Beneath the Golden Age

The art of connectivity



Sandrina Bokhorst



How often do you think about the **Roman Empire?**













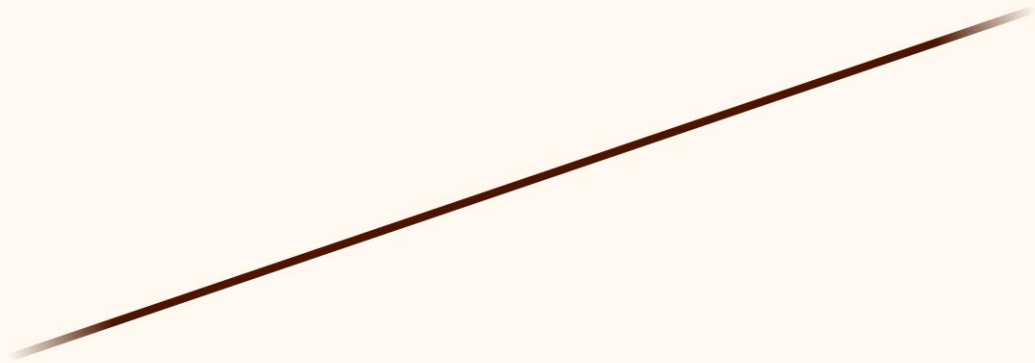



TABACCHERIA
ISIDE
DISTRICT
VATICAN MUSEUM
SKIP THE LINE, TICKET
ALL TICKETS
COLOSSEUM
GUIDED TOUR
BUY HERE
TICKET
TICKET HERE

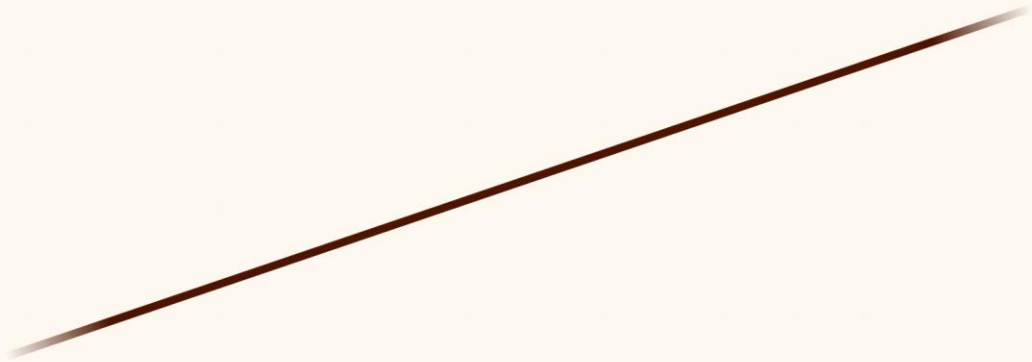


Are we building a **line** or a **connection**?

