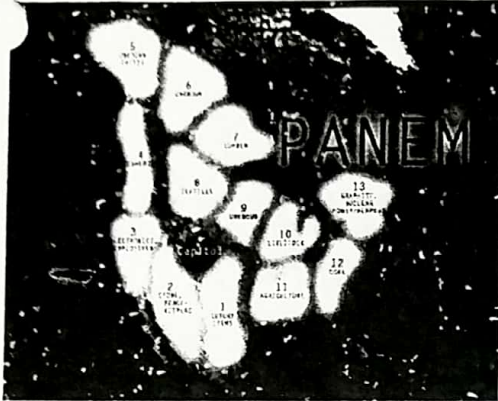
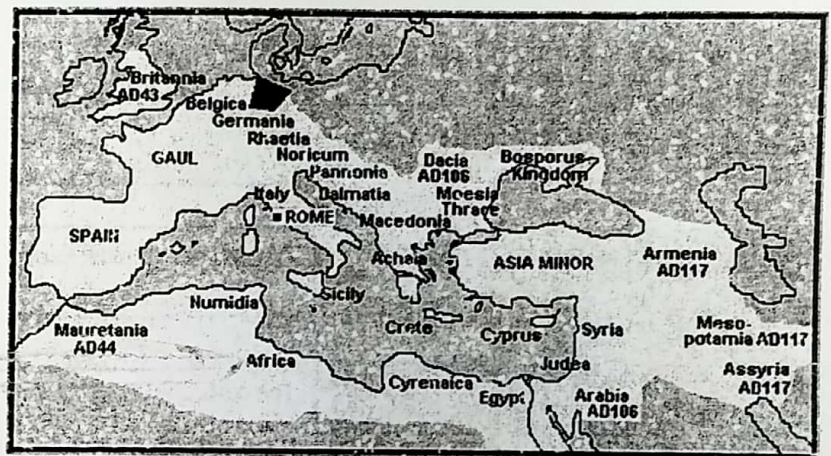


Ancient Rome and "The Hunger Games"

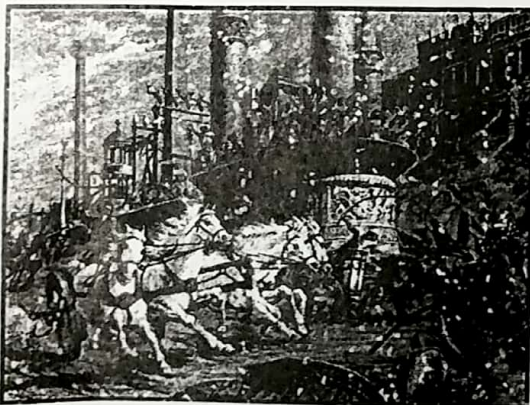


The Hunger Games is set in a **fictional** version of North America called Panem, a country of 13 **impoverished districts** and one wealthy region called the Capitol. Every year, two children are chosen from each district to compete in the Hunger Games, a gladiator-style tournament meant to serve as a constant reminder to the districts that a revolt against the Capitol would be **futile**. Even though the story takes place in the future, the real life Hunger Games took place many years ago in ancient Rome.

In the days of the Roman Republic, conquered citizens were organized into **provinces** controlled by Roman politicians and policed by Roman troops who were ready to use force if citizens got any revolutionary ideas. The same is true in Panem where districts are guarded by "Peacekeepers" tasked with upholding the **laws** set forth by the Capitol.



The Roman Republic also had a food shortage like Panem. Rome's food shortage was due to local farmers who were unable to compete economically with the newly conquered provinces, which forced many farmers to **abandon** their fields and move to cities in search of work. Without local farmers nearby to produce food for major cities, Rome had to import most of its food from its provinces. The same is true for the fictional districts of Panem who must produce resources, like coal, fish, textiles, etc., and send them all to the Capitol.



People in the Roman Republic were not satisfied with how they were treated by their leaders. So to keep their citizens happy, the Romans entertained the public with "Bread and Circuses". The "bread" was actually grains, similar to what is given out to the districts in Panem, and the "circuses" were gaming events and spectacles that featured chariot races and gladiator fights. The games were meant to keep people distracted and therefore obedient. The same can be said for the Hunger Games in Panem. The term "bread and circuses" was used to describe how the Roman government **pacified** commoners. In its original Latin form the term

would have been "*panem et circenses*". That's right – the Latin word for bread was "panem".

