

World History Notes - Section 1
The Rise of Empires and the Spread of Islam

Essential Questions:

1. What significant events occurred before the Age of Islam (ca. 700 AD)?
2. How did these events influence events after them?

In order to get us to where we need to be, you need to know a few important dates...

- 753 BCE: April 21 is the traditional date for the founding of Rome. It was founded by Romulus and dedicated to his twin brother Remus, who he killed. Rome lasted until 476 ACE.
- 490 BCE: Battle of Marathon, where the Greeks defeated the Persians (who were the most powerful army in the world)
- 480 BCE: Battle of Thermopylae, where Leonidas was defeated by the Persians (who won the battle but lost the war).
- 334-323 BCE: The rise of Alexander the Great. Having conquered half the known world, he died at 32 yoa.
- 305-30 BCE: The reign of the Ptolemies in Egypt. The dynasty ended with the suicide of Cleopatra VII.

- 73 BCE: Great gladiator revolts, led by Spartacus of Thrace
- 48-44 BCE: Reign of Julius Caesar in Rome
- 35 BCE: Date of the earliest known Mayan inscription
- 1 BCE: Start of the Julian Calendar (modern calendar)
- 64 ACE: Great fire of Rome
- 79 ACE: Eruption of Vesuvius, destruction of Pompeii, Stabiae and Herculaneum
- 122 ACE: Construction begins on Hadrian's Wall
- 303 ACE: Persecution of Christians begins under Emperor Diocletian
- 365 ACE: Major earthquake in Greece, affecting the entire Mediterranean. The Egyptian city of Alexandria is destroyed by a tsunami.

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- 404 ACE: last gladiatorial games in Rome
- 410 ACE: Rome is conquered by the Visigoths. This is the beginning of the end of the Western Roman Empire.
- 418 ACE: Jews are excluded from holding public office in the Roman Empire
- 532 ACE: Nika revolts in Rome, against Justinian and Theodora. Starts because of rival sports teams' fans.