

Glossary Roman Empire

Acte – freedwoman – Mistress to Emperor Nero

Advocate – lawyer

Agrippina the Younger – Julia Agrippina – mother of Emperor Nero – Fourth wife of Emperor Claudius

Alexandria Pharos – lighthouse in Alexandria, Egypt

Amphora/Amphorae – jars with two vertical handles

Anicetus – commander of Emperor Nero's fleet

Antium – modern day Anzio

Apollo – Olympian deity in classical Greek and Roman religion and mythology

Bacchus – the Greek god of wine; also called Dionysus

Baiae – an ancient Roman town on the northwest shore of the Gulf of Naples

Britannia – Great Britain

Britannicus – Son of Messalina and Emperor Claudius

Burrus – chief advisor to Emperor Nero

Calabria – a region in Southern Italy

Caligula – Emperor 16 March AD 37 – 24 January AD 41

Camulodunum – modern-day Colchester, in Essex, U.K.

Campania – southwest part of the Italian peninsula

Centurion – a career soldier

Circus – Circus Maximus – a racetrack

Claudius – Emperor 24 January AD 41 – 13 October AD 54

Cohort – military unit in a legion

Colonia – colony

Colossus of Rhodes – a statue of the Greek sun-god Helios, erected in the city of Rhodes

Conscription – compulsory enrollment into military service

Consul – one of the two annually elected chief magistrates who jointly ruled the republic

Dionysus – the Greek god of wine; also called Bacchus

Forum – rectangular plaza surrounded by government buildings at the center of the city of Rome

Freeman – free from birth, full Roman citizenship

Freedman – emancipated from slavery

Galba – Emperor 8 June AD 68 – 15 January AD 69

Gallia – Gaul – includes modern-day France, Belgium, the southern Netherlands, southwestern Germany, and northern Italy

Germania – territory encompassing the Danube and Main in the south to the Baltic Sea, and from the Rhine in the west to the Vistula (Poland)

Hebrew – a member of an ancient people living in what is now Israel and Palestine

Hispania – Roman name for the Iberian Peninsula and its provinces

Illness of the Gods – epilepsy

Judea – mountainous southern part of the region of Palestine

Legatus legionis – commander of a legion

Legion – consists of ten cohorts

Lepida – Domitia Lepida the Younger – paternal aunt of Emperor Nero

Lusitania – modern Portugal (south of the Douro river) and part of western Spain

Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus Nero – Emperor 13 October AD 54 – 9 June AD 68

Messalina – Third wife of Emperor Claudius

Misenum – ancient port of Campania, Italy, south of Baiae

Nero – Emperor 13 October AD 54 – 9 June AD 68

Octavia – Claudia Octavia – Daughter of Messalina and Emperor Claudius – first wife of Emperor Nero

Ostia – harbor city of ancient Rome

Palatine Hill – the center of the Seven Hills of Rome

Pandateria – modern Ventotene

Parable – a simple story as told by Jesus in the Gospels; spiritual and moral examples

Parthia – modern-day Iran

Patrician – high born, upper-class

Paul of Tarsus – an apostle of Jesus Christ

Periodos – Greek games – Olympic events

Pharisees – a religious party or school among the Jews at the time of Christ

Pharos – lighthouse

Pontine Islands – located in the Mediterranean Sea, West Coast of Italy

Poppaea Sabina the Younger – second wife of Emperor Nero

Praetor – commander of the army

Praetorian Guard – the bodyguard of the Roman Emperor

Proconsul – a governor of a province having much of the authority of a consul

Puteoli – a city on the coast of Campania

Pythagoras – freedman – Emperor Nero’s “wife” / “husband”

Sardinia – island in the Mediterranean Sea west of the Italian Peninsula

Senate – governing and advisory body to the Roman Emperor – comprised of approximately 600 senators, although only about 100 to 200 were active at any given time

Seneca the Younger – tutor and advisor to Emperor Nero

Silius – Gaius Silius Roman Senator – Lover of Empress Messalina

Sporus – eunuch married to Emperor Nero

Tarsus – the capital city of the province of Cilicia, modern-day Turkey

Tiberius – Emperor 18 September AD 14 – 16 March AD 37

Tibur – modern day Tivoli

Tribunus laticlavus – second-in-command of a legion

Tyrrhenian Sea – part of the Mediterranean Sea off the western coast of Italy

Velitrae – Velletri – Italian commune in the Metropolitan City of Rome

Vestal, Vestals, Vestal Virgin – priestesses of Vesta, goddess of the hearth