The Roman Republic

509 BC - 27 BC
Italy

- Soil and climate good for farming
- Greek soil rocky
- Greeks took to the sea
- Italian peninsula not separated by rugged terrain
- Apennine Mountains run down the middle of the peninsula
- Not rugged like the mountains in Greece
- What did the Romans call the Mediterranean Sea?
  - Mare Nostrum
  - Our Sea
Conquest of Italy

- Latins settled in south of the Tiber River-Latium
- Phoenicians, Greeks, Etruscans
- Greek settles called southern Italy what? Vitalia
- Land of cattle
- Tyrrhenian Sea
- Part of Mediterranean
Rome
Life in Rome

Welcome to the world of Lucius Popidius Secundus, a 17-year-old living in Rome in 73 AD. His life is a typical one of arranged marriages, coming-of-age festivals, and communal baths. Take a look at this exquisitely detailed lesson on life of a typical Roman teenager two thousand years ago.

- Family-basic unit of Roman society
- Father (pater familias) ultimate authority
- In charge of worship and discipline-life and death over members of the household
Teenage Life in Rome
The Republic

- *Res publica*, literally the “public thing”

- Two social classes
  - Patricians - aristocratic class ( $$$ )
  - Plebeians - “common people”

- Three governing branches:
  - Consuls
  - Senate
  - Assemblies

- Tension between rich and poor because so much power rested with the rich

- Poor threatened to split from Rome in early 5th century BC

- Patricians granted plebeians the right to elect officials to represent them
Each year the citizens elected two officials, or consuls. They were in charge of the government & army. Held office for one year and had to agree with each other on actions to take. Eventually, plebeians were able to elect a consul of their choosing. In a time of crisis, the Romans granted one man the office of dictator who had absolute authority for six months.

Benefits
- Prestige
- Accompanied by 12 lictors carry fasces
- Outside Rome-held absolute power in the army
- Elected from legal magistrates (praetors)
Senate

- Most important and powerful body of the republic
- Served the interest of all people of Rome
- An aristocratic body - met in the Curia
  - Kept patrician's power intact
- 300 members appointed for life by consuls
- Controlled government finances, passed laws, supervised foreign affairs
Assemblies

- People could express their views
- Membership determined by wealth, birth, place of residence
- Early republic - Assembly of Centuries
  - Voted on legislation submitted by consuls
  - Declarations of war
  - Elected high-ranking government officials
- Senate had veto power over anything passed by the Assembly
Quiz

1. Which body in Roman government was the most important and powerful body of the republic? **Senate**

2. In a time of crisis, the Romans granted one man the office of _____ who had absolute authority for six months. **Dictator**

3. What is this weapon called? **fasces**

4. Patricians were the lower classes. **T** **F**

5. Plebeians were the rich. **T** **F**
Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus

- Consul in 460 BC
- 458 BC, while plowing his field, a messenger arrived with news that Rome was under attack
- Named dictator and achieved victory for Rome within 16 days
- Instead of remaining dictator, he immediately returned to his home and field
- Romans admired him as one who embodied classic virtues
- Americans often compared George Washington to Cincinnatus
- Cincinnati named after this hero
Pyrrhic War
Pyrrhic War (280-275)

Pyrrhus of Epirus - Greek distant relative of Alexander of Macedonia

Ambitious - wanted to extend his rule beyond Epirus

Rome wanted to expand into the south - Greeks resisted

Pyrrhus defeated Romans twice

After 2nd victory, Pyrrhus's army suffered great losses - he exclaimed: "Another such victory and I shall be ruined"

Pyrrhic Victory = victory whose costs outweigh any possible advantage

Rome eventually conquered southern Italy

265 BC Rome controlled all of the Italian Peninsula
Pyrrhus, 318–272 BC

- Entered Italy with an army
  - 3,000 cavalry
  - 2,000 archers
  - 500 slingers
  - 20,000 infantry
  - 20 war elephants (ancient tanks)

- Wanted to expand power and subdue the Romans.

