

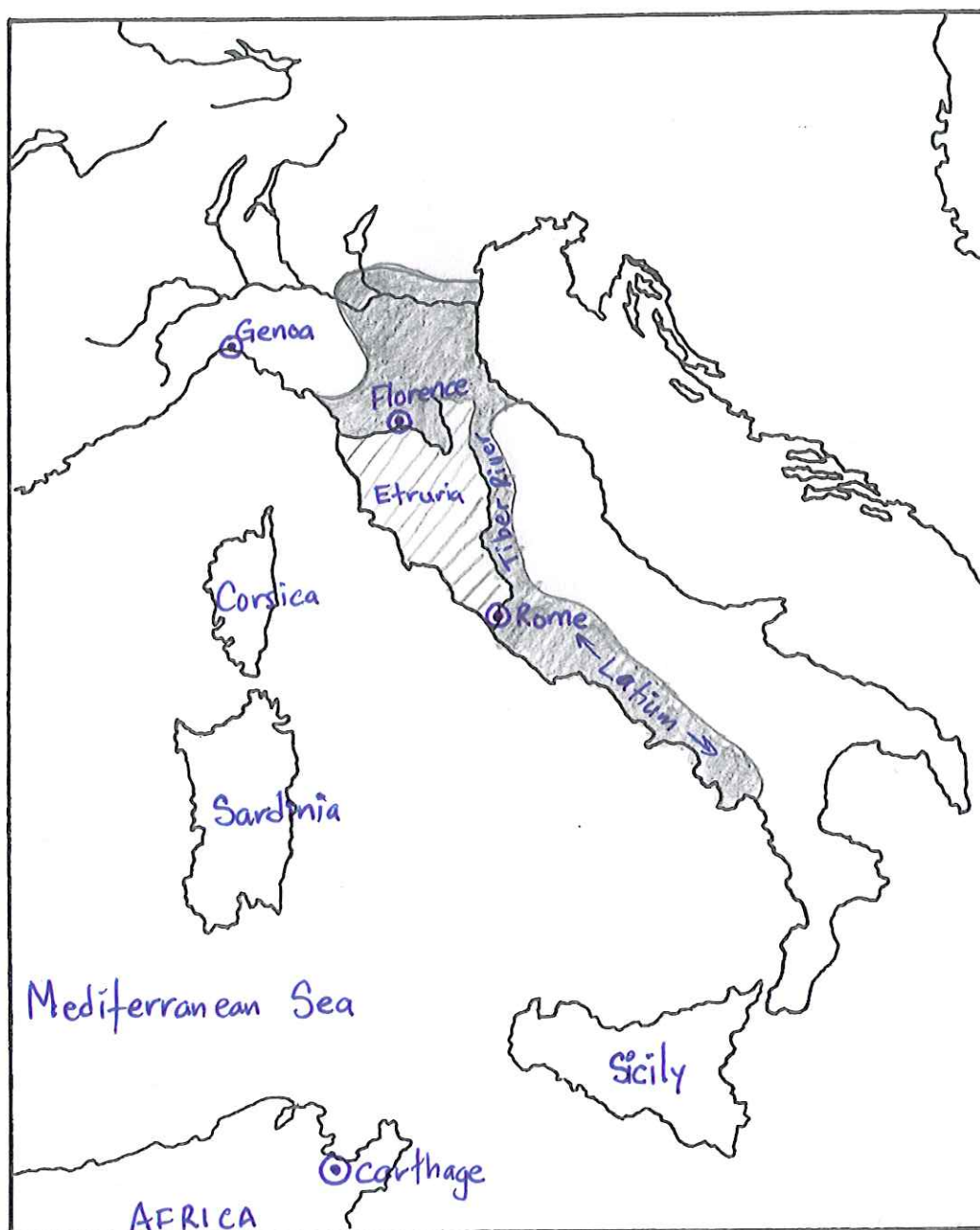


Where Did the Roman Empire Start?

Can you explain how a city (Rome) conquered the land all around the Mediterranean Sea? It all started with a tribe of Latins who lived in Latium. On the Tiber River, some members of the tribe founded a city which they named Rome after Romulus, the founder. Using an atlas or other maps, label these early sites in ancient Rome's history:

- | | | | |
|---|--|----------|-------------------|
| Genoa | Latium  | Corsica | Sicily |
| Florence | Rome | Sardinia | Africa |
| Etruria  | Tiber River | Carthage | Mediterranean Sea |



Romulus and Remus

The history of Rome begins with the legend of Aeneas, a Trojan warrior who survived the fall of his city to the Greeks. He wandered for seven years before he settled with the Latins, a tribe on the Italian peninsula. Aeneas married Lavinia, daughter of the Latin king, became king himself, and had a son, Aeneas Silva, who founded the city of Alba Longa, 19 miles from the site of Rome.



Alba Longa became the capital of Latium and was ruled by Aeneas' descendants. One of the kings felt threatened by his brother's twin grandsons, Romulus and Remus, who were said to be sons of the god Mars. The king ordered the infant twins drowned in the Tiber River. Miraculously, they washed ashore where they were suckled by a she-wolf and later raised by a shepherd, Faustulus.

When they were grown, Romulus and Remus returned to Alba Longa, took revenge on the evil king who tried to drown them, and then set out to build their own city. They argued about where to settle; Romulus won the argument by killing his brother, after which he gave his own name to the new city, Rome.

1. What city was the capital of Latium before Rome was built? _____
2. Which of the twin brothers won the argument about where to settle? _____
3. Who was the legendary ancestor of Romulus and Remus? _____
4. What miracle occurred, according to the legend? _____

5. What tribe did Aeneas marry into after the fall of Troy? _____
6. About 1184 B.C. Troy fell. In 753 B.C. Rome was founded. How many years passed from the fall of Troy to the founding of Rome? _____

Critical Thinking / Research: Research the city where you were born. Who founded it? How did it begin and why did the founders choose that spot? What are the myths, legends or stories about the city? What natural resources are available there? Is the location ideal for a city? Answer all questions on a separate sheet of paper (written or typed). Be prepared to share your answers with the class.