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# Class Conscious Review

## *Topic*

Social Classes of Ancient Rome

## *Objective*

Students will identify the major social classes of Rome and their roles in supporting the empire.

## *Materials*

- the accompanying social class cards (page 76)
- a set of teacher-created review questions
- the accompanying set of Roman coinage (page 76)
- an edible treat (optional)

## *Preparation*

1. Make a copy of the class cards and cut them out. (For future use, laminate the cards.)
2. Duplicate sufficient Roman coins. (Correct answers in the review activity will merit one coin each. Note that some coins possess a value of five and others of ten.)
3. Prepare review questions over the previous lessons on Ancient Rome.

## *Procedure*

1. Have students divided into cooperative teams of three or four pupils each.
2. Randomly distribute the social class cards.  
(**Note:** *Have no more than one group as “Patricians.” There should be at least two groups of “Provincials.” “Plebeians” and “Slaves” should have at least one student team each.*)
3. Employ review questions on a rotating basis. With each correct response, reward the team with a Roman coin.  
  
(These coins may represent a specified treat, such as a certain amount of candy, if the instructor so desires.)
4. When the review questions have been completed, each team should tally its rewards in coins. At this point, the following tribute (or tax) must be forwarded. “Provincials” need to give one-half of their money to the “Patricians.” “Slaves” turn over all their coins to the highest class of Rome.
5. Should an optional treat be redeemable, the redemption should occur after all taxes and tributes have been collected by the “Patricians.”

# Class Conscious Review *(cont.)*

## *For Discussion*

Many students will cry “foul” at the outrageous taxes and tribute imposed at the end of the review activity. Focus the class attention on what has (presumably) already been learned about Roman society:

- Which was the dominant power-wielding class within Rome? (patricians)
- Who provided the lion’s share of wealth to Rome? (tribute collected from various foreign provinces whose people had no right to Roman citizenship)
- Who did Rome depend upon for the majority of its soldiers and artisans? (plebeians)
- Who provided most of Rome’s physical labor force? (slaves)

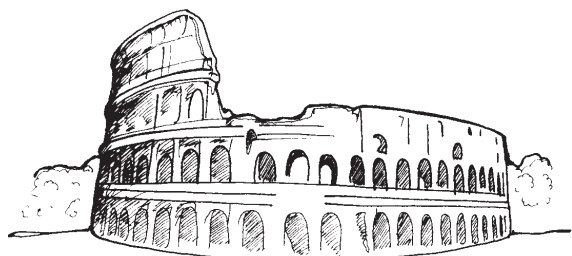
## *Background*

Simulation #19 (Class Conscious Review) makes no pretense of being fair. It attempts to replicate the social strata of Ancient Rome. While the taxation percentages are arbitrary, they are not without purpose. The patricians were the elite of Roman society, the aristocratic wealthy with a long Roman lineage.

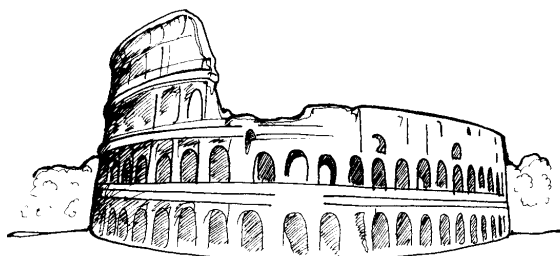
The plebeians were the common folk of Rome who, though not materially endowed, still enjoyed the honor of Roman citizenship. They paid taxes, but their greatest value to the patricians was their ability to fill the ranks of the military. Slaves bore the brunt of labor within Rome and had virtually no legal standing. Finally, the people of the various Roman provinces throughout the Mediterranean region paid hefty tribute to Rome and had no rights to citizenship within the empire (at least none until near the end of the empire’s reign).



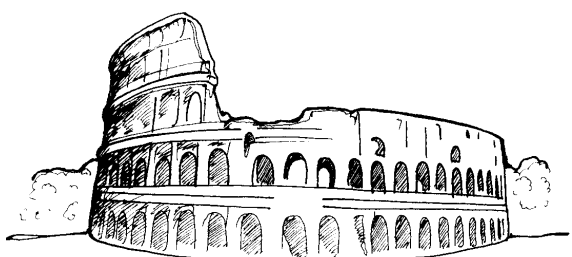
# Class Conscious Review Class Cards



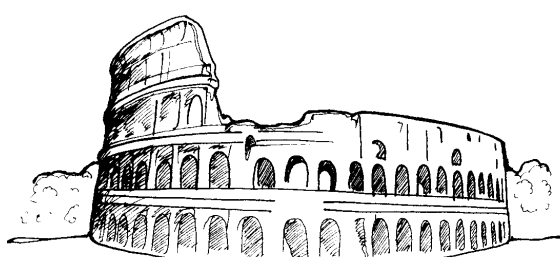
**PATRICIAN**



**PLEBIAN**



**PROVINCIAL**



**SLAVE**

