



ANCIENT ROMAN SOCIETY



During the Roman Republic, the Romans divided society into different social classes that had different degrees of citizenship rights. *Review the information provided in the chart below, and use it to answer the questions that follow.*

FULL CITIZENS		NON-CITIZENS	
PATRICIANS	PLEBIANS	LIBERTI	ENSLAVED PEOPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wealthy families • Held political and religious offices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Romans • Citizens, but lacked rights • Could not hold office in the Senate • Over time, gained rights equal to patricians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formerly enslaved people • Considered plebians but had fewer rights • Children of <i>liberti</i> were full citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seen as property • Not legally seen as people
WOMEN			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be citizens but still lacked basic rights: • Could not vote • Could not hold office 			

1. Which group held the most power in Rome?

The patricians held the most power.

2. What was the difference between patricians and plebians?

Patricians were wealthy and could hold political and religious offices. Plebians were poor and could not hold office in the Senate.

3. What were the limits on women's rights in Rome?

They could not vote or hold office.

4. How were *liberti* different from other plebians?

They were formerly enslaved people and had fewer rights.

5. Which group had the fewest rights? Why?

Enslaved people had the fewest rights because they were seen as property, not people.