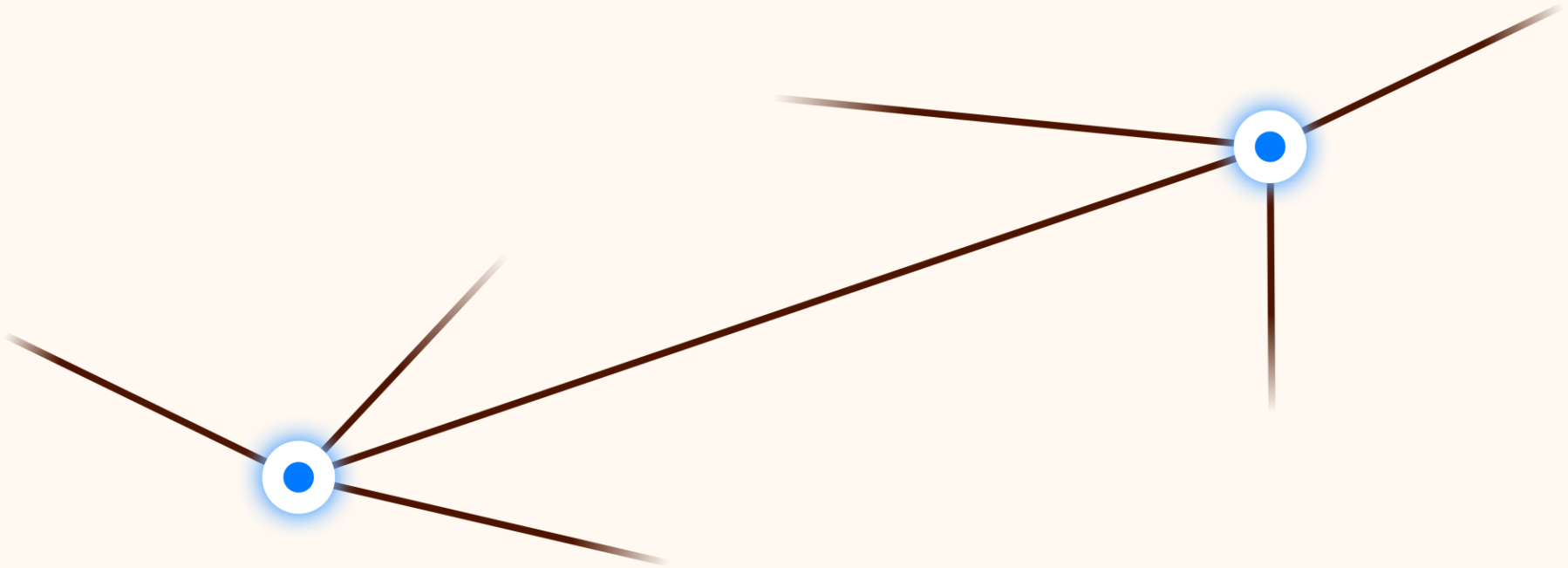
Line



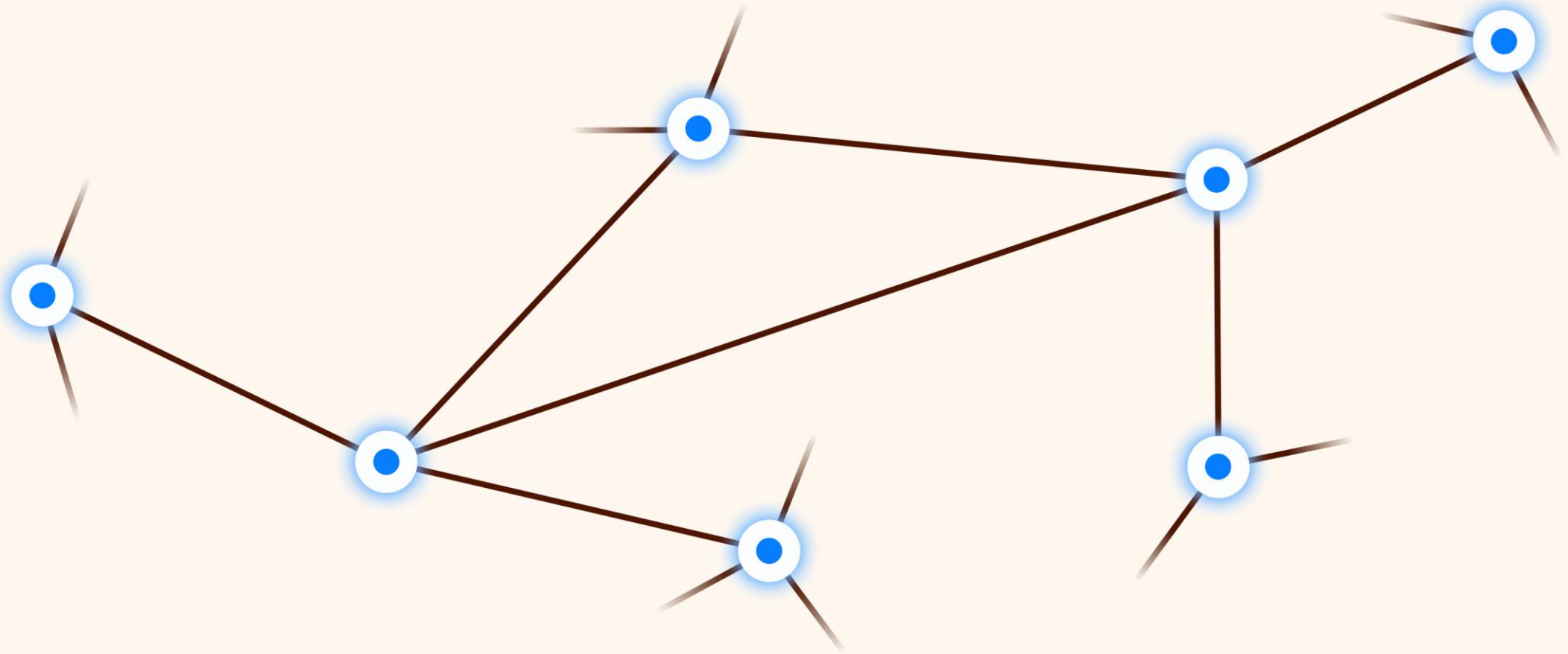
Flow



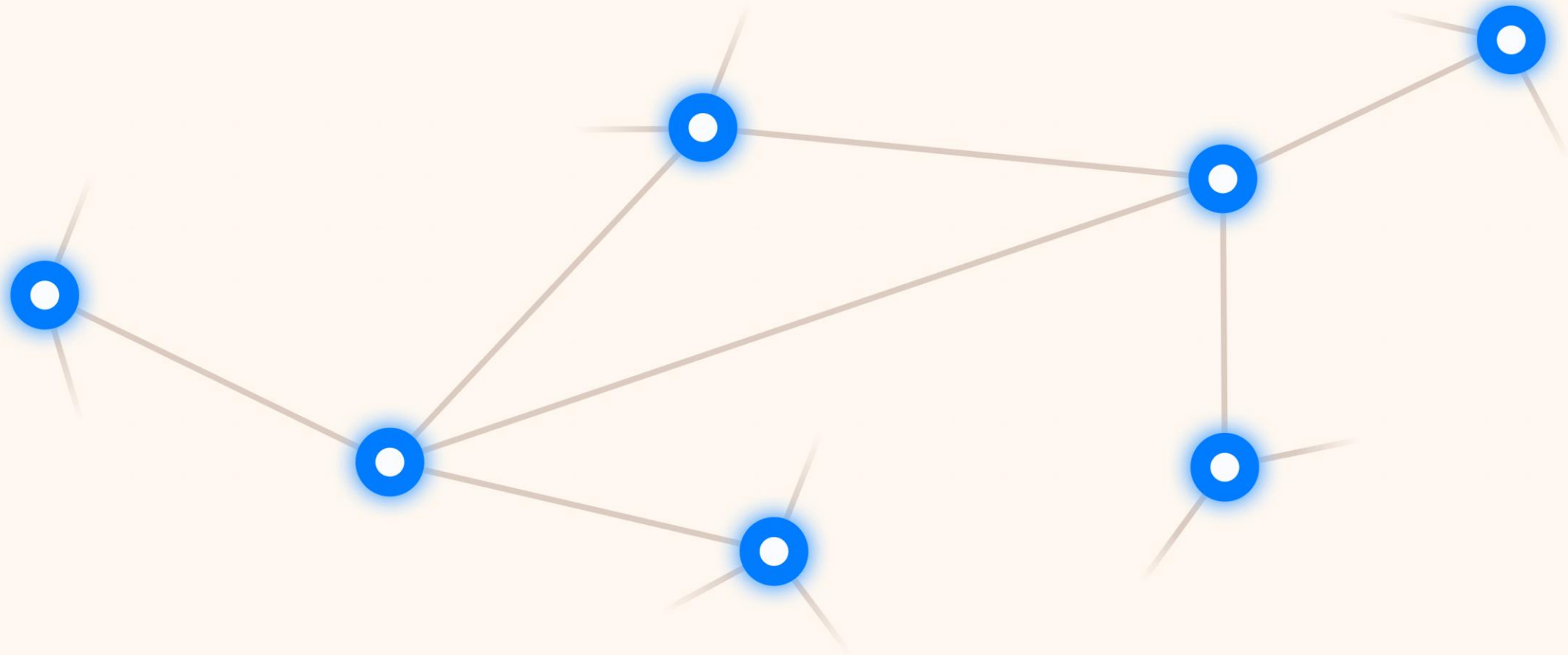
Connections



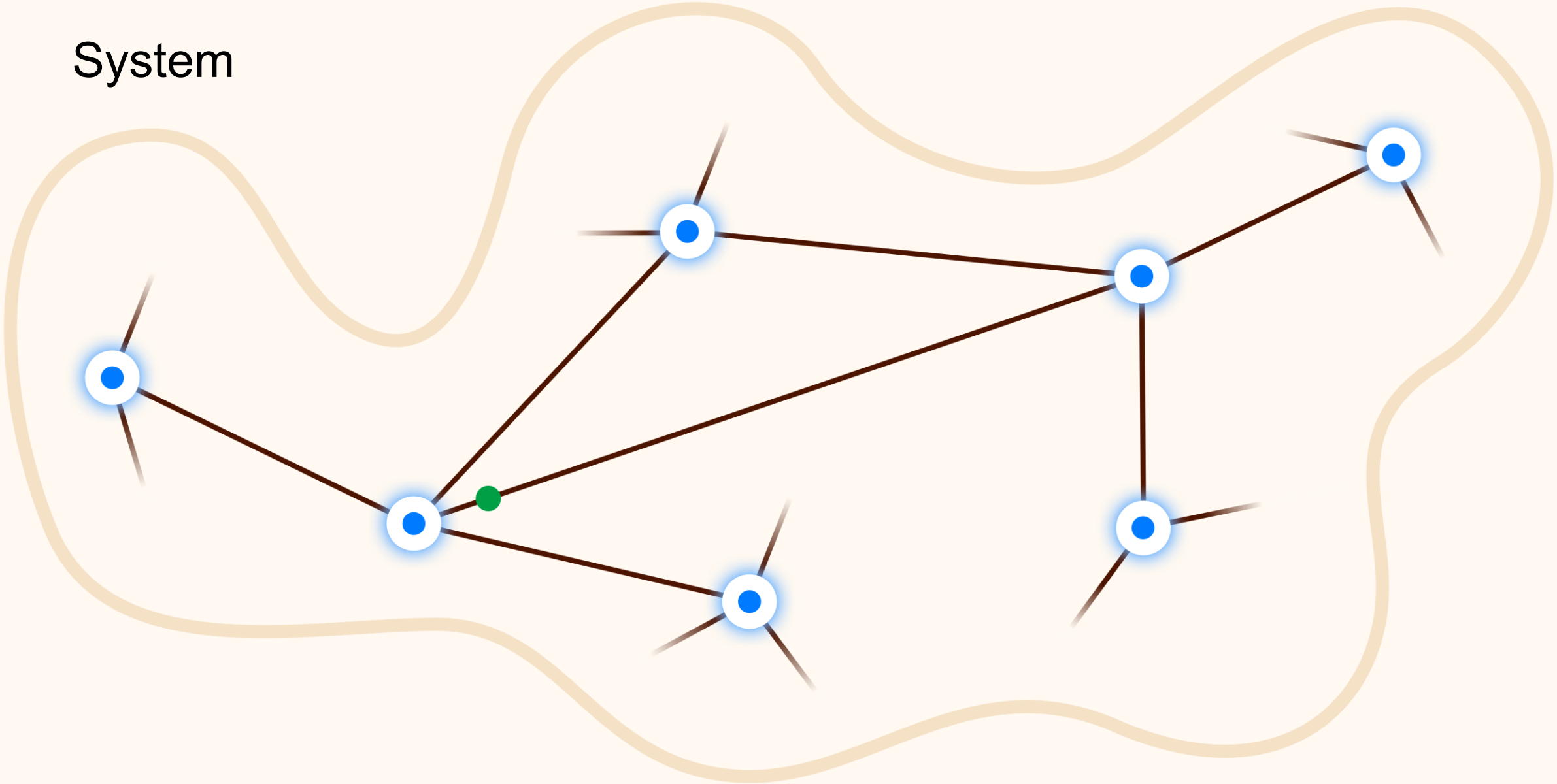
Network



Nodes



System




THE ROMAN EMPIRE
117 CE
Britannia
Atlantic Ocean
Germania
Sarmatia
Gallia
Dacia
Caspian Sea
Black Sea
Hispania
OME
Graecia
Asia
Syria
Africa
Mediterranean Sea
Parthian Empire
Arabia
Aegyptus
Sahara







220.000?



220.000?

