From Village to Empire



c. 750 BCE: Latins (tribe) settle what becomes Rome





Topography and Geography:

peninsula

mountains

rivers



Rome is *west* of Apennines Mts: more fertile land & river access

The early Romans were mostly...



farmers



c. 600 BCE:

Etruscans Conquer Rome...

...Romans adopt Etruscan alphabet, art, gods, building techniques (including the arch)



In 509 BCE...



**...the
Romans
overthrew
the
Etruscans**

Unlike the Athenians, who had a *direct* or *participatory* democracy, the Romans established a *representative* democracy, or, a REPUBLIC...



...like we have today

Roman Social Structure in the Republic

- **Patricians**: wealthy landowners and office-holders
- **Plebeians**: farmers, artisans, traders. Could vote but not hold political office
- **Slaves**: mostly prisoners of war. Not citizens and had no rights

Roman Religion

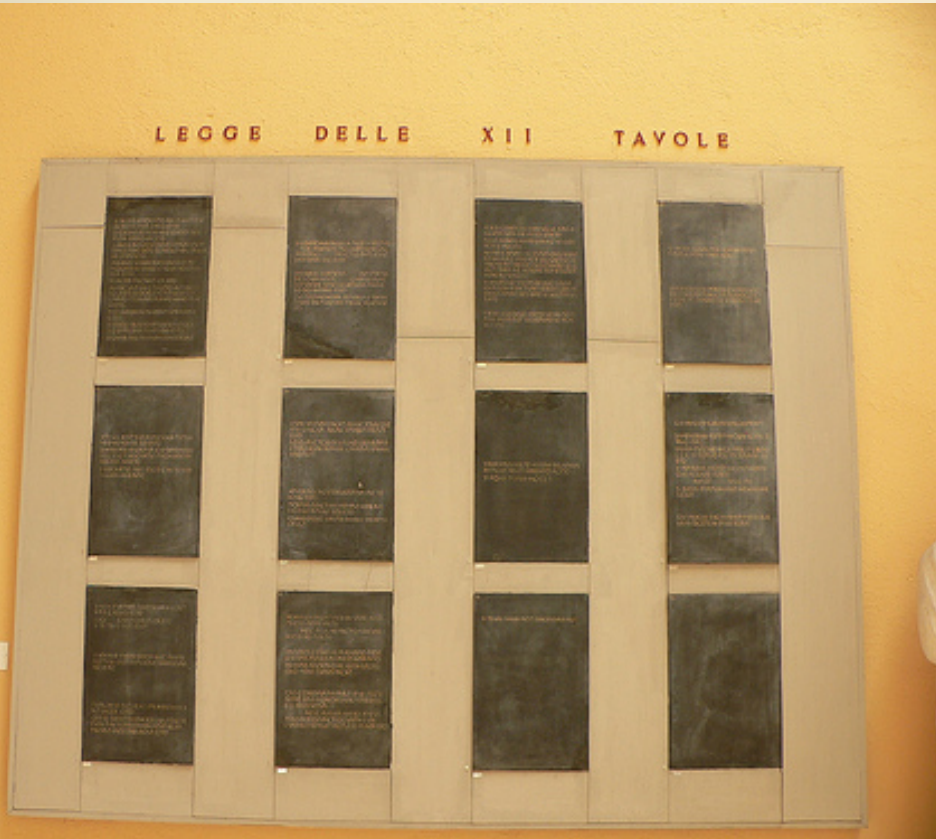
- **Polytheistic: belief in more than one god**
- **Absorbed gods of others, including the Greeks**
- **Lots of public festivals**

Roman Women

- **Educated just like boys**
- **Could NOT vote, but could testify in court**
- **Gained property rights**
- **More influence in family than Greek women**

