

Comparing the Roman Republic and the United States

Read the table to learn about the Roman Republic and the United States government. Then complete the tables on page 2.

| Voting | |
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| The Roman Republic | The United States |
| <p>▶ In the Roman Republic, only male citizens over 17 were allowed to vote. Roman citizens voted for two reasons. First, they voted to decide their representatives in government. Second, Roman citizens voted to approve or reject new laws directly.</p> | <p>▶ In the United States, all citizens over the age of 18 are allowed to vote. Their votes elect their representatives in government. Elected representatives then vote to approve or reject new laws in the United States.</p> |
| Heads of State | |
| The Roman Republic | The United States |
| <p>▶ In the Roman Republic, the two heads of the state were called consuls. Romans elected two consuls every year.</p> <p>Consuls were powerful executive officials whose main power was control over the military. They led the Roman army directly as generals, hoping to win military glory during their year in power. Consuls also managed government meetings and assemblies, enforced laws, and represented Rome to other countries.</p> | <p>▶ In the United States, the head of state is called the President. The U.S. elects a president every four years.</p> <p>A president is a powerful executive official who manages many parts of the national government, including the armed forces. But presidents do not directly lead armies. The president manages generals who lead the military directly. The president is also responsible for enforcing laws and representing the United States to other countries.</p> |
| The Senate | |
| The Roman Republic | The United States |
| <p>▶ In the Roman Republic, the Senate was an important group of former officials. Men became senators for life after serving in high government positions, such as consul. After an official served their term in high office, they were almost always appointed to the Senate. There were usually around 300 senators.</p> <p>The Senate advised consuls, set Rome’s foreign policy, and managed government money. The Senate did not have lawmaking power. It could issue decrees, but decrees were suggestions, not laws.</p> | <p>▶ In the United States, the Senate is an important group of elected representatives. Each state in the U.S. elects two senators. Senators serve for six-year terms. There are 100 senators in the United States Senate.</p> <p>Senators in the United States are powerful legislative officials. The main power of the Senate is lawmaking. For the United States to approve a law, a majority of senators must vote to support the law. They also vote on whether to confirm treaties, or agreements with other countries.</p> |

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Fill out the tables on the similarities and differences between the Roman Republic and the United States. Explain two similarities and two differences for each category.

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| Category: | Voting in Rome and the U.S. |
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| Similarities: | |
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| Differences: | |
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| Category: | Heads of State in Rome and the U.S. |
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| Similarities: | |
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| Differences: | |
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| Category: | The Senate in Rome and the U.S. |
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| Similarities: | |
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| Differences: | |
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