- Bricks in the Colosseum
- Spectators at the races
- Kilometres of roads


II
I
XII
XIII
V
III
IV
IX
XI
VIII
VI
VII
IX
XIV


Forma Urbis Museum

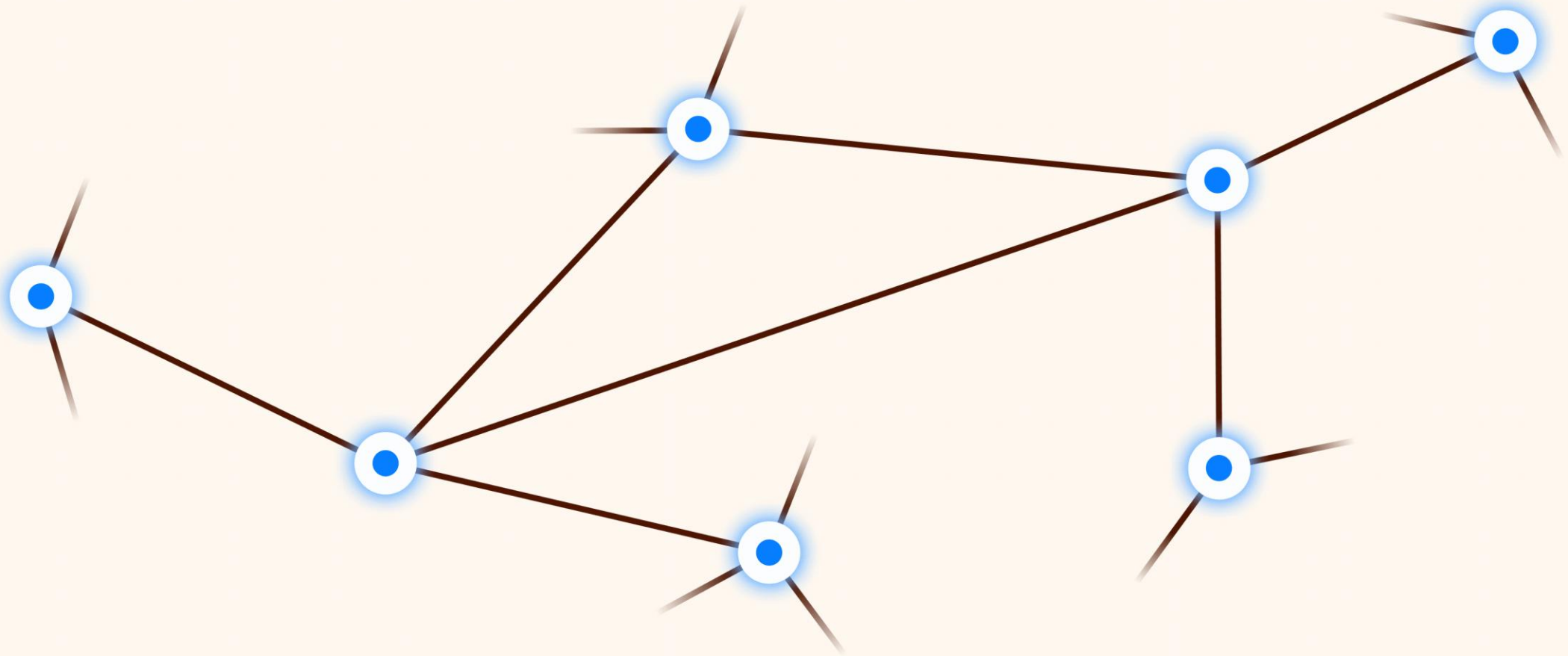

TEATRO FLAVIO
IL COLOSSEO

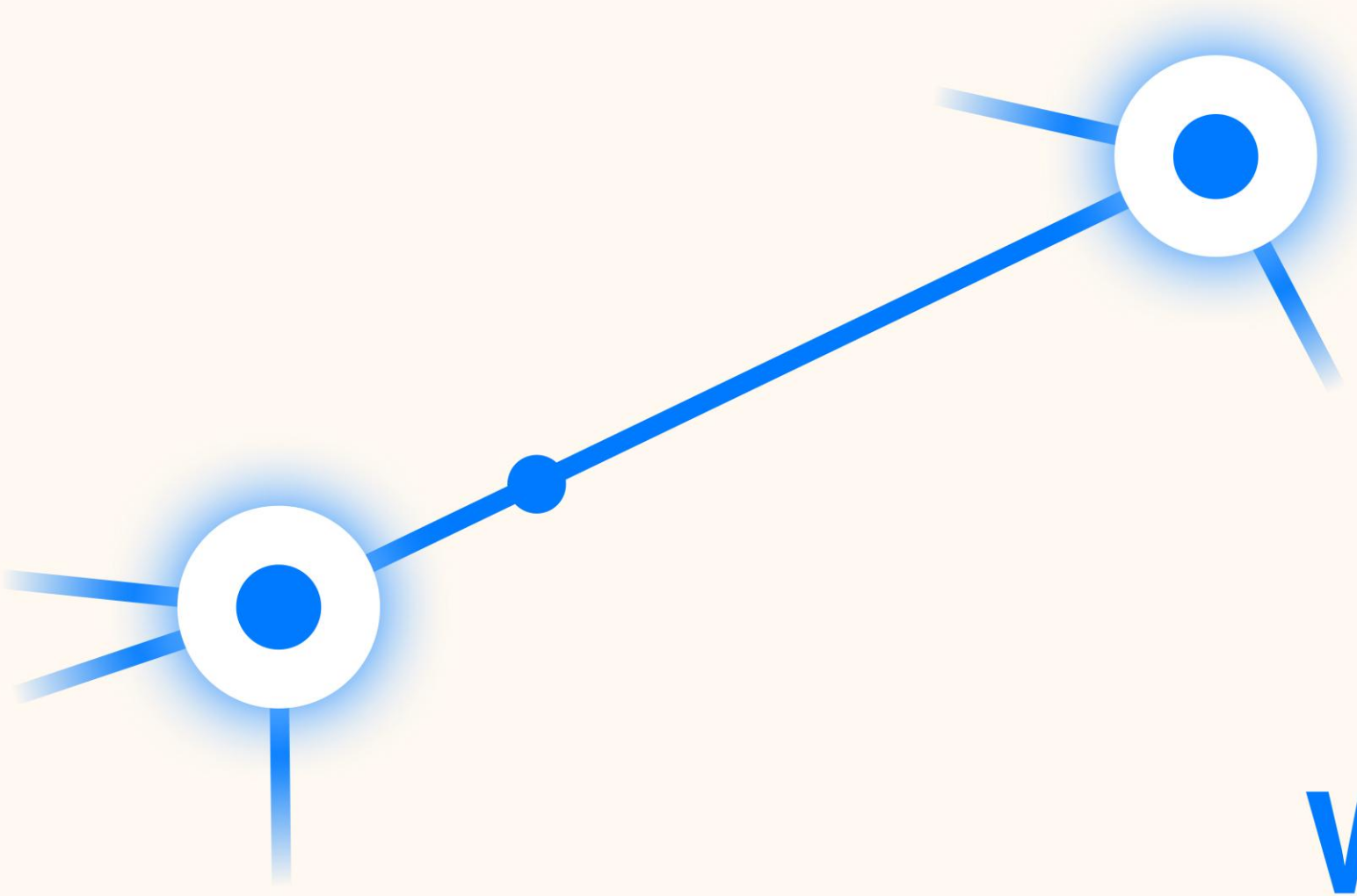

SENATVS POPVLVSQVE ROMANVS
INCENDIO CONSVMPTVM RESTITVIT
IMP·CAESL·VCIO·SEPTIMIO·M·FIL·SEVERO·PIO·PERTINACI·AVG·PATRI·PATRIAE·PARTHICO·ARABICO·ET
PARTHICO·ADIABENICO·PONTIFIC·MAXIMO·TRIBVNIC·POTEST·XI·I·MPXI·COS·III·PROCOS·ET
IMP·CAES·M·AVRELIO·L·FIL·ANTONINO·AVG·PIO·FELICI·TRIBVNIC·POTEST·VI·COS·PROCOS·PP
OPTIMIS·FORTISSIMIQVE·PRINCIPIBVS
OBREM·PVBLICAM·RESTITVTAM·IMPERIVMQVE·POPVLI·ROMANI·PROPAGATVM
INSIGNIBVS·VIRTVTIBVS·EORVM·DOMI·FORISQVE·S·P·Q·R