THE TWELVE TABLES

451 BCE: First Roman Law Code

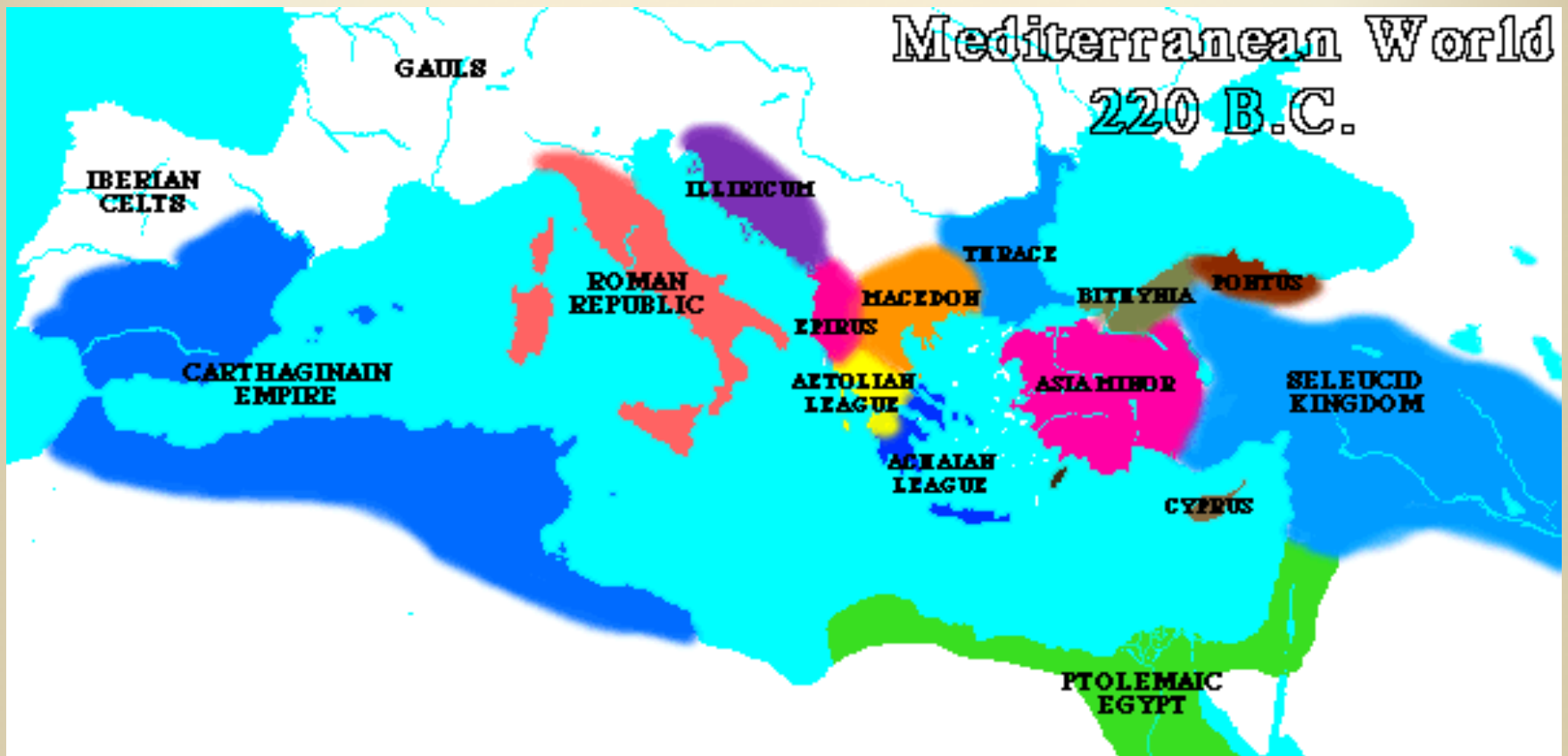


Why was this important?

Gradually, the Romans began to expand their control...



...until they had conquered the entire Italian peninsula plus the islands of Corsica, Sardinia and Sicily



