

Comparing Republics in Rome and the U.S.

By Janie Worst

Learning Objective(s): The student

1. Compare features of the ancient Roman Republic with the republic established by the U.S. Constitution.

TEKS/TAKS: WH16.A, WH17.B, TAKS 8.16D

Materials Needed: Copies of the chart for each student; copies of the U.S. Constitution for each student.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Give each student a chart and a copy of the U.S. Constitution.
2. Using the citations in the U.S. Constitution, have the students fill out the chart explaining the comparisons to the Roman Republic.
3. After completing the chart, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of both.

Extension for GT/AP: Have the students locate other areas in the U.S. Constitution that could be used as a comparison to the Roman feature.

Republican Governments

	ROME	UNITED STATES
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two consuls—elected by the assembly for one year <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief executives of the government – Commanders-in-chief of the army 	<p>Article II-Section 1</p> <hr/> <p>Article II-Section 2</p>
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate of 300 members—chosen from aristocracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Control foreign and financial policy <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centuriate Assembly—all citizen-soldiers were members for life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elect consuls – Make laws • Tribal Assembly—citizens grouped according to where they lived were members for life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elect tribunes – Make laws 	<p>Article I-Section 3</p> <hr/> <p>Article I-Section 2</p>
Judicial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praetors—eight judges chosen for one year by Centuriate Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two oversee civil & criminal courts – The others govern provinces 	<p>Article III-Sections 1-3</p>
Legal Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – List of rules that were basis of Roman legal system 	<p>Article VI</p>
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adult male landowners 	<p>Article I-Section 8, Clause 4</p> <p>Article IV-Section 2</p> <p>Amendment 14-Section 1</p>

Republican Governments

	ROME	UNITED STATES
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two consuls—elected by the assembly for one year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief executives of the government – Commanders-in-chief of the army 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President—elected by the people (electoral college) for 4 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chief executive of the government – Commander in chief of the army
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate of 300 members—chosen from aristocracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Control foreign and financial policy • Centuriate Assembly—all citizen-soldiers were members for life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elect consuls – Make laws • Tribal Assembly—citizens grouped according to where they lived were members for life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elect tribunes – Make laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate of 100 members—elected by people for 6 year terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Make laws – Advise president on foreign policy • House of Representatives of 435 members—elected by the people for 2 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Make laws – Originate revenue bills
Judicial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praetors—eight judges chosen for one year by Centuriate Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two oversee civil & criminal courts – The others govern provinces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court—nine justices appointed for life by president <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Highest court – Hear civil and criminal appeals cases
Legal Code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – List of rules that were basis of Roman legal system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Basic law of the US – Supremacy of Constitution
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adult male landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All native-born or naturalized persons