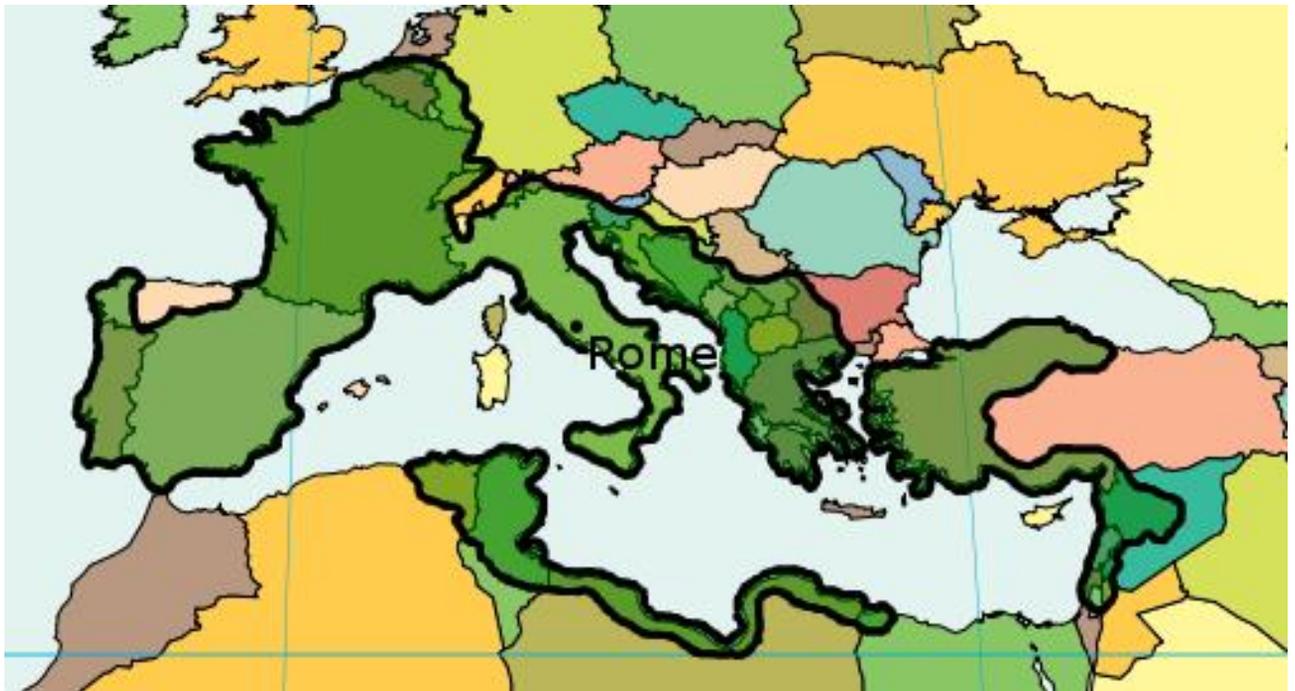


The **Roman Republic** (509 B.C.E. – 27 B.C.E. ) was an empire that controlled most of the land around the Mediterranean Sea.

- ▶ Rome, a city in central Italy, was the center of the Roman Republic.



Instead of having a democracy, oligarchy, or a monarchy, the Roman Republic blended all three. The Republic successfully expanded and ran a large empire for nearly five hundred years. The Roman constitution was a series of traditions that controlled how the Republic was run.



How was the Roman Republic run?

In your own words, what was the Roman Republic?

***“The Roman Republic was \_\_\_\_\_.”***

The **Roman Republic** (509 B.C.E. – 27 B.C.E. ) was an empire that controlled most of the land around the Mediterranean Sea.

- ▶ Rome, a city in central Italy, was the center of the Roman Republic.
- ▶ The **Government of the Roman Republic** was a tripartite system with **three different parts** with **different powers**.
- ▶ The three parts also had powers over each other to act as checks and balances for each other.

### Government of the Roman Republic

<b>Consuls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Two consuls were elected each year.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ <i>The term for a consul was one year.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>▶ Held executive power (like the president of the United States)</li> </ul>
<b>The Senate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Group of 300 noble men.</li> <li>▶ Chosen by the consuls and serving for life.</li> <li>▶ Created laws.</li> </ul>
<b>The Assembly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The Assembly was made up of all citizens of Rome.</li> <li>▶ Could declare war and suggest laws, but it could be overruled by the Senate.</li> <li>▶ Chose which senators would become consuls.</li> </ul>
<b>Dictators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Senate could call for a dictator to be appointed in emergencies.</li> <li>▶ Dictator held all the power of the government as long as the emergency lasted and no more than six months.</li> </ul>

### CFU

Describe the office of consul in the Roman Republic. Who was the Roman Senate made up of? ...the Assembly?

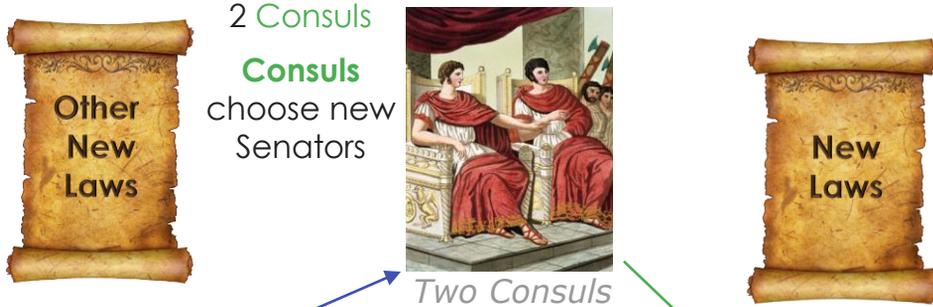
Why would a dictator be appointed? For how long could he be dictator?

