

# ANCIENT GEOGRAPHY STUDY GUIDE

## **Roman Territories & modern Country names:**

Britannia = Britain  
Gallia = France  
Germania = Germany  
Helvetia = Switzerland  
Caledonia = Scotland  
Hibernia = Ireland  
Italia = Italy  
Asia Minor = Turkey  
Aegyptus = Egypt  
Hispania = Spain  
Graecia = Greece  
Persia = Iran  
Dacia = Romania

## **Modern Names of Cities:**

Londinium = London  
Aquae Sullis = Bath  
Eboracum = York  
Lutetia = Paris  
Colonia Agrippina = Cologne  
Neapolis = Naples

## **Modern Names of Bodies of Water:**

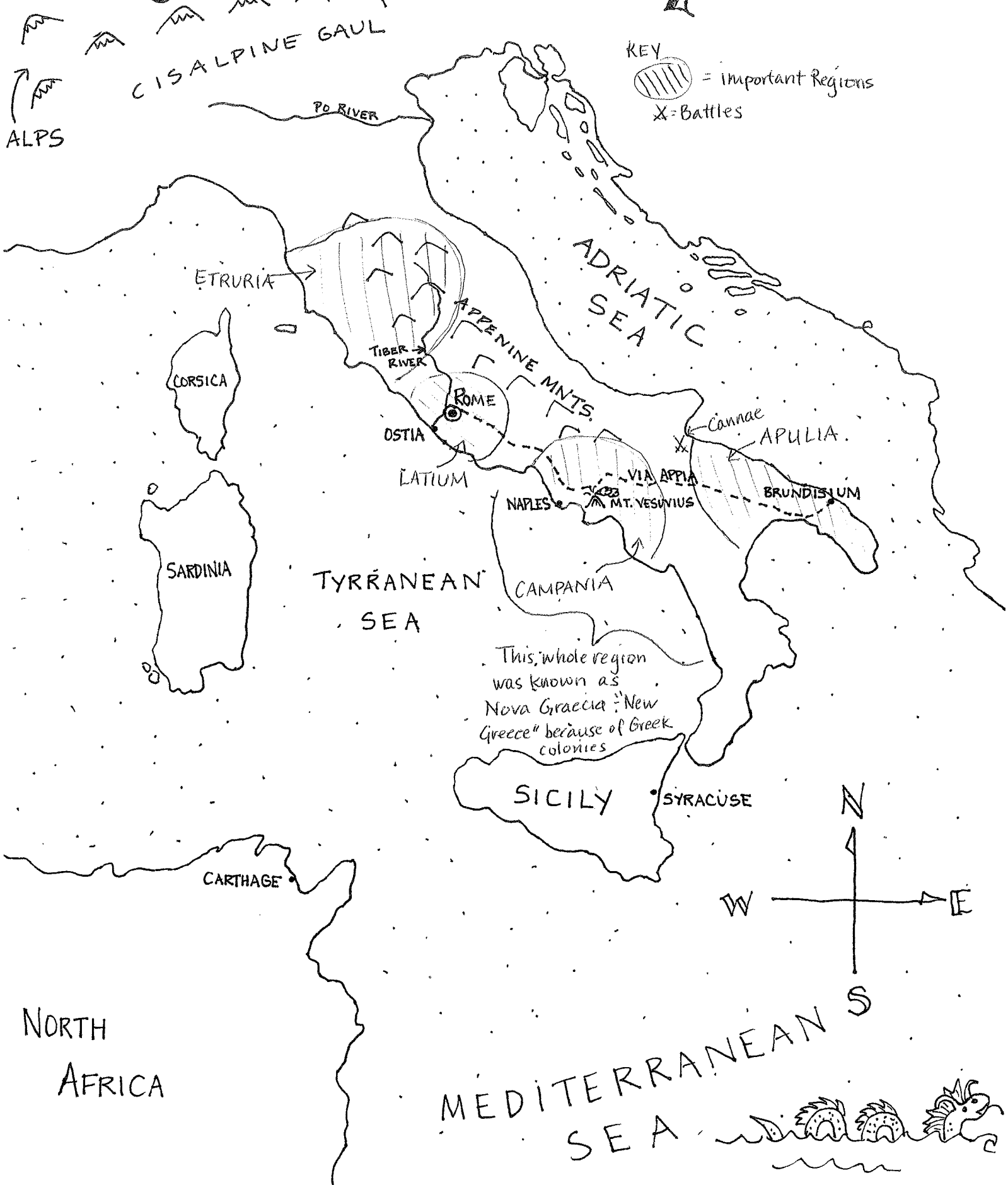
Mare Nostrum = Mediterranean Sea  
Pontus Euxinus = Black Sea  
Hyrcanian Sea = Caspian Sea  
Fretum Gallicum = English Channel  
Rhenus = Rhine River  
Rodanus = Rhone River  
Sequana = Seine River  
Danuvius = Danube River  
Fretum Gaditanum = Straits of Gibraltar (also known as Pillars of Hercules)  
Hellespont = Dardanelles

