

2025x2026  
NAJCE



November 2026



# The Torch



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>COVER</b>                       | <b>1</b> |
| <b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>           | <b>2</b> |
| <b>NDJCL</b>                       | <b>3</b> |
| <b>ROMAN NATURAL<br/>DISASTERS</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>THE FIVE GOOD<br/>EMPERORS</b>  | <b>5</b> |
| <b>WORD SEARCH</b>                 | <b>6</b> |



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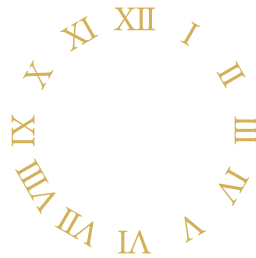
## NDJCL

### JCL CREED

We the members of the Junior Classical League, strive to promote the study of Greek, Latin, and ancient cultures.

We believe this study will help us examine the world and expand our understanding of literature, language, arts, sciences, and humanity.

We affirm the JCL experience develops leadership, fosters community, promotes enthusiasm, encourages competition, inspires dedication, and enriches our total growth!



### JCL SONG

Seeking to learn, with wisdom our goal. Looking for lessons through stories of old. Searching the realms of the ancient past, we study the classics' work so vast. In knowledge, service and fellowship, we're growing everyday the friendly hand of JCL in every way. We'll join our arms and sing along with every dear colleague. And forever we'll hold to the purple and gold, of the Junior Classical League.



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## ROMAN NATURAL DISASTERS

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November is the month of thanks, and while Rome was a decent place to live, it wasn't all that great. Here are five natural disaster that struck Rome, and will make you grateful you live long after the Romans.

### THE TIBER RIVER

The Tiber River was the river that flowed through Rome. It was critical to Rome, as it was a vital source of freshwater; a natural defensive barrier; and a major trade and transport artery. However, it often caused Rome issues, as it was prone to flooding. even its name comes from the Latin word "Tiberis," which means "the river that floods." These floods caused life and property damage. They destroyed markets, contaminated food, and made transport within the city nearly impossible. They also allowed disease to spread much quicker, as the water became a breeding ground for it.

### THE PLAGUE OF CYPRIAN

The Plague of Cyprian, or the Decian Persecution, is one of the most devastating epidemics in ancient history. It ravaged the Roman Empire from 249 AD to 262 AD, killing 25%-50% of the population in affected areas. The actual illness that spread is unknown, but theories are smallpox, measles, Ebola, and a viral hemorrhagic fever. It caused increased superstition and religious fervor throughout the empire due to fear and panic, and it ultimately contributed to the decline of the Roman Empire in the third century.

### EARTHQUAKES

Along with one of the deadliest eruptions in history, Rome has also seen one of the deadliest earthquakes. 62 AD, an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.5 on the Richter scale struck two Roman cities: Pompeii and Herculaneum. It caused severe damage to infrastructure and buildings in these cities, and the surrounding towns. Casualties are believed to be in the thousands.

### THE ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS

In 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius erupted. It completely destroyed the two nearby cities: Pompeii and Herculaneum. Both of these cities were major centers for trade, and the eruption offset the economy for many years. The eruption was so massive that it remains today as one of the most disruptive natural disasters in history. It also remains as one of the deadliest natural disasters, with the death toll reaching around 16,000 people.

### THE ANTONINE PLAGUE

Also known as the Plague of Galen, the Antonine Plague of 165 AD to 180 AD was a destructive epidemic. Believed to be measles or smallpox, the plague caused anywhere from 5 million to 10 million deaths, roughly 10 percent of the Roman Empire.



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## THE FIVE GOOD EMPERORS

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Rome had definitely seen its' share of terrible leaders. Cruel, lazy, fat, idiotic, and uncaring are more modern terms we would use to describe them. Some left the city of Rome, and the empire as a whole, in a state of despair. However, this doesn't mean they were all bad. Reigning from 96-180 CE, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius were coined the "Five Good Emperors" by Niccolò Machiavelli. They each left the Roman Empire stronger than they came to it. Here is a little about each of their accomplishments, and what they did for Rome.

### NERVA

Nerva ruled the Roman Empire from 96 to 98. He was regarded as a fair and just ruler. He was an ally to the poor of Rome. He contributed to the construction of aqueducts, although they were not completed until after his death, caused by a stroke. He also helped uncover the Pisonian conspiracy of 65, although he wasn't emperor yet. His greatest accomplishment would be his prevention of a civil war, after the death of Domitian in 96.

### TRAJAN

Trajan was a phenomenal military leader. His campaigns resulted in the largest territorial extent of the Roman Empire. He also was a very fair and kind ruler, implementing social reforms. His most famous is the *alimenta* which provided welfare for children who weren't well off. He launched massive building projects, and also improved current infrastructure. He was well respected by the senate and the people, and earned the title *Optimus princeps*

### HADRIAN

Hadrian was a very wise emperor. He abandoned some of Trajan's conquered territories to create more defensible borders for Rome. He traveled all throughout Rome to oversee projects, military, and authorities, to ensure Rome was well managed. He also implemented many reform programs, and building programs as well.

### ANTONINUS PIUS

Antoninus Pius is regarded as the most peaceful emperor out of the five. He avoided war and expansion to minimize resource usage and bloodshed. He successfully negotiated peace with the Parthians as well. He also had very conservative financial policies, leaving behind a large amount of money in the imperial treasury. He improved the judicial process, and stood up for the vulnerable. He was a very respected, and very generous emperor, even installing new laws to protect slaves.

### MARCUS AURELIUS

Marcus Aurelius was a stoic, and devoted to it. He sought to focus on the common good. He gave generous admissions, and expanded civil rights. He promoted education, and handled the Antonine plague. His reign is often seen as the peak of the Roman Empire's power and stability.



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## WORD SEARCH

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| WORD BANK |       |           |            |
|-----------|-------|-----------|------------|
| Caesar    |       |           | Roman      |
| Gual      | War   | Mythology | philosophy |
| aqueducts | Remus | Latin     | Nero       |