

## Roman Empire Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Roman Empire trivia explores the vast state that emerged after Octavian established the Principate in 27 BC, transforming Rome from a republic into an imperial power. At its height, the empire controlled the Mediterranean and large parts of Western Europe, Western Asia, and North Africa, leaving a political and cultural legacy that still shapes historical understanding today.

### HARD ROMAN EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. Which naval battle in 31 BC sealed Augustus's victory over Mark Antony and Cleopatra?

Answer: The Battle of Actium.

2. What lifelong constitutional power did the Senate grant Augustus to strengthen his authority without declaring him king?

Answer: The tribunician power for life.

3. Which elite unit was set up by Augustus specifically as an imperial bodyguard?

Answer: The Praetorian Guard.

4. In AD 9, what disaster in Germania wiped out three Roman legions?

Answer: The Battle of the Teutoburg Forest.

5. What was the name of Caracalla's AD 212 measure that extended Roman citizenship to most free inhabitants of the empire?

Answer: The Constitutio Antoniniana.

6. Which system, introduced by Diocletian in AD 293, split imperial rule among two senior and two junior emperors?

Answer: The Tetrarchy.

7. What Diocletianic decree of AD 301 tried to put a ceiling on costs across the empire?

Answer: The Edict on Maximum Prices.

8. Which AD 312 battle propelled Constantine into the position of sole ruler in the western empire?

Answer: The Battle of the Milvian Bridge.

9. Which proclamation issued in AD 313 announced religious toleration for Christians and others in the empire?

Answer: The Edict of Milan.

10. What major church council did Constantine convene in AD 325?

Answer: The First Council of Nicaea.

11. Which edict of AD 380 made Nicene Christianity the state religion under Theodosius I?

Answer: The Edict of Thessalonica.

12. After Theodosius I died in AD 395, between which two sons was the empire permanently divided?

Answer: Arcadius and Honorius.

13. Who led the Visigoths in the sack of Rome in AD 410?

Answer: Alaric.

14. Which Vandal ruler masterminded the AD 455 sack of Rome?

Answer: Genseric.

#### FUNNY ROMAN EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. Which emperor reportedly thought his horse Incitatus was senate material and planned to make it consul?

Answer: Caligula

2. What famously odd tax did Emperor Vespasian impose on collections from public urinals?

Answer: A tax on urine

3. Which Latin phrase, linked to Vespasian's urine tax, means that cash doesn't carry a bad smell?

Answer: Pecunia non olet

4. Which emperor turned elite Romans into reluctant concertgoers by performing publicly as a singer and lyre-player?

Answer: Nero

5. Where have archaeologists found Roman wall scribbles featuring jokes, insults, and election slogans?

Answer: Pompeii

6. At some Roman banquets, what cloth item doubled as a napkin and a handy way to smuggle leftovers home?

Answer: A mappa

7. Which emperor was mocked by ancient writers for extravagant feasting during his very short reign in AD 69?

Answer: Vitellius

8. Who asked the timeless question, 'Who will guard the guards themselves?'?

Answer: Juvenal

9. In shared Roman public latrines, what was the tersorium?

Answer: A sponge on a stick

10. Which emperor liked to step into the arena and appear as a gladiator?

Answer: Commodus

11. According to ancient accounts, what was the name of Domitian's court dwarf entertainer?

Answer: Latinus

12. Which gourmet became so linked with fancy eating that a famous Roman cookbook bears his name?

Answer: Apicius

13. What fermented fish sauce did Romans seem ready to splash on almost everything?

Answer: Garum

#### FUN ROMAN EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. Which emperor kicked off the Roman conquest of Britain in AD 43?

Answer: Claudius

2. Rome grabbed a province in the early 2nd century that roughly matches modern Romania. What was it called?

Answer: Dacia

3. Which queen briefly turned Palmyra into an independent power in the 3rd century?

Answer: Zenobia

4. After being destroyed in 146 BC, what city was later refounded as a Roman city?

Answer: Carthage

5. Emperor Septimius Severus was born in which city in present-day Libya?

Answer: Leptis Magna

6. Before becoming emperor, Elagabalus had already held a very unusual job. What was it?

Answer: He had been a priest of the sun god Elagabal at Emesa.

7. Roman Londinium eventually grew into an important settlement in which province-sized island world?

Answer: Britain

8. Near Hadrian's Wall, Roman soldiers built a fort whose name still sounds satisfyingly crunchy. What was it called?

Answer: Vindolanda

9. True or false: The Antonine Wall stood farther north than Hadrian's Wall in Britain.?

Answer: True

10. One of the ancient wonders kept standing through centuries in Roman Egypt. Which city was home to that famous lighthouse?

Answer: Alexandria

11. Massilia eventually came under Roman control. What modern French city is Massilia?

Answer: Marseille

12. What famously long Roman road linked Rome with southern Italy?

Answer: Via Appia

13. Which Roman-period city in Judea featured a major artificial harbor built under Herod the Great?

Answer: Caesarea Maritima

#### ROMAN EMPIRE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which calendar reform did Julius Caesar introduce in 45 BC?

Answer: The Julian calendar

2. Which month is named after Emperor Augustus?

Answer: August

3. What month honors Julius Caesar by name?

Answer: July

4. What number system uses letters such as I, V, X, L, C, D, and M?

Answer: Roman numerals

5. What structures carried fresh water into Roman towns and cities?

Answer: Aqueducts

6. If you wanted to watch chariot racing in ancient Rome, which giant venue would you visit?

Answer: The Circus Maximus

7. Which river flows through the city of Rome?

Answer: The Tiber River

8. Roman students often practiced reading and writing on what reusable classroom tool?

Answer: Wax tablets

9. Which formal garment was especially associated with Roman male citizens?

Answer: Togas

10. What was the central courtyard in many Roman homes called?

Answer: An atrium

11. True or false: Public bath complexes were common in Roman cities.?

Answer: True

12. What central area in Rome was used for politics, business, and religion?

Answer: The Roman Forum

#### EASY ROMAN EMPIRE TRIVIA

1. What title did Octavian take in 27 BC, marking the conventional start of the Roman Empire?

Answer: Augustus

2. Which city was the original capital of the Roman Empire?

Answer: Rome

3. What was the main official language of the western Roman Empire?

Answer: Latin

4. What name did Romans give the Mediterranean Sea, meaning 'Our Sea'?

Answer: Mare Nostrum

5. Which famous Roman leader was assassinated in 44 BC, before the empire formally began?

Answer: Julius Caesar

6. Which famous arena in Rome was completed under Emperor Titus in AD 80?

Answer: The Colosseum

7. What new imperial capital did Emperor Constantine I found in AD 330?

Answer: Constantinople

8. Which land did Rome conquer in 30 BC after the defeat of Cleopatra VII and Mark Antony?

Answer: Egypt

9. What defensive barrier was built in northern Britain during Emperor Hadrian's reign?

Answer: Hadrian's Wall

10. Which religion became the empire's favored faith after Emperor Constantine backed it?

Answer: Christianity

11. In what year is the fall of the Western Roman Empire commonly dated?

Answer: AD 476

12. Until what year did the Eastern Roman Empire, later called the Byzantine Empire, continue?

Answer: 1453

13. Roman soldiers were organized into major units called what?

Answer: Legions

Source: <https://triviagong.com/trivia/roman-empire-trivia>