

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

ASSEMBLY OF CENTURIES

- 2 consuls who oversaw the work of other government officials
- Acted as judges
- Directed the army during wartime
- Elected for 1 year terms
- Both consuls had to agree before any action could be taken
- In emergencies one could become a "dictator" for 6 months to allow for quick decision-making
- Consuls chose Senate members
- Branch also included other elected judges and censors (people who kept track of taxes people paid)

THE SENATE

- Advisors to the consuls and other government officials
- Senators held office for life
- Could approve or veto laws passed by the Assembly
- Decided how money would be spent
- Made decisions about relations with other countries
- Influenced consuls and the army
- In emergencies Senate chose a dictator

THE ASSEMBLY OF TRIBES

- Citizens grouped into tribes based on where they lived
- Voted on laws suggested by government officials
- Could declare war and make peace treaties
- Elected the consuls
- Elected other government officials
- Could veto Senate laws and other acts

Based on information in the diagram, which government branch do you think was most powerful? Explain your answer.

CHECKS & BALANCES

A system of checks and balances prevents any one part of a government from becoming too powerful. Each power of the government is balanced the powers of another part.

DIRECTIONS: Study “The Roman Republic” chart to find and record all the ways power was checked and balanced. Then, answer the questions below.

Power & Who Held It	How It Was Checked & by Whom

Explain why the Roman Republic allowed for a “dictator” to be appointed.

Do you think having this option was a good idea? Why or why not?

Overall, do you think the Roman Republic ran smoothly? Why or why not?