

Pax Romana Readings – Guided Reading Questions

Aelius Aristides

THE ROMAN ORATION

THE BLESSINGS OF THE PAX ROMANA

1. How does Aristides describe trade during the Pax Romana?
2. How does he describe the Roman people's views of the Emperor?
3. What does Aristides say about citizenship and careers in the Roman Empire during Pax Romana?
4. How does Aristides describe Pax Romana era successes in:
 - The Military
 - Settlement/Building Projects

Tacitus

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PAX ROMANA

5. According to Tacitus, how did the Britons (people of Britain) view the occupation and rule of the Romans? Specifically how did many people react?

6. How does Tacitus describe the way Romans treat those who they conquer? Provide examples from the reading. (Consider women, slaves, the land itself)

7. How loyal are Britons described to be to Roman authority?

Josephus

RESISTANCE TO ROMAN RULE IN JUDEA

8. Why would the people of Judea be unhappy with Roman occupation?

9. According to Josephus, why would a revolt against Rome be extremely difficult? Summarize his examples of:

The Greeks/Macedonians

The Thracians

The Gauls

The Spanish People

The Britons

10. Do you think that the Roman Empire's rule based on fear is effective? Why/Why not?
(At least 4 sentences...)

11. Was the Roman system of empire administration admirable or unjust. Support your answer with details from all three readings. (1/2 - 3/4 of a page min.)