



WHO WAS WHO IN ROME



Three of these groups were citizens, but they did not have the same rights. Read the clues to place each group. The group with the most rights goes on the left.

CITIZENS

NOT CITIZENS

1 Patricians	2 Plebeians	3 Freedmen and freedwomen	4 Enslaved people
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Patricians: Members of a few old, rich families. At first only they could be senators, consuls or priests.

Plebeians: Most citizens: farmers, craftspeople, traders and soldiers. They won their own officials, the tribunes, and by 367 BC could become consul.

Freedmen and freedwomen: People who had been enslaved and were set free. The men could vote but could not hold high office; their children were born free citizens.

Enslaved people: Often captured in war or born to enslaved mothers. They worked on farms, in mines and in homes, could be sold, and had no rights.

♦ HOW THE ROMAN REPUBLIC WAS RUN ♦

The Roman Republic split power among several parts so that no one person could rule alone like a king. Each part could check, or limit, the others. Citizens elected their leaders, but only men could vote, and rich families held most of the power.

MALE CITIZENS

Consuls Who: Two men elected by the citizens each year; they served for only one year What it did: Ran the government and led the army in war. Each of the two could block the other's decisions.	Senate Who: About 300 men, most of them former officials, who served for life What it did: Advised the consuls, controlled the treasury and dealt with other countries.	Assemblies Who: Male citizens meeting together to vote What it did: Elected officials, passed laws and voted on war and peace.	Tribunes of the plebs Who: Ten plebeians elected each year What it did: Protected ordinary citizens. Could stop an official or a law by saying "veto," which means "I forbid."
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