

商务馆·网络互动英语分级阅读丛书

6^级
适合初一~初三年级学生

Mighty Rome!

强盛的罗马！

[美] Frances Bacon 著



商务印书馆



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易璐 注释

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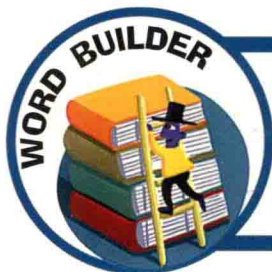
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Features 导读



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Discover the fashion secrets of the Romans on page 24.

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Learn who attacked and robbed Rome on page 29.

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Who built the city of Rome?

谁建立了罗马城？

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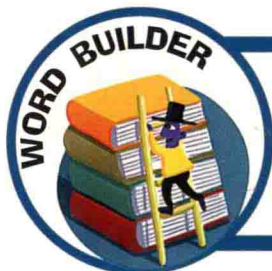
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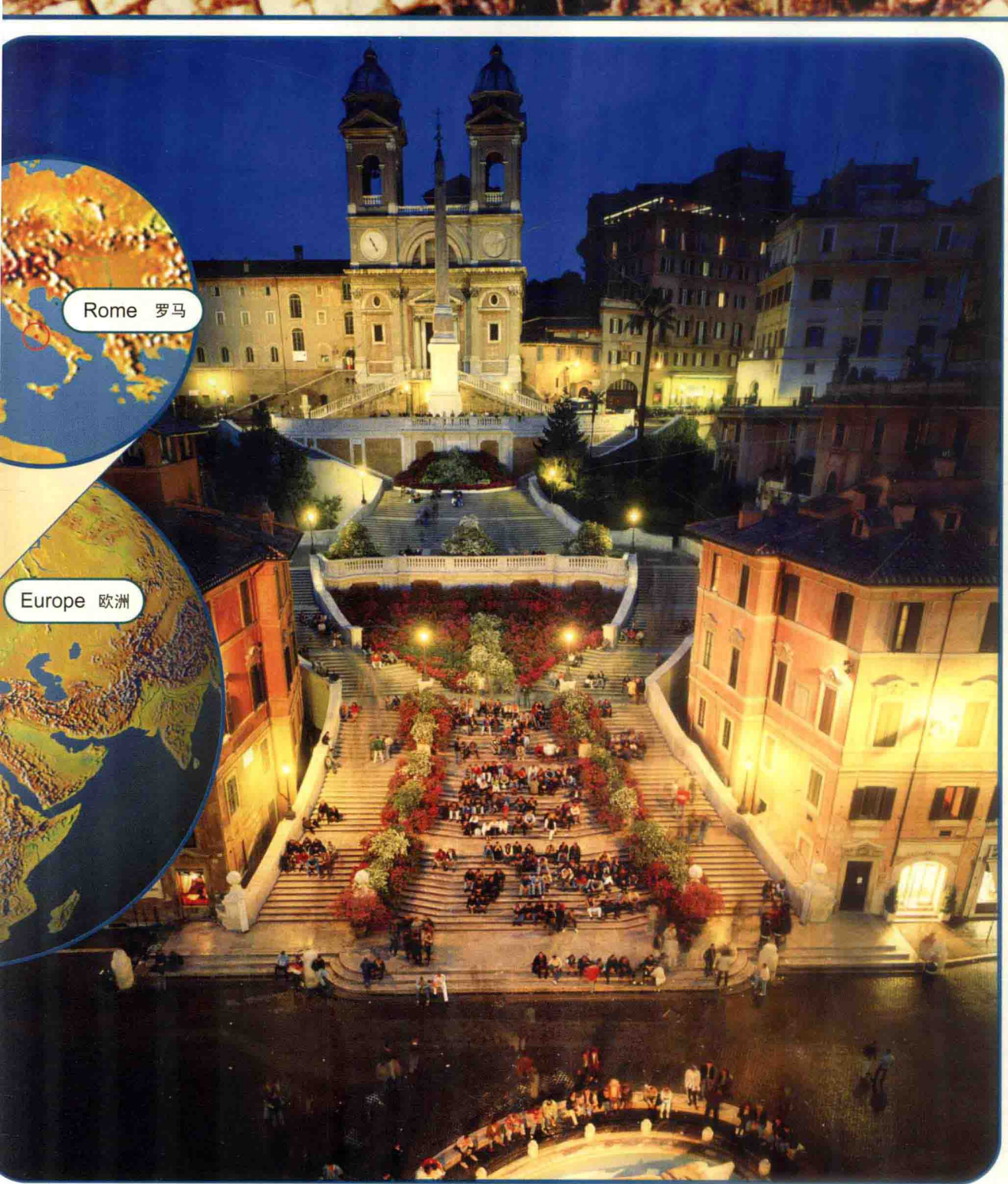


