A History of Knowledge

Oldest Knowledge
What the Sumerians knew
What the Babylonians knew
What the Hittites knew
What the Persians knew
What the Egyptians knew
What the Indians knew
What the Chinese knew
What the Greeks knew
What the Phoenicians knew
What the Romans knew
What the Barbarians knew
What the Jews knew
What the Christians knew
Tang & Sung China
What the Japanese knew
What the Muslims knew
The Middle Ages
Ming & Manchu China
The Renaissance
The Industrial Age
The Victorian Age
The Modern World
"We declare, proclaim and define that subjection to the Roman authority is absolutely necessary for the salvation of every human creature"
(Pope Boniface, 1302)
What the Romans knew

- Bibliography
  - Henri Sierlin: The Roman Empire (2002)
  - Tomlinson: Greek And Roman Architecture (1995)
  - Giovanni Becatti: The Art of Ancient Greece and Rome (1968)
  - Marvin Tameanko: Monumental Coins (1999)
  - Will Durant: Caesar and Christ (1944)
Cereal Civilizations

Wheat and rice

• Large scale irrigation projects, i.e. social organization
• Pottery
• Tool-making
Seafaring Civilizations

Trade
- Pottery for transportation
- Shipbuilding
- Language for communication
The Exception

Iran: no major river valleys, no significant seafaring
The Villanovans

- 1000 BC: Iron civilization lives in northern Italy, probably not Indo-European
- Cremation of the dead, and urns for ashes
- 1000 BC: Indo-Europeans invade northern Italy
The Etruscans

- 850 BC: Middle-eastern people (Villanovans?) settle in Tuscany
- 750 BC: first Etruscan inscriptions
- Only one manuscript survives
- Not Indo-European
- Confederation of city states
- Elevated status of women
- Cremation and house-like urns (9th-8th c)
- Monumental cemeteries modeled after cities (8th on): Cerveteri (7th c - 4th c), Tarquinia (150 painted tombs 550BC-450BC)
The Etruscans

- 6th c: Etruscan expansion in the Po Valley (Celts)
- 540 BC: Naval battle of the Sardinian Sea (Greeks of Massalia/Marseilles against Etruscans and Carthage)
- 474 BC: Syracuse defeats the Etruscans at Cumae
- 283 BC: Rome conquers all of Etruria
Cerveteri
The Etruscans

Norchia

Riva di Puglia
Etruria: the Middle-eastern influence

Hut-shaped funerary Urn
(9th c BC, Tarquinia Museum)

Gold bracelets
(7th c BC, Vatican Museum)
What the Etruscans knew

- **Sculpture:**
  - Apollo of Veii (500 BC)
  - Marte di Todi (380 BC)

(Musei Vaticani, Roma)  (Villa Giulia, Roma)
What the Etruscans knew

- Importance of women
- Public life of Etruscan women scandalizes the Greeks

Sacrophagus from Vulci (330BC)
(Villa Giulia, Roma)

(Boston Museum of Fine Arts)
What the Etruscans knew

• Sex
  – Most Greek vases with explicit sex scenes were found in Etruria
  – Sex scenes common on Etruscan funerary monuments

Sarcophagus of 330 BC (Boston)

Tarquini: Tomb of the Bulls
What the Etruscans knew

• Gold:
  – Fibula (from Palestrina’s Bernardini tomb, 660 BC)
What the Etruscans knew

- Painting:
  - Tomb of the Leopards (Tarquinia, 480 BC)
  - Tomb of the Baron (Tarquinia, 510 BC)
- Painting:
  - Tomb of the Augurs (Tarquinia, 480 BC)
What the Etruscans knew

- Alphabet

Archaic Etruscan alphabet (7th–5th centuries BC)

Neo-Etruscan alphabet (4th–3rd centuries BC)

- Etruscan was written from right to left
- Latin (like Greek) was written left-to-right
What the Etruscans knew

- Alphabet

(Metropolitan museum, 700–650 BC)
The Roman Republic

753 BC: Roma (Rome) is founded by Romulus
616 BC: Tarquinius I becomes an Etruscan king of Rome
600 BC: the Forum is built
600 BC: oldest Latin inscriptions
509 BC: the last king is expelled: republic
The Roman Empire

Ethnic groups of 5th BC Europe
The Roman Republic

450 BC: the Twelve Tables of the Roman law
390 BC: the Gauls/Celts sack Rome
326 BC: the Circus Maximus opens
312 BC: the Via Appia is opened
295 BC: Rome defeats the Celts of northern Italy
275 BC: Rome conquers southern Italy (Greek colonies)
202 BC: Scipio defeats Carthage and Rome annexes Spain
146 BC: Rome conquers Greece at the battle of Corinth
The Roman Republic

