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Unit TWO

ANCIENT HISTORY

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In **Ancient History** the first important **civilizations** appeared: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

One of the most important was the **Roman Empire**. Roman civilization began in Italy. They dominated the Greeks, Carthaginians, Celts and Iberians.

The Romans conquered the Iberian Peninsula and called it **Hispania**. The population adopted the language and customs of the Romans. Their language was Latin and the Spanish language comes from Latin. This process was called "Romanisation".

Here are some important facts:

o They founded a lot of cities.

o They wrote the first laws: there were slaves and free people. Free people had rights. They could be part of the government, vote and have lands. Slaves had no rights. They were the property of free people. A woman could be free but she did not have the same rights as a man. She always had to depend on a man, that could have been her father, brother or later, her husband.

o The Romans built different structures: theatres, circuses, amphitheatres, thermal bath houses, triumphal arches, columns, bridges, aqueducts ...

o They invented the wheel, so transport and trade were developed.

o They created a system of stone roads.

o Culture was developed: arquitecture, mosaics, sculptures, literature, mythology ...

Questions

1. Name four important civilizations that appeared in Ancient History
2. Where did the Roman Empire begin?
3. What did the the Romans call the Iberian Peninsula?
4. What language did the Romans speak?
5. What do historians call the process by which people adopted the language and customs of the Romans?
6. Name two types of people you could find in the Roman Empire
7. Write five different structures that the Romans built
8. What did they invent?
9. Why were transport and trade developed?
10. What did they create?