

Essential Question 1: What was religion like in ancient Rome BEFORE Christianity?

Activity 1: Match the key words with their definitions.

Numina	To offer or kill something as a religious duty, in exchange for blessings.
Shrine	Spirits which live in all around us in streams, forests, fields.
Worship	All the gods of a people or religion; also a temple dedicated to them.
Sacrifice	A holy place, dedicated to one god, where people go to pray.
Pantheon	To show respect for, or pray to, a god or gods.

Activity 2: Complete the chart with the necessary information.

Original Location of Religion	Name of God
Asia Minor	
	Isis
	Mithras
Palestine	
	Christianity

Essential Question 2: How did Christianity spread from the Middle East to Rome?

Activity 3: First, read through the paragraph. Don't worry about the missing words yet. Then listen carefully, and complete the paragraph with the missing information.

During the reign of Emperor Caesar (14-37 AD), a new religion was established in the Roman province of, which its Jewish inhabitants called the Land of Canaan. This was where Jesus of Nazareth began to preach love towards one's fellow man, peace, forgiveness, equality, and justice for all people. He called himself the son of God, and said that he had been born a man to save humankind. These ideas spread quickly amongst the common people and the The Roman authorities were suspicious and became hostile towards these so-called ".....". Jesus's words encouraged the population to rebel. Finally, Jesus was arrested, sent to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, condemned to death, and crucified.

Essential Question 3: Who were the main historic figures involved in the rise of Christianity?

Read each statement, and write T if it is true, and F if it is false. If it is false, write the correct information.

1. Emperor Claudius was the first emperor to persecute the Christians.
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2. The apostle Paul made many trips around the Roman Empire, preaching and converting people to Christianity.
3. Emperor Nero blamed the Christians for the fire which destroyed most of Rome in 64 AD.
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4. Domitian was the first emperor to allow Christians to worship freely in the Roman empire.
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5. Emperor Constantine saw a sign of a cross on his way to battle for Rome, and so converted to Christianity.
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6. In 380 AD Emperor Theodosius declared the Roman Empire should go back to worshipping their original pantheon of gods.
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Exit Ticket

Name:

Think about what you have learned in this lesson. In your own words, answer Essential Question 4:

What impact did Christianity have on the Roman Empire?

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