

THE ROMAN EMPIRE



Let's Begin: ANCIENT ROME

The story of Rome's origins:

- *According to legend*, the city of Rome was founded in 753 BCE by **Romulus** and **Remus**, twin sons of the god **Mars** and a **Latin** princess. They were abandoned on the **Tiber River** as infants and raised by a she-wolf. The twins decided to build a city near the spot. They disagreed on exactly where the city should be, and Romulus ended up killing Remus, naming his city **Roma**, after himself.
- In reality, men built the city of Rome, and chose the spot mainly for its strategic location and fertile soil.





How is Rome's location strategic?



EARLY ROME (1000 BCE- 509 BCE)

- From 1000-500 BCE, three groups inhabited the region and eventually battled for control:
 - The **Latins**- Considered the first Romans, built the original settlement at Rome, a cluster of wooden huts atop one of its seven rolling hills- **Palatine Hill**.
 - The **Greeks**- Established colonies along southern Italy and Sicily, which became prosperous and commercially active. They brought all of Italy into closer contact with Greek civilization.
 - The **Etruscans**- Native to northern Italy, they were skilled metalworkers and engineers who had a strong impact on Rome. The Romans adopted their alphabet. They also influenced Rome's use of the **arch** in their architecture.

EARLY ROME (1000 BCE- 509 BCE)

- Around 600 BCE, an Etruscan became king of Rome. That century, Rome grew from a collection of hilltop villages into a big city.
- Various kings ordered the construction of Rome's first temples and public centers, the most famous of which was the **Forum**, the heart of Roman political life.
- The last king, a harsh ruler, was driven from power in 509 BCE. The Romans declared they would never be ruled by a king again and established a **republic**.

Question: What is a republic? How does the republican form of government work?

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

- **Republic**- A form of government in which power rests with citizens who have the right to vote for their leaders.
- In Rome, citizenship with voting rights was granted only to free-born male citizens.
- Rome's social groups:
 - **Patricians**- Wealthy landowners who held most of the power. They inherited their power and social status. They claimed their ancestry gave them the authority to make laws for Rome.
 - **Plebeians**- Common farmers, artisans, and merchants who made up the majority of the population. Plebeians were citizens with the right to vote, but they were prohibited from holding the most important government positions. In time, Rome's leaders allowed the plebeians to form their own assembly and elect representatives called **tribunes**, who protected the rights of plebeians from unfair acts of patrician officials.



Patricians



Slaves



Plebeians

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

- 451 BCE: Rome's laws began to be written down in a law code known as the **Twelve Tables**. These were hung in the **Forum**, a public setting, and became the basis for later Roman law.
- The Twelve Tables established the idea that all citizens had a right to the protection of the law.



The Roman Forum today



THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

- By the first century BCE, Rome boasted that it had achieved balanced government:
 - Two officials called **consuls** commanded the army and directed the government, but had limited power. Served for a term of one year. The same person could not be elected consul again for 10 years. One consul could always veto (overrule) the other's decisions.
 - The **Senate** was the aristocratic branch of Rome's government. It had both legislative and administrative functions in the republic. It had 300 members, all chosen by the upper class of Rome's society (patricians). Plebeians were allowed in the Senate later. The Senate had great influence over foreign and domestic policy.
 - **The Assemblies** represented the more democratic side of the government. These assemblies had the ability to make their own decisions (for example, the Tribal Assembly, organized by the plebeians, elected the tribunes and made laws for the common people)
 - In times of crisis, the republic could appoint a **dictator**, or a leader who had absolute power to make laws and command the army. A dictator's power lasted for 6 months. Dictators were chosen by the consuls and elected by the senate.

Discussion Question

How is the Roman republic similar to our government in the United States?