So when you read or see *The Hunger Games*, remember that even though the story seems too farfetched to be **true**, it's actually a spiced up retelling of life in ancient Rome.

Write a summary sentence for each paragraph:

Paragraph 1 -- _____

Paragraph 2 -- _____

Paragraph 3 -- _____

Paragraph 4 -- _____

Match the synonym or definition to one of the **bold, underlined** words from the reading.

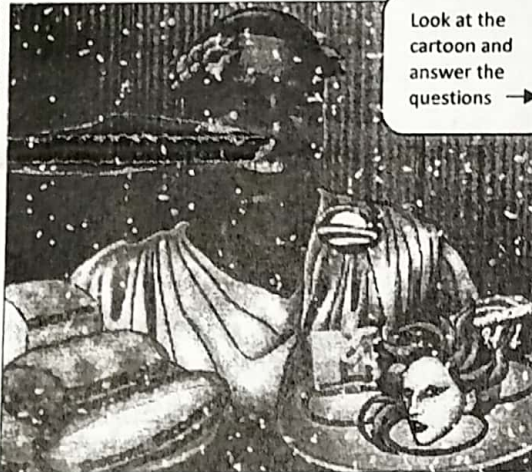
Word from reading	Synonym/definition
	Calmed or soothed
	Poor
	Regions
	Not real
	Useless
	Areas like states
	Leave, desert

Mark the three statements below with either an "M" for the main idea of the reading; a "B" for a sentence that is too broad to be the main idea; or an "N" for a sentence that is too narrow to be the main idea.

_____ *The Hunger Games* is a movie with some realistic scenes.

_____ There are many similarities between *The Hunger Games* and Rome.

_____ People fought to the death in *The Hunger Games* and in Rome.



Look at the cartoon and answer the questions →

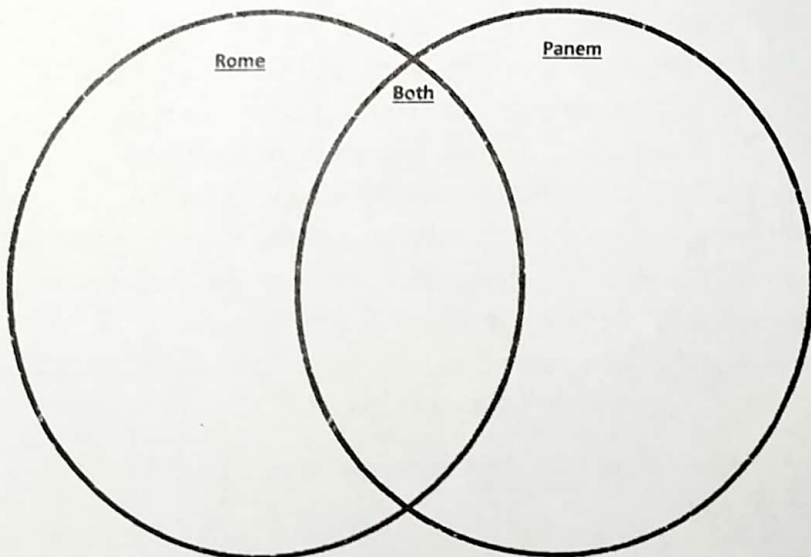
Why do you think President Obama is dressed as he is? _____

The loaves of bread are labeled "welfare", "medicine", and "social security". The cartoonist is comparing these to _____.

What does the cartoonist consider to be modern forms of "circuses"?

The cartoonist probably thinks Obama is doing a _____ job as president.

President Obama is a Democrat. Do you think the cartoonist is most likely a Democrat or a Republican? Circle your choice and **explain**. _____



Place the following items in one section of the Venn Diagram. Write the **numbers**, not the phrases.

1. past
2. future
3. fictional
4. real
5. one government controlled many groups of people
6. fighting games were very popular
7. had food shortages
8. people lived in provinces
9. people lived in districts
10. the government used games to keep people happy