The Eternal City

Rome is the capital city of Italy, in Europe. It is also one of the world's great historic cities. For over 2,000 years, Rome has been a model of **civilization**. For hundreds of years, leaders in Rome ruled the ancient Western World, known as the **Roman Empire**. Rome's importance has been so long-lasting that it is sometimes called the **Eternal City**.

Today, thousands of visitors travel to Rome every year to see its many **monuments**, churches, palaces, art museums, open-air markets, and beautiful parks and squares.





Rome 罗马

Europe 欧洲



How do we know so much about ancient Rome?

Visit <http://edu.cp.com.cn>
for more about ROME.



The Roman Empire

At the **peak** of its power, the Roman Empire covered about half of Europe, much of what is now the Middle East, and the north coast of Africa. Between 50 to 70 million people lived within its **borders**. Nearly 1 million of these people lived in the city of Rome. This made Rome the largest city of its time.

The people of the Roman Empire spoke many languages and had different ways of life and religions. However, under Roman rule, they followed the same systems of law and government.



Rome began over
2750 years ago.
罗马城诞生于 2750 年前。

For the first 200 years,
it was ruled by kings.
最初的 200 年里，罗马由
国王统治。

For the next 500 years,
it was a **republic**.
接下来 500 年，罗马是一个
共和国。

Then Rome was the center
of the Roman Empire for
over 500 years.
罗马城作为罗马帝国的中心长达
500 多年。



