

“What Is an Empire?”

...

A Silent Conversation

Directions: Take out your spiral notebook and title the assignment.

“What Is an Empire?”

Silent Conversation General Rules

- You will be instructed to...
 - WRITE, in which case you write and you do not stop until you hear...
 - STOP, at which point you complete your sentence or thought and then...
- PASS your notebook on to a classmate and...
- READ and THINK about what has been written before you
- WRITE AGAIN!

“What Is an Empire?”

Write your own definition of an EMPIRE. Begin with a simple definition in a sentence or two and then build a more detailed description in a paragraph or so.

As you write, think about the following...

- What do all or most empires share?
- What type of government or political structures do empire have?

As you write, think about the following...

- How did our work on the “Foundations of Civilization” shape your understanding of empire?
- Describe examples of empires from history or popular culture.

As you write, think about the following...

- How do empires form?
- What role did central government and local elites play in its rule?
- How was the emperor presented to his people?

As you write, think about the following...

- How were resources raised in the empire?
- What combination of coercion, persuasion, and shared interests held the empire together?

Conclusion

- Do empires still exist today?
- How do empires differ from nation states?
- How might you assess - both positively and negatively - the role of empires in the history of the world?