Rome Beneath Rome





Water


Tiber
Forum
Cloaca Maxima

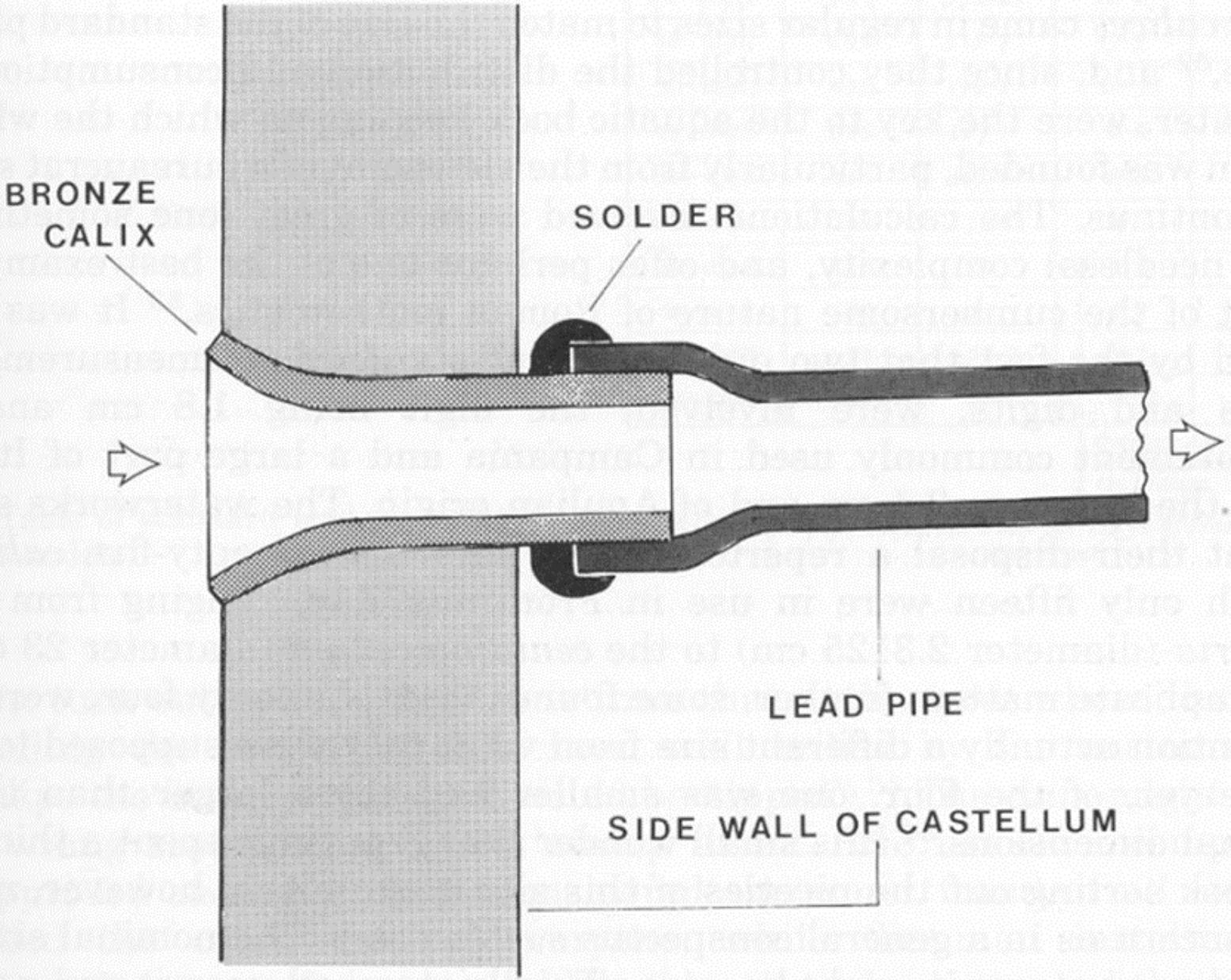



Aqueduct Parc



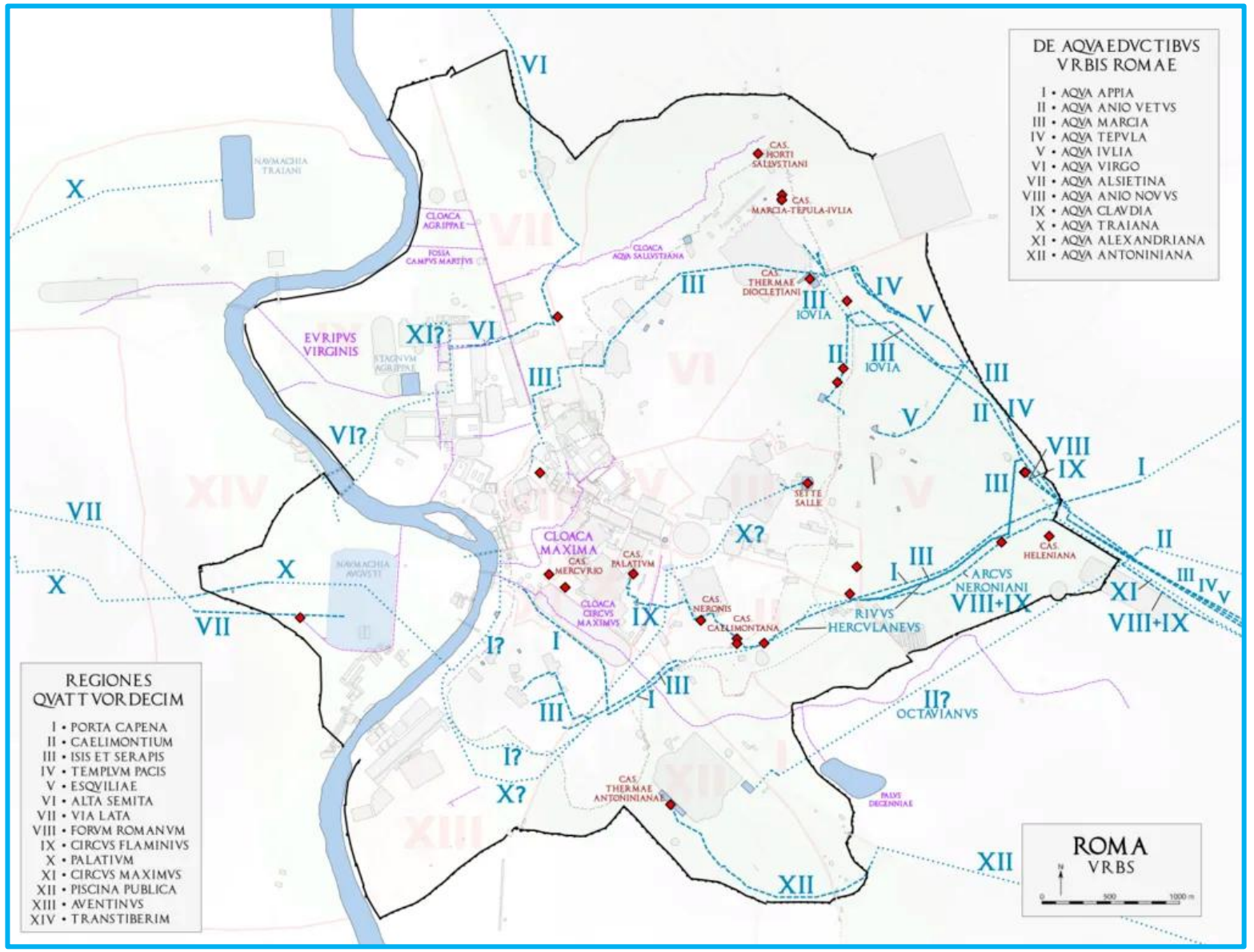

Piazza Vittorio Emmanuele


Vicus Caprarius - City of Water


BRONZE
CALIX
SOLDER
LEAD PIPE
SIDE WALL OF CASTELLUM



Responsibilities of the Curator Aquarum

