

Romulus Augustulus and the Fall of the West

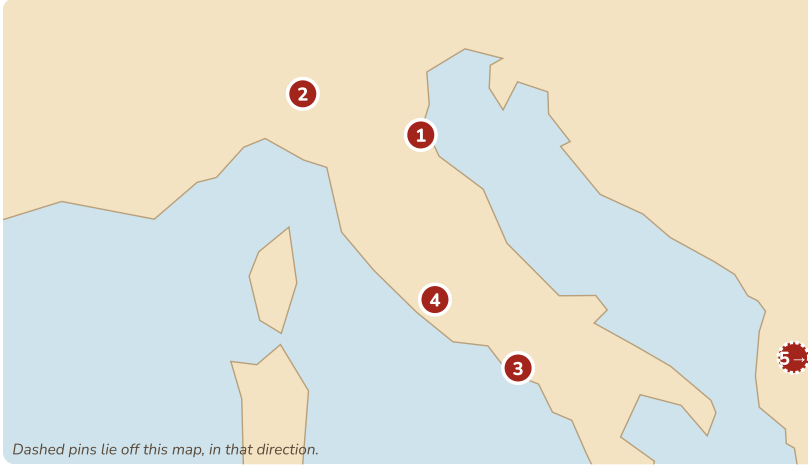
Name: _____

Date: _____



Instructions: No word bank: name the numbered places from memory or from the module. Number the events in order and write each date. Analyse the source, explain significance, then write full-sentence answers and plan the essay.

1. Name the places (no word bank)



1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____
5 _____

Did you know?

- 'Augustulus' means 'little Augustus', a mocking nickname.
- Odoacer sent the imperial regalia to Constantinople, saying the West no longer needed its own emperor.
- Many historians now see 476 as a transformation as much as a sudden 'fall'.
- Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese and Romanian grew out of Latin.

Background

In 475 the general Orestes drove out Emperor Julius Nepos and placed his own son, Romulus Augustulus, about 14 years old, on the throne. His name combined Rome's founder Romulus and its first emperor Augustus; people mockingly added '-ulus', meaning 'little Augustus'. The East never recognised him.

2. Timeline: order and date

Number the events 1 to 7 (1 = earliest) and write the date of each.

#	Event	Date
1	Romulus Augustulus made emperor	
2	Theodoric rules Italy	
3	Odoacer removes him	
4	Justinian becomes eastern emperor	
5	Julius Nepos becomes western emperor	
6	Julius Nepos dies	
7	Constantinople falls	

4. Significance

Person or term	Who or what? Why were they significant?
Romulus Augustulus	
Orestes	
Odoacer	
Zeno	
Theodoric	

3. Source analysis

Odoacer entered Ravenna and removed Augustulus from power. But pitying his youth, he spared his life, and because he was handsome he gave him an income of six thousand solidi and sent him to Campania to live freely with his relatives.

Anonymus Valesianus 8.38 (written in the 6th century; paraphrased)

1. How did Odoacer treat Romulus Augustulus?

2. Why might Odoacer have chosen not to kill him?

3. What does this source suggest about how dramatic 'the fall of Rome' felt at the time?

5. Cause and consequence

1. Explain two long-term causes of the end of the Western Empire.

2. Explain two consequences of 476.

6. Longer answers (full sentences)

1. Explain why Odoacer didn't make himself emperor.

2. Compare 'fall' and 'transformation' views.

3. Choose three earlier modules and explain how each contributed to the fall.

4. What is Rome's most important legacy today?

5. Explain in your own words: What is one way Rome still affects your life today?

7. Essay question

Essay: Did the Western Roman Empire 'fall' in 476, or slowly transform? Use evidence from the whole course.

Plan: introduction · point for (evidence) · point against (evidence) · conclusion with your judgement.
