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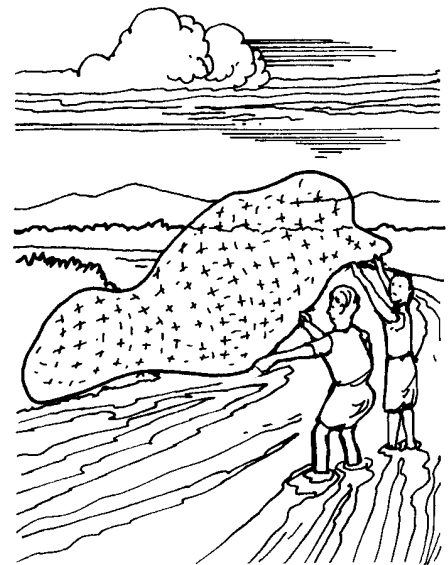
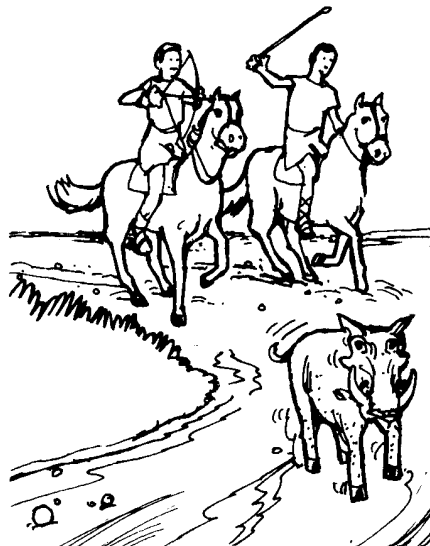
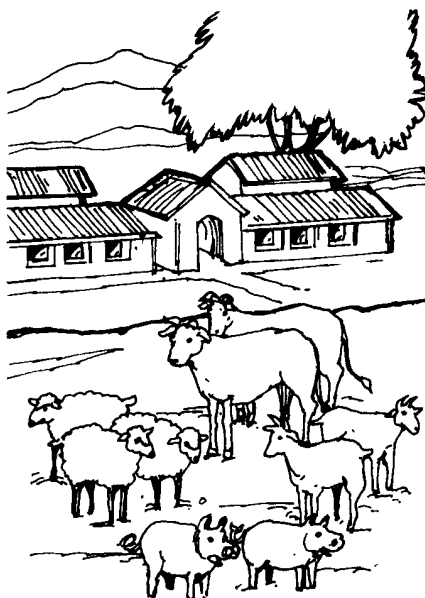
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## The Geography of Ancient Rome (cont.)

The most prized crops were grapes and olives, both of which grew well in the rocky soil and warm climate. Grapes were fermented and made into wine. There were few other beverages available, so wine was widely consumed throughout the Mediterranean region and was therefore a valuable trade commodity. Olives were grown to be eaten and also to be processed for their oil. Olive oil became a basic essential for Mediterranean cooking. It was also used as fuel in lamps and for cleaning the body.