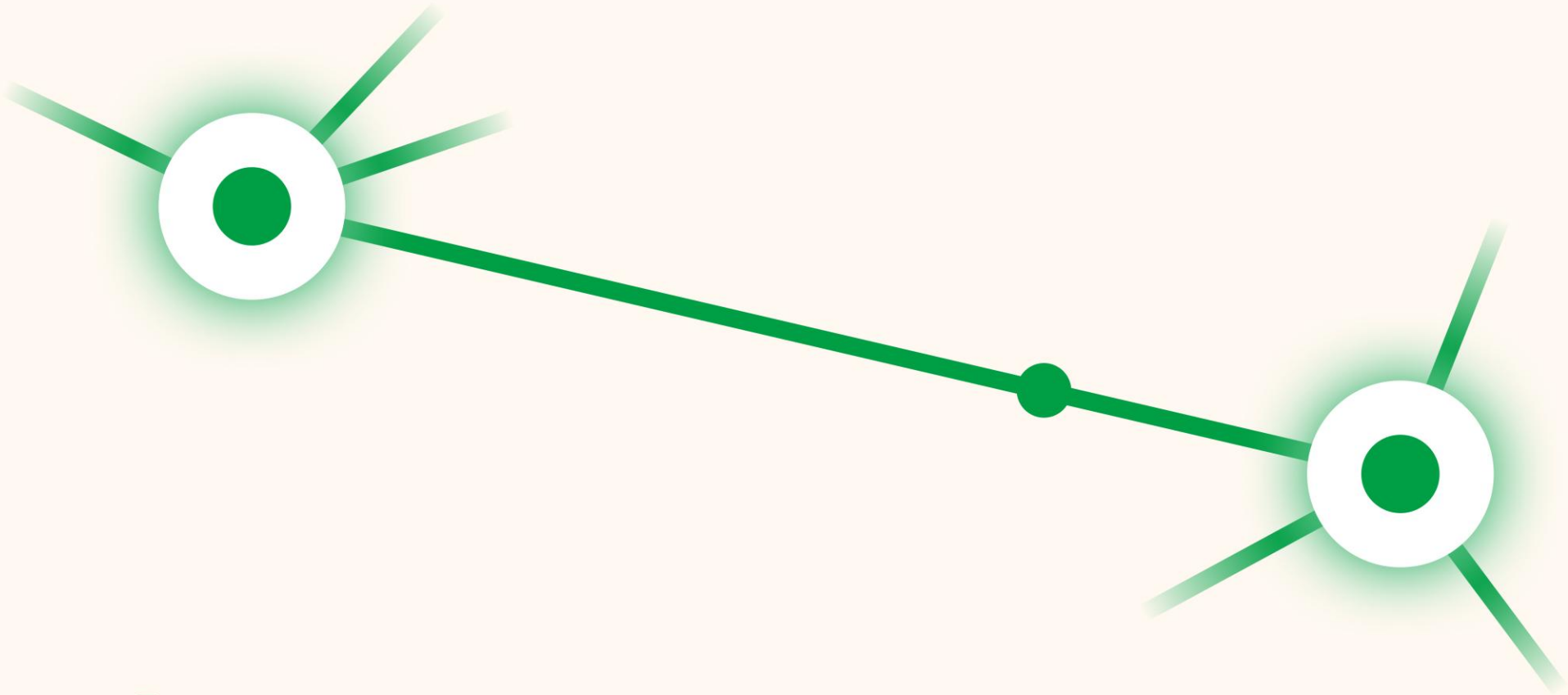












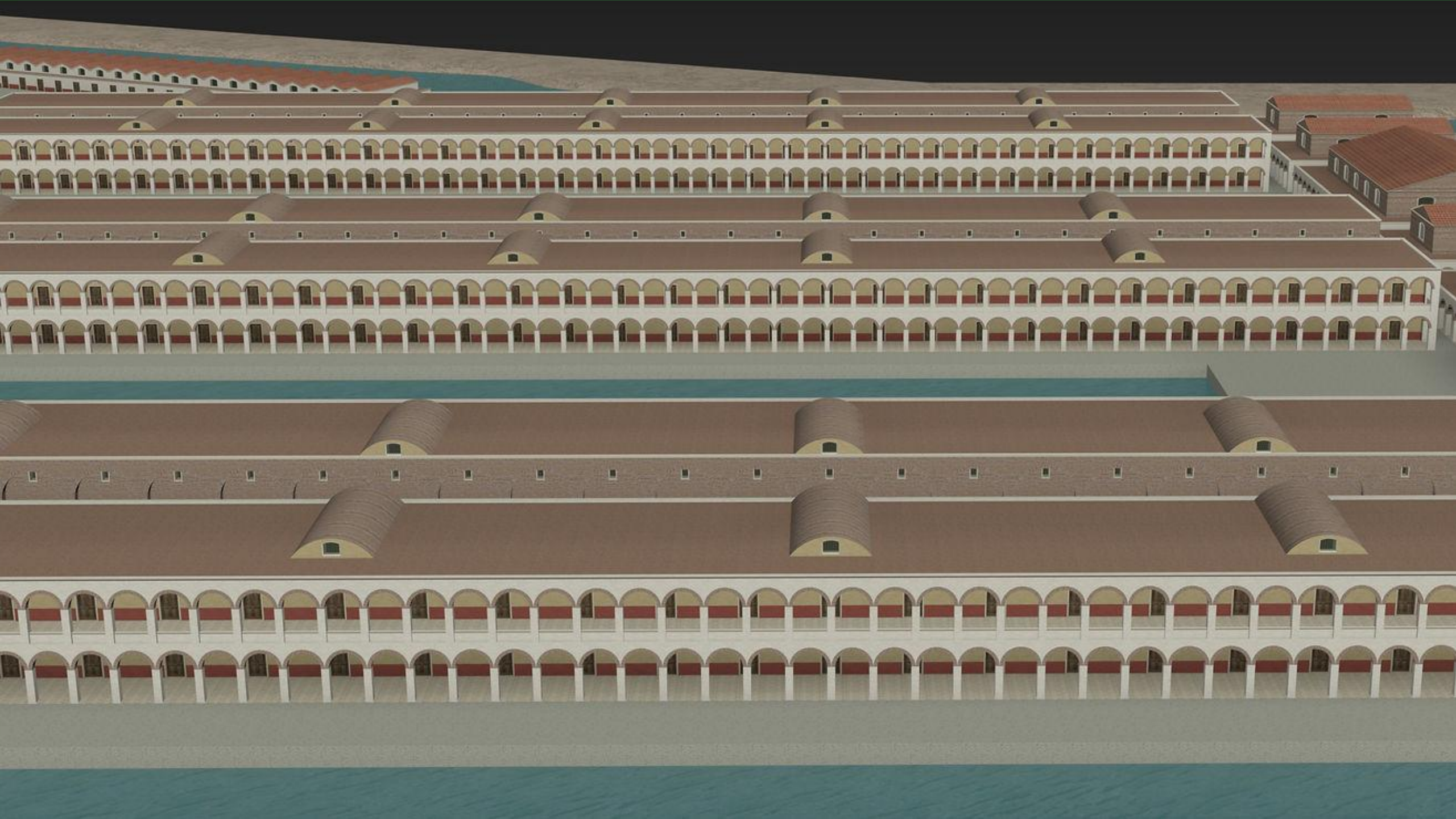
Grain



Ostia Antica – Piazzale delle Corporazioni


Portus

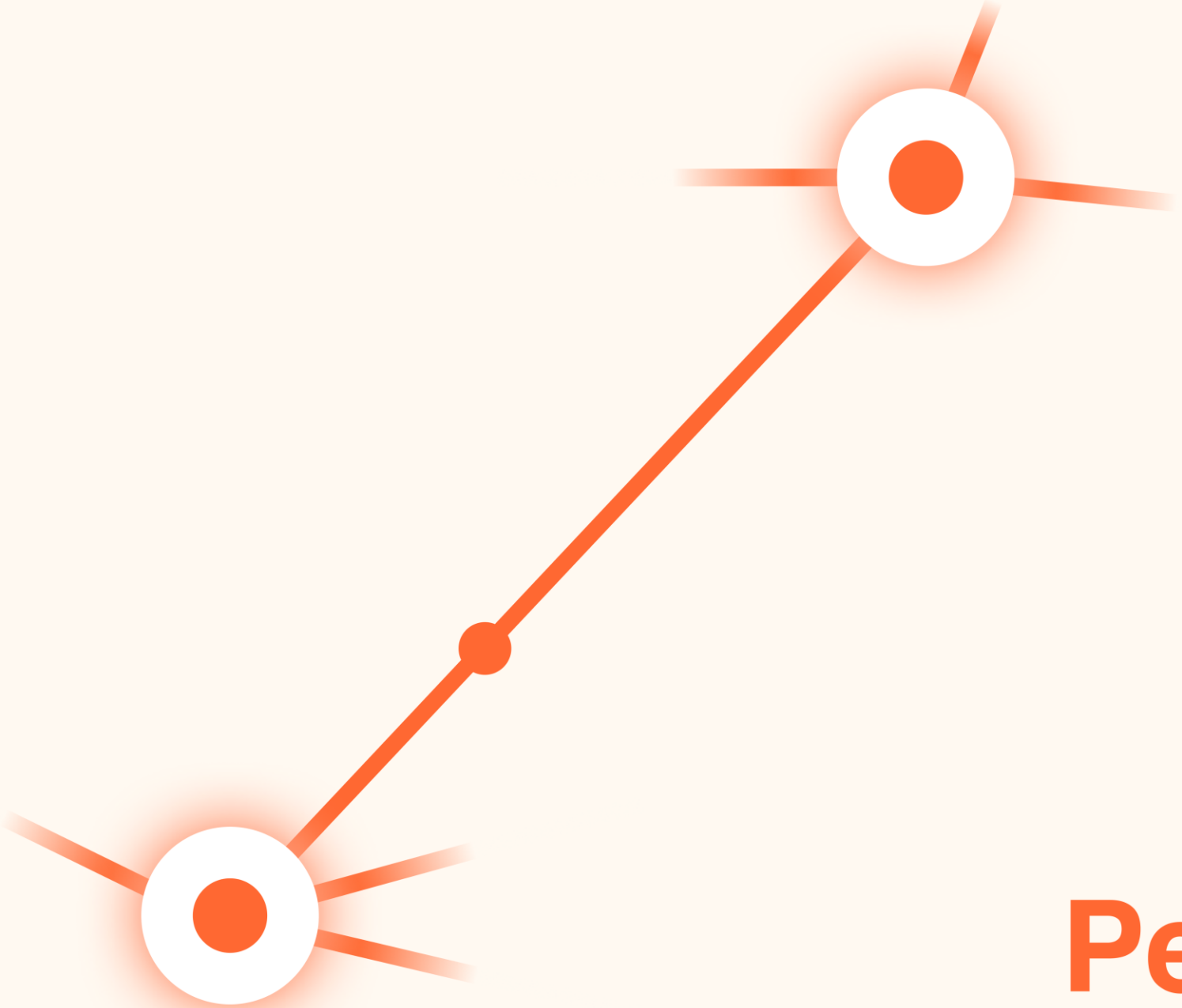

altair4.com




Rome
Via Portuensis
Warehouses
Claudian harbour
Trajanic basin
Warehouses
Trajanic Canal
Warehouses
Mediterranean Sea
Tiber
Ostia