## **Other Tidbits:**

Legendary island of Atlantis is modern island of Thera  
Greek occupied coast of Turkey was called Ionia  
Gallia Narbonensis, Provincia and Gallia Transalpina are all names for the same area  
(southern France; modern day Provence)

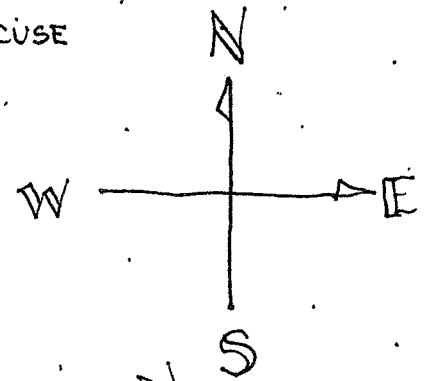
# ROMAN ITALY

NOMEN: \_\_\_\_\_

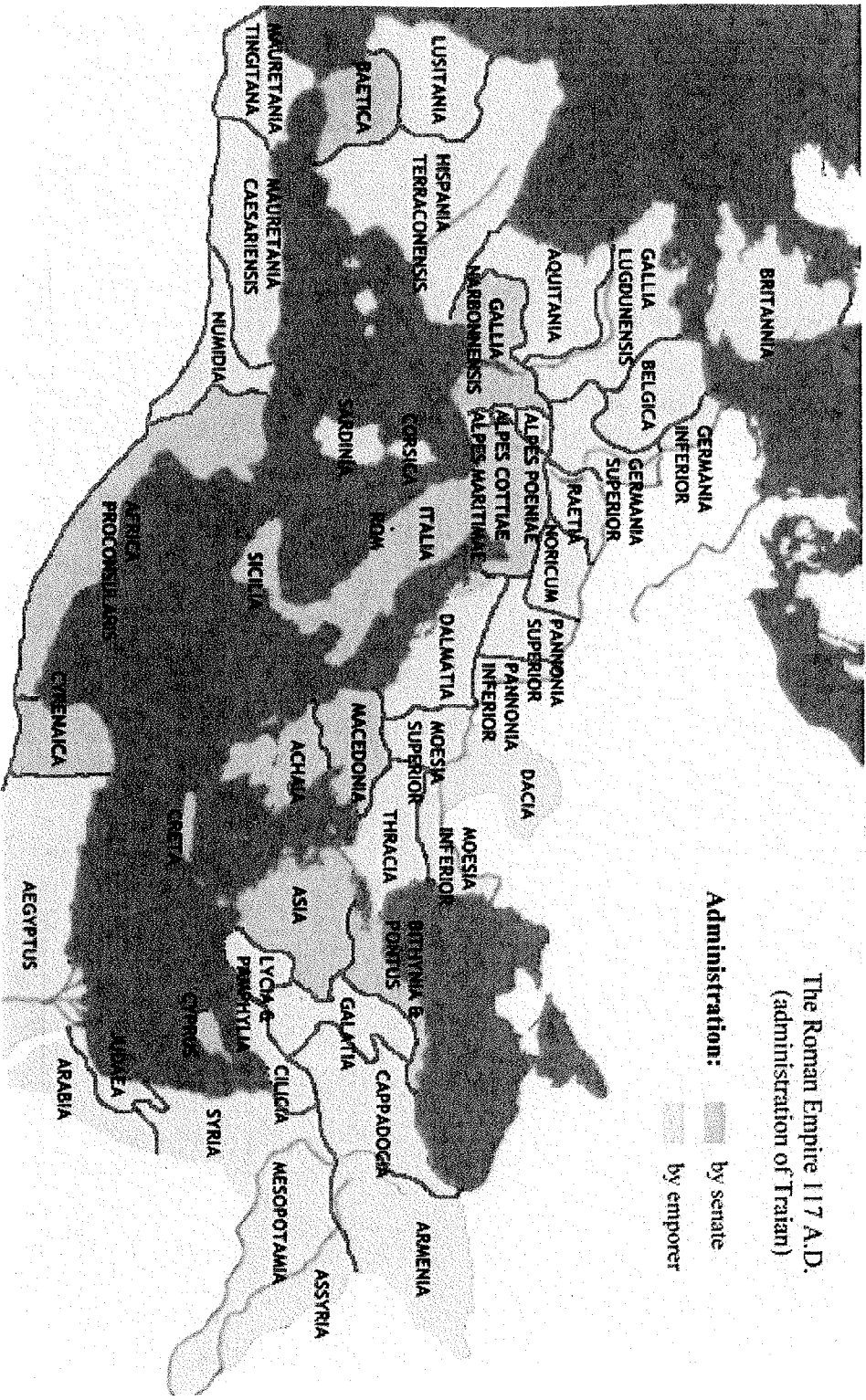


KEY  
[Hatched circle] = Important Regions  
X = Battles

This whole region was known as Nova Graecia "New Greece" because of Greek colonies



ROMAN PROVINCES : I know it's intimidating, but you should try to learn as many of those as possible!



