

ANCIENT ROME

The Italian Peninsula and its settlement

At the beginning the Italian Peninsula was inhabited by **the Etruscans, the Latins, the Phoenicians and the Greeks.**

The Etruscans

- we do not know for sure where the Etruscans came from (most probably they were the original inhabitants), they were not Indo-Europeans
- adopted their **writing from the Greeks** but we do not know their language (short inscriptions only)
- we know they were there from 10/9th century BC, around 6th century BC they had a **confederation of cities**
- **metal work, art, trade with the East, religion** (gods in human form, afterlife, tombs, foretelling the future from animals' internal organs)
- architecture – **arch, vault**
- public fights for entertainment – **gladiators**
- **respect for women**
- **advanced agriculture**
- independent cities – e.g. **Tarquinius, Veii, Bologna, Mantova**
- expanded, **fought with Greeks and Romans**
- The **Romans started expanding** and, gradually, **all Etruscan cities came under Roman control**, the last one being **Volsinii in 265 BC.**

The Latins

- they were Italic people living in central Italy
- they lived in independent city states, e.g. Rome
- in 4th century BC Rome brought the other city states under its control

The Greeks

- The Greeks established their **colonies** in the area – e.g. **Syracuse, Corsica**
- **they fought Etruscans** e.g. for Corsica (but the Etruscans had the Carthaginians as allies and won)
- The south of Italy was finally taken from the Greeks in **272 BC** - the defeat of **Tarent** (Pyrrhic victory)

The Phoenicians

- They did not expand in Italy but were in a competition with the Greeks and Romans in trading in the Mediterranean.

TASK 1:

Label the map on the left with the names of the tribes:

Latins, Etruscans, Greeks, Phoenicians

The beginnings of Rome

- Rome was **founded** by **Latins** in **753 BC** (traditional date, start of the Roman calendar)
- **two theories on the founding of Rome**
 - the legend of **Romulus and Remus**



- the historic (factual) founding of Rome:

Rome began as a gradual unification of several villages in Latium at the **River Tiber**. Therefore, it is called the **city of seven hills**, e.g. Palatine, Capitoline.

- in its beginnings strongly influenced by Etruscan culture.
- social division – **patricians, plebeians**

Roman Kingdom 753-510 BC

- **7 kings** (traditional number) of Etruscan origin
- at first, Rome was run by **comitia curiata** based on the origin of every citizen; old Roman families were the most powerful
- 6th king – **Servius Tullius** – social reforms - **comitia centuriata** – 6 classes, which were based on:
 - the last king – **Tarquin the Proud (Tarquinius Superbus)** – extremely cruel, but earned dominance for Rome
 - **510 BC** - a revolt against Tarquin, he was expelled from Rome (again a traditional date)

Roman Republic 510-27 BC

Early Republic 510-264 BC (Italy conquered)

- Romans conquered all Etruscan, Samnite and Greek territories in Italy
- Reforms in government
- **two consuls** (replaced the king)
- **patricians** =
- **plebeians** =
- **the clientela system** – linked the plebeians to the patricians, the plebeians (**clients**) got legal, social and economic protection from the patricians (**patrons**) and, in return, they supported them politically (voted for them) or served them in other ways
- **struggle between patricians and plebeians**

