

Lesson

1

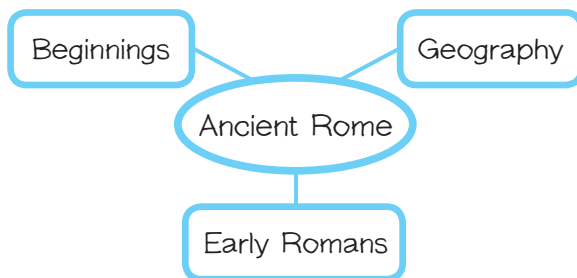
MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Culture** Stories about the beginnings of Rome are a mix of legend and historical fact.
- 2 Geography** The people who settled Rome chose a geographic location that was good for defense, travel, and trade.
- 3 Economics** To survive, Roman farmers relied on discipline and hard work.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Categorizing

Sorting similar kinds of information into groups helps you understand patterns in history. As you read Lesson 1, look for details about the three categories given for ancient Rome. Record the information you learn about them in a web diagram like the one below.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6



▲ **Symbol of Rome** This statue of the goddess Roma represents ancient Rome. Romans believed that the goddess protected them and their city.

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

Framework Students should learn about everyday life in Roman society, including slavery, social conflict, and the rule of Roman law.

6.7.1 Identify the location and describe the rise of the Roman Republic, including the importance of such mythical and historical figures as Aeneas, Romulus and

Remus, Cincinnatus, Julius Caesar, and Cicero.

6.7.3 Identify the location of and the political and geographic reasons for the growth of Roman territories and expansion of the empire, including how the empire fostered economic growth through the use of currency and trade routes.

HI 2 Students understand and distinguish cause, effect, sequence, and correlation in historical events, including the long- and short-term causal relations.

The Geography of Ancient Rome

TERMS & NAMES

Romulus
legend
Aeneas
Remus
republic
peninsula

Build on What You Know You have probably seen movies about ancient Rome, with its Colosseum and gladiators. These films show Rome at its height, but they only tell part of the story. The founding of the civilization owes much to its geography.

The Beginnings of Rome

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What is the early history of Rome?

The history of ancient Rome begins with the overthrow of foreign kings in 509 B.C. But Romans like to date the history of their city to 753 B.C. That is when a legendary hero called **Romulus** (RAHM•yuh•luhs) is said to have founded Rome.

A **legend** is a popular story from earlier times that cannot be proved. The legend about Rome's founding begins with **Aeneas** (ih•NEE•uhs), a hero of the Trojan War. You learned about the Trojan War in Chapter 11. According to the legend, Aeneas settled in Italy after Troy was destroyed.

Palatine Hill Traces of settlements dating from around 1000 B.C. have been found on the Palatine Hill. ▼



The Founding of Rome The legend continues with the twins Romulus and **Remus** (REE•muhs), the descendants of Aeneas according to some versions. They were abandoned by their mother but rescued by a wolf. When the twins grew up, they decided to found a city but fought over its location. Romulus killed his brother and traced Rome's boundaries around the Palatine Hill.

After Romulus, a series of Roman kings ruled the city. Sometime in the 600s B.C., however, the Etruscans conquered Rome. The Etruscans were a people from northern Italy. But the Romans wanted self-rule. In 509 B.C., they overthrew the Etruscan king and formed a republic. A **republic** is a government in which people elect their leaders. You will learn about the Roman Republic in Lesson 2.

REVIEW Why are the dates 753 B.C. and 509 B.C. important?

