



Name _____ Date _____

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

PART I: THE TWELVE TABLES — Below is a selection of translated laws from the Twelve Tables. Read each law carefully and answer the questions on the following page.

Table I. Proceedings Preliminary to Trial

1. If the plaintiff summons the defendant to court, the defendant shall go. If the defendant does not go, the plaintiff shall call a witness thereto. Then only the plaintiff shall take the defendant by force.

Table II. Trial

3. Whoever shall have need of evidence, he shall go on every third day to shout before the doorway of the witness's house.

Table III. Debt

1. Of debt acknowledged and for matters judged in court thirty days shall be allowed by law for payment or for satisfaction.

2. After that elapse of thirty days without payment hand shall be laid on the debtor. He shall be brought into court.

Table IV. Paternal Power

4. Any child born within 10 months of their father's death will be eligible for inheritance.

Table V. Inheritance and Guardianship

4. If a person dies without a will and has not named a successor, the deceased's nearest male descendent shall have possession of the estate.

Table VI. Ownership and Possession

11. If he find that another has used his timber in building a house or in supporting vines, a person shall not dislodge from the framework the timber fixed in buildings in vineyard; but he shall have the right of action for double damages against him who has been convicted of fixing such timber.

Table VII. Real Property

10. The owner of a tree may gather its fruit which falls upon another's farm.

Table VIII. Torts or Delicts

13. If theft has been done by night, if owner has killed the thief, the thief shall be held killed lawfully.

14. It is forbidden that a thief be killed by day . . . Unless the thief defend himself with a weapon, even though the thief shall have come with a weapon, unless the thief shall use that weapon and shall resist, you shall not kill him. And even if the thief resist, you shall shout, that some persons may hear and assemble.

Table IX. Public Law

6. It is forbidden to put to death . . . unconvicted any one whomsoever.

Table X. Sacred Law

1. A dead person shall not be buried or burned in the city.

Table XI. Supplementary Laws

1. Intermarriage between plebeians and patricians shall not occur.

Table XII. Supplementary Laws

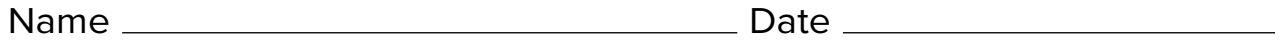
5. Whatever the people last ordained shall be considered binding and valid law.



Name _____ Date _____

1. Who receives a deceased person's estate if they die without a will?
2. When is it legal to kill a thief?
3. How long do debtors have to pay off their debt?
4. Dead people are forbidden from being _____ in the city.
5. How does one contact a witness to get them to provide evidence?
6. When can a plaintiff bring a defendant to court by force?
7. The branches of a lemon tree in Lucius's farm hang over Marcus's farm. If a lemon falls into Marcus's farm, who owns that lemon?
8. If Marcus stole timber from Lucius's farm to build his house, what will happen to Marcus?
9. True or False: According to the Twelve Tables, a conviction was unnecessary for someone to be put to death.
10. How soon after their father's death must a child be born to be eligible for their inheritance?
11. True or False: Plebeians and patricians could marry each other.
12. When is a debtor brought into court?
13. Which table included a law that ensured the most recent version of law will be binding?
14. Which table lays out the rules for handling theft?
15. True or False: The Twelve Tables had 14 laws in total.



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