Ancient Europe
古欧洲

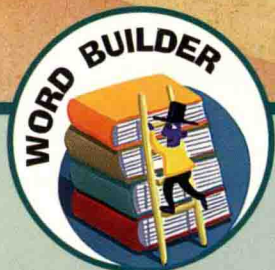


Rome
罗马



Africa 非洲

Ancient Egypt
古埃及

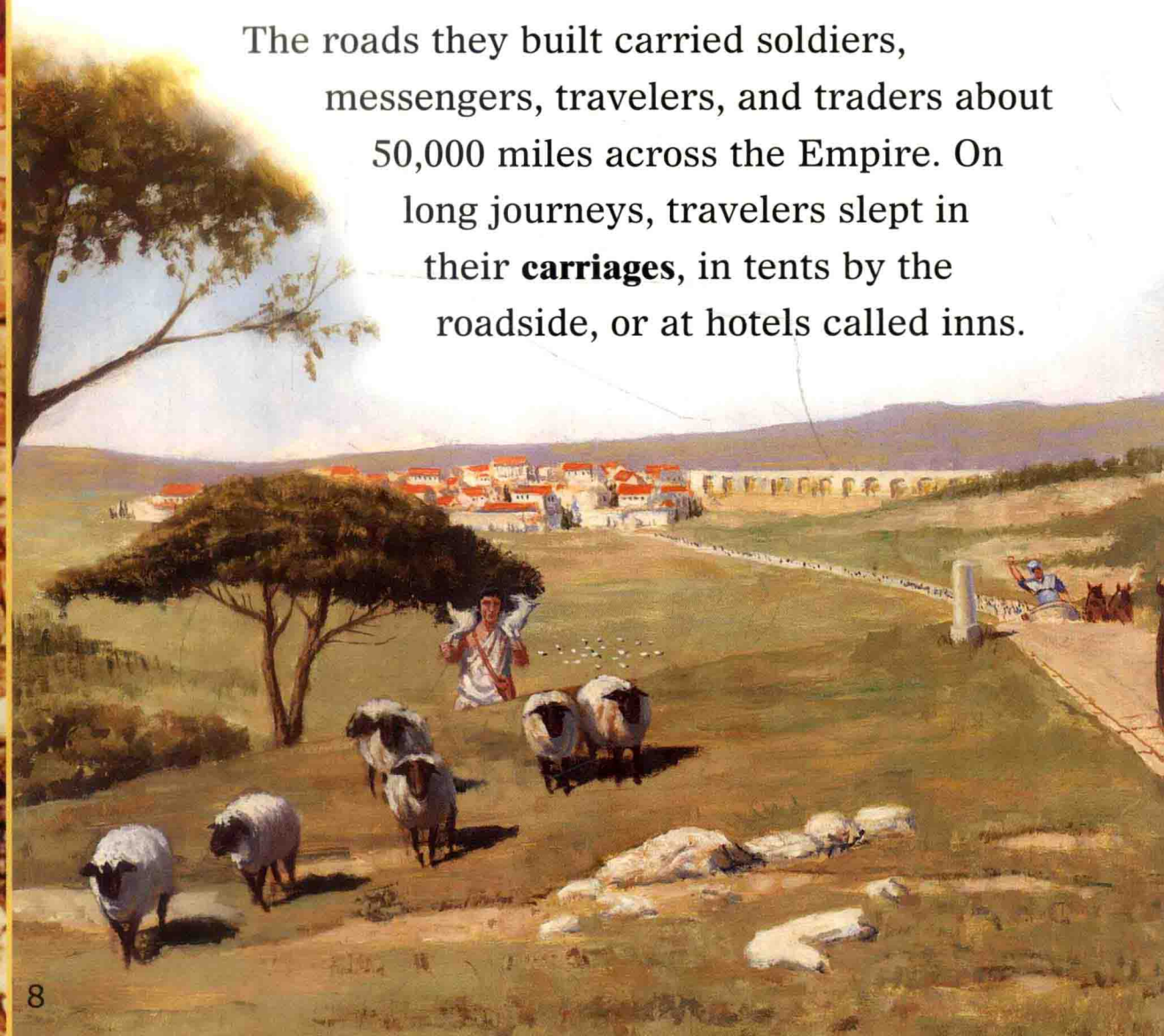


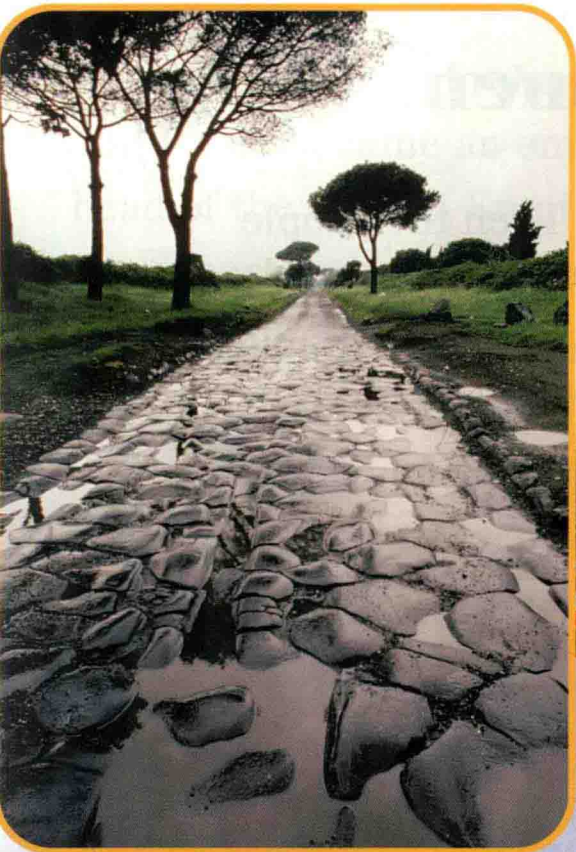
Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire. As Roman soldiers and traders moved to new areas, the language spread. Latin is hardly ever spoken today, but our alphabet and about half of all English words come from the Latin language.

Roads and Travel

As the Roman Empire grew, roads were needed to connect towns, cities, and ports to Rome. The Roman army was given the job of building many highways. Often the soldiers had to **tunnel** through hills and build bridges across rivers. This work was all done by hand.

The roads they built carried soldiers, messengers, travelers, and traders about 50,000 miles across the Empire. On long journeys, travelers slept in their **carriages**, in tents by the roadside, or at hotels called inns.





The first Roman road was built over 2,300 years ago. It was so well made that it is still used today.

