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<http://www.italytravelescape.com/History%20of%20Italy.htm>



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Presents

# WORLDQUEST Italy

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**INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE**

## INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

Designed to enhance the social studies curriculum for the intermediate aged student on up. "WorldQuest" offers students a unique perspective about the chronological developments of the greatest cultures the world has ever known.

As a complementary device with each program, an instructional guide suggests exercises to enhance the learning for teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a student's level of comprehension.

The instructional guide provides:

**Subject Profile • Q & A • Discussion Points & Activities  
Vocabulary • Geography (Including Maps) • Timeline**

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## TIMELINE of *ITALY*

- **20,000 BCE:** Paleolithic hunter-gatherers roam across central Europe.
- **5,500 BCE:** Early inhabitants like Ice Man occupy the Italian Peninsula.
- **3,000 BCE:** The Copper Age.
- **1,200 BCE - 800 BCE:** Etruscans establish themselves on the Italian Peninsula.
- **753 BCE:** A tiny village called Rome is established.
- **200 BCE:** Rome conquers the entire Italian Peninsula.
- **29 BCE:** The Roman Empire reaches its peak.
- **79:** Mt. Vesuvius suddenly erupts covering the Roman cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum with ash and lava.
- **488:** The fall of Rome and the Dark Ages begin.
- **1400:** The Italian Renaissance begins
- **1748:** Large excavations to rediscover Pompeii and Herculaneum are conducted.
- **1861:** The Republic of Italy is officially established.
- **1929:** The Vatican is officially established as the world's smallest sovereign nation.
- **1991:** A mummified body called Ice Man is discovered in the Italian Alps.

## Map #2 of *ITALY*

Study the map and site descriptions on pg. 15. Then write the name of the location on the solid black line. On a separate piece of paper write a brief description about each location.



① \_\_\_\_\_

② \_\_\_\_\_

③ \_\_\_\_\_

## ITALY

From its humble beginnings in 753 BCE, Italy, formerly known as Rome, grew from a tiny hilltop village overlooking the Tiber River into the most powerful empire the world has ever known. Famous for its artists, scientists, musicians, inventors and explorers Italy greatly influenced the history of the world. At its height the Roman Empire stretched from the British Isles to Persia (Iran).

Located along Europe's southern coast and extending into the Mediterranean Sea the Italian Peninsula covers 116,000 square miles with a population of approximately 58 million people. Italy's land mass includes 70 small islands along with two large and popular islands named Sicily and Sardinia. Although its early history started in 753 BCE its modern-day boundaries weren't officially established until 1861.

After the fall of the Roman Empire in 488, Italy experienced a period known as the Dark Ages during which national states originated. By 1400, a new era called the Italian Renaissance emerged. During this age, Italy flourished in the areas of art, architecture and science. Some of the most famous works during the Italian Renaissance were created by Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci and astronomer Galileo Galleli.

Today Italy continues to showcase its ancient past. Millions of visitors throughout the world enjoy such sites as the Roman Coliseum where gladiators fought and early Christians were persecuted. Other popular sites include The Vatican, which preserves some of the world's most treasured artifacts, and The Leaning Tower of Piza. From Michelangelo's "David" in Florence to the sleek design of Armani, Gucci and Versace in Milan's fashion mecca, Italy's cities offer travelers a unique blend of contemporary and ancient Italian culture. Combined with Italy's modern flair for fashion is its most distinct, legendary and luxurious flair for engineering – The Ferrari. Named after Italian race car driver Enzo Ferrari, this venerated machine demonstrates mechanical perfection like no other automobile in the world.

While Italy is most noted for its famous sculptures, Roman columns, paintings, and historic past it is also a country which prides itself toward future discoveries. It is in combination with their treasured past and their present fortitude that Italian culture will continue to contribute to a world which is rapidly advancing into the 21st century and beyond.

## Introduction & Geography of Italy

**Q & A:** For MORE geography SEE maps on pgs. 12-16

1) Q -What is a peninsula?

A - A land mass surrounded by three sides of water. The Italian Peninsula has 5 seas which together border its three shores: 1) Ligurian Sea, 2) Tyrrhenian Sea, 3) Mediterranean Sea, 4) Ionian Sea, 5) Adriatic Sea

2) Q - What was the name of Italy from 753 BCE to 488 CE?

A - Rome (Roman Empire)

3) Q - Why does Mt. Vesuvius have such historic significance?

A - Because it was a volcano which suddenly erupted in 79 CE. The eruption buried the Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum with ash and lava. In 1748 excavations were conducted and ancient remains of these cities were rediscovered.

4) Q - Name two of Italy's largest Islands? How many small islands are a part of Italy?

