**The Roman Republic: The Twelve Tables**

**Excerpts from the Twelve Tables, taken from Fordham University Online**

**Table 1**

**1. If anyone summons a man before the magistrate, he must go. If the man summoned does not go, let the one summoning him call the bystanders to witness and then take him by force.**

**2. If he shirks or runs away, let the summoner lay hands on him.**

**3. If illness or old age is the hindrance, let the summoner provide a team. He need not provide a covered carriage with a pallet unless he chooses.**

**4. Let the protector of a landholder be a landholder; for one of the proletariat, let anyone that cares, be protector.**

**Table 8**

**3. If one is slain while committing theft by night, he is rightly slain.**

**12. If the theft has been done by night, if the owner kills the thief, the thief shall be held to be lawfully killed.**

**13. It is unlawful for a thief to be killed by day....unless he defends himself with a weapon; even though he has come with a weapon, unless he shall use the weapon and fight back, you shall not kill him. And even if he resists, first call out so that someone may hear and come up.**

**Table 9**

**4. The penalty shall be capital for a judge or arbiter legally appointed who has been found guilty of receiving a bribe for giving a decision.**

**5. Treason: he who shall have roused up a public enemy or handed over a citizen to a public enemy must suffer capital punishment.**

**6. Putting to death of any man, whosoever he might be unconvicted is forbidden**

**Table 10**

**1. None is to bury or burn a corpse in the city.**

**3. The women shall not tear their faces nor wail on account of the funeral.**

**5. If one obtains a crown himself, or if his chattel does so because of his honor and valor, if it is placed on his head, or the head of his parents, it shall be no crime.**

**Table 11**

**1. Marriages should not take place between plebeians and patricians.**

**Table 12**

**5. Whatever the people had last ordained should be held as binding by law.**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Twelve Tables Activity**

**Instructions: Students read the selected excerpts of The Twelve Tables after reading the excerpts, think of what you have read, pair up with your neighbor and share your ideas, and thoughts. After you have discussed your ideas with your partner answer the following question.**

**1. Why is it important for societies to have laws? Explain.**

**2. Why is the Twelve Tables significant? Refer to page 491 from your textbook reading.**