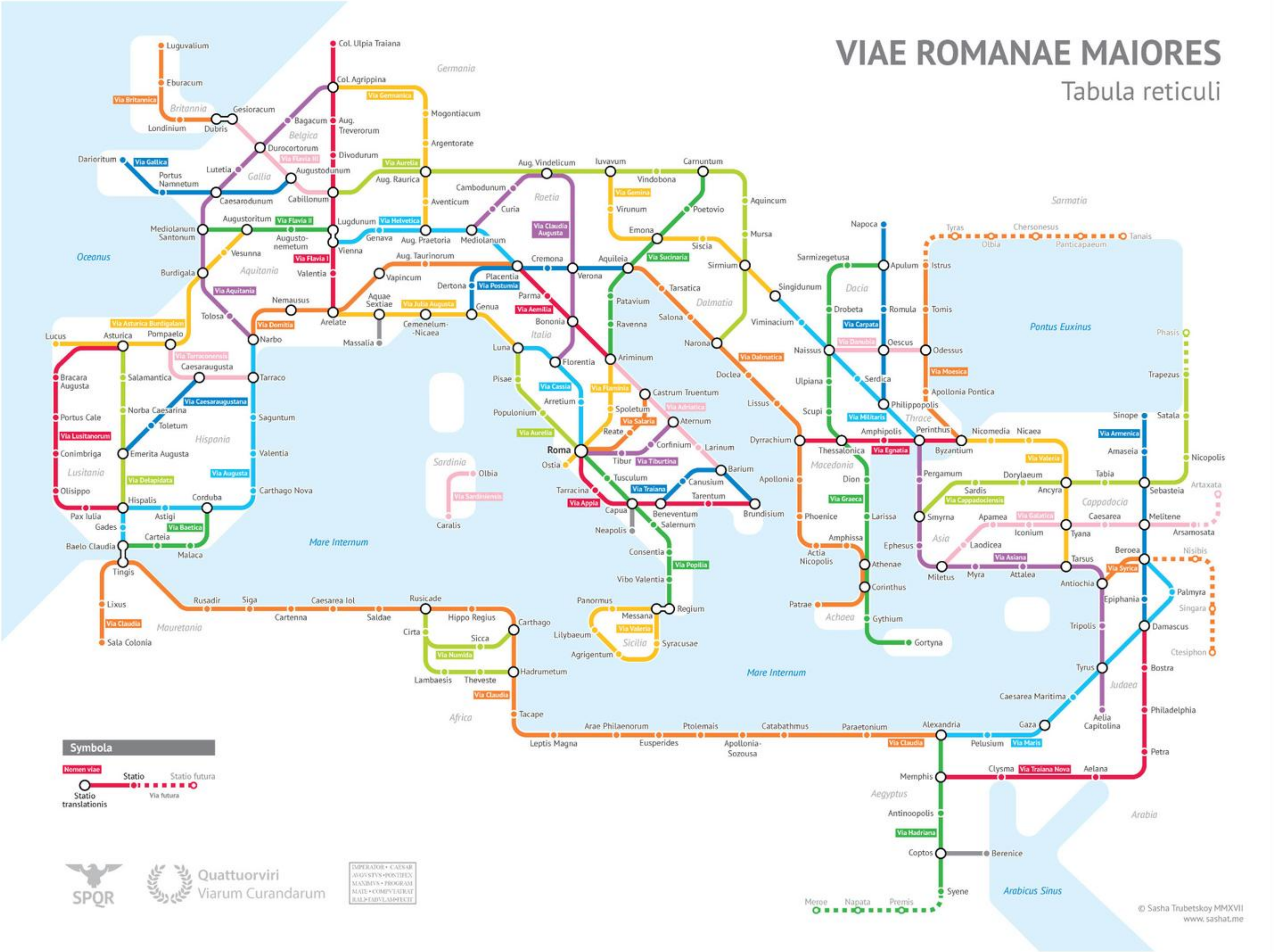
Eurysaces

the baker at the crossroads



People

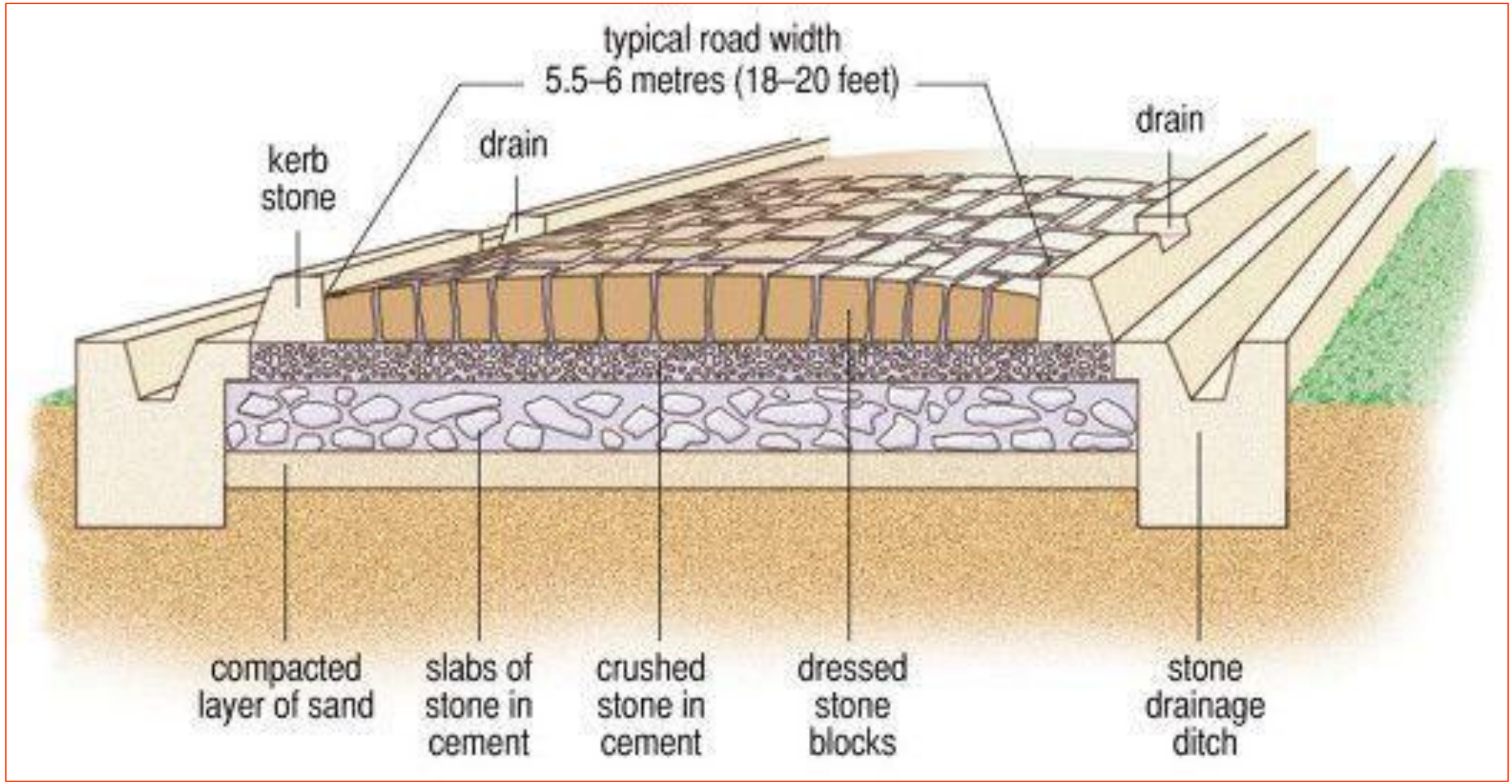




VIAE ROMANAE MAIORES
Tabula reticuli
Germania
Britannia
Belgica
Gallia
Aquitania
Oceanus
Hispania
Lusitania
Raetia
Italia
Dalmatia
Dacia
Thrace
Macedonia
Achaea
Asia
Cappadocia
Sarmatia
Pontus Euxinus
Sardinia
Sicilia
Mauretania
Africa
Mare Internum
Aegyptus
Arabia
Arabicus Sinus
Judaea
Luguvalium
Eburacum
Via Britannica
Londinium
Dubris
Gesioracum
Col. Ulpia Traiana
Col. Agrippina
Via Germanica
Mogontiacum
Argentorate
Bagacum
Aug. Treverorum
Durocortorum
Via Flavia III
Divodurum
Darioritum
Via Gallica
Portus Namnetum
Lutetia
Augustodunum
Caesarodunum
Cabillonum
Via Aurelia
Aug. Raurica
Aug. Vindelicum
Iuvavum
Carnuntum
Vindobona
Cambodunum
Aventicum
Curia
Via Gemina
Virunum
Poetovio
Aquincum
Mediolanum Santonum
Augustoritum
Via Flavia II
Lugdunum
Via Helvetica
Via Claudia Augusta
Vesunna
Augusto-nemetum
Vienna
Genava
Aug. Praetoria
Mediolanum
Emona
Siscia
Mursa
Via Sucinaria
Via Flavia I
Burdigala
Valentia
Aug. Taurinorum
Cremona
Aquileia
Sirmium
Via Aquitania
Nemausus
Vapincum
Dertona
Placentia
Via Postumia
Verona
Tarsatica
Singidunum
Aquae Sextiae
Via Julia Augusta
Parma
Via Aemilia
Patavium
Tolosa
Arelate
Via Domitia
Cemenelum-Nicaea
Genua
Bononia
Ravenna
Salona
Viminacium
Via Asturica Burdigalam
Lucus
Asturica
Pompaelo
Narbo
Massalia
Luna
Ariminum
Narona
Naissus
Via Tarraconensis
Caesaraugusta
Florentia
Via Dalmatica
Bracara Augusta
Salamantica
Tarraco
Pisae
Via Cassia
Via Flaminia
Castrum Truentum
Doclea
Via Danubia
Oescus
Odessus
Arretium
Via Adriatica
Lissus
Via Moesica
Via Caesaraugustana
Spoletum
Via Salaria
Aternum
Portus Cale
Norba Caesarina
Populonium
Reate
Scupi
Via Militaris
Via Lusitanorum
Toletum
Saguntum
Via Aurelia
Roma
Corfinium
Larinum
Dyrrachium
Thessalonica
Via Egnatia
Perinthus
Nicomedia
Nicaea
Conimbriga
Emerita Augusta
Valentia
Ostia
Tibur