A- Sicily & Sardinia / 70 small islands

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### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

1) Review with the class some of the important geographic locations of Italy on a large map. Perhaps review an ancient map of the Roman Empire.

2) Assign the students to create their own detailed maps on paper or a computer. Indicate on the map cities, mountains, famous sites, rivers, etc.

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### VOCABULARY:

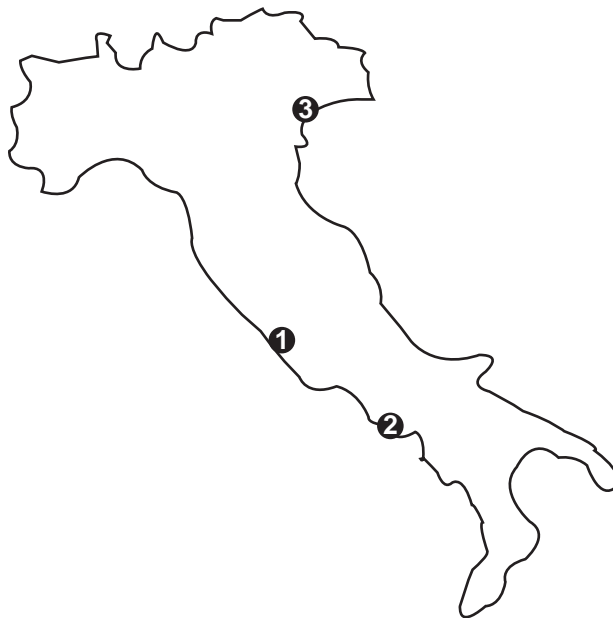
**MT. VESUVIUS:** The volcano which suddenly erupted in 79 CE. The eruption buried the Italian cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum with ash and lava. In 1748 excavations were conducted and ancient remains of these cities were rediscovered.

**PENINSULA:** A land mass surrounded by three sides of water. The Italian Peninsula has 5 seas which together border its three shores: 1) Ligurian Sea, 2) Tyrrhenian Sea, 3) Mediterranean Sea, 4) Ionian Sea, 5) Adriatic Sea.

**ITALY:** A country geographically defined as a peninsula which is located in south central Europe and extends into the Mediterranean Sea. Its land mass covers 116,000 square miles which includes 70 small islands along with two large and popular islands named Sicily and Sardinia. Its population is approximately 58 million people.

## Map #2 of ITALY

Study the Map & Its Significant Locations



❶ **ROME:** The Capital City of Italy today. The birthplace of the Roman Empire. Site of the Vatican and Coliseum.

❷ **NAPLES:** Home of the pizza and is located near Mt. Vesuvius which was the volcano that erupted in 79 CE covering the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

❸ **VENICE:** Considered by many the most romantic city in the world and is famous for gondola rides through its picturesque canals.

## Map #1 of ITALY

Study the map and locations on pgs. 12 & 13. Then on the solid black line write the name of the location. On a separate piece of paper write a brief description of each location



① \_\_\_\_\_

② \_\_\_\_\_

⑤ \_\_\_\_\_

⑥ \_\_\_\_\_

## EARLY HISTORY of Italy

### Q & A:

- 1) Q - What does BCE mean?  
A - Before Common Era
- 2) Q - What was Ice Man?  
A - A mummified body of a man who was an early inhabitant of the area known today as Italy.
- 3) Q - Describe some of the characteristics of Ice Man?  
A - He carried tools like a copper ax, bow and arrow, flint knife, and he wore animal leathers and boots.
- 4) Q - When was Ice Man discovered and where is he today?  
A - 1991 and he is currently kept frozen at the institute of prehistoric study in Innsbruck, Austria.

### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Paleolithic cultures roamed many areas throughout what is today called Italy. Instruct the children to re-create these cultures through posters, multi-media presentation, or small scale model using clay, paper mache, etc.
- 2) Discuss the similarities and differences between men and women who lived during the early history of Italy and those who live in Italy today.

### VOCABULARY:

**Ice Man:** A mummified body discovered in 1991 by a couple hiking in the Italian Alps. The man who was an early inhabitant of the area known today as Italy was dated 5,500 BCE.

**Copper Age:** A period which arrived on the Italian peninsula in 3,000 BCE. During this era early inhabitants (like Ice Man) characterized as hunter-gatherers were cultures which roamed the region living off the natural resources of the land.