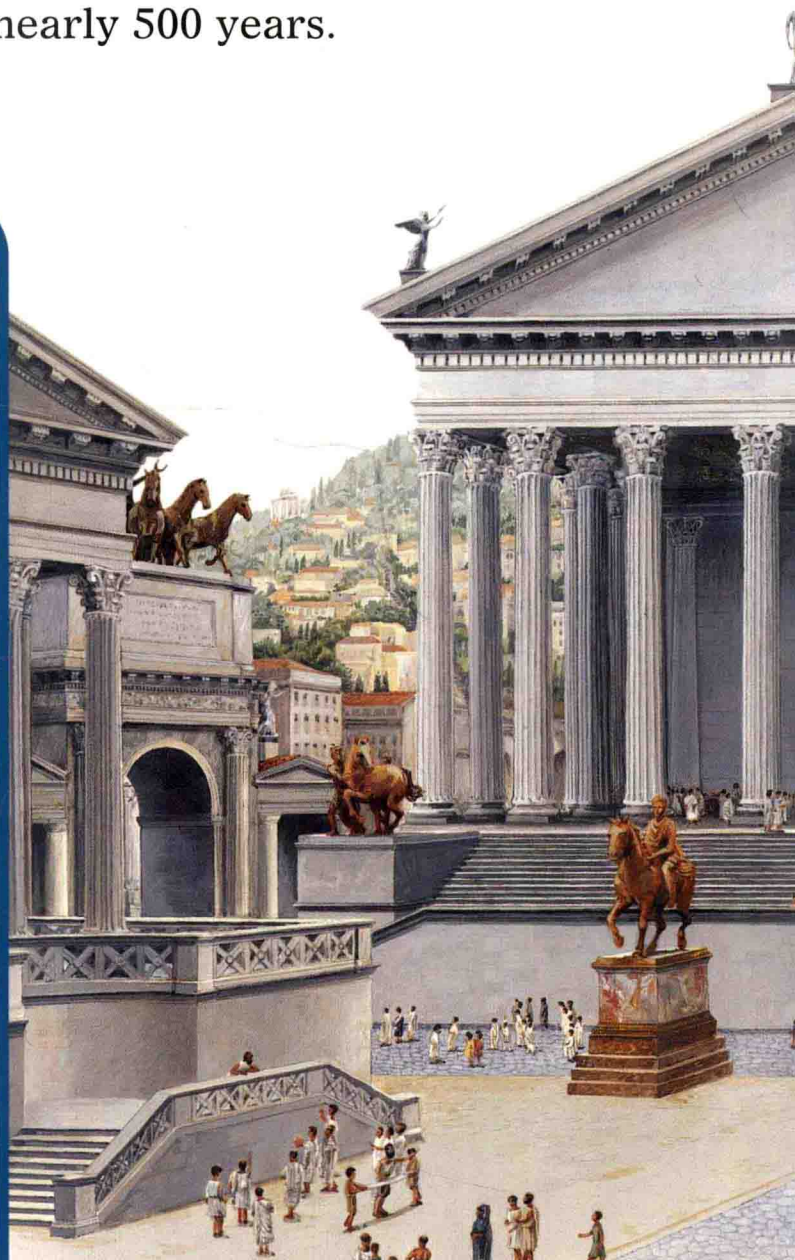


Roman Government

Rome was first ruled by kings. Then the people decided that they wanted to be a republic and choose their own leaders. Each year, the Roman people voted for two leaders. This system was set up so that Rome would not be ruled by just one person. It lasted for nearly 500 years.



Roman emperors did not wear crowns. They wore a wreath of laurel leaves instead. These had once been given to generals when they won battles.



Then the republic broke down and Rome became an empire. The head of the Roman Empire was an emperor who had complete control. Some emperors ruled wisely, but others used their power badly.

The center of every Roman city was an open square called the **forum**. People came to the forum to vote, listen to speeches, and hear public notices.



Fighting Force

For Rome to take over more land and continue to grow, it needed a powerful army. At first, only men who owned **property** were allowed to be soldiers. But when more soldiers were needed, the rules were changed. Many men wanted to join the army because soldiers were fed and paid. Usually, around 300,000 men were in the Roman army at one time. These soldiers were well-trained and highly organized.

Soldiers marched long distances. They were expected to march 22 miles in five hours, wearing their **armor** and carrying heavy **gear**.



Roman soldiers built roads, **aqueducts** (shown left), walls and **arches**. They also guarded the empire's borders and fought off attacking armies.