**Rome’s 5 Good Emperors**

* Historians have come to a consensus, over time, of the best emperors
* They were just, and good for Rome, was the *Pax Romana*
1. Nerva (96-98)
	* Old man with no sons
	* Created a new system of choosing who would be his successor by looking at who would do the best job, and then adopted him
2. Trajan (98-117)
	* Took the army to Rumania, conquered it and acquired their gold
	* Rome got rich
	* Seemed to have outlawed Christianity
	* Adopted his nephew…
3. Hadrian (117-138)
	* Wasn’t as popular as Trajan because he returned much of what Trajan had conquered
	* Was a great administrator, travelled throughout the empire
	* Rome was peaceful
	* Responsible for Hadrian’s wall in Britain, villa at Tivoli, and rebuilding the Pantheon
	* He adopted Antonius Pius…
4. Antonius Pius (138-161)
	* Didn’t fight any wars
	* Restored the status of the Senate
	* Was a great administrator
5. Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
	* Believed in Stoicism (philosophy)🡪 natural law
	* Gave his brother power to keep him from becoming dangerous
	* Had to fight wars against Parthians in the east

🡪 beat them… but caught a disease… maybe small pox… and spread it around

* + Germanic tribes thought Rome was weak, and they attacked
	+ Marcus Aurelius died, at age 59, just as they were winning
	+ Rome was poorer than ever before… too many soldiers to pay!