- Elephants on loan from Ptolemy II, king of Egypt from 283 to 246 BC
  - Ptolemy promised 9,000 soldiers and another 50 elephants to defend Epirus while Pyrrhus and his army were away
  - Ptolemy II Philadelphus-2nd king of Egypt's Greek period
    - Patron of the library at Alexandria
    - Married his sister-Egyptian custom
First Punic War

264-146 BC: 3 Punic Wars between Rome and Carthage.

Punic comes from the Latin *Punicus* and refers to the Carthaginian's Phoenician ancestry.

Carthaginians occupied northern Africa and part of Spain.

War erupted and continued for 20 years.

Rome took over Corsica and Sardinia.

Map showing Corsica, Sardinia, and Sicily.
Punic Wars
First Punic War

- Carthage was a great sea power
- Rome had never fought at sea and had to develop a navy
- Found a Carthaginian vessel, copied it & built a fleet of ships
  - Rome overcame Carthage’s navy
- First war ended in 241 BC off the coast of Sicily
  - Carthage sued for peace
  - Rome occupied Sicily (became their first province)
  - Carthage paid for Roman losses
- Carthaginian General Hamilcar Barca (270-228 BC) commander in Sicily had three sons – distinguished military careers
  - Hannibal
  - Hasdrubal
  - Mago
    - One of them vowed revenge…..
Hannibal

- Lost one eye to infection - called the "one-eyed commander"
- Became commander-in-chief Carthaginian forces in 221 BC
- Reminded his troops of vow to take revenge on Rome and in an unexpected move they marched across the Alps in winter
- Lost half of his army and all of his war elephants except one on the march
- Indian elephant pet named Syrius survived
- Hannibal began to conquer Rome
- After 15 years, large areas of Italy had yielded to Hannibal and he had never been defeated
- Rome was always able to raise new troops & Hannibal was never able to take the city

Second Punic War

- Publius Cornelius Scipio (died 211 BC)

[Map of European and North African regions showing key locations such as Ticinus, Trebia, Metaurus, Trasimenes, Roma, Cannae, Ilpia, Zama]
Elephants

Historians assumed that elephants used by Pyrrhus and Hannibal were Indian not African. Belief that Indian elephants could be trained—African elephants could not. Today, we know that African elephants have a quirky temperament, but can be trained. Coins discovered with Hannibal’s profile on one side and African elephant on the other.

African elephants have large ears, shaped much like the continent of Africa itself. The larger surface area of their ears helps to keep African elephants cool in the blazing African sun. Asian elephants have less to worry about heat-wise, as they tend to live in cool jungle areas, so their ears are smaller.

Asian and African elephants have very distinct head shapes. African elephants have fuller, more rounded heads, and the top of their head is a single dome. Asian elephants have a twin domed head with an indent in the middle. Neither likes cold weather found in the Alps.
Third Punic War

- War again in 149 BC between Carthage and Rome
- In 146 BC the Romans completely defeated Carthage
- North Africa became a Roman province called Africa
  - Provinces paid tribute to Rome with money or grain
  - Rome provided order and protection
- Roman senator Cato “but I declare that Carthage must be destroyed”
- Destroyed Carthage
- Plowed up the land
- Sold the inhabitants into slavery
1. How many Punic Wars were fought?
   1 3 5 7 9

2. Which two city states fought each other in the Punic Wars?
   Rome and Carthage

3. Who was the Roman Consul named Dictator who left his farm to lead an effective campaign against Roman enemies?
   Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus

4. After his second successful victory against the Romans, ____ said: “Another such victory and I shall be ruined”
   A. Caesar   B. Pyrrhus   C. Hannibal

5. What Roman leader Attacked Carthage in order to force Hannibal to return home?
   A. Scipio   B. Pyrrhus   C. Hamilcar Barca
Wars—A Heavy Toll