IMPORTANT  
CITIES & BODIES  
of  
WATER  
IN THE ROMAN WORLD



Straits of Gibraltar  
also called: Fretum  
Gaditanum  
or: Pillars of Hercules

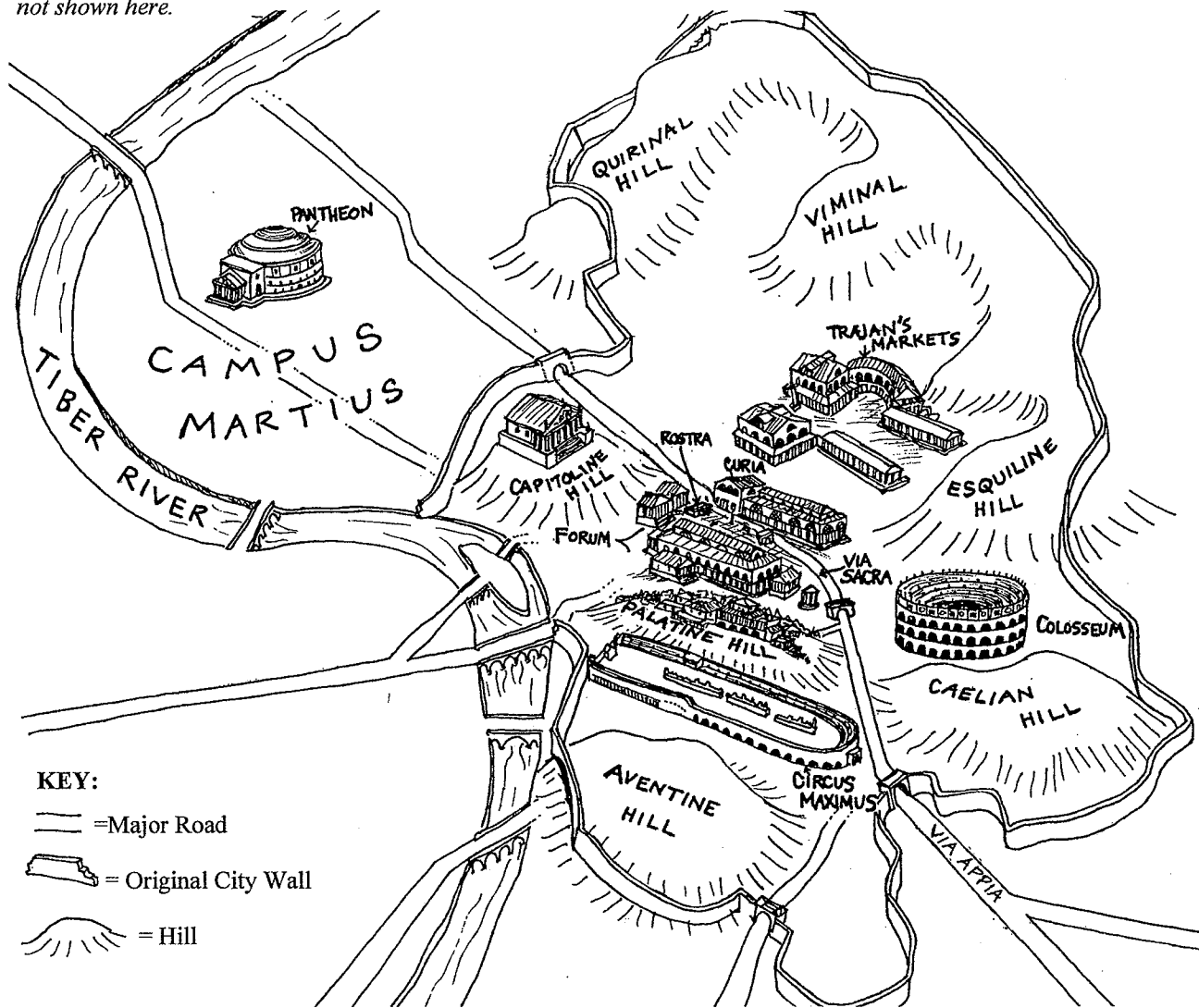
N  
E  
X = Battle

Atlas Mts.