[Map showing the map of the Roman Republic with various regions and cities labeled.]}
The Roman Republic

64 BC: Syria becomes a Roman province (end of Seleucid empire)
63 BC: Pompeus captures Jerusalem and annexes Palestine
53 BC: the first war against Persia (Parthia)
49 BC: Julius Caesar becomes dictator
47 BC: Caesar invades Egypt and appoints Cleopatra queen
44 BC: Caesar is killed
31 BC: Octavianus (Augustus) becomes the first emperor
13 BC: Augustus expands the borders to the region of the Danube
The Roman Empire

• Julius Caesar
  – Raided 800 cities
  – Killed one million people
  – Took prisoner one million more
GROWTH OF ROMAN DOMINIONS UNDER THE EMPIRE

- At the Death of Caesar, 44 BC
- To death of Augustus, 14 AD
- To death of Marcus Aurelius, 180 AD

Map of Roman Empire

http://gbgm-umc.org/umw/corinthians/empire.htm
The Roman Empire

- 6 BC: Jesus is born in Palestine
- 43 AD: Claudius invades Britain
- 70 AD: Titus destroys Jerusalem
- 79 AD: the Vesuvius erupts and Pompeii is buried under ash
- 79 AD: the Colosseum is inaugurated
- 1st c AD: Hippalos in Greece discovers the Arab secret of sailing in the monsoon regions (increase in voyages to India)
- 116: Trajan conquers Mesopotamia and the Parthian capital
The Roman Empire

http://www.dalton.org/groups/Rome/RMap.html
The Roman Empire

- 0-300 AD four empires in Eurasia:
  - Han (Buddhist and Taoist)
  - Roman (Christian)
  - Parthian (Zoroastrian)
  - Kushan (Buddhist)
The Roman empire

http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/maptext_n2/barbarian.html
Ancient Roma
The Roman Empire

• 136: emperor Hadrian definitely crushes a Jewish rebellion, forbids Jews from ever entering Jerusalem, and changes the name of the city to Aelia Capitolina
• 212: Caracalla grants Roman citizenship to all free people who live in the Roman Empire
• 250: Decius orders the first empire-wide persecution of Christians
• 284: Diocletian becomes emperor ruling from Nicomedia (Thrace)
• 313: Constantine recognizes the Christian church
• 330: Constantine rebuilds Byzantium and renames it Constantinopolis
• 360: pagan (Mithraist) general Julian (the "apostate") is declared emperor by his German troops
What the Romans Knew

Civil wars (193-285)
What the Romans knew

• Flavius Constantinus (306–337 AD)
  – Edict of Milan (313) ends persecution of Christians

Constantine and his mother Helena
Ancient Roma

The Palatino
Ancient Roma
The Roman Empire

- 380: Theodosius I proclaims Christianity as the sole religion of the Roman Empire
- 393: Theodosius forbids the Olympic Games
- 395: Theodosius divides the Roman empire in the Western and Eastern Empires (Milan and Constantinople)
The Roman empire on the last year before it was split in two
The Roman Empire

- 402: the western empire moves its capital to Ravenna
- 410: the Visigoths sack Rome
- 450: Marcian is the first Roman emperor to be crowned by a religious leader (the patriarch of Constantinople)
- 452: the Huns invade Italy
- 455: the Vandals sack Rome
- 476: Odoacer, a mercenary leader of the Germanic soldiers in the Roman army, deposes the western Roman emperor and thereby terminates the western Roman empire
The Roman Empire

• 529: Eastern Roman emperor Justinian shuts down the Academia of Plato
• 533: Justinian's code of law ("Corpus Juri Civilis")
• 534: Justinian's general Belisarius destroys the Vandals and reconquers southern Spain and northern Africa
• 540: Belisarius reconquers Italy
• 600: Constantinople (Byzantium) has 500,000 inhabitants
• 602: the Persians (Sassanids) attack the eastern Roman empire in Asia Minor
• 627: the Sassanids are defeated
• 636: the Arabs invade the southern provinces
• 800: Charlemagne, king of the Franks, is crowned emperor by Pope Leo III and founds the Holy Roman Empire
Roman empire 800
The Roman Empire

- 509BC-264 BC: Roman republic
- 264BC-49BC: Phoenician and Greek annexions
- 49BC-313: Roman Empire
- 313-406: Christian Rome
- 406-476: Barbarian invasions
- 527-602: Byzantine expansion
- 602-627: Persian wars
- 636-1038: Arab wars
- 1064-1099: Seljuk wars
- 1099-1204: Crusades
- 1204-1261: Latin empire
- 1261-1461: Greek empire
What the Romans knew
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