Via Tiburtina
Barium
Byzantium
Via Delapidata
Via Augusta
Tusculum
Canusium
Apollonia
Pergamum
Dorylaeum
Ancyra
Tabia
Olisippo
Hispalis
Corduba
Carthago Nova
Tarracina
Via Traiana
Tarentum
Dion
Sardis
Via Cappadociensis
Via Appia
Capua
Beneventum
Brundisium
Via Graeca
Larissa
Smyrna
Apamea
Via Galatica
Caesarea
Pax Iulia
Astigi
Via Baetica
Salernum
Phoenice
Iconium
Tyana
Gades
Neapolis
Amphissa
Ephesus
Laodicea
Carteia
Consentia
Actia Nicopolis
Athenae
Baelo Claudia
Malaca
Via Popilia
Via Asiana
Tarsus
Tingis
Vibo Valentia
Corinthus
Miletus
Myra
Attalea
Lixus
Rusadir
Siga
Caesarea Iol
Rusicade
Panormus
Regium
Patrae
Antiochia
Cartenna
Saldae
Hippo Regius
Messana
Via Syrica
Via Claudia
Carthago
Via Valeria
Gythium
Epiphania
Cirta
Sicca
Lilybaeum
Mauretania
Via Numida
Agrigentum
Syracusae
Gortyna
Tripolis
Damascus
Sala Colonia
Lambaesis
Theveste
Hadrumetum
Tyrus
Bostra
Via Claudia
Caesarea Maritima
Aelia Capitolina
Tacape
Philadelphia
Arae Philaenorum
Ptolemais
Catabathmus
Paraetonium
Alexandria
Gaza
Leptis Magna
Eusperides
Apollonia-Sozousa
Via Claudia
Pelusium
Via Maris
Petra
Memphis
Clysma
Via Traiana Nova
Aelana
Antinoopolis
Via Hadriana
Coptos
Berenice
Syene
Meroe
Napata
Premis
Napoca
Apulum
Istrus
Sarmizegetusa
Romula
Tomis
Drobeta
Via Carpata
Ulpiana
Serdica
Philippopolis
Amphipolis
Apollonia Pontica
Tyras
Olbia
Chersonesus
Panticapaeum
Tanais
Phasis
Trapezus
Sinope
Satala
Via Armenica
Amaseia
Nicopolis
Sebasteia
Artaxata
Melitene
Arsamosata
Nisibis
Beroea
Palmyra
Singara
Ctesiphon
Olbia
Via Sardiniensis
Caralis
Symbola
Nomen viae
Statio
Statio futura
Statio translationis
Via futura
SPQR
Quattuorviri Viarum Curandarum
IMPERATOR • CAESAR AVGVSTVS • PONTIFEX MAXIMVS • PROGRAM MATE • COMPVTATRAT RAE • TABVLAM • FECIT
© Sasha Trubetskoy MMXVII
www.sashat.me


Bust of Cicero

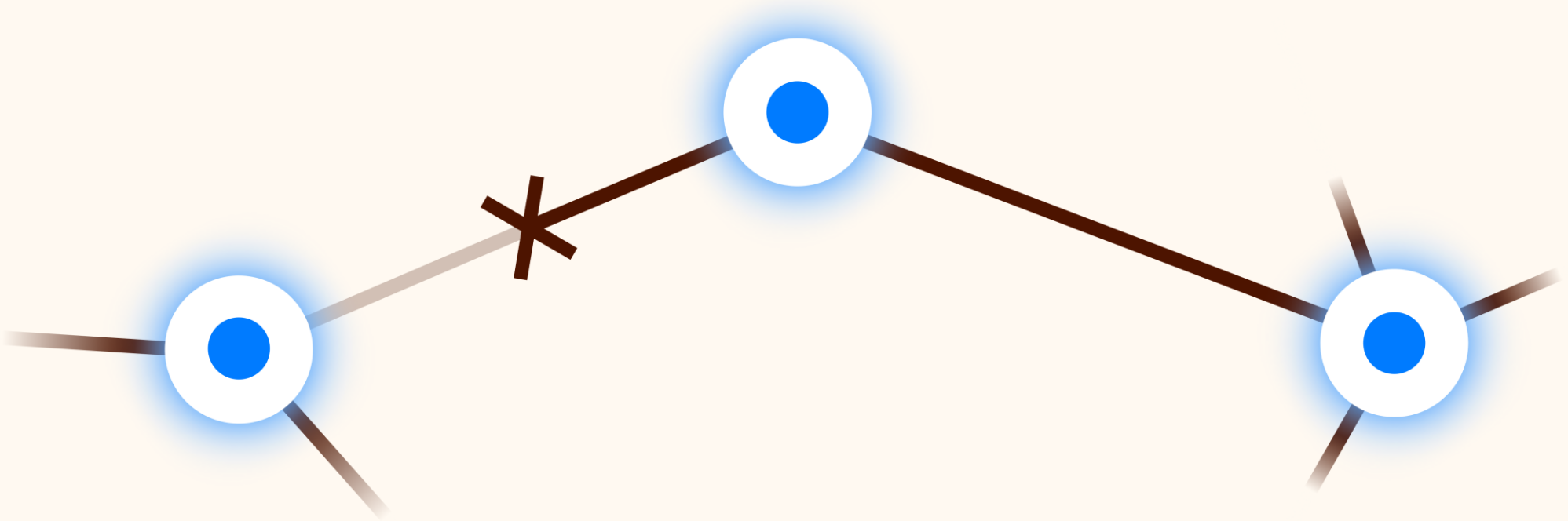

Cicero's route from Tarsus to Rome
Rome
Brundisium
Corfu
Patrae
Tiro falls ill
Athens
Tarsus