Know the locations of items on this map:

### ANCIENT ROME C. 170 AD

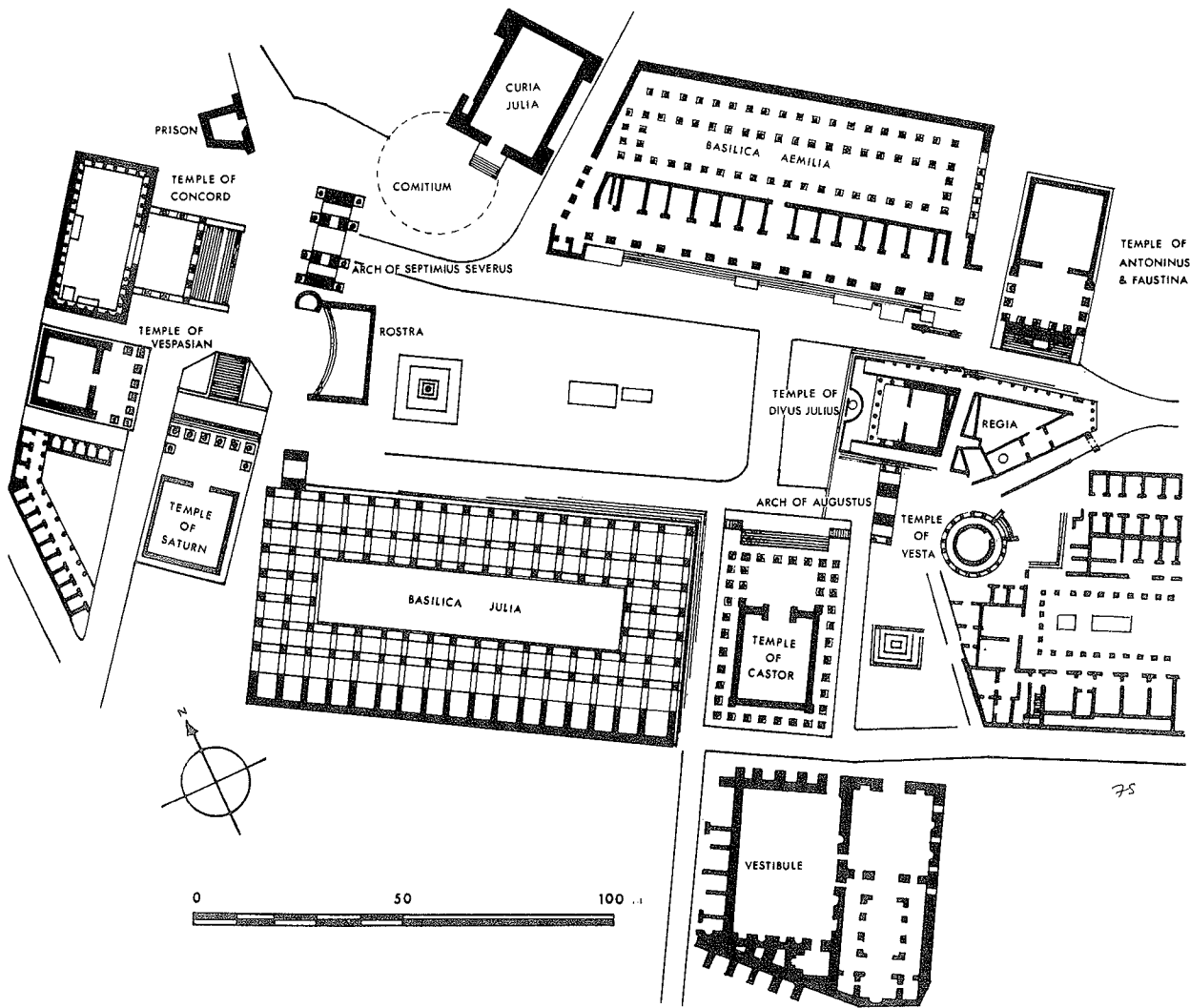
Please Note: This map is NOT to scale and only illustrates important sites; the rest of the city was full of buildings not shown here.



