

From Republic to Empire

古罗马：从共和国到帝国 · Ancient Rome, part 1



Rome on a timeline

- **753 BC** · Legend says Romulus founds the city of Rome.
- **509 BC** · Romans remove their last king. Rome becomes a republic.
- **44 BC** · Julius Caesar is killed.
- **27 BC** · Augustus becomes the first emperor. The empire begins.
- **AD 80** · The Colosseum is finished.
- **AD 476** · The western half of the empire falls.

AD years count *up* from year 1: AD 80 came before AD 476.



A city on seven hills

- The legend: twin brothers **Romulus and Remus** were raised by a wolf. Romulus founded Rome and named it after himself.
- What historians think: villages on seven hills slowly joined into one city.
- Rome was near the middle of Italy, close to the sea, on the River Tiber: good for farming and trade.



Speaker notes

The wolf story is a myth, like the Greek myths in Unit 1. Ask: why would a city want an exciting founding story?



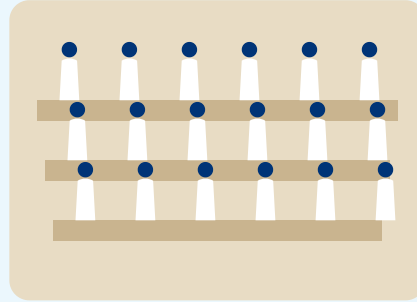
The Republic: no more kings



"The Senate and People of Rome"

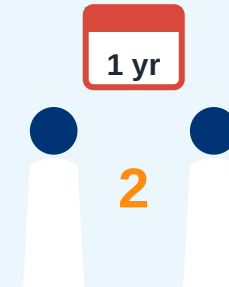
republic 共和国

Government where citizens elect leaders to rule for them.



senate 元老院

A council of important men who advised Rome's leaders.



consul 执政官

One of two top leaders of the Roman Republic, chosen for one year.



Speaker notes

Two consuls, chosen for one year, could each block the other. Romans had had a bad king and never wanted one person to hold all the power again.

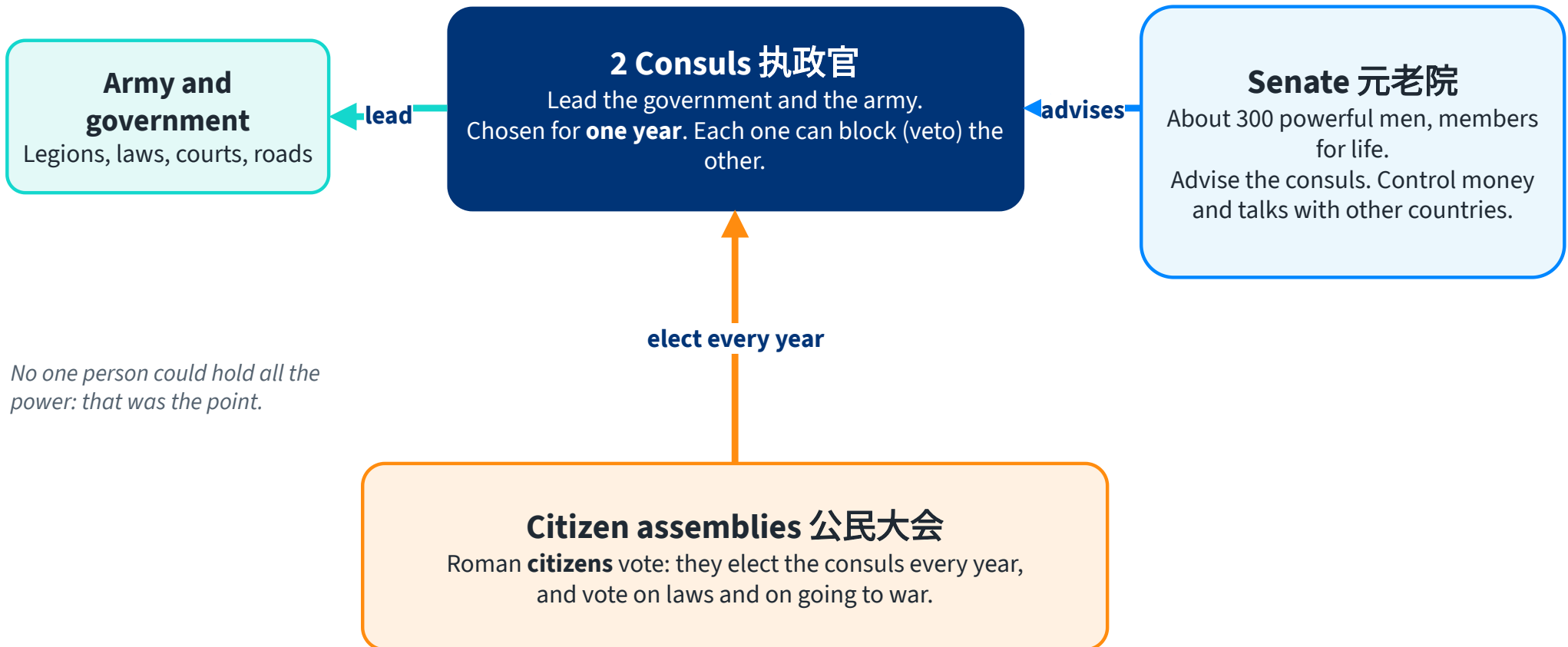


How the Republic worked

made in draw.io

How the Roman Republic worked

罗马共和国如何运作 · 509–27 BC



Hover (or tap) a box to focus on it.



Speaker notes

A draw.io infographic. The source is [drawio/republic.drawio](#): open it in draw.io (desktop app or [app.diagrams.net](#)), change it, save, then run `python scripts/drawio.py` to update the picture. Ask: who chose the consuls? Who advised them? Why two consuls and not one?



Athens and Rome: who decides?

Athens: democracy 民主

Citizens vote on the **laws themselves**, in the Assembly.

Rome: republic 共和国

Citizens **elect leaders** (consuls), who make decisions with the senate.

Many countries today are republics: people elect leaders to decide for them.



Julius Caesar

- A famous general who won wars in Gaul (today's France).
- He took control of Rome and made himself dictator for life.
- In **44 BC**, a group of senators killed him. They wanted to save the republic...
- ...but after years of civil war, Rome got an emperor anyway.



Augustus and the empire

- Caesar's adopted son Octavian won the civil war.
- In **27 BC** he took the name **Augustus** and became the first emperor.
- About 200 years of peace followed across the empire: the *Pax Romana*, “Roman peace”.



A marble statue of Augustus, about 2,000 years old.



The Roman army

- A legion had about 5,000 soldiers, all Roman citizens.
- Soldiers marched with heavy packs and built a camp every night.
- They also built roads, bridges and walls across the empire.



Roman soldiers carved on Trajan's Column in Rome, about AD 113.



Speaker notes

The roads the army built are part of the next deck: Roman engineering.



Sort it out

On your **Republic or Empire?** worksheet, sort the cards with a partner.

5:00

Start

Reset

+1 min



Exit ticket

Who led the Roman Republic?



Two consuls, elected
each year



An emperor, for life



A king

0 votes

Show results

Reset



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