**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Twelve Tables**

**DIRECTIONS: Actively read about Roman Laws (the 12 Tables), then answer the question that follows.**

In 509 BCE, the Roman Republic was established in Italy. At first, the government was only made up of **patricians**, members of the landholding upper class of Rome. Later, the farmers, merchants, artisans, and traders known as **plebeians** won the right to be elected to the government too. The plebeians demanded that all of the Roman laws be written down and displayed in public so all Romans would know the rules and the punishments for breaking them. As a result, around 450 BCE the government had the laws inscribed on twelve stone tablets and placed in the Roman marketplace, called the Forum.

**Why were *The Twelve Tables* written?**  \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTIONS: ACTIVELY READ THE DOCUMENT BELOW AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ON THE BACK 🡪**

*The following are excerpts from the Twelve Tables of Rome:*

**The Twelve Tables of Rome**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26 | **Table VIII: Laws of Injury**  **2.** If one has maimed a limb and does not compromise with the injured person, let there be **retaliation** [revenge]. If one has broken a bone of a freeman with his hand or with a **cudgel (stick)**, let him pay a penalty of three hundred coins If he has broken the bone of a slave, let him have one hundred and fifty coins. If one is guilty of insult, the penalty shall be twenty-five coins.  **10.** Any person who destroys by burning any building or heap of corn deposited alongside a house shall be bound, **scourged**, and put to death by burning at the stake provided that he has committed the said **misdeed** with **malice** [intention to do harm] aforethought; but if he shall have committed it by accident, that is, by negligence, it is ordained that he repair the damage or, if he be too poor to be competent for such punishment, he shall receive a lighter punishment.  **12.** If the theft has been done by night, if the owner kills the thief, the thief shall be held to be lawfully killed.  **13.** It is unlawful for a thief to be killed by day....unless he defends himself with a weapon; even though he has come with a weapon, unless he shall use the weapon and fight back, you shall not kill him. And even if he resists, first call out so that someone may hear and come up.  **23**. A person who had been found guilty of giving false witness [lying] shall be hurled down from the Tarpeian Rock.  **Table IX: Public Law**  **5.** **Treason**: he who shall have **roused** (stirred) up a public enemy or handed over a citizen to a public enemy must suffer capital punishment.  **6.** Putting to death of any man, whosoever he might be unconvicted is forbidden.  **Table XI: Supplement I**  **1.** Marriages should not take place between **plebeians** and **patricians**.  **Table XII: Supplement II**  **2.** If a slave shall have committed theft or done damage with his master’s knowledge, the action for damages is in the slave's name. |

**Q1. What does this section from *lines 3-5* of the Twelve Tables suggest about Roman society?**

***“If one has broken a bone of a freeman with his hand or with a cudgel, let him pay a penalty of three hundred coins. If he has broken the bone of a slave, let him have one hundred and fifty coins.”***

***TURN OVER AND CONTINUE 🡪***

**Q2. According the Twelve Tables, what was the punishment for *treason (betrayal of one’s country)* in Rome? Why would a government establish that punishment for treason?**

**Q3. What does the law “Putting to death of any man, whosoever he might be unconvicted (not found guilty) is forbidden” from Table IX mean?**

**Q4. As mentioned in *line 25*, who are “plebeians” and “patricians?”**

**Q5. What can you infer (gather) about Roman society based on the first law from Table XI, *“Marriages should not take place between plebeians and patricians?”***

**DIRECTIONS: Using the information and chart below, compare the Roman laws to our society today. Answer the question that follows.**

Rome was one of the longest and largest empires in world history. However, before it was ruled by emperors, it was actually a Republic (a government based on representative democracy). Rome had three branches of government including a law-making Senate, an executive branch (leader), and a judiciary (legal system). They also created a legal code of The Twelve Tables, which protected individual rights. Modern democracies, such as America borrow the ideas of the Romans.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Twelve Tables**  **(Roman Laws)** | **The Bill of Rights**  **(Laws in the United States)** |
| 1. No one will be removed by force from their own homes.  2. No one will be punished for their opinions and thoughts.  3. The person who accuses someone of a crime must prove that the charge is true.  4. When the court orders a punishment, the age and experience of the guilty person has to be taken into account. | # 1. Congress will not violate people’s freedom of religion, freedom of speech, or the right of the people to meet together and complain about the government.  # 4. The people will be protected in their house and their property will be safe against illegal searches and arrests.  # 7. If a person commits a crime, they will be tried by a jury in a court of the United States. |

**How do the Twelve Tables reflect the laws of our society (U.S.) today?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**The enduring issue this best associates with is (check all that apply)**

* **CULTURAL DIFFUSION**
* **HUMAN RIGHTS**
* **IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENT ON HUMANS**
* **POWER**
* **SCARCITY**
* **TECHNOLOGY**