Roman Republic

# Origin of Rome

* According to legend, Rome was founded in 753 BCE by the twins, Remus and Romulus, sons of the war god Mars and a Latina princess.
* They were rescued by a she-wolf and established Rome on the Tiber River.
* Romulus killed Remus, due to a disagreement of where Rome was to be located.

Another origin story:

* Trojan refugees, led by Aeneas founded Rome after escaping the destruction of Troy at the hands of the Greeks.
* Written by a poet – Virgil

# Roman Geography

* The Latins established Rome around seven hills.
* Located on the **banks of the Tiber River,** near the Mediterranean Sea.
* Roman was in the central part of Italy.
* Provided access to trade routes in the Mediterranean.

# Societies that influenced Rome

* Rome uses the same Greek gods and goddesses but uses different names.
* The Etruscans provided planning, architecture, and the alphabet.
* The Greeks also influenced the Roman Philosophy, Language, and their Olives and Grapes.

# Roman Government changes into the Roman Republic

* The government was originally a patriarchic monarchy.
* The Roman Aristocrats overthrow the last Etruscan king of Rome in 509 BCE.
* This established the Roman Republic
* An election was held to decide what would happen
* All males 15 and above who were form the original tribes of Rome were able to vote.

# Government of the Republic

* Made up of Patricians (rich and powerful) and Plebians (common peasants).
* Roman government took the best features of a Monarchy, Aristocracy, and a Democracy.
* The Republic had two consuls (kings), elected in one-year terms. One consul could veto the other’s decision. The consuls were the Executive branch of the Roman government. They could not serve after their original term until 10 years.
* The government was a representative democracy

# Republican senate

* The senate was the aristocratic branch of Rome’s government.
* Had 300 members, from the upper class of society
* Membership was for life

# Republican Assembly

* Democratic side of Rome’s government
* All soldiers/citizens were part of the assembly
* Appointed the Consuls and made laws
* Less power than the Senate.

# Roman Army

* All citizens that owned land were required to serve
* The roman Legion was made up of 5000 heavily armed soldiers, with a group of soldiers in cavalry
* The Roman army was commanded by the consuls.
* Each legion was made up of Century, made up of 80 men.
* The Roman army was flexible, as each century could be relocated and act independently.

# Laws and Judicial Branch

* There were 8 judges in Rome that oversaw courts and government. They interpreted the Law.
* The Roman legal code was known as the 12 tables, which established citizen’s legal, economic, property and social rights.
* The twelve tables treated all citizens the same.
* Based off the law codes of Solon and Draco.

# Roman Citizenship

* Being in the army or navy for 25+ years grants you citizenship
* You can become a citizen by naturalization or by birth.
* You can also gain citizenship via the vote of the assembly
* All citizens were subject to the Italic Rights. Military service was also necessary for all citizens.
* Romans in other provinces than Italy were subject to taxes.

Roles in Roman Society

Patricians

* Aristocratic landowners
* Controlled the Senate

Senate

* 300 members
* Determined foreign and financial policy
* Advise the consuls

Consuls

* Two ‘kings’
* Served as the two presidents in place of one king

Plebians

* Common peasants
* Created and participated in the assembly

Twelve tables

* Code of law in roman society
* 451 BCE

Tribal Assembly

* Creation was demanded by plebians
* Elected tribunes and eventually make laws

Tribunes

* Elected officials
* Representative democracy
* Gained power, backed up by the Plebians

Legions

* A section of the Roman army.
* 5000 soldiers each

Centuriated Assembly

* Consisted of citizen-soldiers
* Mostly patricians but eventually had plebians