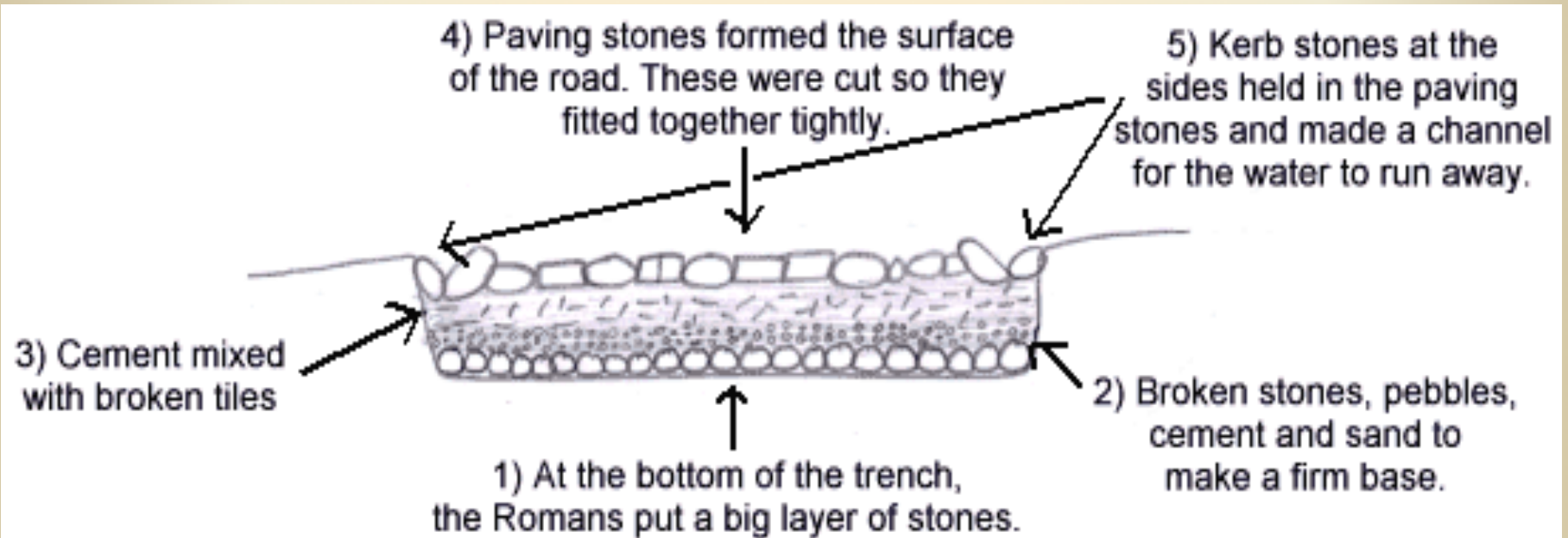


**As they expanded
their control...**

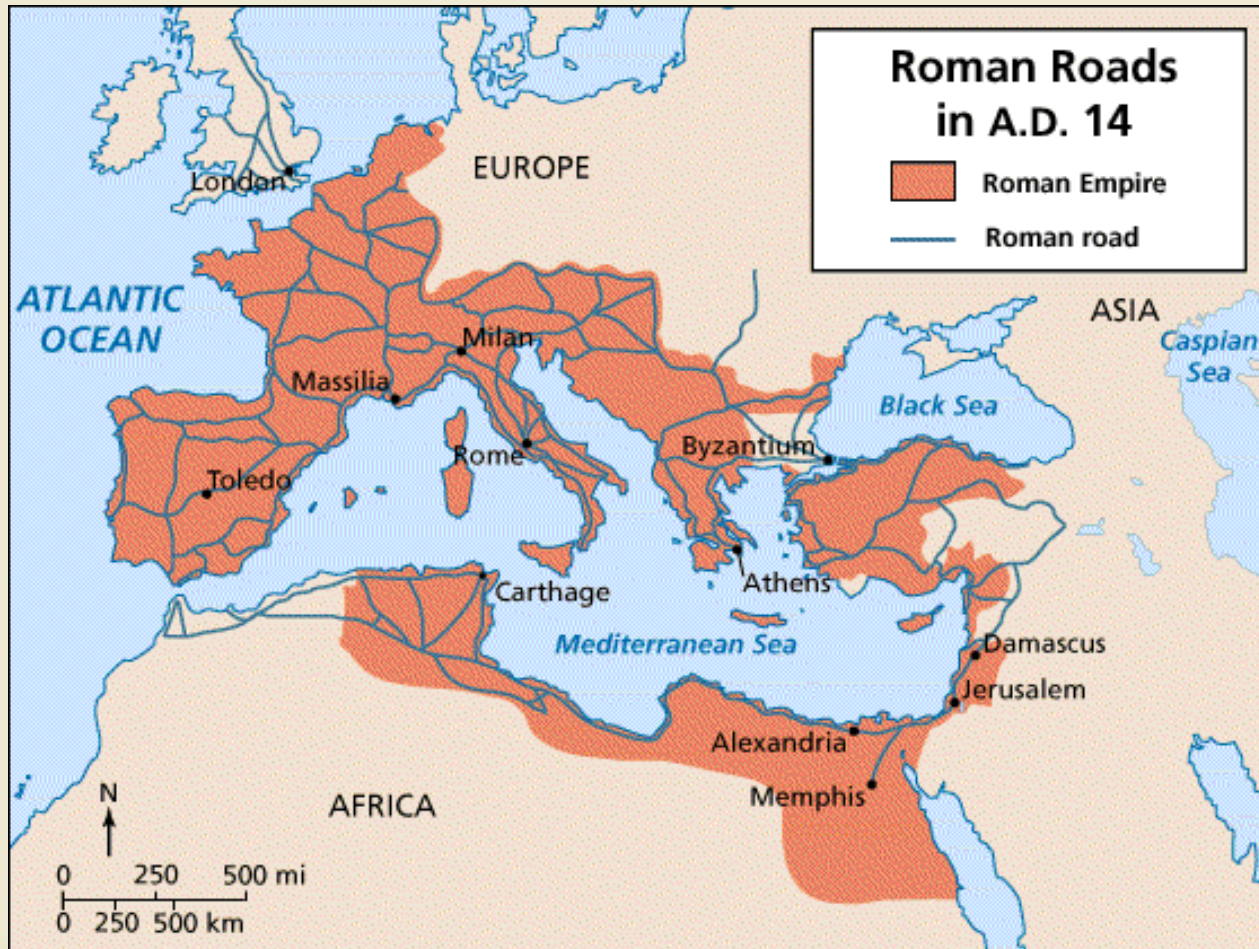
**...the Romans built
an excellent network
of roads**



Here's how they built them:



