

How Did the Roman Empire Become the Greatest in the World?

Lesson plan for an individual writing assignment

Suggested length: 1-2 class periods (45-55 minutes each)

Lesson components:

- Pre-activity (25-30 minutes)
- Opener (focus of partial class period)
- Activity (focus of one class period)
- Optional closer (5-10 minutes)

Assessment

Students will each write a letter in which they pretend to be a Roman soldier, explaining the reason for the empire's greatness to their daughter.

Pre-activity (25-30 minutes)

1. Direct students to explore the different branches of the Kialo discussion by clicking on the pros and cons. Encourage students to click on any links that interest them. If they have any questions or thoughts about the claims or sources, ask them to make comments underneath the claims.

TIP: This pre-activity can be completed at home, prior to class. This way, students can dedicate more class time to completing the writing activity.

Opener (10-20 minutes)

1. Watch this [TED-Ed video](#), "A day in the life of a Roman Soldier," to activate student knowledge and spark interest.
2. Discuss any points of interest such as claims, embedded sources, student comments or questions that arose from the Pre-activity.

Activity (focus of one class period)

1. Go through the student instructions located in the Kialo discussion background (this can be found by clicking the  button in the top-left corner of the

discussion).

2. Direct students to explore the Kialo discussion.
3. When students are close to finishing their reading of the discussion, have them [vote](#) on their 5 favorite claims. Direct students to give a score of “4” on the 5 claims that they think are most important for determining the source of the Roman Empire’s greatness.

TIP: Encourage students to imagine how a soldier would feel about Rome: would they like their emperor? What would they feel proud of? What would they hate?

Closer (5-10 minutes)

1. Ask students what they think was the most important factor that determined the Roman Empire’s unprecedented expansion. Encourage them to support their answer with reasons.