**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
   * j0307967He 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!