- Rome’s wars—burden on its people
  - War casualties heavy—1/3 of Roman manpower
  - Citizenship *acquired* rather than those born to it
  - Slave legions also became citizens—privilege granted to all who had fought for Rome
  - Refugees from devastated areas flocked to Rome
  - Public entertainment flourished to counter the horrors of war
  - New gods brought to Rome
    - Worship of Bacchus (also called Dionysus) the most wicked
    - God of the grape harvest, winemaking and wine, of ritual madness and ecstasy
  - Conquest of Greece led to adoption of Greek luxuries and vices
Salarium

- Money earned by a soldier
- Salarium = "money to buy salt"
- "He is not worth his salt"
- Salary
- Historians estimate that between 250 BC and 200 BC Rome lost between 200,000 and 300,000 men
End of a Republic

- Beginning of the Roman Empire
  - 31 BC to Fall Of Rome 476 AD
- Rome ruled by an imperator
  - Ancient title given to commander of a victorious army
  - Imperator – empire - emperor
“The Senate rose in respect for his position when they saw him entering. Those who were to have part in the plot stood near him. Right next to him went Tillius Cimber, whose brother had been exiled by Caesar. Under pretext of a humble request on behalf of this brother, Cimber approached and grasped the mantle of his toga, seeming to want to make a more positive move with his hands upon Caesar. Caesar wanted to get up and use his hands, but was prevented by Cimber and became exceedingly annoyed. That was the moment for the men to set to work. All quickly unsheathed their daggers and rushed at him. First Servilius Casca struck him with the point of the blade on the left shoulder a little above the collar-bone. He had been aiming for that, but in the excitement he missed. Caesar rose to defend himself, and in the uproar Casca shouted out in Greek to his brother. The latter heard him and drove his sword into the ribs. After a moment, Cassius made a slash at his face, and Decimus Brutus pierced him in the side. While Cassius Longinus was trying to give him another blow he missed and struck Marcus Brutus on the hand. Minucius also hit out at Caesar and hit Rubrius in the thigh. They were just like men doing battle against him. Under the mass of wounds, he fell at the foot of Pompey’s statue. Everyone wanted to seem to have had some part in the murder, and there was not one of them who failed to strike his body as it lay there, until, wounded thirty-five times, he breathed his last.”
What happened? Part the second

Octavian raised an army and marched against Mark Antony (Marcus Antonius, 83-30 BC)

Didn't fight - negotiated and created the Second Triumvirate with Lepidus

Each agree to have certain people killed so that they could maintain their power

300 senators and 200 other leaders killed

Second Triumvirate divided Rome's territories between Octavian, Mark Antony, and Lepidus
What happened? Part the third

- Got rid of Lepidus - Mark Antony and Octavian ruled jointly
- Antony married Octavian's sister, Octavia
- Divorced Octavia and married Cleopatra of Egypt
- Octavian enraged and read to the Senate a document (false) of Antony's wills leaving Rome to Cleopatra and her children
- Used propaganda to defeat his rival!
- Senate ordered Octavian to march against Antony
- Battle of Actium, 31 BC - Antony and Cleopatra lost - both committed suicide
- Romeo and Juliet?
- Antony stabs himself and dies - Cleo kills herself - bitten by an asp
- Octavia
- Marcus
Cleopatra VII Philopator, 69-30 BC

- Last pharaoh of Egypt
- After her death, Egypt became the Roman province of Aegyptus
Gaius Julius Octavius
(63 BC – AD 14)

Octavian, 31 years old, ruled entire Roman world
annexed Egypt into the Roman Empire
used Cleopatra's treasure to pay off his veterans
27 B.C., Octavian became Augustus, the first and arguably most successful of all Roman emperors
ruled a peaceful, prosperous, and expanding Roman Empire until died in 14 A.D. aged 75
Empire

LONG, LONG AGO ......