During the principate of Augustus this highly significant part of Rome was to receive its most radical transformation.

Early in his reign, he completed the Basilica Julia which had been begun by Julius Caesar in 54 BC (fig. 27). The basilica occupied the site of the Basilica Sempronia, which had been built by Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus, the father of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus, in 170 BC. The basilica served as the court of the *Centumviri*, the Chancery court, whose 180 members sat in four panels and dealt with matters of wills and inheritance. The building is 101 metres long and 49 metres wide and its long side opened on to the Forum. Internally it was divided into five naves by three rows of piers and the big central area could be divided off by partitions into the four separate courts. These could be removed when a more important

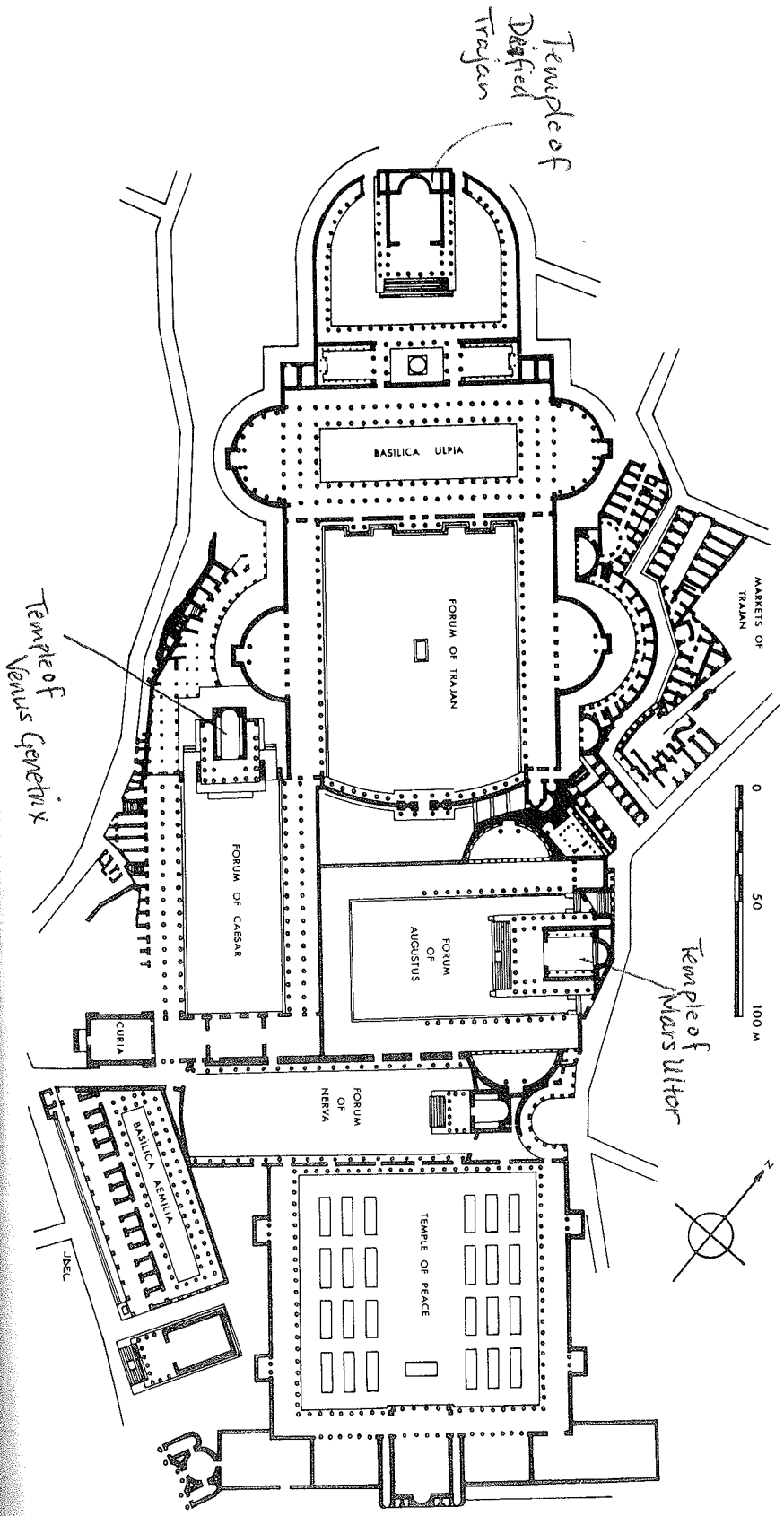
27 Rome, Forum Romanum: plan



Know which temples are in the Forum Romanum

Know which temple was in which Forum

23 Rome, Imperial fora: plan





**KEY:**

x = Battle

Things to note:

- ★ Greeks considered Delphi the "bellybutton" or center of the world.
- ★ The Hellespont was named for Helles, a little girl who fell & drowned in it
- ★ Greek colonists settled Ionia (in Turkey); this is where the Ionic column was invented