In your own words, describe the government of the Roman Republic.

The **Roman Republic** (509 B.C.E. – 27 B.C.E. ) was an empire that controlled most of the land around the Mediterranean Sea.

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**Consuls**



**X**

**Senate** could veto laws made by assembly.

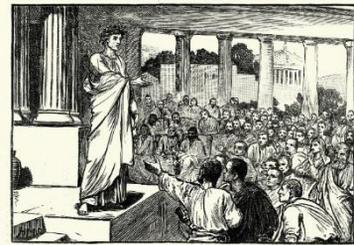


300 **Senators**

**Senate** could also make laws on its own.

*Cicero Denounces Cataline 1889*  
by Cesare Maccari

**Assembly**



*Scipio's appeal to the people.*

All adult male citizens  
**Assembly** could propose new laws or declare war.

**Assembly** votes for Consuls from Senate each year

1. Read the graphic organizer to identify the required information.
2. Read the text carefully.
3. Identify the responsibilities of the part of the Roman Republic. (underline)
4. Identify checks and balances related to the power of each part. (circle)
5. Complete the graphic organizer.

### Government of the Roman Republic

	Responsibility	Checks and Balances
<b>Consuls</b>		

5. The head of government was made up of two elected consuls. 6. These consuls were normally members of the senate who had been elected to serve for one year. 7. The most important power of the consul was their control of the army. 8. The consuls also chose new members of the Senate, ran the government, oversaw the work of government workers, and acted as judges. 9. When the two consuls acted together they had a great deal of power. 10. However, neither could act alone. 11. The consuls could check each other's power; they had the authority to veto<sub>1</sub> decisions they thought were wrong.

### Government of the Roman Republic

	Responsibility	Checks and Balances
<b>The Senate</b>		

12. The senate was made up of 300 members, mainly from the patrician class; these were noble and wealthy families in Ancient Rome. 13. The members of the senate created the laws, and controlled the spending of money. 14. Senators were not elected, but rather they were chosen by the consuls and served for life. 15. However, the Senate helped the consuls, especially when it came to matters of military conflict. 16. The Senate could also call for the appointment of a dictator<sub>2</sub> in cases of emergency. 17. Meetings of the Senate began at dawn with an order from the magistrate, or the leader of the Senate. 18. The meetings were public. 19. The Senate could then act on its own, even against the will of the magistrate. 20. The magistrate could bring up any proposal he wished when it came time for the Senate to vote. 21. Before any proposal<sub>3</sub> was passed, it could be vetoed. 22. There were two ways to vote in the Senate. 23. If the issue was minor, then it could be voted on by either a raise of hands or by voice. 24. If the issue was of some importance, then a physical division of the Senate took place with Senators choosing either side of the chamber<sub>4</sub> to sit in order to cast a vote.

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### Government of the Roman Republic

	Responsibility	Checks and Balances
<b>The Assembly</b>		

25. The assembly was part of government controlled by the plebeians or citizens of Rome. 26. The citizens assembled in the Forum<sub>5</sub> and voted. 27. At first the assembly had limited power; though they could vote and suggest laws, the senate could block decisions made by the assembly. 28. The assembly could also declare war, but the senate could block this decision as well. 29. However, the assembly had one power that could control the senate. 30. It was the job of the assembly to choose who, from the Senate, would become consuls. 31. The only citizens that were allowed to vote were adult, land-owning male citizens; women were not allowed to vote.

### Government of the Roman Republic

	Responsibility	Checks and Balances
<b>Dictators</b>		

32. In times of crisis a dictator was elected. 33. His word was law. 34. As soon as he was appointed<sub>6</sub>, he became chief executive<sub>7</sub> and supreme military commander. 35. The dictator had greater independence from the Senate, more power of punishment without a trial, and he was not held responsible for his actions. 36. He could rule by decree<sub>8</sub> and change any law he wanted. 37. He could introduce new laws into the Roman constitution, and it did not require approval by the Roman assemblies. 38. He was only in power until the crisis was over. 39. Once the problem was dealt with, the Senate and the two consuls returned to power.

## Government of the Roman Republic

	Responsibility	Checks and Balances
Consuls		
The Senate		
The Assembly		
Dictators		

**Skill Closure.**

**Summarize the government of the Roman Republic.**

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**Concept Closure.**

**Explain the value of having a system of checks and balances.**

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**Closure.**

**What did you learn today about describing the government of the Roman Republic?**

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**Word Bank**

- Roman Republic**
- Consul**
- Senate**
- Assembly**
- Government**

**Independent Practice.**

**Read the statement. Use the text and graphic organizer to answer the questions.**

1. Describe the responsibilities of the Roman consuls.

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2. Describe the powers of the Roman Senate.

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3. Describe the powers of the assembly.

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4. In your own words, describe the checks and balances in the Roman Republic.

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5. What do you think is the most important part of the government of the Roman Republic? Why?

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## Government of the Roman Republic

1. The Romans built their government as a Republic, which is a name for a kind of representative democracy. 2. A representative democracy is not fully controlled by the people. 3. The citizens of the empire could elect people to represent their concerns in government. 4. The Roman government was split into three parts: the head of government, the senate, and the assembly.

### **Consuls**

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