AUGUSTUS/PAX ROMANA NOTES

AFTER CAESAR

- After Caesar’s death there was a civil war
- Powerful Roman leaders fought for control
- One of these leaders was Octavian
  - Octavian was great-nephew and adopted son of Caesar
- 27 B.C., Octavian and forces are victorious in Civil War
  - Octavian becomes unchallenged ruler of Rome
- Octavian takes the name of Augustus
  - Augustus means “exalted one”
    - Exalted One=Person of great rank and authority

AUGUSTUS REBUILDS ROME

- Augustus was Rome’s first emperor
  - He preferred to be called First Citizen
- Augustus restored aspects of republic
  - Senators, consuls, tribunes were able to hold office
  - Augustus had power over all
- Augustus brought Roman provinces under control
- Augustus strengthened the empire’s defenses
- Augustus began a civil service (officials employed by government)
  - Civil Service collected taxes, oversaw postal system, managed grain supply
- Augustus beautified Rome. “I found Rome a city of bricks and left it a city of marble.”—Augustus
  - Grand theaters, temples, and monuments were built
  - Old brick buildings were replaced with marbles
  - Rome became a magnificent imperial capital

AUGUSTUS THE PERSON

- Augustus was very weak and sickly as a child.
  - Suffered through illness throughout his life
- Augustus acted like normal citizen with simple tastes
  - Lived in a small house
  - Wore plain robes
  - Ate common foods
- Augustus believed in a strict moral code
  - He exiled his daughter for not living up to moral code
- Augustus thought the highest honor was to be called “father of the country”
  - After his death, Augustus was worshiped as a god
THE PAX ROMANA

- Augustus’s reign began a period of time known as Pax Romana
  - Pax Romana = Roman peace
- Pax Romana lasted 200 years
- Roman Empire grew to greatest size; 2 million square miles

AUGUSTUS/MILITARY

- Roman army became greatest fighting force in the world
- 300,000 men served in the military
- Military guarded empire’s frontiers
- Military built roads, bridges, and tunnels
- Augustus also built a strong navy that patrolled the Mediterranean Sea

ECONOMY DURING PAX ROMANA

- Because the rule of Augustus was so effective, the empire continued to do well after his death
- Agriculture and Trade helped empire prosper
  - Farming was still the basis for economy
  - Industry began to grow
    - Pottery, metal goods, glass goods were all produced
  - Production of wine, olive oil, and other good products grew
- Economic growth was seen through trade routes
  - Sailors went across Mediterranean Sea to other lands
- Traders went by land into norther territories of Europe
- Rome acquired materials they did not have at home
  - Ivory, silk, spices, gold, silver, wild animals, were all brought back to Rome
- Trade/Economy was reliant on development of roads and protection by the military
- Roman economy had a common currency (money) called the DENARIUS
  - Denarius was a silver coin
  - A common money made trade easier because traders didn’t have to change their money into another currency
- The expanding Roman economy divided the rich and the poor even more than before