

Q: Could citizens strive to move up the social ladder in the Roman Empire?

A: There was a rather solid hierarchical structure, with the influential at the top and the slaves at the bottom. However, compared to ancient Greece, there was a greater potential for changing status and roles in society. Slaves also had the potential to obtain citizenship if their owners freed them. Some freed slaves even became wealthy. Women could climb the ladder through marriage to a higher-ranking man.

Tags: [Imperial Rome](#)

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A: Starting in the second century AD, these underground tunnels served as Christian cemeteries. They also became the place where a new Christian iconography developed—in these catacomb galleries can be found some of the earliest Christian art. Paintings and mosaics representing biblical subject matter often emphasize the theme of the salvation through Christ.

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Q: What language did the Romans speak?

A: The official language spoken by the Romans was Latin. Well-educated Romans spoke both Latin and Greek. Fluency in one language or the other also depended on location: in the East, Greek was used to a greater extent than in the West.

Tags: [Greek](#), [Latin](#)