# Legacy of the Greeks



The cities and territories of Ancient Greece were important in their times, and are still well known today. They have been so well known, and so often mentioned throughout history and literature, they have even given us some English words. Classical Greece was considered to include the island of Crete, the outlying Aegean Islands, and the mainland. This area together is known as Ἑλλάς.

Most of the Greek islands lie in the Aegean Sea. Many are very small, but most are dotted with fishing villages and the occasional larger town. Some of the more famous islands of the Greek archipelago are Delos, Lemnos, Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Melos, Santorini and Rhodes. Delos was the mythical birthplace of Apollo, and site of a famous temple to him. In later times it was famous as the center of the slave trade. From Hellenistic times until the final days of the Roman Empire, its island served as key market ground, where dealers would come to buy, sell or trade human merchandise. Lemnos was famous in mythical times as the home of a group of women who murdered their husbands; it was sacred to Hephaestus and famous for the quality of its metal workers. Lesbos was the home of the famous lady poet, Sappho. One of the largest islands in the southern Aegean, is Rhodes. In ancient times this island was famous as the home of a great orator, Apollodorus of Rhodes. Many notable historical figures, including Julius Caesar, went to Rhodes as young men to study. Rhodes was also famous as the home of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Colossus of Rhodes. The Colossus was apparently a huge bronze

## *What's in a Name?*

Several English adjectives comes from the names of places in Greece:

