

Ancient Roman Roads: Graphic Organizer

In the 8th century BCE, a small civilization along the Tiber River grew to become one of the largest empires in history. Some of ancient Rome's most enduring legacies were practical innovations that allowed the empire to run efficiently for so many years. Explore one of ancient Rome's many engineering achievements, Roman roads.



Large stone blocks, curbs, and pedestrian walkways were all part of ancient Roman road design.

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Research answers to the questions below.

<p>Name: What was the original Latin name Romans used for their roads? What did it mean?</p>	<p>The original Latin name for Roman roads was <i>Via Romana</i>, which meant “Roman way.”</p>
<p>Origin: When did the ancient Romans start building their first stone-paved roads?</p>	<p>The first stone-paved roads were constructed around 300 BCE.</p>
<p>Purpose: Why did ancient Roman engineers build tunnels for the roads?</p>	<p>Tunnels allowed Roman roads to avoid lengthy detours around hills or mountains. The tunnels helped the roads remain a straight line between two points.</p>
<p>Design: How did Roman roads guard against freezing and flooding that could make the roads unsafe?</p>	<p>Engineers put a layer of tiny gravel stones below the top rock slabs. The loose gravel absorbed water and resisted freezing. Furthermore, the road surface was raised at the top so that the slight incline could allow rainwater to run off the either side and into a drain.</p>
<p>Famous example: What was the <i>Via Appia</i>, and why was it so famous?</p>	<p>The <i>Via Appia</i>, or Appian Way, was one of the first and most important Roman roads. The <i>Via Appia</i> connected Rome to Brindisi, in southeast Italy, to ensure direct communication across the empire.</p>
<p>Fun fact: Add a new piece of information about Roman roads that you found particularly interesting.</p>	<p>Answers will vary.</p>