Their road system is one of the Romans' greatest achievements

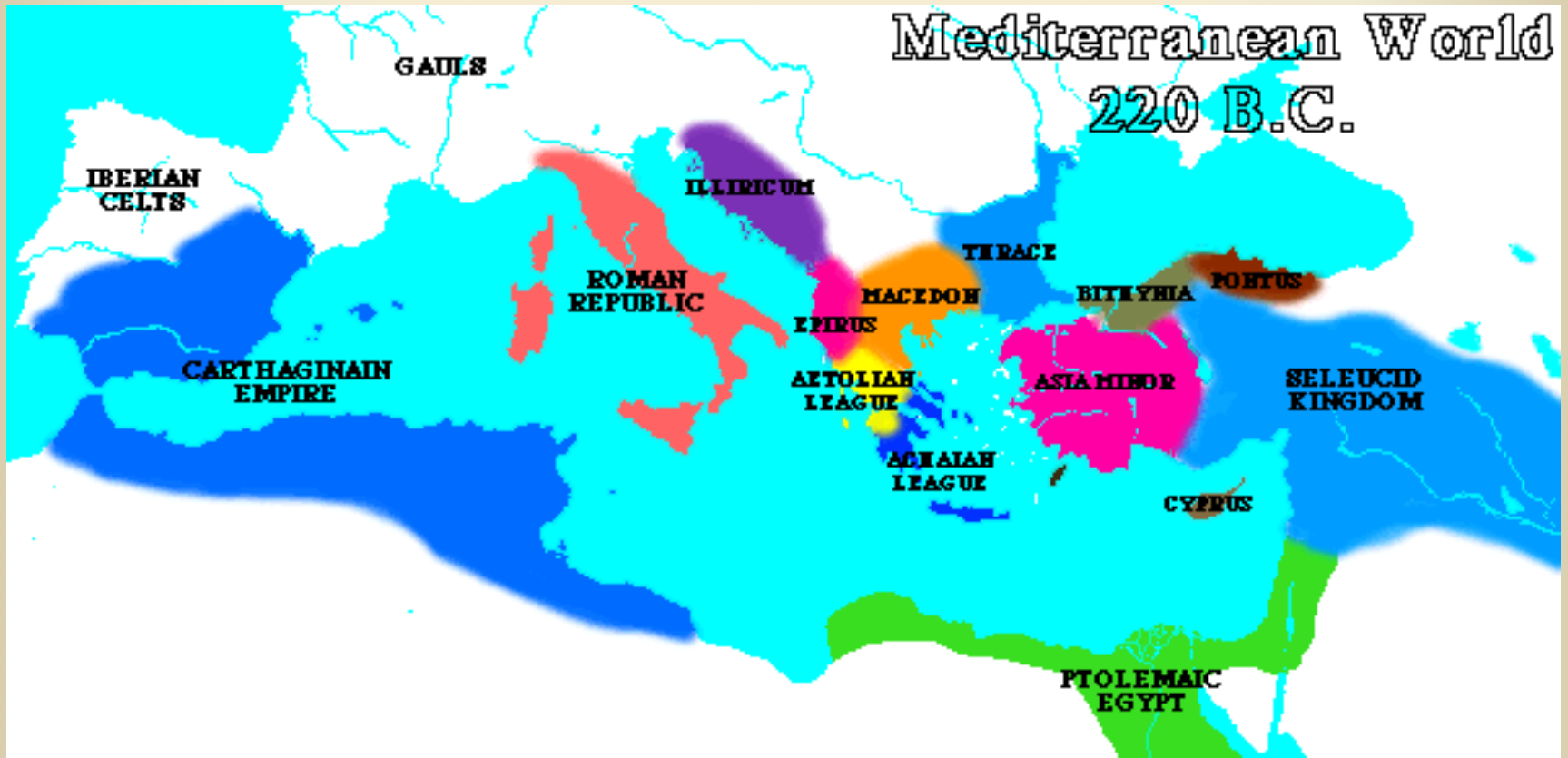


Why do you think they built them?

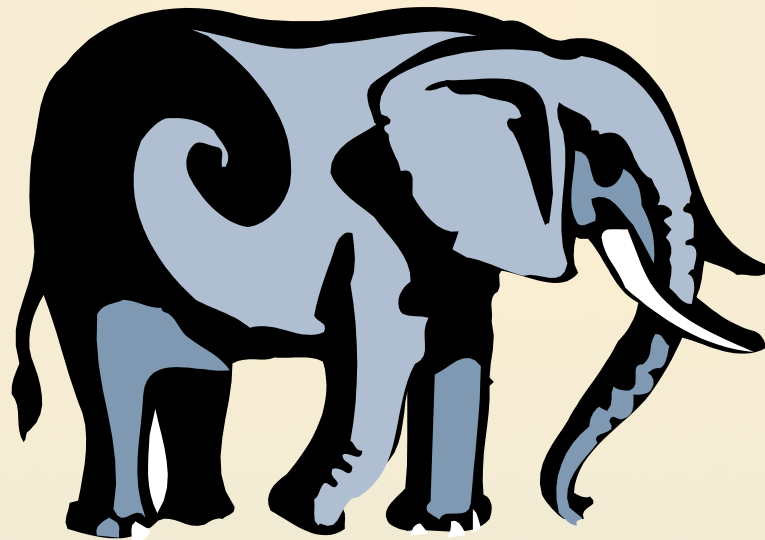
The Roman Road System

- ❖ Allowed easy military transport**
- ❖ Enabled trade and commerce**
- ❖ Helped unify expanding Roman territories**