**laconic** = quiet, terse; comes from the region around Sparta

**spartan** -bare, austere; after the harsh, warlike people of Sparta

**arcadian** -- peaceful, pastoral, rustic; named for the countryside of Arcadia



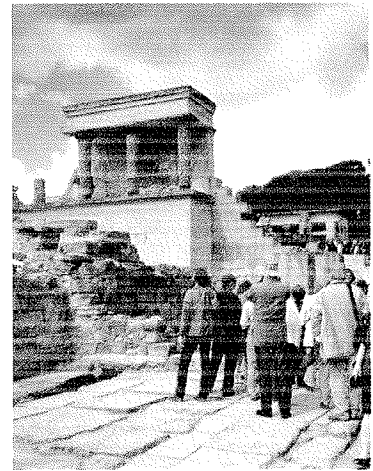
*A Greek island*

statue that stood at the mouth of the main harbor. It was said the huge statue had one foot on each side of the harbor entrance and towered above. The Colossus continued to stand for only a relatively short time, until it fell during an earthquake. But even after it fell, the huge legs and feet remained visible for years.

The largest Greek island was Crete, which from the earliest times had a culture of its own, the Minoans. Crete is a large, fertile island. Mount Ida, located in central Crete, was said to be the childhood home of Zeus. It was here that he was raised with the help of nymphs and a ram with magical horns, which produced an abundance of nectar and ambrosia, the food and drink

of the gods. Mt. Ida was also where Paris and the three goddesses, Hera, Aphrodite and Athena, gathered to settle the matter of the Golden Apple. In early days, Knossos, site of the royal Minoan palace was the most important city on Crete. After its destruction by tidal wave, other cities grew up, such as Heraklion.

The peninsula that makes up mainland Greece is traditionally considered as two parts, the Peloponnesus and the main land. The Peloponnesus, which is the hand shaped southern portion of Greece, is connected to the mainland only by a narrow isthmus. The mainland includes the territories of Aetolia, Thessaly, Boetia and Attica. Farther to the north lay the territories



*Ruins of the Palace at Knossos*

of Macedonia, Thrace and the Chalcides.

## Did you know?

In ancient times, stories circulated widely about a lost island city, called **Atlantis**, which was destroyed by the gods when its people became too prideful. Some thought it lay in the vast sea beyond the Pillars of Hercules, hence the named, Atlantic Ocean. Others thought it was elsewhere. Modern scholars think Atlantis and the myth about it might have originated in the ancient island of **Thera**, which is known as **Santorini** today. In ancient times much of this island was destroyed when its volcanic center blew apart during eruption. Scholars also believe the enormous tidal waves created by this cataclysmic event might have destroyed Minoan civilization on Crete.

The Peloponnesus, named for Pelops, son of Tantalus, was the cradle of Greece civilization. This area includes such famous cities as Mycenae, Sparta, Epidarus, Argos and Olympia. The ancient city of Mycenae was located in the North central part of this area. It was the center of one of the earliest important cultures in Greece. Said to be the royal seat of Agamemnon, it

was extremely important until the Dorian invasion of the 900's BC. After that point, it vanished from the maps until modern excavations.

Argos was another ancient city that faired a little better. Located in the eastern part of the Peloponnesus, known as Argolis, it was the home of many mythical heroes, and con-



*Amphitheater at Epidarus*

tinued to be important throughout classical antiquity. Not far from Argos is the city of Epidarus. This city was the home of many drama festivals, and was famous for its great amphitheater, which is marvel of Greece engineering. It is open to the air, and can hold thousands, but is so well designed that spectator seated anywhere in the audience can hear an actor whisper on the stage.

South of Argolis is the region of Greece known as Laconia. The most important city in this region is the great city of Sparta. In earliest days, this was the home city of heroes like Menelaus. In later

times the Spartans were famous for their military culture and might in the battlefield. In classical times, Sparta was the great rival of Athens, a city with which it fought a long and

damaging series of wars, called the Peloponnesian Wars.

To the west of Laconia, lies a region called Elis. The city of Elis was one of the principle cities in the region, but the most famous city in these parts is Olympia. It was



*Remains of the athlete's training grounds at Olympia*

here, in 776 BC that the Olympic Games began. The games, which included track and field events as well as wrestling and boxing, were held every four years. The Olympic Games were so important to the ancient Greeks that their system of dating was based on the Olympiad and wars would be halted to athletes could travel to Olympia to participate. In late antiquity, the ancient site of Olympia was buried beneath silt from the

Alpheus River.