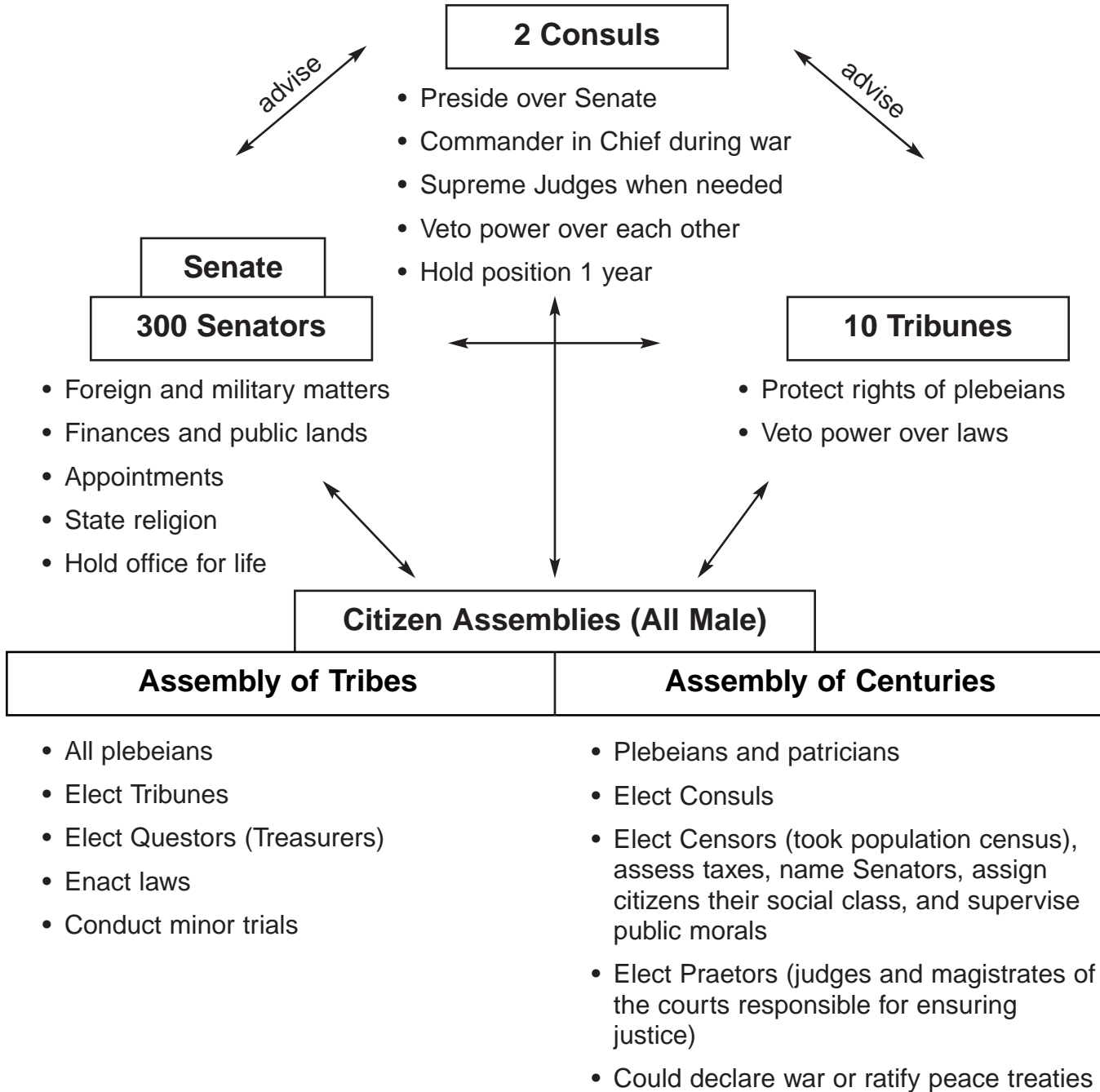


Large ranches with pigs, cattle, goats, and sheep were able to thrive in regions unsuitable for planting. Large cattle ranches provided meat, leather goods, and dairy products. Goats and sheep produced milk, cheese, meat, and the wool used for clothing. Hunting wild animals such as boar and deer was a favorite, though dangerous, sport for many Romans. In addition to offering good hunting, the forests were valuable for their wood for building and for fuel. Fish and waterfowl were plentiful. In short, because of Italy's natural resources—and its hard-working people—the Ancient Romans were able to establish and maintain a far-reaching civilization that lasted nearly 2,000 years.



# Checks and Balances in the Roman Republic

Make an overhead transparency to use while reading **The Republic and Beyond** (pages 31–34) or provide a copy for students.



**Aediles**—appointed mayors of cities. Responsible for upkeep of roads, regulating traffic, weights and measures, the water supply, maintaining public order, and looking after religious affairs. They also had the important task of administering or overseeing entertainment and public games.