

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT'S THE REASON?



**DIRECTIONS:** Study these laws and explain why you think each is necessary. Then answer the question at the bottom.

**Why is it illegal to...**

Drive over the speed limit? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Purposely kill someone? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Drive before the age of 16? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cheat on your income taxes? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Steal a car? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Be a spy for another country? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In general, explain the purpose for laws. Why do you think laws are necessary?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# YOU BE THE ROMAN JUDGE



**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following cases. Decide which of the Twelve Tables would apply, and explain how you think the Romans would rule in each case.

1. A man calls for the city guards because strange noises have been coming from his neighbor's house. When the house is searched, the guards find evidence that the man may be plotting to harm members of the government.
2. A man's neighbor has a tree on his land that he does not care for properly. The tree breaks and falls onto the man's house, causing much damage. The man is very angry and asks the court to step in.
3. A woman is called to court to testify on behalf of her neighbor. She is nervous and afraid and does not want to go, so she asks her uncle to go in her place.
4. A boss owes one of his workers money, so the worker asks the court to force him to pay the money owed.
5. A man and his neighbor have been enemies for years. A passer-by hears the two men shouting and calls for the guards. When the guards arrive, they find the man has stabbed his neighbor to death on his own (the killer's) property.
6. A father is beginning to show signs of forgetfulness, so his son wants to take over control of all of his money and property. He asks the court to help.



# The Twelve Tables

## Table I

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.

## Table II

If one's witness does not come to court, he who called can wail outside the witness's house every three days to summon him to appear.

## Table III

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.

## Table IV

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.

## Table V

Women must always have guardians, even adult women.  
If a man goes insane, the nearest male relative shall take over his property.

## Table VI

If one makes an agreement involving property, it shall be binding by law.  
No one can remove beams from vineyards or buildings.

## Table VII

Property owners must keep roads around their property in repair, or else others may drive their animals wherever they wish.

## Table VIII

If one kills a thief in his own home, it is not a crime.  
If one purposely burns down a house, he shall be put to death.

## Table IX

Taking bribes or committing treason are crimes that shall be punished by death.

## Table X

No one can burn or bury corpses in the city.  
Women are not to wail at funerals.

## Table XI

Marriages are not permitted between plebeians (lower class) and patricians (upper class).

## Table XII

If a slave commits a crime, that slave shall be punished; not the master.