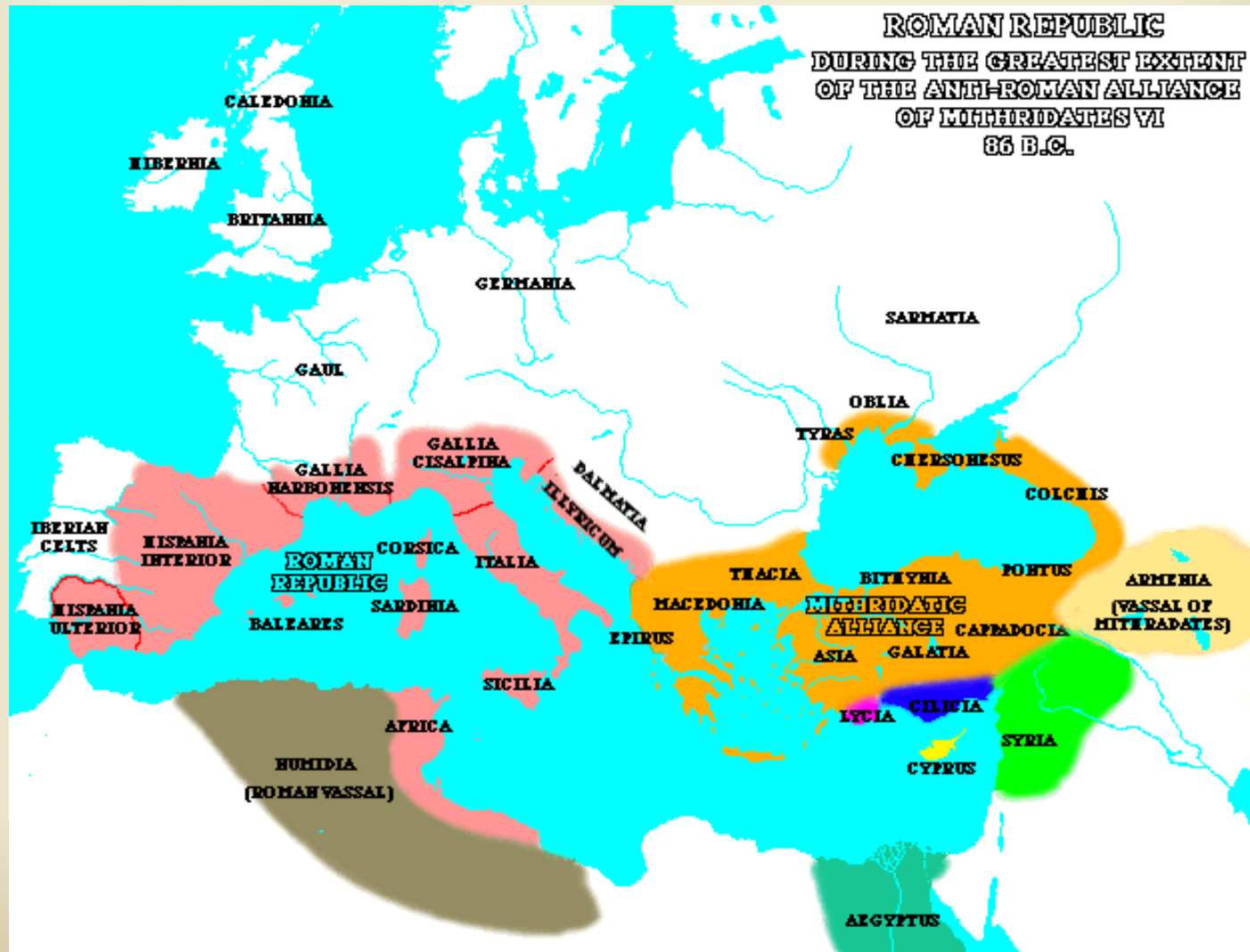
Back to Roman expansion...who do you think would be a likely rival for control of the Mediterranean Sea?



Between 264-146 BCE the Romans fought three wars with Carthage, known as the *Punic Wars*.



Rome won...and went on to conquer the rest of the Mediterranean world.



**ROMAN EMPIRE
AT THE HEIGHT OF CONQUEST
UNDER EMPEROR TRAJAN
116 A.D.**



The period 27 BCE-180 AD (the last map) is known as the:

PAX ROMANA

During this period:

- Romans thought they were the entire civilized world**
- Rome enjoyed military dominance**
- The population of the city of Rome reached 1 million**
- Trade increased, bringing a wealth of resources into Rome**
- The arts flourished**

Well, that's it for our quick overview of Rome's journey from small village to huge empire. Over the next few weeks we will concentrate on the following:

- ✓ the influence of Greek culture upon the Romans**
- ✓ Roman contributions to politics, technology and the arts**
- ✓ the rise of Christianity within the Roman Empire**
- ✓ reasons for the decline and collapse of the Empire**