

## **Key Culture Corner: Leaders**

(1) ⓐ Julius Caesar ruled the Roman Empire (27 BC - 476 AD\*).

Sultan Suleiman ruled the Ottoman Empire (1520 - 1566).

Queen Victoria ruled the British Empire (1837 - 1901).

\*It was in 241 BC that Rome began to expand, but the actual Empire began with the first emperor, Augustus (27 BC - 14 AD). Rome fell during the last year of the rule of the last emperor Romulus Augustus (461/463 AD - 476 AD).

## (b) (Suggested Answers)

**Julius Caesar** (102/100 BC - 44 BC) was a Roman general who built and ruled the Roman Empire. He had a strong mind and body, which both helped him to be a good soldier and leader. He was a brave hero and a very clever ruler who made the Empire very large and had many ideas, but the Roman Senate did not always agree with them. This started a war and in the end some of the senators killed him.

**Sultan Suleiman** (1494 - 1566) ruled the Ottoman Empire for longer than any other sultan. He was very fair and honest. He made very good laws, which lasted for more than 300 years, and the people lived in justice. He was also a poet, so he helped artists and writers. This started the Empire's golden age and made Istanbul a great city. Suleiman built schools, libraries, hospitals, bridges and palaces. In his time the Ottoman Empire became one of the world's great powers.

**Queen Victoria** (1819 - 1901) ruled for a very long time. No other British monarch ruled for as many years as she did. The time when she was queen was called the Victorian era. It was during this time that the Industrial Revolution took place and the British Empire became huge and powerful. People's life was improved. For example, they began to travel from city to city by train, and there were also changes in the government, that improved living conditions, especially for women. In addition, art and architecture changed, people used the first stamps to mail their letters and they learned about many interesting things, such as history and religion. Unfortunately, however, poor people did not have the same rights as the rich during the Victorian era.

**Solon** (638 BC - 558 BC) was very famous for the laws he made in Athens. In that time, only a few people owned all the land. There were many people who did not have enough money to pay their debts, so the rich took their land and made them slaves. Solon ended this by making laws that ended all debts and freeing the slaves. The poor people had the same rights as the rich, and this made life better. For example, everyone had the right to vote, which started democracy. What is more, there was no crime and everyone had a peaceful life.

**Mahatma Gandhi** (1869 - 1948) was "India's Father of the Nation". He worked hard to make India a free country and he fought for people to have freedom around the world. For example, he helped poor farmers and workers, black people and Indians. He also helped women fight for their rights and people of many cultures and religions think like brothers. He believed in peace and truth.

**Nelson Mandela** (1918 - ) is the former President of South Africa. He spent 27 years in prison until he was freed again in 1990. In the past, only the white people in South Africa had total freedom. The black people did not. They went to separate schools and lived in other areas away from the white people. Mandela fought for the black people in his country, as he wanted everyone to have the same freedom. He received many prizes for his work, one of which was the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1993. To this day, he is fighting for freedom around the world.

**Kemal Ataturk** (1881 - 1938) was the first president of Turkey after World War I. He made Turkey a modern country in which people could vote for their leaders. Ataturk made many changes, starting with schools. In his time, there was a new Turkish alphabet and new ways of teaching. Also, women started to go to school. Ataturk helped artists, too. Museums, theatres, opera and ballet houses opened for the first time. People started to read newspapers and go to the cinema, and there was more freedom for everyone. Today, there are many pictures and statues of Ataturk all round Turkey.