

Rome: Republic to Empire

Lesson 1 The Founding of Rome

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How does geography influence the way people live?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What effect did geography have on the rise of Roman civilization?*
2. *How did Rome become a great power?*

Where in the world?

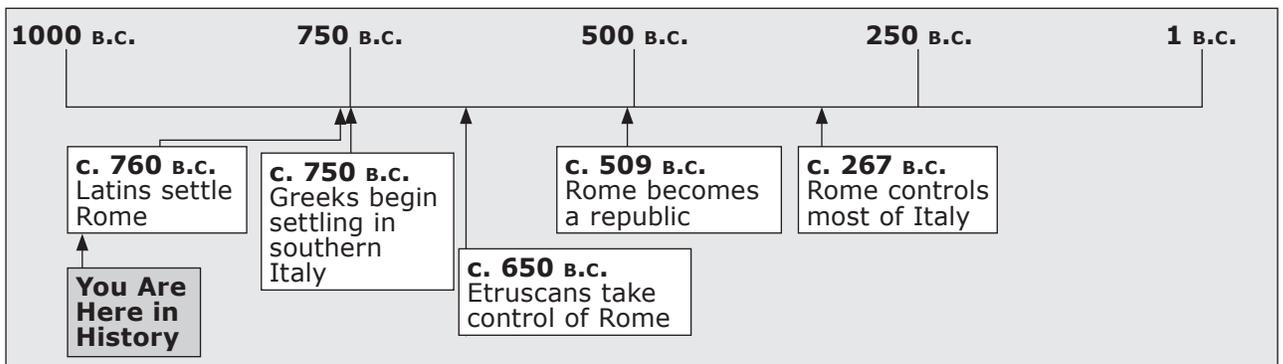


Terms to Know

republic a form of government in which citizens elect their leaders

legion a large group of Roman soldiers

When did it happen?



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Lesson 1 The Founding of Rome, *Continued*

The Beginning of Rome

Italy is a peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea. It is shaped like a boot. The heel points toward Greece. The toe points toward the island of Sicily.

The Alps cross the top of Italy and separate it from the rest of Europe. Another mountain range, called the Apennines, runs down Italy, from north to south. Passes, which run through the mountains, helped link people from different parts of early Italy. They could trade ideas and goods with each other. Italy has a mild climate, rich soil, and large, flat plains that make good farmland.

Historians know little about the first people in Italy. Between 2000 B.C. and 1000 B.C., groups of people settled in the hills and on the plains. These people included the Latins. Historians think that a group of Latins tended herds and grew crops on Rome's hills. Their community developed into Rome. The people living there became known as the Romans.

Rome was built along the Tiber River about 15 miles from the Mediterranean Sea. The river could be used for fresh water, transportation, and the shipping of goods. Its location meant that sea-going pirates could not attack the city. Rome was built on seven hills. The hills made it easy to protect the city from attackers.

Tiber River	Seven Hills
15 miles from Mediterranean Sea	Protected city from attacks
Used for fresh water, transportation, and shipping	Latins settled here

Roman history does not just involve the Latins. Around 800 B.C., the Greeks and the Etruscans came to Italy. The Greeks built many colonies in Italy between 750 B.C. and 500 B.C. They taught the Romans to grow olives and grapes and to use the Greek alphabet. Romans also copied Greek sculpture and other art forms.

The Etruscans had an even greater influence. They came from the area north of Rome. Many Etruscans were rich miners and traders. Others were devoted to art. They painted pictures and created jewelry, tools, and weapons. When the Etruscans came, Rome was a village with straw huts. That changed, however, after 650 B.C. when the Etruscans conquered Rome. They taught the Romans to build temples, streets, and public squares.

Marking the Text

- Underline two features of Italy's geography.

Making Connections

- The Roman way of life was influenced by Latin, Greek, and Etruscan civilizations. How do other cultures influence your daily life?

Identifying

- Which river was the city of Rome built along?

Listing

- List two items the Romans borrowed from the Greeks.