The area to the north of Elis is called Achaea. In ancient poetry the Greeks are often referred to as the Achaeans because of their association with this region. The hilly central part of the Peloponnese was known as Arcadia. This mountainous, wild area was sparsely populated and home of many mythical figures, most famously Pan. Mt. Cyllene, the birthplace of Hermes, was located in Arcadia. For Greek poets, Arcadia became associated with peaceful, rustic living, and has been used as an image of this ever since.

On the isthmus that divides the Peloponnesus from the mainland sits the city of Corinth. Located as it was on a narrow neck of land, Corinth was very strategically important. Throughout antiquity it was a center of trade and was famous for its bustling big-city life and, at times, loose morals. The ancients had plans to construct a canal across the isthmus, but it was logistically too difficult to complete. Instead, ships that wanted to cross the isthmus were dragged across on log rollers.

To the north of the isthmus lies Attica, the most important region in Greece. The most important city in the region is Athens, which grew to dominate the whole of Greece. Athens was located strategically near some rich silver mines located at a town called Lorium. The wealth of these mines, together with the strength of the Athenian navy, allowed the city to dominate much of Classical history. Athens became so dominant in Classical times, that the form of Greek that is most useful to learn, if one wishes to read ancient authors, is Attic Greek, the form used in ancient Athens. The ancient city was located several miles from the sea, and was served by the port city of Pireaus.

## Did you know?

The name Arcadia has had a long and interesting history. Originally the bucolic region of the central Peloponnese, this name was later applied by French settlers to the region of eastern Canada they settled. When a large number of these French Canadians migrated to the mouth of the Mississippi River in the early 1700's, they were known as the 'Cadians, short for Arcadians. Before long, this had slurred into Cajuns, the term still applied to these French settlers of Louisiana.

Off the coast of Attica lies the large island of **Euboea**, which included several important cities. East of the island, on the mainland, was the region of **Boeotia**. North of Boeotia is the region of **Phocis**. The most famous city in Phocis was Delphi. Located on the slopes of Mt. Parnassus, this city was sacred to Apollo. It was said to be built on the site where the god slew the horrible snake, **Python**. Delphi was a pilgrimage point in ancient times because of the **Delphic Oracle**. This priestess of Apollo, called the **Pythia** was said to be blessed with the god's prophetic talents and could foretell the future. The priestess sat on a three legged stool, called a tripod, above a vent of volcanic fumes. The hallucinogenic fumes caused her to babble and rave. These babblings were interpreted by priests, who gave vague predictions to question seekers. The Greeks believed that Delphi was the belly button, *ὀμφαλος*, of the world, and many important people visited the city.



*Remains of the temple complex at Delphi*

To the north of Phocis lie the **Pindus Mountains** and the wild region of **Thessaly**. The most famous mountain in the Pindus range, is **Mt. Olympus**, a huge, cloud cloaked mountain that the ancients believed was the home of the Gods. To the north of **Thessaly** is the vast region of **Macedonia**. It was out of this region that a long line of determined and powerful Macedonian kings arose. The greatest of the Macedonian kings was **Alexander the Great**, who conquered much of the eastern world. The three little jutting peninsula's that poke out into the Northern Aegean from Macedonia are known as the **Chalcides**. Beyond that lies the wild of **Thrace**, a harsh region that extended to the Dardanelles and the shores of the Black Sea.

#### Questions:

1. What was the island of Delos famous for?
2. What wonder of the world was located at Rhodes?
3. What mythologically important mountain is located on Crete?
4. What is the hand-shaped southern Greece peninsula called?
5. What important city was the capital of Laconia?
6. In what year did the Olympic games begin?
7. What is the mountainous interior of the Peloponnese called?
8. What is the most important city in Attica?
9. What was the port of city of this Attic capital?
10. On what mountain is Delphi located? Why?
11. What was the priestess of Apollo (a.k.a. the Delphic Oracle) called?
12. What mountains run through Thessaly?
13. What territory was the homeland of Alexander the Great?
14. What territory borders the Black Sea?