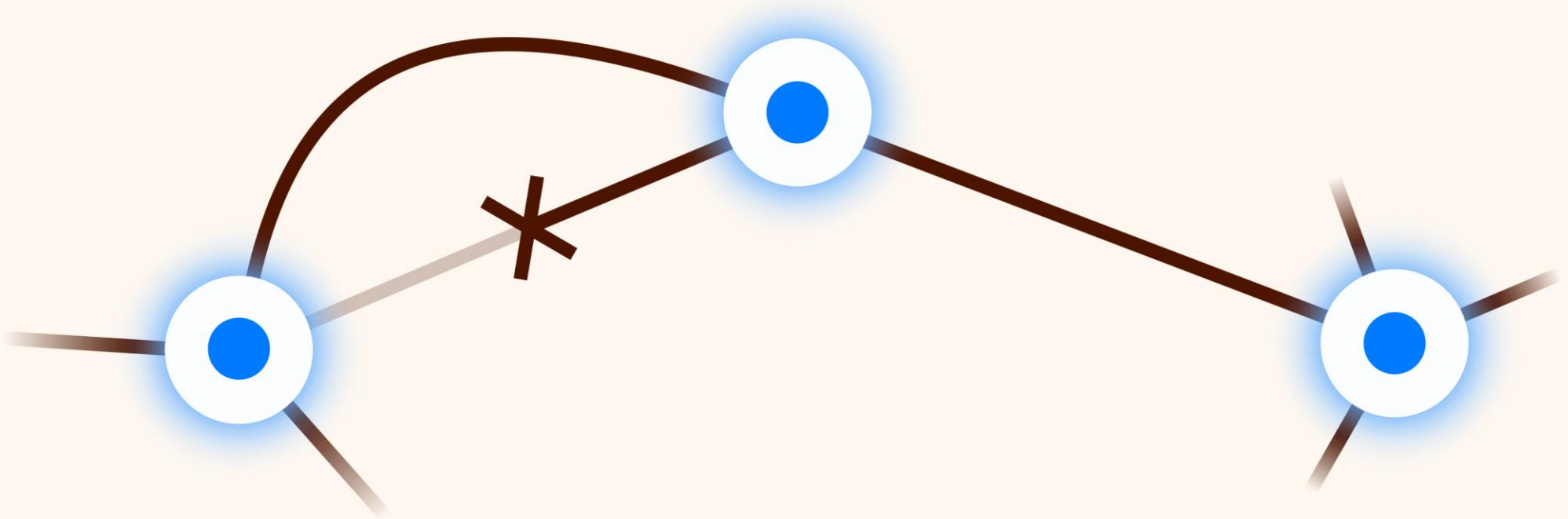

typical road width
5.5–6 metres (18–20 feet)
kerb stone
drain
drain
compacted layer of sand
slabs of stone in cement
crushed stone in cement
dressed stone blocks
stone drainage ditch




CRISIS



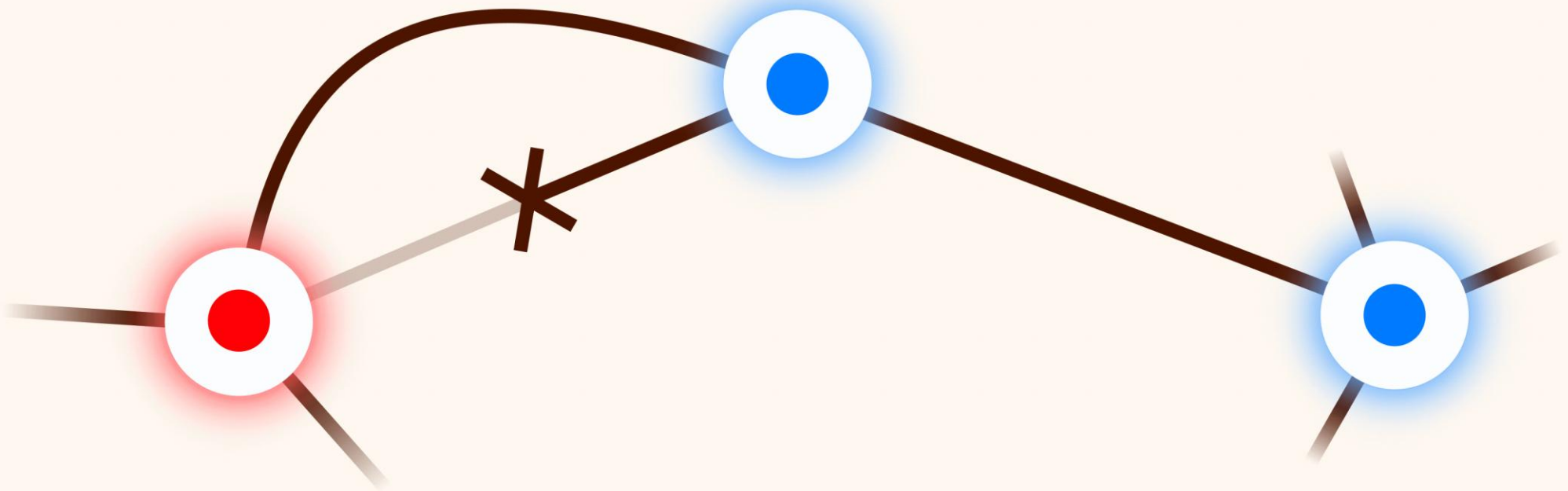





B
C



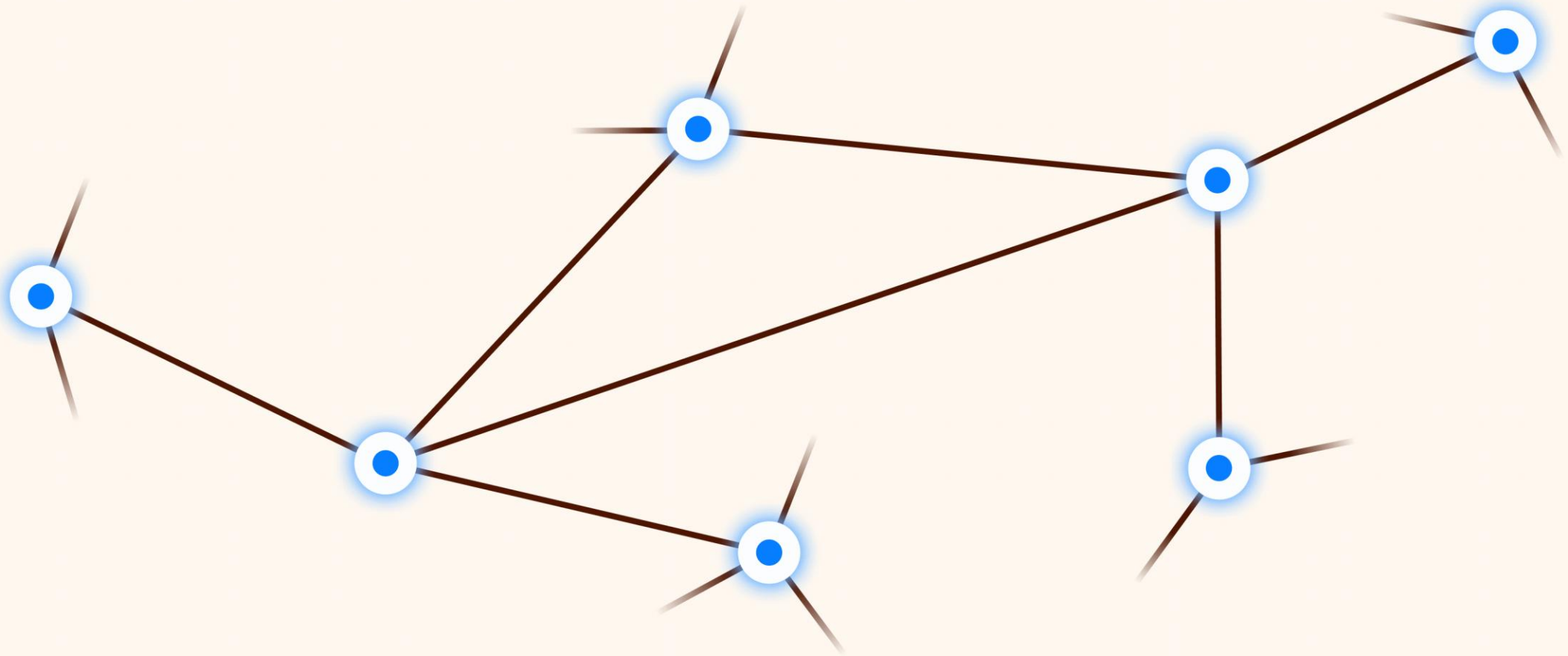
Resilience in network terms is about re-routing flows.




Underground water channel



Where essential flows pass, power follows.





Connections can expand what a society can achieve.







Openness determines if new ideas will be used.



Golden Age?







New HDD project:

- Which larger network?
- What will move?
- Who will depend on it?



What will become **possible** because we make this connection?





Thank you!

Sandrina Bokhorst

for DCA
Rome 2026