Roman Society

1. Groups
   1. Slaves: The Romans had slaves
      1. not based on race
      2. no rights
      3. could become legally free
   2. Freedmen
      1. former slaves
      2. could become citizens of Rome
   3. Plebeians
      1. lowest citizen class
      2. largest citizen class
      3. Assembly
      4. In middle Republic and Beyond:
         1. called the people or commoners
   4. Patricians
      1. distinguished backgrounds
      2. usually wealthy
      3. Originally, descended from original families of Rome
      4. Originally the only ones who could seek office
         1. but they were small and eventually Plebeians won the right
      5. In Mid republic and on: best men and good men
      6. Politics or business
         1. politics-served in Senate
         2. business-Equestrians
            1. could also serve in Senate if desired to
2. Eras of Rome
   1. Monarchy
      1. 7 Kings
         1. 753-509 BCE
      2. Republic
         1. elected officials
         2. 509-27 BCE
         3. Highest office: consul
      3. Empire
         1. like having a king but different name
         2. 27 BCE-476 CE
3. Clothing
   1. only male citizens wore toga over tunic
   2. Senators wore purple stripe on theirs
4. Names
   1. Praenomen: first name
      1. not that many (15 routinely)
   2. Nomen: family or clan
   3. Cognomen: branch of family
   4. Agnomen: nickname or for excessively large family
5. Adoption
   1. common when no male heir
   2. could adopt adults
6. Patrons and Clients
   1. Patrons supported their clients
      1. money and political support
   2. Pyramid
      1. top=wealthiest with no patron
      2. middle=those with a patron who had clients
      3. Bottom=freedmen who usually were clients of their former master