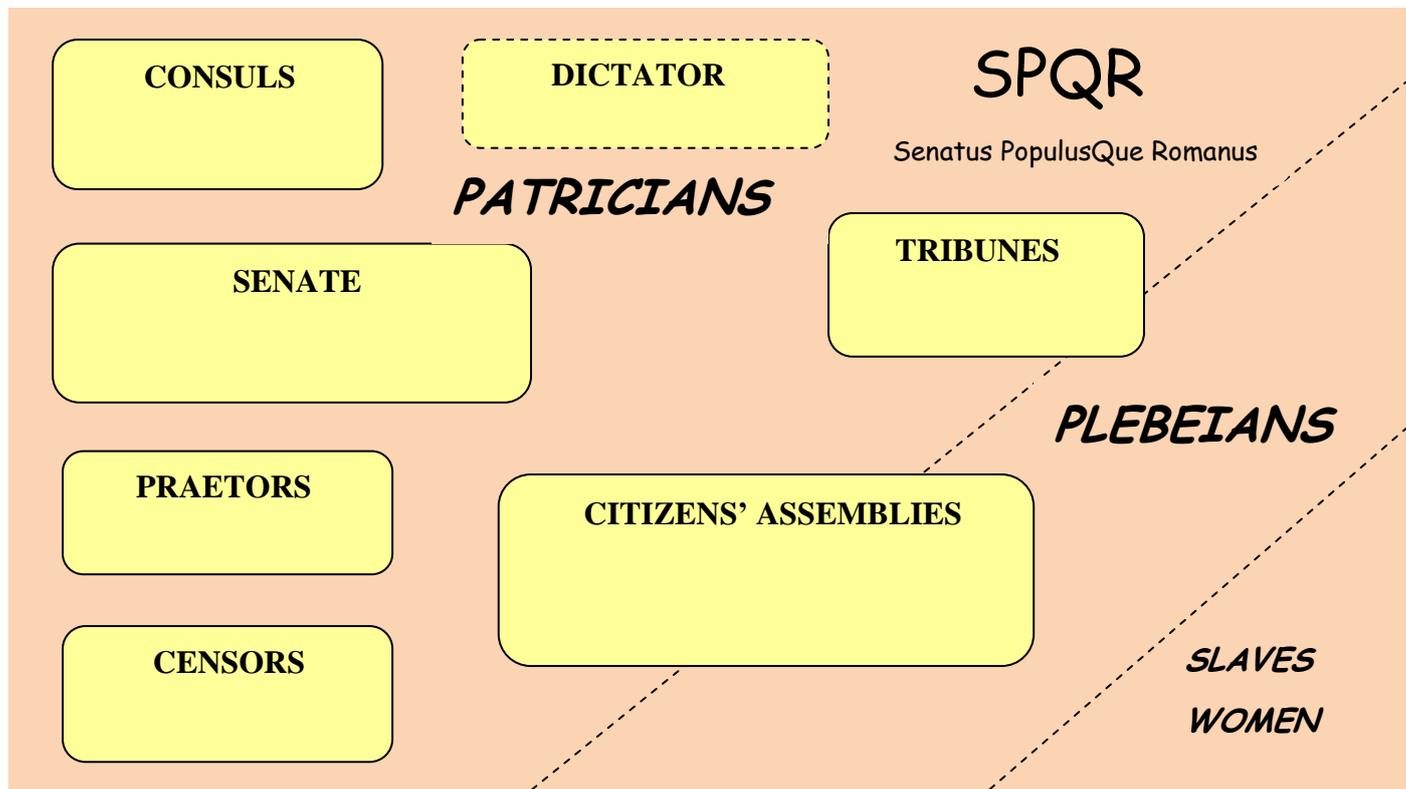
It was finally solved by rebellions called *secessio plebis* which meant that they simply walked away from Rome and threatened the patricians that they would leave and stop working for them. These “walks of the people” were surprisingly successful. They, for example, negotiated:

1st secessio plebis – **494 BC** – *comitia tributa* - **tribunes** =

2nd secessio plebis – **449 BC** – **Laws of the Twelve Tables** (*Leges duodecim tabularum*)

3rd secessio plebis – **287 BC** – **the rise of the nobility** (the end of the disputes, marriages between patricians and plebeians permitted...)

