

2. THE ROMAN EMPIRE

In their early years the Romans were ruled by kings. In about 509 BCE they overthrew their king and created a republic in which the people elected their rulers.

In the first century BCE the republic fell. Rome became an empire, ruled by one man, known as the emperor.



Statue of Augustus, the first Roman emperor

The Roman army

The Romans conquered so many lands because they had a powerful army. Roman soldiers were well-trained and had very good weapons and armour.

Soldiers signed up to fight for twenty years. After that time they were usually given some land to farm and live on.



HISTORY HIGHLIGHT!

Roman soldiers could march
30 km a day wearing armour.