## The ETRUSCANS *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q - Who were the Etruscans?  
A - An early culture who occupied the Italian Peninsula in 1200 BCE. By 800 BCE this early culture established city-states and were highly skilled builders, and metal workers. Many of their customs were later inherited by the Roman Empire.
- 2) Q-What methods did the Romans adopt from the Etruscans?  
A -Road Building, Arch Construction, Gladiator Fights.
- 3) Q- Who ruled Rome while it was a little village for nearly 250 years?  
A- The Etruscans

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### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Have the students research the Etruscans using a variety of resources; internet, library, museums etc.
- 2) Discuss the Etruscans and how they compare with other early cultures.

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### VOCABULARY:

**Etruscans:** A culture which inhabited the Italian Peninsula by the year 1200 BCE. These ancient people were highly skilled builders and metal workers. Many of their customs were eventually inherited by the Roman Empire.

## Map #1 of *ITALY*

Study the modern-day map on pg. 12 and its significant locations numbered 1-10. Then test your geography skills on pg. 14.

- ③ AUSTRIA: The country located along Italy's northeast border.
- ④ SARDINIA: One of Italy's largest Islands.
- ⑤ SICILY: One of Italy's largest Islands.
- ⑥ ADRIATIC SEA: The body of water located along Italy's eastern shore.
- ⑦ IONIAN SEA: The body of water located along Italy's southern shore.
- ⑧ TYRRHENIAN SEA: The body of water located along Italy's southwestern shore.
- ⑨ LIGURIAN SEA: The body of water located along Italy's northwestern shore.
- ⑩ MEDITERRANEAN SEA: The body of water located along Italy's south and southwestern shores.

## Map #1 of *ITALY*



- ① **ITALY:** A country geographically defined as a peninsula which is located in south central Europe and extends into the Mediterranean Sea. Its land mass covers 116,000 square miles which includes 70 small islands along with two large and popular islands named Sicily and Sardinia. Its population is approximately 58 million people.
- ② **SWITZERLAND:** The country located along Italy's northern border.

## The Roman Empire *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q - What was Rome before it became an Empire?  
A - A small hilltop village overlooking the Tiber River.
- 2) Q-Who was the emperor of the Roman Empire during its peak?  
A-Augustus Caesar.
- 3) Q- "All Roads Lead to Rome" explain the significance of this old saying?  
A- To expand their empire the Romans built a road system totaling 53,000 miles. These same roads were also used by invaders who eventually caused the fall of the Roman Empire in 488 CE. Thus the old saying "All Roads Lead to Rome"

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### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) After the fall of the Roman Empire in 488 CE the Dark Ages began on the Italian Peninsula. Discuss what was the Dark Ages and how did this period change the lives of the Romans after the empire no longer existed.

---

### VOCABULARY:

**Augustus Caesar:** The emperor of Rome during its peak in 29 BCE.

**Dark Ages:** A period which arrived after the fall of Rome in 488 CE. During this period, Roman citizens no longer had the protection of the empire, therefore their identities were associated with their local communities known as city-states: Florentines were now citizens of Florence; Milanese citizens of Milan; Neapolitans citizens of Naples etc.

## The Italian Renaissance *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q - Name two famous artists who lived during the Italian Renaissance? Name a famous work from each artist?  
A - Michelangelo / Statue of David or Sistine Chapel  
Leonardo da Vinci / Mona Lisa or The Last Supper.
- 2) Q - How many years did it take for Michelangelo to finish the Sistine Chapel?  
A - 11 years.
- 3) Q- Name a famous scientist during the Italian Renaissance? Write a brief description of this well known scientist.  
A- Galileo Galilei: Called the father of astronomy and was the first to use the refracting telescope to observe the structure of the universe.

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### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Have the students write a brief biography of a famous artist, scientist or architect during the Italian Renaissance.
- 2) Discuss what was the Italian Renaissance?

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### VOCABULARY:

**Michelangelo:** Famous painter and sculptor during the Italian Renaissance period. His most popular works include the Vatican's Sistine Chapel and the statue of David.

**Leonardo Da Vinci:** Famous painter, sculptor, architect and engineer during the Italian Renaissance period. His most popular works include the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper.

**Galileo Galilei:** Famous scientist during the Italian Renaissance period who was called the father of astronomy. He was the first to use the refracting telescope to observe the structure of the universe.

**Italian Renaissance:** A period starting in 1400 CE when art, architecture, and science flourished in Italy. It was during this era that the famous works of Michelangelo, Leonardo Da Vinci and Galileo Galleli evolved. The word "Renaissance" means "Rebirth".

