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| **Roman Empire** | **Greek Civilization** |
| Endured for 500 years | Golden Age Lasted 50 years |
| Became a melting pot of cultures and ideas | Was a unified culture |
| Rome’s political genius lay in its ability to encompass, govern, and assimilate cultures different from its own, albeit through power. | Despite its belief in its own superiority over the rest of the known world, it never achieved long-term political unity. Greeks won wars and battles raged against them, but they did not conquer for the sake of increasing their culture. |
| Roman law made it increasingly easy for people to attain citizenship | Greeks only believed in the value of other Greeks, everyone else was a barbarian. |
| Everywhere the Roman legions went they took their culture, their laws, their religion and the Latin language. | Only Greece and the Hellenized world kept Greek as their language |
| Women ate with their husbands and were free to go outside without a chaperone. Upper class women were involved in law, literature, and politics.  After the 2nd century BCE if a woman lived with a man and was never absent for more than two nights they were considered married. Married women could retain their legal identity, controlling their property, managing their wealth. Divorce was common, but the laws encouraged marriage to increase the birthrate | Women in Greece were oppressed, never educated and their position was below the slaves captured in battle. Their main duties were to raise children and keep house. |
| Romans identified their own gods from the Greek Pantheon and adopted Greek iconography | Greeks believed in their gods until the Christian religion began |
| Roman art added commemorative and narrative types based on history. Their reliefs depicted battle scenes and other historical events. And individuals were commemorated for their accomplishments | Greek art tended toward idealization, much of the art dealt with mythology, Greek Canon by Polykleitos was used until the Hellenistic period began. |
| Romans went so far as to actually make wax death masks modeled directly on the deceased face and then copying them in marble. | Greek portraiture tried to preserve the feature of their subjects, who mainly were aristocrats. Their subjects were depicted as ideal, and seldom represented the true person. |
| The purpose of the Roman portraiture was genealogical, to keep records of the families. Portraits had a two-fold function they preserved the person’s image, whether in sculpture or painting and contributed to the history of the family. | Greek portraiture was random and depended on the status of the person and the situation his or her death. |
| Family names also helped identify family lineage. The typical Roman family was grouped into clans (*gens*) | In Greece family wasn’t important because women weren’t important and either were girls. Men, rulers, leaders, landowners, military heroes were important. |
| Rome produced an amazing collection of Literature including *Metamorphosis* of Ovid (43 BCE to 18 ACE)  And The *Aeneid* by Virgil (died in 19 ACE)  Horace, etc. | Homer’s works, *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad* were famous pieces of Greek literature and of course the world’s greatest philosophers Socrates, Plato, Aristotle plus the playwrights Sophocles, Aeschylus, Euripides, Aristophanes, etc. |
| Roman architecture was more innovated than the Greeks. | Greek architecture followed set orders |
| Roman Republic ruled from 509 BCE to 27 BCE. They adopted the Greek Democratic system by having two consuls, a senate (former magistrates) and an assembly (citizens of Rome). The consuls were elected every year and shared the military and judicial authority. The Empire began in 27 BCE. Octavia/Augustus was the first Emperor in 27 ACE. Augustus means *revered* or *he who is supreme.* Caesar also means *ruler*. | Greek government was democratic and ruled by military heroes or the sons of former leaders, like Pericles, and Alexander the Great. They were the first democratic government to exist and record their history. Only wealthy men could serve in the Greek government |
| Romulus and Remus were the founders of Rome. | Greeks had another myth of Aeneas being the founder of Rome |
| Roman art does not show a consistent development of style | Greeks constantly improved their development of style. |
| Romans built both theaters and amphitheaters | Greeks only built amphitheaters |
| Romans built coliseums and circuses to entertain the masses who often craved violent sports like chariot races. | Greek forerunner of the circle was the hippodrome for horse racing. The need for public spectacles was much more limited except for the Olympics. Olympic heroes were revered everywhere they went in Greece. |
| Roman Temples were derived from the Greek and Etruscan precedents. But, their columns were psuedoperipteral (a solid wall load-bearing wall and columns, faced with travertine,(hard limestone) have a purely decorative purpose.  Romans moved beyond the Greek order that columns were the primary supporting element in building. Romans used concrete for most of their construction | From the Greeks came the columns, the *Cella*/*naos.* The Orders, the pediment, and the use of stone and marble and the Greek peripteral, garden area, surrounded by a colonnade of free standing columns. |