The Flavian Dynasty

69 C.E. – 96 C.E.
Years of Civil War

- Death of Nero leads to civil war
  - No clear heir
  - Generals left to vie for control
  - Year of Four Emperors
Rise to Power

- Vespasian rose in east with support
- Established firm control with military backing
- Establishes dynasty in 69 C.E.
Achievements of the Flavians

• Set out to re-establish people’s faith in Emperor
  – Re-Stabilized Army
  – Fixed Treasury
  – Improved Social Conditions

Emperors of the Flavian Dynasty
Vespasian 69-79 C.E.
Titus 79-81 C.E.
Domitian 81-96 C.E.
Famous For...

- Building of the Colosseum
  - "Flavian’s Ampitheatre"
  - Started by emperor Vespasian but completed by Titus
Disaster Strikes

• The Last Day of Pompeii
  – 79 C.E. Mount Versuvius Erupts, burying town of Pompeii in 4-6m of ash
  – City discovered again in 1749 C.E.
The Nerva-Antonine Dynasty

Five good emperors...and one bad one
Strength of the Emperors

- Emperors of dynasty adopted acceptable heirs
  - Passed over biological sons
  - Allowed them to choose strong emperors
The Nerva Dynasty

- Nerva (96-98 C.E.) – Established Dynasty and tried to involve senate more
- Trajan (98-117 C.E.) – Added Armenia and Mesopotamia to Empire, massive public works projects (Forum)
- Hadrian (117-138 C.E.) – Extended Empire in Britain, built many temples. Revived Rome and Greece
Height of Roman Empire

- Between years 147-150 Rome Reached its greatest extent
  - Under Emperor Hadrian
Hadrian’s Wall

• Northern Boundary in Britain
  – Except for 20 yr span
• Meant to prevent Celtic warriors from attacking Roman Settlements
The Antonine Dynasty

- Antoninus Pius (138-161 C.E.) – Strictly followed Roman traditions and shared power with Senate
- Marcus Aurelius (161-180 C.E.) / Lucius Verus (161-169 C.E.) - Stoic Philosophers, Defeated Parthian Empire but major German problems, Overall moral and just rule. Last of the “5 good emperors”
Beginning of the End

- Commodus 180-192
  - De-valued Roman money
  - Increasing political instability
  - Wanted the perks but not responsibility
  - Corruption
  - Let power get a hold of him