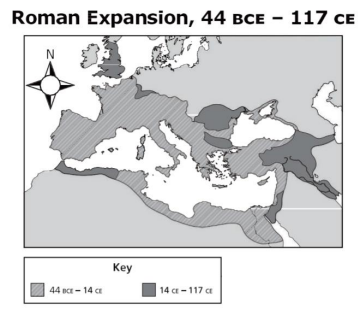
**Pax Romana/Roman Achievements**

The Pax Romana began during the reign of Rome’s first emperor, **Augustus** Caesar. The Pax Romana is considered a **Golden** Age of ancient Rome, and saw many advancements and achievements in science, technology, literature, and **architecture**.

The Pax Romana is characterized by its strong **economy**. Taxes were used to pay for public works such as **aqueducts** and **sanitation systems**. Emperor Augustus focused heavily on the construction and maintenance of roads because they enabled the spread of peace and **economic** prosperity throughout the Roman Empire. Roads also increased and **expanded** Roman territory because they were easily traveled and defendable. Between 44BCE -117 CE, the Roman Empire **conquered** new territory and expanded its borders, as pictured in the map to the right. 

The Pax Romana also saw technological advancements with inventions such as **aqueducts** which helped to transfer fresh **water** throughout the Empire. Aqueducts, recognizable by their structural **arches**, enabled the growth of urban areas by increasing access to water in cities. 

Pictured to the right is the famous Roman **Colosseum**. This structure was used to house, train, and fight gladiators, usually to the death, for entertainment of the emperor.

**Roman Mythology**

The ancient Romans were **polytheistic** and believed in many gods. The gods were very important in everyday life in Rome and were believed to display **human-like** characteristics. Roman mythology was based heavily on **Greek** mythology, so much so that Romans simply **renamed/changed** the Greek gods.

**Jews in the Roman Empire**

As the Roman Empire continued to expand, it conquered **Judea** (Israel), the remaining homeland of the **Jewish** people.

Concerned about the cultural influence of Rome and fearful that they were losing their religious identity, the Jews **revolted** against Roman rule.

The Romans reacted to the Jewish revolt with force, destroying the **Temple** of Solomon and leaving Jerusalem in ruins. The Romans conquered the Jews and expelled (forced out) them from their homeland, thus causing the **Diaspora**. The Jewish people migrated and **scattered/spread** around the world.

**The Rise of Christianity**

Christianity differs from the traditional Roman mythology because it is **monotheistic**, meaning Christians believed in just **one** god.

Christianity began with the teachings of a Jewish man named **Jesus**. Jesus’ disciples (followers) believed that he was the son of **God**, and the **Messiah** (savior of man). The growing power and influence of Jesus and his disciples threatened the Roman rulers, so they had Jesus **crucified**. Christians believe that Jesus was **resurrected** (raised from the dead), thus proving that he was divine (godly).

Jesus’ teachings continued to **spread** after his death largely because of his Apostles (closest twelve followers), like the Apostle **Paul**. The inclusion offered through Christianity and its simple message of forgiveness and salvation was **appealing** to many people, and contributed to the rapid spread of the new religion. Today, **Christianity** is the most practiced religion in the world.

**The Fall of the Roman Empire and the Rise of the Byzantine Empire**

Due to poor **leadership**, invasions from Germanic tribes, as well as disease and famine, the Roman Empire began to fall into disrepair. Food shortages and high **taxes** put merchants out of **business**. As the Roman economy continued to **decline**, people reverted back to a **barter** system, preferring to trade directly opposed to using Roman coins.

300 years after the birth of Jesus, Emperor **Constantine** the Great rose to power. Considered the first **Christian** emperor, Constantine enforced religious tolerance throughout the Roman Empire. 

Constantine, recognizing the **decline** of the Western Roman Empire, moved the capital of the empire from **Rome** to **Constantinople**, nearer Asia Minor.

Constantinople, formally known as Byzantium, was geographically excellent because it was still centrally located in the **Mediterranean** region and could continue to serve a center for **trade**.

After a series of attacks, the Western Roman Empire was eventually fully conquered by northern tribes. The Eastern Empire, known as the **Byzantine** Empire was all that remained. The Byzantine Empire continued for another 1,000 years until it was conquered by the Ottoman Empire in the 15th Century.

**Word Bank: Words will be used as many times as they appear.**

Conquered

Augustus

Economy

Aqueducts

Sanitations Systems

Golden

Colosseum

Roads

Economic

Arches

Water

Expanded

Architecture

Changed

Human-like

Greek

Polytheistic

Scattering

Revolted

Temple

Jewish

Judea

Diaspora

Resurrected

Crucified

Messiah

One

God

Jesus

Monotheistic

Appealing

Spread

Paul

Christianity

Barter

Decline

Leadership

Business

Taxes

Chrsitian

Constantine

Byzantine

Rome

Trade

Decline

Constantinople

Mediterranean