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Reading Check

5. How did the Etruscans influence early Rome?

Contrasting

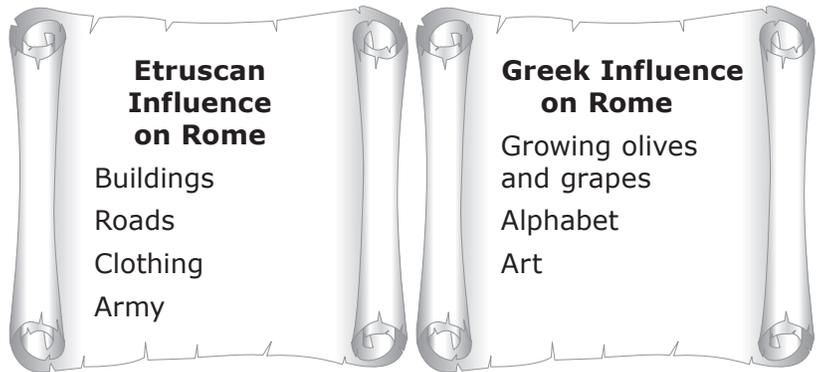
6. How did Romans rule differently from the Etruscans?

FOLDABLES[®]

Describing

7. Assemble a Foldable booklet to be placed along the dotted line. At the top of a one-tab Foldable, write *Republic of Rome*. Glue a two-tab Foldable behind the one-tab. Cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Label the tabs—*Soldiers, Legions, Towns and Roads, and Conquered People*. Write facts about each category to describe the early days of the republic.

The Etruscans introduced togas and short cloaks. A toga is like a sheet wrapped around your body, with one end over your shoulder. Most importantly, the Etruscans showed the Romans how an army could be more effective. Later, the Romans copied the Etruscan army and conquered an empire.



Becoming a Republic

The Etruscans ruled Rome for more than 100 years. The people benefited from Etruscan culture and ideas, but they got tired of Etruscan rulers. According to Roman tradition, in 509 B.C., the Romans rebelled and set up a **republic**. A republic is a form of government in which citizens elect their leaders.

Rome was still a small city when it became a republic. It had enemies all around it. Over the next 200 years, Rome fought many wars. By 267 B.C., the Romans had taken over the Greek colonies in what is now known as Italy. By then, the Romans ruled almost all of the Italian peninsula.

The Roman Republic grew because of its strong army. Roman soldiers were well trained. At the beginning of the republic, every male citizen who owned land had to join the army. Men who ran away, or deserted the army, were killed. This turned Romans into loyal fighters.

The Romans also thought of better ways to organize their army in battle. At first, the soldiers marched next to each other, moving in one large group. They attacked their enemy from only one direction. This way of fighting was slow. Then the generals changed the style of battle.

The Roman generals divided their armies into groups of soldiers called **legions**. Each legion had about 6,000 men. Legions were broken into even smaller groups of 60 or 120 men. These small groups could move very quickly in battle.

Glue Foldable here

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Roman soldiers used a short sword called a *gladius* and an iron spear called a *pilum*. Each group also had a *standard*. A standard was a tall pole with a symbol on top—sometimes an eagle or other animal. One soldier would hold up the standard so others could see it. This helped the group stay together during battle.

The Romans were also smart planners. They built military towns in every region they conquered. Then they built roads between these towns. Soon their armies could travel quickly across the land.

The Romans believed they needed to treat conquered people fairly. They stressed that people would become loyal to Rome if they were treated well. The Romans created the Roman Confederation. It gave some conquered people full Roman citizenship. They could vote and be in the government. They were also treated the same as other citizens by law.

The Romans made other people allies. Allies could run their own towns, but they had to pay taxes to Rome. Allies also had to fight in Rome’s armies. With these procedures, the Romans hoped to keep peace. If an area did rebel, Rome was ready to squash it. As a result, the Roman republic grew stronger.

Check for Understanding

List four characteristics of Rome and its people.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

? Drawing Conclusions

8. How do you think the people conquered by the Romans felt about their new rulers?

✓ Reading Check

9. Why were the Romans able to expand their control of Italy?



10. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Roman Civilization*. Label the two tabs—*Rome* and *Romans*. Write at least three words or phrases that you remember about each on the front and back of the tabs. Use your notes to help you complete the Check for Understanding.

Glue Foldable here