## People and Culture of *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q -What is the Palio?  
A - A word meaning "Banner" and the name given to a famous Italian festival held each year in Siena. This popular event re-enacts the horse races based on old rivalries originating in 1283 between the city's 17 districts.
- 2) Q - What festival occurs every year in the city of Verona?  
A - Shakespeare Festival
- 3) Q - What is Italy's national sport?  
A - Soccer

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### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Festivals are popular in Italy and offer insight into Italian culture and lifestyle. Visit or attend a festival in your local community. After the festival discuss how it helped you to experience a different culture. What food was served during the festival? What clothes did those representing the culture wear? Was there a language and art represented at the festival? Discuss the music and instruments played during the festival etc.

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### VOCABULARY:

**PALIO:** A word meaning "Banner" and the name given to a famous Italian festival held each year in Siena. This popular event re-enacts the horse races based on old rivalries originating in 1283 between the city's 17 districts.

## Naples & Venice *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q -What city is home of the pizza?  
A - Naples
  - 2) Q - What city is known for its canal rides in a gondola?  
A - Venice
  - 3) Q- What is a gondola?  
A- A long, narrow, flat boat with a high stern used on the canals of Venice.
- 

### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Naples and Venice offer many characteristics that are known worldwide. Visit a city near your local community and discuss the unique qualities which your home town or city offer. How does your local city represent American culture? Is their any Italian influence in your local town or city? When was it built and by whom? Discuss the architecture used?
  - 2) Discuss how city life is different from rural and suburban life.
- 

### VOCABULARY:

**Naples:** An Italian city located south of Rome along the Amalfi coast. Its population is over one million people and is the 3rd largest city in Italy.

**Venice:** An Italian city located at the northwestern end of the Adriatic Sea.

**Gondolas:** A long and narrow boat with a high stern used on the canals of Venice.

## Modern Italy & The Capital *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q - When were the modern-day boundaries of Italy officially established? What is the population of Italy today?  
A - 1861 / approx. 58 million people.
  - 2) Q - What is the capital city of Italy today? What Italian city is known as the eternal city?  
A - Rome / Rome
  - 3) Q- What events occurred in the Roman Coliseum?  
A- Gladiator Fights & Christian Persecutions.
- 

### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Italy didn't become an official Republic until 1861. Have the students research what events were taking place in America, which was by then already an official country, when Italy was finally recognized as a Republic.
  - 2) Discuss what famous sites are located in Rome.
- 

### VOCABULARY:

**Roman Coliseum:** A popular Roman amphitheater which took eight years to build from 70 to 78 CE. This arena became a common place for Roman entertainment mostly in the form of gladiator fights and Christian persecutions.

**Rome:** The former name of Italy. The birth place of the Roman Empire. Today this is home to the Vatican and is the capital city of Italy.

**Italy:** A country geographically defined as a peninsula which is located in south central Europe and extends into the Mediterranean Sea. Its land mass covers 116,000 square miles which includes 70 small islands along with two large and popular islands named Sicily and Sardinia. Its population is approximately 58 million people.

## Vatican & The Government of *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q - What is the world's smallest sovereign nation?  
A - The Vatican
  - 2) Q - Name the houses in the Italian legislature?  
A - Lower House called the Chamber of Deputies and the Upper House called the Senate.
  - 3) Q- Who is the head of Italy's executive branch and how long is this person's term of office?  
A- President of Italy is elected to office for seven years.
- 

### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Discuss the role of government in Italy today and how is it the same and different from the government in the United States. Discuss how today's Italian government is the same and different then it was during the time of the Roman Empire.
  - 2) Italy is a founding member of the European Economic Community and NATO. Assign the students to research the roles that define these two international organizations.
- 

### VOCABULARY:

**Vatican:** The world headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church and home to the Church's leader, the pope. In 1929 this two mile square became the world's smallest sovereign nation.

**Italian Legislature:** Name given to a part of the Italian government. The Italian legislature has two houses: 1) Lower House is called Chamber of Deputies; 2) The Upper House is called Senate.

## The Italian Economy *Italy*

### Q & A :

- 1) Q - What is the name of the currency used in Italy?  
A - The Lira
  - 2) Q - Italy is the one of the top world producers of what two products?  
A - Olives & Olive Oil.
  - 3) Q- What is the name of Italy's most luxurious automobile?  
A- The Ferrari
  - 4) Q- Name some of Italy's most popular fashion designers?  
A- Armani, Gucci & Versace
- 

### DISCUSSION POINTS / ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Italy's main industry is tourism. As a class imagine you are about to travel to Italy. What sites would you like to visit most and why?
  - 2) Italy is most famous for its historic landmarks. But discuss Italy's more contemporary culture.
- 

### VOCABULARY:

**Lira:** Name given to the currency used in Italy.

**Ferrari:** A luxurious automobile designed and manufactured in Italy. It was the innovation of Italian race car driver Enzo Ferarri.