- to understand the Roman achievements fully, we need to know how its government worked:



- importance of **citizenship**: **Citizenship was crucial to every Roman because it defined his many rights but also his responsibilities:**
citizen's rights -

citizen's responsibilities -

Late Republic 264-27 BC (Roman expansion out of Italy)

Roman expansion caused clash with the Carthaginians:
Carthage was a colony of _____

- **Punic Wars:**

- **1st Punic War** – over Sicily, **264-241 BC**

241 BC battle of Aegates

- **2nd Punic War** – **218-201 BC**, Carthaginians conquered Hispania but interfered with Roman interests, Hannibal's campaign on Rome (across the Alps):

216 BC battle of Cannae

202 BC battle of Zama – general Scipio won - nickname *Africanus*

peace conditions for Carthage were very harsh:

+ Romans (e.g. Cato) calling for destruction of Carthage

- **3rd Punic War** – **148-146 BC**, because Carthage broke the peace conditions given by the Romans, after long resistance the city was destroyed *completely* and burned, citizens sold to slavery

- **The Roman conquest of the Mediterranean continues:**

- **Macedonia** conquered in **168 BC**
- **146 BC** (yes, the same year when Carthage was destroyed) **conquest of Greece** completed by the destruction of Corinth!
- **Mare nostrum** = this is what the Romans called the Mediterranean. Why would they?

The Crisis of the Republic:

- **146-30 BC – social conflicts in Rome:**
 - cheap grain from the provinces, huge farms formed – **latifundia**
 - too many people without land, unable to feed themselves – rich patrons took care of them (*bread and games*) for their votes at the assembly
 - **slave uprisings** – slaves cheaper and badly treated, causing slave rebellions
e.g. **136 BC** at Sicily (70 000 slaves created a state, 4 years)
- **133 BC** - reforms by **Tiberius Sempronius Gracchus** (tribune) – land reform, maximum area of land for a family – land redistribution
Was he supported by everyone? What do you think happened to him?
- his brother **Gaius Sempronius Gracchus** - continued in his work, stable and low prices of grain for the poor and wanted to give citizenship to the allies
Again, was he supported by everyone? What do you think happened to him?
- However, in the following ten years most of **their reforms** were **revoked**.
- **Optimates versus**
 - optimates – *optimus = the best*, nobility
supported by the senate
led by military commander **Lucius Cornelius Sulla**
 - populares – *popular = concerning the people* (*populus = the people*)
supported by the assembly and the tribune
led by **Gaius Marius** – military commander, success in Africa and Germania, **reformed the army – professional army**:
Roman soldiers were grouped into **legions** of 5,000 to 6,000 heavily armoured foot soldiers called **legionaries**. Legions were then divided into 50 to 60 **centuries** consisting of 100 men. They were commanded by officers called **centurions**. The legions had all necessary craftsmen with them. Legionaries trained regularly. At the end of each day's march they all together built a fortified camp. Apart from **fighting skills**, **discipline** was the most important virtue of a good Roman soldier.
Moreover, there were units of **auxiliary forces** which consisted of non-citizens. They did most of the actual fighting. When they retired, they became citizens too.

TASK 2: Label the legionary's armour and equipment, using these words:

spear _____

helmet _____

leather sandals _____

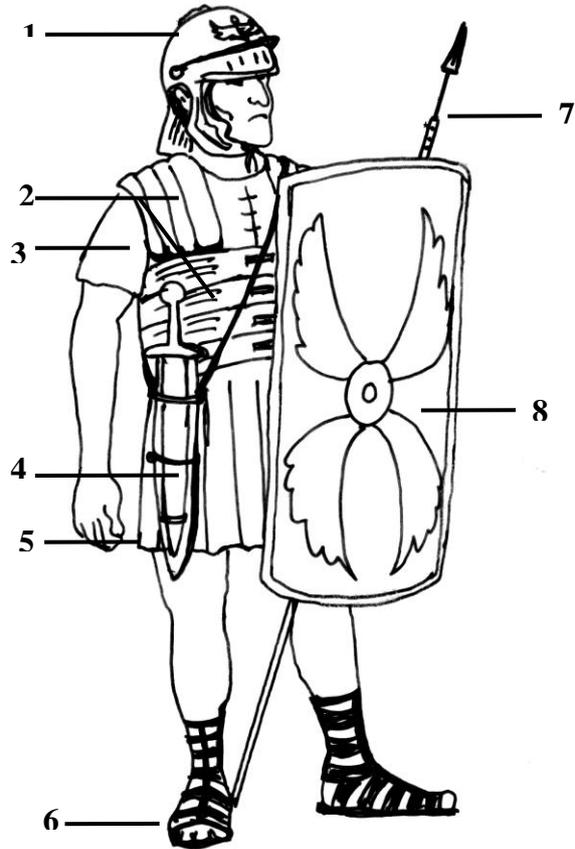
tunic _____

short sword (gladius) _____

shield _____

hard leather skirt (to protect legs) _____

shoulder and stomach metal strips _____



Expansion of the Roman Republic:

