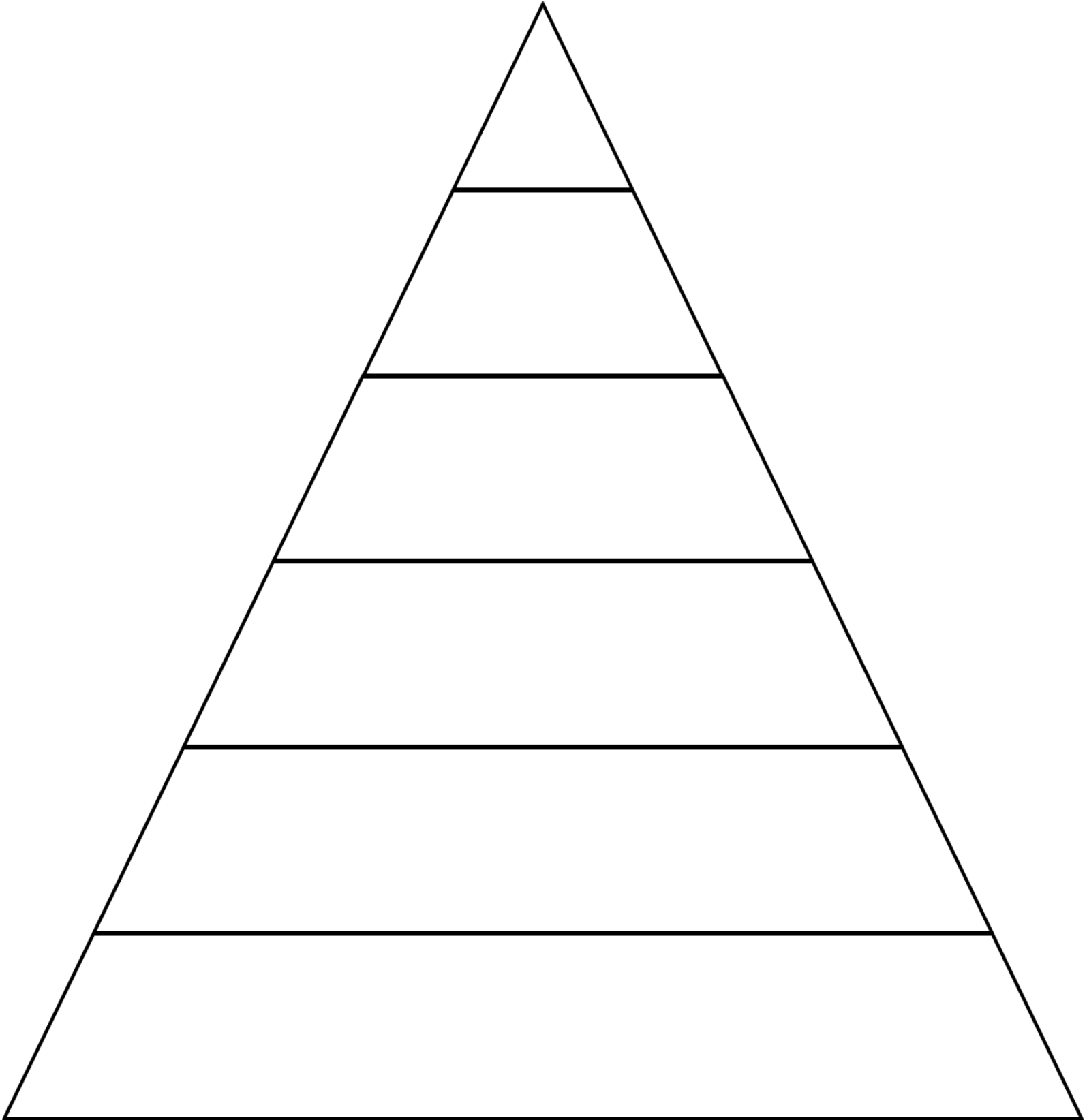


Social Hierarchy in the Roman Empire



Emperors:

- Absolute ruler of the _____...lived in style in the best _____, eating the best _____ and wearing the best _____. He had lots of _____ and _____.
- The emperor's family lived the life of the _____ and _____...they spent time with favorite pastimes, like music, poetry, hunting, and horse racing.
- Emperors were not chosen on the basis of their ability or _____, but simply because they were born in the _____.
- But there was still drama...the throne could be passed to _____, stepsons, or even favored courtiers, and sometimes heirs had to be approved by the _____. As a result, royal palaces were constantly filled with political plots and _____.

