The Roman Army

Organization and training brought out Rome’s military success.

# Legion

* A **legion** is a group of around 6000 men
  + Made up of 60 **units** of 100 people
  + Made up of 10 **cohorts** of 600 people
* A consul had two legions
* People who fought in legions were called legionaries
  + Legionaries usually joined at age 16
  + Legionaries did a variety of work as training, including building forts and roads that connected the republic

The Punic Wars

Rome and Carthage fought the Punic Wars for control of the Mediterranean Sea

# The First Punic War – 264 BCE

The Punic (Phoenician) War was started because of a dispute between the Romans and the North African city of Carthage.

* Carthage had valuable resources that Rome wanted
* Rome also wanted control of the massive trading network that was in the Mediterranean
* This war was fought mostly at sea

## Who won?

* Rome lost a battle to Carthage’s battle ships at Sicily
* Rome came back with a fleet of 120 warships and took control of Sicily
* Rome eventually drove Carthage out of Sicily, winning the war

# The Second Punic War – 218 BCE

The people of Carthage tried to invade Rome by land but failed. The army for Carthage was led by **Hannibal,** the son of the general that lost the first Punic War.

* Hannibal stormed with a heard of Elephants around Asia Minor and across the Alps, into Rome to attack Rome by surprise.
* Defeated the Roman army
* Rome, counterattacked Africa, causing Hannibal to flee
* Rome defeated his forces at Africa, and Hannibal left for turkey

Rome won the Punic Wars, gaining control over most of the Mediterranean.

# The Third Punic War - 149 BCE

Rome wanted complete dominance over trade in the Mediterranean Sea and to destroy Carthage.

* Invasion / siege of the city, with catapults
* Rome enslaves around 50,000 people
* Carthage is completely in ruins

The last Punic war, Rome wins, gaining the lands of north Africa and the control of the Mediterranean sea.