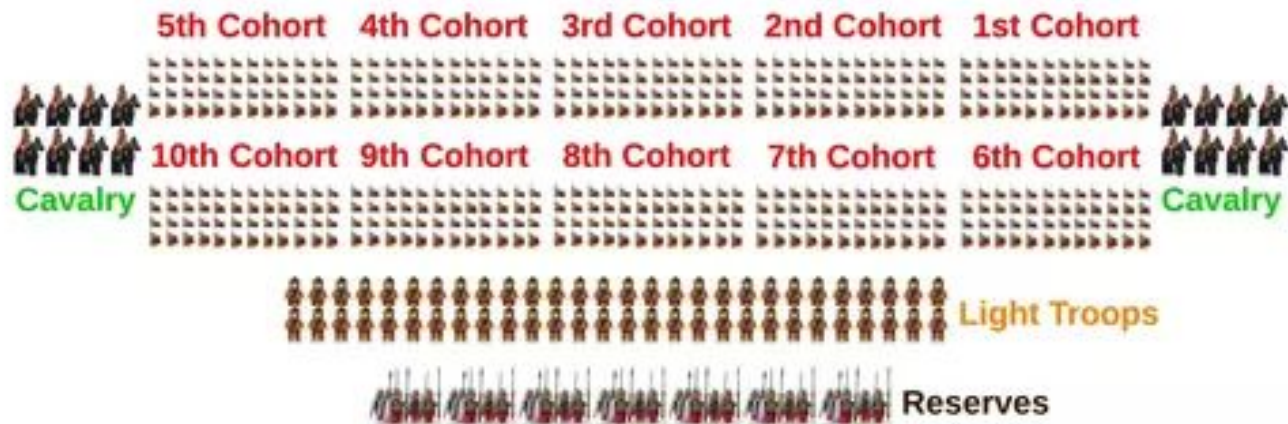
Comparing Republican Governments

	Rome	United States of America
Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two consuls, elected by the assembly for one year—chief executives of the government and commanders-in-chief of the army. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A president, elected by the people for four years—chief executive of the government and commander-in-chief of the army.
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate of 300 members, chosen from aristocracy for life—controls foreign and financial policies, advises consuls. • Centuriate Assembly, all citizen-soldiers are members for life—selects consuls, makes laws. • Tribal Assembly, citizens grouped according to where they live are members for life—elects tribunes and makes laws. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate of 100 members, elected by the people for six-year terms—makes laws, advises president on foreign policy. • House of Representatives of 435 members, elected by the people for two years—makes laws, originates revenue bills.
Judicial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praetors, eight judges chosen for one year by Centuriate Assembly—two oversee civil and criminal courts (the others govern provinces). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Court, nine justices appointed for life by president—highest court, hears civil and criminal appeals cases.
Legal code	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve Tables—a list of rules that was the basis of Roman legal system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Constitution—basic law of the United States
Citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adult male landowners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All native-born or naturalized adults

THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

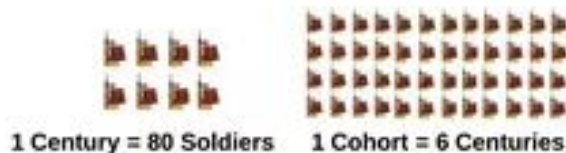
- Romans also placed great value on their military- all citizens who owned land were required to serve in the military. Anyone who sought public office had to serve 10 years in the military.
- Roman soldiers were organized into large military units called **legions**. Each legion was divided into smaller units called **cohorts**, which were further divided into **centuries**.
- Military organization and fighting skill were key factors in Rome's expansion and rise to glory.

The Roman Legion



1 Legion ~ 5,500 Soldiers

Legend





EXPANSION OF ROME

- Rome expanded through trade and conquest
- By 256 BCE, the Romans were masters of nearly all of Italy (having defeated the Etruscans to the north and the Greek city-states to the south)
- Rome had different laws and treatment for different parts of its conquered territory:
 - Neighboring **Latins** on the **Tiber** became full citizens of Rome
 - In territories further from Rome, conquered people had all rights of Roman citizenship except the ability to vote.
 - All other conquered groups were considered **allies of Rome**- Rome didn't interfere with them as long as they supplied troops for the Roman army and did not make treaties with any other state.

Lenient policy toward defeated enemies helped Rome build a long-lasting empire.

EXPANSION OF ROME

- Rome's location in the middle of the Mediterranean was ideal for trade
- Roman merchants moved by land and sea, trading wine, olive oil, and other goods from the region for goods from other lands.



PUNIC WARS

- Once a colony of **Phoenicia**, **Carthage** became a powerful rival to Rome. Situated on the North African coast, Carthage began to challenge Rome's power in the Mediterranean.
- Rome and Carthage went to war in 264 BCE. This began the long struggle for power between Rome and Carthage known as the **Punic Wars**.
- Three wars fought between 264 BCE-146 BCE.
 - **First Punic War** (264 BCE-146 BCE)- Fought for control of Sicily and the western Mediterranean- ended with the defeat of Carthage.
 - **Second Punic War** (218 BCE-202 BCE)- **Hannibal**, a skilled Carthaginian general, tried to capture Rome by invading through Spain and France, across the Alps and into Italy. Invaded with a large army that included elephants. Despite heavy losses, the plan initially worked- Hannibal's army moved throughout Italy, inflicting many losses on the Romans. However, the Romans eventually regrouped and prevented Hannibal from taking Rome. The Roman general **Scipio** forced Hannibal to retreat toward Carthage, and ended in Hannibal's defeat.
 - **Third Punic War** (149 BCE-146 BCE)- Rome laid **siege** to Carthage. Carthage was set on fire and its inhabitants were sold into slavery. It was made into a Roman province.

Punic Wars, 264–146 B.C.



Hannibal invading
Rome through the
Alps



EFFECTS OF THE PUNIC WARS

- Gave Rome dominance over the Western Mediterranean
- Made Rome stronger- set the stage for more conquest