

Grade 5
Reading - History

"The Ancient City of Rome"

The ancient city of Rome, founded in 753 BCE, stands out as one of the most influential civilizations in world history. Nestled along the Tiber River in present-day Italy, Rome started as a small village and eventually grew into a vast empire that dominated much of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Rome's beginnings are shrouded in legend, with the most famous tale being that of Romulus and Remus. According to the story, these twin brothers were abandoned as infants but were saved and raised by a she-wolf. When they grew up, they decided to build a city, but they couldn't agree on its location. Their disagreement led to a fight, and Romulus killed Remus, naming the new city Rome in his honor.

As the city-state grew, so did its political and social complexity. The Romans established a republic, where citizens could vote for their leaders. The most powerful governing body was the Senate, comprised of Rome's wealthiest and most influential citizens. However, not everyone in Rome had the same rights. Women and slaves were not considered citizens and did not have the right to vote.

Rome was also known for its incredible architectural and engineering feats. The Colosseum, a giant amphitheater capable of holding up to 50,000 spectators, was used for gladiator contests and public spectacles. The Romans also built extensive road networks, facilitating trade and military movement throughout the empire.

The city's power and wealth attracted enemies, and Rome fought numerous wars to maintain its dominance. One of the most famous conflicts was the Punic Wars against Carthage, a powerful city-state in North Africa. After three long and brutal wars, Rome emerged victorious, solidifying its status as a Mediterranean superpower.

However, the empire eventually began to decline. Corruption, economic troubles, and military defeats weakened Rome, and in 476 CE, the Western Roman Empire fell to invading barbarian

tribes. Despite its fall, Rome's legacy lived on, influencing art, architecture, politics, and language for centuries to come.

Multiple Choice Questions:

In which year was the city of Rome founded?

- A. 753 CE
- B. 476 CE
- C. 753 BCE
- D. 476 BCE

What is the famous story about Rome's founding?

- A. The conquest of Europe
- B. The building of the Colosseum
- C. Romulus and Remus
- D. The Punic Wars

What was the primary governing body of the Roman Republic?

- A. The Consuls
- B. The Senate
- C. The Assembly
- D. The Magistrates Correct

What structure could hold up to 50,000 spectators in Rome?

- A. The Pantheon
- B. The Forum
- C. The Colosseum
- D. The Aqueduct

What was the function of Rome's road networks?

- A. Facilitating trade and military movement
- B. Providing entertainment
- C. Connecting temples
- D. Housing citizens Correct

Who were Rome's main enemies in the Punic Wars?

- A. Greece
- B. Egypt
- C. Carthage

D. Persia

What happened to Rome in 476 CE?

- A. It was founded.
- B. It became a republic.
- C. It fell to barbarian tribes.
- D. It defeated Carthage.

Who could not vote in the Roman Republic?

- A. Men
- B. Citizens
- C. Women and slaves
- D. Senators.

What river is Rome located along?

- A. The Nile
- B. The Thames
- C. The Danube
- D. The Tiber

What did Rome's wealth and power attract?

- A. Tourists
- B. Artists
- C. Enemies
- D. Philosophers

Answers:

1. C. 753 BCE. The ancient city of Rome was founded in 753 BCE, not in the Common Era (CE).
2. C. Romulus and Remus. The legend of Romulus and Remus is the most famous tale about the founding of Rome.
3. B. The Senate. The Senate was the most powerful governing body in the Roman Republic.
4. C. The Colosseum. The Colosseum was a giant amphitheater in Rome capable of holding up to 50,000 spectators.
5. A. Facilitating trade and military movement. Rome's extensive road networks were built to facilitate trade and the movement of military forces throughout the empire.
6. C. Carthage. Rome fought against Carthage, a powerful city-state in North Africa, during the Punic Wars.
7. C. It fell to barbarian tribes. In 476 CE, the Western Roman Empire fell to invading barbarian tribes, marking the end of ancient Rome.
8. C. Women and slaves. In the Roman Republic, women and slaves were not considered citizens and did not have the right to vote.
9. D. The Tiber. Rome is located along the Tiber River.
10. C. Enemies. Rome's wealth and power attracted enemies, leading to numerous wars to maintain its dominance.