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.
* 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.