

## Geography: Ancient Rome

**Grade Level:** Third

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Winter Haven, FL

**Length of Unit:** 10 Lessons

### I. ABSTRACT

This unit takes a look at the history of Ancient Rome. It includes the physical location of the Mediterranean Region, myths associated with Roman life, and the language of Rome: Latin. An overview of the catastrophe at Pompeii is included as an introduction into the age of Byzantine art.

### II. OVERVIEW

Students will become familiar with the Mediterranean region through cooperative learning as well as develop and utilize the map skills necessary to gain a deeper understanding of Ancient Rome. Students will travel to Rome learning the language and customs of both upper-class and ordinary citizens. Students will take on these roles and learn what it means to walk a mile in someone else's sandals. The Punic wars will be discussed and students will get the opportunity to develop strategies that would combat friction and promote peaceable lifestyles. Students will benefit from understanding a dictator's role as well as the dangers that go along with that title. They will gain a thorough understanding of the catastrophe of Pompeii and become familiar with its original inhabitants. By creating Byzantine mosaics, students will make the connection between history and the arts of this ancient world.

### III. BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

A. For teachers

Hirsch, E.D. Jr. *What Your Third Grader Needs to Know*.  
Tanacca, Shelly. *The Buried City of Pompeii*.

### IV. LESSONS

#### Lesson One: Ancient Rome - The Geography of the Mediterranean Region

- A. Objective: To locate and identify the Mediterranean Region on a map.
- B. Materials: Large wall map  
individual student maps Appendix A  
large laminated wall maps for cooperative group work.  
vis-à-vis pens (one per group)
- C. Vocabulary: route, strait, delta, peninsula
- D. Procedure
  1. Introduce wall map.
  2. Present the vocabulary.
  3. Indicate on the wall map an example of each of the vocabulary words.
  4. Locate the following places on the wall map - Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Greece, Italy (**peninsula**), France, Spain, Strait of Gibraltar, Atlantic Ocean, North Africa, Asia Minor (**peninsula**),