**Socratic Seminar: Ancient Rome #1 Work Sheet**

1. **The Rise of Rome:**
   1. What is the name of the myth of the founding of Rome?
   2. What was Virgil’s “The Aeneid” about?
   3. Why do you think Virgil wrote “The Aeneid” and what did it mean to the Romans?
   4. What groups influenced the early Romans? How?
   5. What unique thing did the Romans create on their own?
   6. What did “The Aeneid” predict would happen? With what you have learned about the ending of the Roman Republic why do you think that ended up being a positive solution?
   7. What did Virgil predict and how did that impact what people in the future thought about him?
2. **The Origins of Roman Cultural Values:**
   1. In the stories of Lucretia, Publius Horatius Cocles, and Gaius Mucius Scaevola, why do you think violence played such a prominent role? Can you think of other examples from the Roman era that embody the values of paterfamilias and virtus?
   2. If the Romans considered the Greeks and Etruscans as inferior, how would you explain the influence those two cultures had on Roman culture and values?
   3. How do you think the typical Roman would have described the ideal Roman woman and ideal Roman man based on what you know from Livy’s account of the revolt against the Etruscans?
3. **Life in Rome, the Seat of Empire:**
   1. What do you think might explain the Romans’ love of blood sports?
   2. Do you agree with Juvenal that the games provided “bread and circuses” to distract the populace from more pressing concerns, or were the games a necessary social outlet that brought Romans of all classes together as fans?
   3. How would you compare screen depictions of gladiators with what you know about the historical reality of life as a fighter in the Circus Maximus and the Colosseum?
4. **The Transformation of the Roman Army:**
   1. In what ways did the incorporation of Germanic people into the military benefit the Roman Empire? In what ways did their incorporation adversely affect the empire?
   2. How did educated Romans define themselves? How did they define “barbarians?” How did barbarians view the Romans?
   3. In what ways did the influx of Germanic people change the Roman Empire? In what ways did the Roman Empire change the Germanic peoples?
5. **Julius Caesar: Father of the Roman Empire:**
   1. What type of source are Documents A, B, and C? Why?
   2. Which side of Caesar does Plutarch’s anecdote reveal?
   3. According to Shakespeare’s Mark Antony, Caesar was:
   4. What about Caesar did Cicero admire?
6. **Caesar and Cleopatra:**
   1. What made Caesar and Cleopatra so famous? What were they actually like?
   2. What place Cleopatra associated with and where were her ancestors actually from?
   3. From what you learned in the last unit, what set this up to happen? What did it mean to the Romans?
   4. What warnings did Caesar have before he was murdered by the Senate? What might have changed if he had heeded warnings?
   5. What happened to Cleopatra after Caesar died?
7. **The Wrath of Mt. Vesuvius:**
   1. What cities were destroyed in 79 AD by Mt. Vesuvius?
   2. What has been the situation with Mt. Vesuvius since 79 AD?
   3. How was the eruption different for the different towns in the path of the eruption?
   4. Who was Pliny the Younger? What was his story?