

**Aim:** Can the Twelve Tables be seen as a model for the United States system of law?

**Essential Question:** How is the ancient world a blueprint for our world today?

**Reviewing Social Classes:** The two main Social Classes in Rome were the Patricians and Plebeians:

In the early days of Rome, most people were farmers; no one was extremely rich or extremely poor. However, as time passed, the gap between rich and poor became greater. A small but powerful class called the Patricians gained control of the government. Patricians were those who could trace their families back to the founding Roman fathers. Using their power, they created laws that discriminated against Plebeians, the poorer class in Rome. In addition to making laws, patricians were the only people who could be judges, so they were the only ones who interpreted law and presided over trials. Although plebeians were citizens who could vote, they held low status in Roman society. They could not hold public office so they had no way to change the laws. Plebeians were not allowed to marry into the patrician class, so they could not move up the social ladder.

1) Which privileges of the patricians do you think BEST enabled them to keep power? Why?

### Key Vocabulary

**Twelve Tables of Rome:** Written set of laws that stated the rules of behavior for members of Roman society. Although the laws favored the wealthy, these laws created stability (order) since they were displayed in public for all to see.

**Directions:** Read through excerpts from the Twelve Tables and connect them to excerpts from United States' laws.

Excerpt from the Twelve Tables	Excerpt from the Constitution, United States' laws	How are these excerpts similar? Different? Is one better than the other in terms of ruling a country?
<b>Table 1:</b> If one is called to court, he is to go. If he does not, he shall be captured and brought before the court by force.	<u>Sixth Amendment:</u> "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed..."	
<b>Table 2:</b> If one's witness does not come to court, he who called can shout outside the witness's house every three days to summon him to appear.	<u>Sixth Amendment:</u> "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed... to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor"	
<b>Table 3:</b> A person who owes a debt has thirty days to pay. Then he can be enslaved by the lender or sold as a slave to repay that debt.	<u>Seventh Amendment:</u> "In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law."	
<b>Table 4:</b> Seriously deformed children must be put to death...A son can be free from his father if the father sells the son into slavery three times	<u>Example of a United States Slave Code:</u> "A slave was freed only by a will drawn up by the master or by buying their freedom from the master."	
<b>Table 5:</b> Women must always have guardians, even adult women. If a	<u>Example of a United States Slave Code:</u> "Owners were required to feed and clothe their slaves properly and take	

