
ANCIENT ROME

Roman society and the economy

Santillana

Roman citizens

Roman society was very unequal. Only male adults were considered citizens. Women could own property and manage a business, but they couldn't vote.

Cities

Roman cities had all kinds of facilities, including public baths, theatres, fountains and sewer systems.

Leisure

The Romans met their friends and listened to speakers at the *thermae*, or public baths. They also went to shows at the theatre, circus and amphitheatre.

Economic activity

Main economic activities were trade and agriculture.

Agriculture:

- The main crops were **wheat, grapes** and **olives**.
- The Romans used **irrigation** in many areas.

Trade:

- It was so important thanks to a single **currency** across Roman territories, and an extensive network of **roads** and **ports**.
- **Oil** and **wheat** were sent from the Península Ibérica to the rest of the empire.
- **Spices, silk** and **cotton** were imported from Asia.