

CHAPTER

5

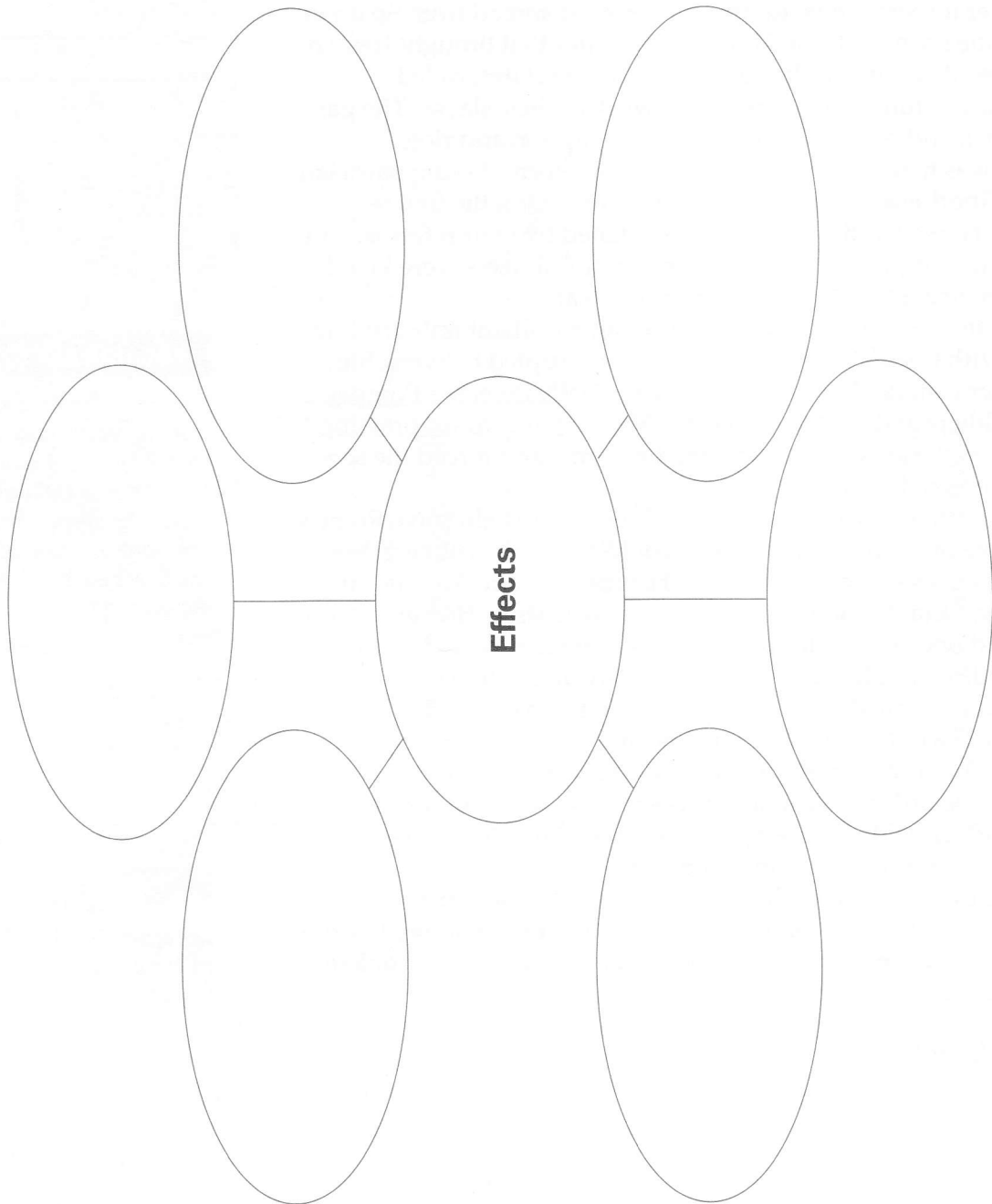
SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide

THE ROMAN ACHIEVEMENT

Focus Question: How did advances in the arts, learning, and the law show the Romans' high regard for cultural and political achievements?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the concept web below to list developments that show effects of Rome's cultural and political achievements.



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Section Summary

THE ROMAN ACHIEVEMENT

Greek art, literature, philosophy, and scientific developments made a significant impact on Rome. Still, the greatest Roman authors wrote in Latin. In his epic poem the *Aeneid*, the Roman poet **Virgil** tried to show that Rome was as heroic as Greece. Others used poetry to **satirize**, or make fun of, Roman society. Roman historians pursued their own theme, recalling Rome’s triumphant past in an attempt to renew patriotism. In philosophy, Roman thinkers were impressed with the Hellenistic philosophy of Stoicism.

Like their Greek predecessors, Roman sculptors realistically portrayed their subjects, focusing on every detail. However, the Romans distinguished themselves by also focusing on individual character. Art, too, was an important aspect of Roman culture. Artists depicted scenes from Roman literature and daily life in frescoes and **mosaics**—pictures made from chips of colored stone or glass.

Another distinction that set the Romans apart from the Greeks was their architecture. Unlike the Greeks, the Romans emphasized grandeur. They built immense palaces, temples, and stadiums, which stood as impressive monuments to Roman power. The Romans also improved structures such as columns and arches. Utilizing concrete as a building material, they developed the arched dome as a roof for large spaces.

In addition, the Romans excelled in **engineering**, which is the application of science and mathematics to develop useful structures and machines. Roman engineers built roads, bridges, and harbors throughout the empire. They built many **aqueducts**, or bridge-like stone structures that carried water from the hills into Roman cities.

In general, the Romans entrusted the Greeks, who were by that time citizens of the empire, with scientific research. **Ptolemy**, the astronomer-mathematician, proposed his theory that Earth was at the center of the universe. This mistaken idea was accepted in the Western world for nearly 1,500 years.

Rome was committed to regulating laws and to serving justice. To protect the empire and its citizens, Rome developed the civil law. As Rome expanded, the law of nations was established. This law was applied to both citizens and non-citizens of Rome. When Rome extended citizenship across the empire, the two systems merged.

Review Questions

1. What did Virgil wish to accomplish with his poem the *Aeneid*?

2. What theory did Ptolemy propose?

READING CHECK

How were Greek and Roman architecture different?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *utilizing* mean in the underlined sentence? Use any prior knowledge you might have about the word and a related word, *utility*, to figure out the meaning of *utilizing*.

READING SKILL

Understand Effects What effects did Greek culture have on Roman culture?
