Spread of Greek Ideas

Roman life was heavily influenced by Greek ideas and culture. Ancient Greece was an important civilization that existed before the rise of the Roman Empire. Educated Romans learned the Greek language and studied Greek art, literature, philosophy, and architecture. Romans developed Greek architectural features, such as columns and arches, and used them in their buildings. This picture of the Baths of Caracalla shows the use of the arch in Roman bath-houses. Visitors came to Rome to see the city's magnificent buildings, 37 monumental gates, 500 fountains, and 36 marble arches. Many visitors returned to their own lands and began to imitate Roman and Greek styles in their own buildings.