Objective
The student will demonstrate knowledge of ancient Rome from about 700 B.C.E. to 500 C.E. in terms of its impact on Western civilization by
  g) explaining the economic, social, and political impact of the Pax Romana.

Essential Understandings
Augustus Caesar established the Roman Empire by instituting civil service, rule by law, a common coinage, and secure travel and trade throughout the Empire.

Following Augustus Caesar, the Roman Empire enjoyed 200 years of peace and prosperity known as the Pax Romana.

Essential Questions
1. What was the Pax Romana?
2. What was the impact of the Pax Romana on the Roman Empire?

Essential Knowledge
1. The Pax Romana
   A. Two centuries of peace and prosperity under imperial rule
   B. Expansion and solidification of the Roman Empire, particularly in the Near East

2. Economic impact of the Pax Romana
   A. Established uniform system of money, which helped to expand trade
   B. Guaranteed safe travel and trade on Roman roads
   C. Promoted prosperity and stability

3. Social impact of the Pax Romana
   A. Returned stability to social classes
   B. Increased emphasis on the family

4. Political impact of the Pax Romana
   A. Created a civil service
   B. Developed a uniform rule of law

Rome prospered under the economic and political stability brought by Augustus Caesar. The two centuries of peace – from 27 B.C.E. to 180 C.E. – and economic development that followed his reign are called the Pax Romana (Roman Peace). During the Pax Romana, the Roman Empire reached its greatest geographical extent. Trade, manufacturing, and the arts flourished.
Rome was at the peak of its power from the beginning of Augustus’ rule in 27 B.C. to A.D. 180. For 207 years, peace reigned throughout the empire, except for some fighting with tribes along the borders. This period of peace and prosperity is known as the **Pax Romana**—“Roman peace.”

During this time, the Roman Empire included more than 3 million square miles. Its population numbered between 60 and 80 million people. About 1 million people lived in the city of Rome itself.

**An Economy Based on Agriculture and Trade** Agriculture was the most important industry in the empire. All else depended on it. About 90 percent of the people were engaged in farming. Most Romans survived on the produce from their local area. Additional foodstuffs (when needed) and luxury items for the rich were obtained through trade. In Augustus’ time, a silver coin called a denarius was in use throughout the empire. Having common coinage made trade between different parts of the empire much easier.

Rome had a vast trading network. Ships from the east traveled the Mediterranean protected by the Roman navy. Cities such as Corinth in Greece, Ephesus in Anatolia, and Antioch on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean grew wealthy. Rome also traded with China and India.

A complex network of roads linked the empire to such far-flung places as Persia and southern Russia. These roads were originally built by the Roman army for military purposes. The most important of the roads were the Silk Roads, named for the overland routes on which silk from China came through Asia to the Romans. Other luxury goods traveled along the same routes. Trade also brought Roman ways to the provinces and beyond.

**Managing a Huge Empire** The borders of the Roman Empire measured some 10,000 miles. By the second century A.D., the empire reached from Spain to Mesopotamia, from North Africa to Britain. Included in its provinces were people of many languages, cultures, and customs.

The Roman army drew upon the men of the provinces as auxiliary, or support, forces. They were not citizens of Rome. But they learned Roman customs and became citizens when they were discharged from military service. In this way, the army also spread the Roman way of life to the provinces and Roman rights to non-Romans.

**A Sound Government** Augustus was Rome’s ablest emperor. He stabilized the frontier, glorified Rome with splendid public buildings, and created a system of government that survived for centuries. He set up a civil service. That is, he paid workers to manage the affairs of government, such as the grain supply, tax collection, and the postal system. Although the senate still functioned, civil servants drawn from plebeians and even former slaves actually administered the empire.

After Augustus died in A.D. 14, the senate chose his adopted son Tiberius as his successor. During the Pax Romana, some of Rome’s emperors were able and intelligent. Some were cruel. Two, Caligula and Nero, were either insane or unstable. Yet the system of government set up by Augustus proved to be stable. This was due mainly to the effectiveness of the civil service in carrying out day-to-day operations.

**The Emperors and Succession** Rome’s peace and prosperity depended upon the orderly transfer of power. Because Rome had no written law for selecting a new emperor, a crisis or a civil war was always a possibility when an emperor died. The succession problem was temporarily solved by the leaders known as the Five Good Emperors. Beginning with Nerva in A.D. 96, each of them adopted as his heir a respected leader who had the support of both the army and the people to be the next emperor. The reign of Marcus Aurelius, the last of the five, ended in A.D. 180. His death marked the beginning of the empire’s decline and the end of the Pax Romana.
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
4. The official language of the Roman Empire
5. Individuals who interpreted laws in court, just like today
6. System established by Augustus Caesar to help govern the vast Roman Empire

DOWN
1. Gladiatorial games and circuses took place here
2. Marcus , the last emperor of the Pax Romana
3. Public works like roads, bridges, and monuments gave Romans a reputation of being great .......

TRUE OR FALSE

Determine if the statement is true or false. If false, replace the word(s) in bold with the correct word(s) on the line. If true, write ‘true’ on the line.

1. ........................................ Pax means "PEACE" in Latin.
2. ........................................ The Roman system of REPRESENTATIVE government is the basis of many modern-day governments around the world.
3. ........................................ When they weren't fighting each other, sometimes gladiators fought NOBLEMEN.
4. ........................................ GREEK became the basis of Romance languages like Spanish and French.
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