Chapter 8, Section 4

The Early Empire

* Emperor Augustus ( Octavian, Julius Caesar’s grandnephew) paved the way for 200 years of peace and prosperity
* Pax Romana or “Roman Peace” – 200 years of peace that began with the reign of Augustus
* Caligula – ruled after Tiberius and before Claudius and gave his horse the title of consul.
* Nero – musical emperor who supposedly “fiddled while Rome burned”
* Vespasian – emperor who began the construction of the famous Colosseum
* Hadrian – a “good’ emperor who built a wall for defense in Britain
* Aqueduct – human-made channel for carrying water long distances
* The Roman Empire reached its largest size under Emperor Trajan – its European boundaries were set at the Rhine and Danube rivers
* In the AD 100s, the Roman Empire was one of the greatest empires in the world.
* Agriculture was the most important element in Rome’s economy – products like wine and olive oil were produced in central Italy
* Ostia is a port city at the mouth of the Tiber River
* Rome’s system of roads reached a total length of 50,000 miles. These roads were vital (important) to the empire’s trade.
* Currency is a system of money
* Merchants and skilled workers benefited from the Roman Empire’s prosperity