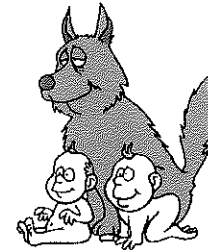


# RISE OF ROME

## Early History and the Rise of the Roman Republic

### Legends & Origins

The story of ancient Rome began around 800 B.C.E., in a small settlement on one of the seven hills of Rome. There are many legends about how Rome started and when. In one legend, there was a king named **Numitor**. His sons were killed by his jealous brother, **Amulius**, who then made Numitor's daughter, Rhea Silvia, become a priestess. After **Mars**, the God of War, fell in love with her, **Rhea** had twin sons, **Romulus and Remus**. When Amulius found out, he threw Rhea and her two babies into the Tiber River. A female wolf found the twins and brought them up. Years later, a shepherd discovered them and brought them to Numitor, where the whole story was explained.



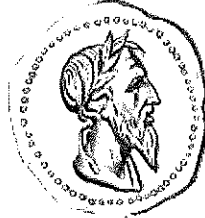
Amulius was killed in a battle around the same time, so the twins decided to build a new city to celebrate his death. An oracle told them to build the city on the Palatine Hill. The oracle also said that Romulus would be king of this new city. Remus was jealous of this and eventually Romulus would kill his brother Remus and become the king of the new city which he named Rome.

Today, historians know that the first people to live on the Palatine Hill in Rome were Latin peoples from northern Italy known as the **Etruscans**. They lived in small oblong huts made of wooden poles, woven around twigs and branches and filled with clay. They herded sheep and cattle and kept goats and pigs. Their burial ground was at the foot of the Palatine Hill. Historians believe that all seven of the major hills in Rome were probably separate villages. Eventually, powerful Etruscans from the north would invade and eventually unite the seven hills into one city.

### The Seven Kings of Rome

Romulus was said to be the first King of Rome in 753 BCE. He was followed by six more kings until 510 BCE when Rome became a **Republic**. These kings began to make Rome an important city. First, they expanded their lands to take in a neighbouring city, Alba Longa. Then, the sixth King, **Servius Tullius**, made Rome into a religious center by building a shrine to Diana, the hunter goddess. His son, **Tarquinus Superbus**, built a huge temple to Jupiter, the King of the Gods.

The kings of Rome were very powerful people. They were in charge of war, public buildings, and religion. They also acted as city judges. Everywhere they went, their assistants carried a bundle of rods with an axe in the middle, known as **fascēs**, to show that the king had the power to have anyone executed or beaten. They also created the first Roman coins. Before these coins, cows had been used as money. One cow = 10 sheep. Then they used bronze bars for money before the coins were introduced.



The kings also commissioned Rome's famous system of sewers. At first people had used the streams that ran between the seven hills of the city to carry waste water away, but then they began to build huge underground sewage networks.

However...the kings were becoming too ruthless. The last king, Superbus, forced the citizens to give up their own work to work for him. A later Roman historian tells the story:

*"The poor were set to work in return for a miserable ration of grain: quarrying stone, cutting timber, leading the wagons, or even themselves carrying materials on their backs. Various craftsmen, coppersmiths, carpenters, and stonemasons were all forcibly removed from their private business to labour for the public good."*

A group of noblemen led a rebellion against the king, and Tarquinius Superbus, the last Etruscan king of Rome, had to escape from the city with his supporters. The exact year of this event is not clear, but it is believed to have been around 510 BCE. The people, having got rid of their kings, set up a **republic**, meaning 'rule by the people' which was headed by two consuls elected each year. This marked the end of the early Roman Kings.