Patricians:

- Ranked just _____ the emperor and his relatives, the patrician families _____ Rome and its empire. These families provided the empire's _____, _____, and _____ leadership.
- Most patricians were _____ from old families, but the class was open to a chosen few who had been deliberately _____ by the emperor.

- They were _____ as young men for leadership, learning poetry and literature, history and geography.
- The patrician class enjoyed special _____: its members were excused from some _____ duties expected of other citizens, and only patricians could become _____.
- Being a patrician carried its own _____: patricians could find themselves becoming wrapped up in palace _____ for power. If they lost, they could lose their _____ and even their _____.

Senators:

- The Roman Senate started as an _____, filled entirely with _____, when Rome was under _____. By the last two centuries of the republic, however, it had become much more powerful and a major player in politics and government.
- Once Rome became an empire, senators held much _____ power than they did in the past, although the Senate still had some _____ power, and occasionally decided who would become emperor.
- This alone ensured that the Senate and its members remained _____ and _____.

Equestrians:

- Ranking immediately below senators, equestrians became an important _____, whose work was key to the smooth running of the Roman Empire.
- As its name suggests, the equestrian class was originally composed of the _____. In 218 BCE, equestrians took on more _____ related roles when Senators were prevented from becoming involved in trade or business.
- As a result, many in the equestrian class became _____. Many were tax collectors, _____, miners and exporters, while others managed things like road building and _____.
- Even though they could gain some wealth, they could _____ to become patricians.

Plebeians:

- Rome's _____ class, the plebeians had little _____ power. Grouped together, however, they became a Roman _____ and had to be handled carefully.
- By the first century CE, plebeians comprised a formal class, which held its own meetings, elected its own _____ and kept its own records.

- The term plebeian referred to all _____ Roman citizens who were not members of the patrician or equestrian classes.
- Plebeians were average working citizens of Rome – _____, _____, builders or craftsmen – who worked hard to support their families and pay their _____.

Soldiers:

- The Roman Army was one of the most _____ in the history of the world and its soldiers were rightly feared for their training, discipline, and _____. As a result, the army was a major player in Roman politics and maintaining its _____ was important for any Emperor.
- The Roman _____ – The Roman Empire was created and controlled by its soldiers. At the core of the army its legions, who were highly skilled in their training, discipline, and _____.
- The minimum term of service for a soldier during the first century CE was _____ years.

Freedmen:

- Once freed, former slaves could work in the same jobs as plebeians – as craftsmen, midwives, or _____. Some even became wealthy.
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- However, Rome's society attached importance to social status and even successful freedmen usually found that their past _____ was hard to overcome – people in the higher classes still looked down on them and treated them _____.

Women:

- Defined by the men in their lives, women in ancient Rome were valued mainly as _____. Although some were allowed more freedom than others, there was always a limit, even for the _____ of an emperor.
- Not much information exists about Roman women in the first century. Women were not allowed to be active in _____, so nobody wrote about them. Neither were they taught how to _____, so they could not tell their own stories.
- Legal Rights – Unlike society in ancient Egypt, Rome did not regard women as _____ to men before the law. They received only a basic _____, if any at all, and were subject to the _____ of a man.

Gladiators:

- Successful gladiators were the _____ of the first century. Bloody, brutal but popular, gladiator matches are often seen as the dark side of Roman civilization. Gladiators were one particular class of _____.

- Ceremonial, public violence had been a favorite _____ of the Romans for centuries. The practice began as an ancient Etruscan _____ ritual: when a tribal chief died, his warriors would make a blood sacrifice to his spirit by fighting to the death by his tomb.
- This changed over time. The nobility began to put on gladiator shows in memory of the _____ and by the time _____ was in charge, these exhibitions had become public spectacles.
- Organized games - The games took place in _____. Gladiators would be sent to the arena to fight to the death before cheering crowds of _____. As the contests became more organized gladiators became more _____.

Slaves:

- The most unfortunate slaves were the _____, who were worked often to the point of _____ by their owners.
- Some slaves were a part of the _____, or domestic _____ who worked in the households of more wealthy families.
- Sometimes, enslaved people _____ and tried to escape.