TASK 3:

On the map below label the following provinces. The following descriptions will help you.

Italy – it started as a mixture of Etruscan, Greek and Latin tribes who were gradually overrun by the Romans.

Gaul – Gallia, there lived savage Celtic tribes who are good fighters and hunters. They did not have a centralized government and they sometimes liked to raid Italy, as it was not too far away. It was quite a rich and strategically important province.

Carthage – it used to be a powerful Phoenician city in North Africa. It had a big navy. Rome had to defeat and destroy it to feel safe. After the destruction of Carthage the new province was not rich anymore.

Macedonia – part of Greece, it used to be a great power but it was weakened by competition among Greek states. It was important for its good position for trading with the east.

Spain – Hispania, there lived disorganized and primitive tribes. However, it was used as a gateway to Rome by the Carthaginians, especially Hannibal. There were precious copper mines.



- **90 BC** – war with the allies, the Romans were strong (Sulla, Marius) but the situation was not good (wars with many nations) so finally they offered **citizenship to the allies** (almost all Italy)

- **82-79 BC - Sulla's dictatorship**

- dictator for unlimited time
- proscriptions –

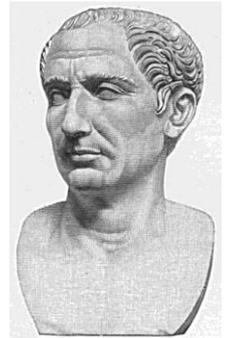
- **73-71 BC – slave uprising led by Spartacus**

- Spartacus – from Capua, former gladiator, finally defeated by Marcus Licinius **Crassus**
- after defeat 6 000 rebels were crucified on the Via Appia

- **60 BC - The First Triumvirate**

- triumvirate =
- members : **Marcus Licinius Crassus** (optimatus)
 Gnaeus Pompey (also a successful military commander, optimatus)
 Gaius Julius Caesar (populare)
- Caesar's achievements before dictatorship –

- Disputes and struggles for power among the members resulted in war between Pompey and Caesar
- Caesar finally crossed the river Rubicon ("*Alea iacta est.*") and marched on Rome and started a **civil war**, Pompey was defeated and fled to Egypt where he was executed by the pharaoh, Caesar named **dictator** (reforms, e.g. **calendar**)
- Caesar's **affair with queen Cleopatra** made the senate angry and afraid
- **March 15, 44 BC** (the Ides of March) **Caesar assassinated in the senate house**



- **43 BC - The Second Triumvirate**

- members - **Marcus Lepidus**
 Gaius Octavian (Caesar's great-nephew and an adopted son)
 Mark Antony (Marcus Antonius)

- they punished Caesar's murderers
- divided the empire among themselves:

- fight between Octavian and Mark Antony (under Cleopatra's influence) resulted in the naval **battle of Actium in 31 BC**

- finally, Cleopatra and Mark Antony committed suicide

As a result of which - Octavian became the undisputed master of Rome!

REVISION:

TASK 4:

Put these events in their chronological order:

- a. Slave uprising by Spartacus
- b. The Ides of March
- c. The Gracchus reforms
- d. battle of Actium
- e. the First Triumvirate
- f. the fall of Carthage
- g. the Second Triumvirate

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____ 7 _____

TASK 5:

Choose five events in the era of the Roman Republic you consider most important and explain your choice:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

TASK 6:

Why was the Roman army so successful? (consider the strategies, equipment, weapons)