Ancient Roman Civilization

753 BCE: legendary founding of Rome by Romulus
509 BCE: Republic of Rome founded
27 BCE: End of Republic, reign of Emperor Augustus
27 BCE-200 CE Early Imperial period
Terrain of Rome before settlement

Republican Rome

Organic city
Where is Pompeii? The Bay of Naples?
Vesuvius erupts and buries Pompeii, 79 CE
Republican Rome

City of Pompeii

Occupied in the 7-6th centuries BCE by the Osci, an ancient Italic people. Taken over by Etruscans and Greeks (and others). Captured by the Romans in 80 BCE, and significantly rebuilt in the Augustan period (27 BCE-14CE).

Infrastructure: WATER and WASTE
Bay of Naples from Mt. Vesuvius
View of Pompeii, Mt. Vesuvio in the background
Famous visitors to Pompeii
Roman (Campania). Pompeii. General view to N. showing paved street with pedestrian crossing blocks (in background, Mount Vesuvius).
Pompeii, Street view with shops

Inside of a shop, Pompeii
Interior of lunch shop

Lunch counter with marble revetment
Aerial view of the forum
Forum at Pompeii. What kinds of things happened in the forum?
Pompeii, view of forum
Garden of the house of the Vettii

House of the Vettii, Pompeii
House of the Vettii, Pompeii
View from the impluvium to the garden peristyle
Pain in the triclinium
House of the Vettii
Pompeii, House of the Vettii

Fictive architecture, fictive marble

PLINY
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Growth of empire in republican period and into the imperial period. Empire the largest at 117CE during the reign of Trajan
Biggest question from your reading on Rome: How did Augustus make Rome into an imperial capitol?

Let’s ask more specific questions.
• What kinds of monuments did Augustus erect in Rome?
• What were they made of?
• What were the central messages that Augustus wanted to communicate to the city, to the world, through his new monuments?
Now we will look at:

1. Triumphal arches and the concept of Augustan peace
2. Augustus’ forum and the Temple to Mars Ultor
3. The Ara Pacis and the Campus martius
Augustan Rome, regions created in 7 BCE

Republican Rome
200 BCE (note location of Parthia)

Augustus commemorates peace with the Parthians!
53 BCE Parthians defeat Roman army and take prisoners
20-19 BCE Augustus returns to Rome with prisoners and the Roman battle standards
Augustus in a chariot with Parthians paying tribute, Dedicated in 19 BCE

Location of arch: next to temple of the divine Julius Caesar, Augustus’ adoptive father
Return of the Parthian standards

Augustus or Primaporta: Bronze original probably set up in a public place ca. 19 BCE
Arch of Titus
Via dei Fori Imperiali
Temple of Mars Ultor

Forum of Julius Caesar
Program of the forum: Links August to Julius Caesar and to his divine ancestors.

The halls were lined with sculptures of his ancestors.

Vowed to build this temple in the heat of battle in 42 BCE, when he defeated those who murdered his father. Temple dedicated in 2 BCE.
Reconstruction of the Forum of Augustus and the Temple of Mars Ultor, ca. 20 BCE
Fragment of a gilded bronze statue of Venus from the Temple of Mars Ultor
Augustan temple: remember that Favro considers Augustus’ architecture fairly conservative.

Temple of Portunus, Cattle Market, Rome, late 2nd c BCE (from the Republican period)
Temple to Mars Ultor

Luna (Carrara) marble, a source for white marble found during Augustus’ reign.
Pliny ch. 4 of book 36: “All these artists, however, used nothing but the white marble of the Isle of Paros, a stone which was known as "lychnites" at first, because, according to Varro, it was cut in the quarries by lamplight. Since their time, many other whiter marbles have been discovered, and very recently that of the quarries of Luna.”
The global marble market!

2. Yellow marble from Numidia
3. Green marble from Thessaly (Greece)
4. Cipollino marble from Greece
5. Green serpentine marble from Greece

10. Pavonazzetto marble from Turkey
11. Alabaster from Egypt
12. Ancient red porphyry from Egypt
Cipollino green marble from Greece

Alabaster from Egypt

Pavonazzetto (peacock!) marble from Phrygia (today Turkey)

Egyptian porphyry

Numidian yellow from North Africa
Various pieces of different colored marbles on the lunch counter in Pompeii
Pantheon, Rome.
Built in ca. 126 by the emperor Hadrian
Interior of the Pantheon, Rome
Showing some original Roman marble revetment

The columns are made of Pavonazzetto (peacock!) marble from Turkey

What did Pliny think about the use of imported marbles?
Republican Rome

Augustan Rome, regions created in 7 BCE
Pliny (ch. 15) mentions the obelisk used as a sundial.

Obelisk of red granite from Egypt

Ara Pacis in the Campus Martius. Part of a complex including Augustus’ sundial and his mausoleum

Location of the Campus Martius: click here.
Ara Pacis Augustae, consecrated in January in 9 BCE; commemorates Augustus’ triumphant return from Gaul and Spain in 13 BCE. Luna marble (from Carrara)
Tellus (Mother Earth). “The two children on her lap have been interpreted as the nephews and heirs to Augustus, Gaius and Lucius Caesar.”

http://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm/italy/rome/arapacis/arapacis.html
What’s the central idea here?!

FECUNDITY!
Augustus (his body is mostly destroyed) leads the imperial family in a procession (a celebration of victory? The inauguration of the temple itself? We aren’t sure.)
Procession on the south wall

Livia, Augustus’ wife (probably) was identified as Augustus' daughter, Agrippa's wife, and mother of the heirs to the throne.

The child holding on to Agrippa may be one of Augustus’ named heirs.

Agrippa, the princeps (second in command)

PATERFAMILIAS

http://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivam/italy/rome/arapacis/arapacis2.html
Young children of the Julio-Claudian family
OVERALL???

Peace
piety
Family
good harvests (fecundity)
lots of fertile mothers birthing loyal Romans
A FERTILE god-pleasing imperial line!

All in a shiny marble altar
Peace, prosperity, wealth

Suetonius (XXVIII), remarks that Augustus "found Rome a city of brick and left it a city of marble."