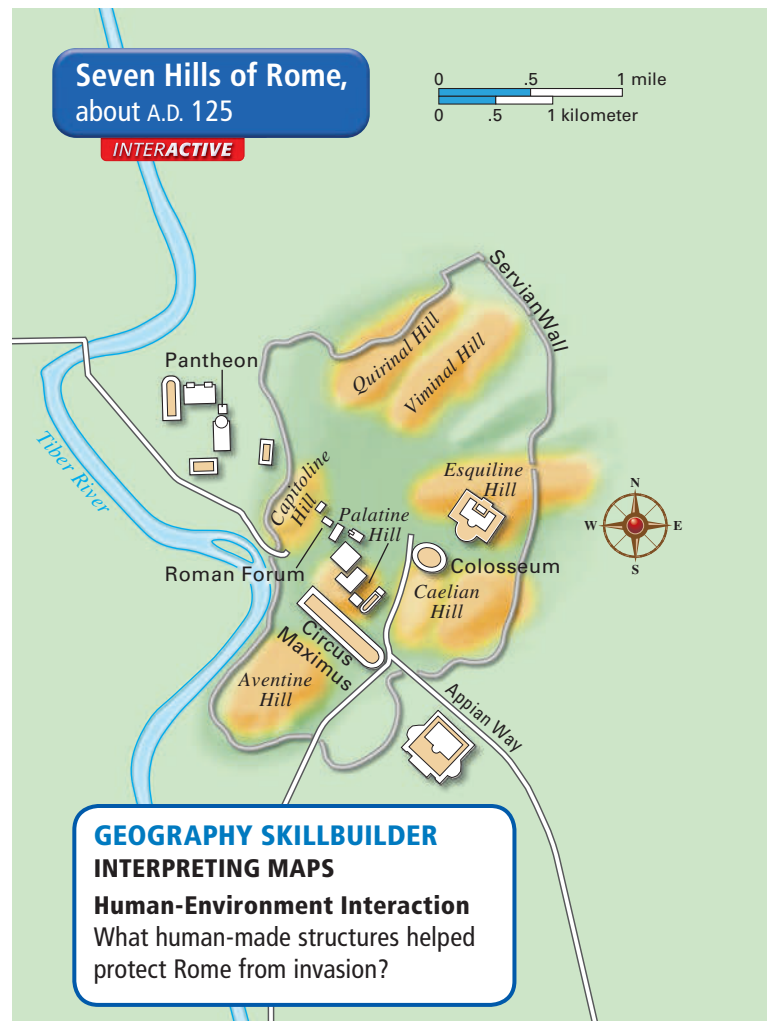
Rome's Geographic Location

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why was Rome's location so favorable?

After the overthrow of the Etruscans, Rome grew from a city into a country and then into a vast empire. Its location helped make this growth possible.

Hills and River In reality, people founded Rome, not figures from legend. The first settlers of Rome were the Latins. They came from a region surrounding Rome. They chose the spot for its mild climate, good farmland, and strategic location.

The Latins and later settlers built Rome on seven steep hills. (See map at right.) During the day, settlers farmed the fertile plain at the base of the hills. At night, they returned to their hilltop homes, from which they could defend themselves against an enemy attack.





Geography

The Tiber River

During Rome's earliest times, the Tiber provided a source of water for farming and drinking. Later, the river provided a route for travel and trade. Small ships could sail up the Tiber to Rome and down the Tiber to the Mediterranean. But the river also offered protection from invaders, since Rome was located away from the mouth of the sea.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER INTERPRETING VISUALS

Human-Environment Interaction

What does the photograph suggest about the importance of the Tiber to Romans today?



Rome had other advantages. It was located a short distance from the Mediterranean Sea on several ancient trade routes. It also lay next to the Tiber River. As you learned in the Geography feature above, this river played an important role in Rome's development.

Italian Peninsula Rome's location on the Italian Peninsula also played an important role in its development. The peninsula stretches south from Europe into the Mediterranean Sea. A **peninsula** is a piece of land surrounded on three sides by water. As you can see on the map on page 427, the Italian Peninsula is shaped like a boot. Its heel points toward Greece, while its toe points across the sea to Africa.

Italy's location on the Mediterranean made it relatively easy for Roman ships to reach the other lands around the sea. This position made it easier for Rome to eventually conquer and gain new territories. It also helped the development of trade routes.

The two main mountain ranges of Italy helped protect Rome. The Alps border Italy on the north, and the Apennines (AP•uh•NYNZ) form Italy's spine. But Italy's mountains didn't separate early settlements the way the mountains of Greece did. Italy also had more large plains than Greece. This made farming easier.

REVIEW How did its geography help Rome grow?

Lives of Early Romans

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was life like for the early Romans?

Like many ancient peoples, the early Romans lived by farming. But even though the land was fertile, life on a Roman farm was not easy.

Working the Land Most early Romans worked small plots of land. They planted grains such as wheat and barley. They also grew beans, vegetables, and fruit. Later they learned to grow olives and grapes. They also raised pigs, sheep, goats, and chickens. They used oxen to pull their plows.

Farmers who owned land also served in the army. In fact, for a time only landowners were allowed to join the army. Roman leaders believed that property owners would fight harder to defend the city. Landowners were also able to pay for their own military equipment.

Over time, some farmers grew richer than others. They bought more land and built larger farms, or estates. A gap developed between small farmers and the owners of the estates. This gap would later produce divisions in Roman politics and government.

Farm Life At first, most Roman farmers lived in simple homes made of mud or timber. They did not have much furniture. In addition, the farmers lived in extended families. This large family group might have included grandparents, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and cousins.

Connect to Today

Italian Farm Grapes, like these shown here, are still a popular crop in Italy. In ancient Rome, only wealthy farmers, who could afford to wait a few years to harvest the first crop, grew grapes. ▼



The members of a Roman farm family had to work very hard. They farmed the land with simple tools and fetched water from a well or nearby spring. The small amount of land on most farms had to produce enough food to feed the family. This meant that everyone had to be disciplined about his or her responsibilities.

The qualities of discipline, loyalty, and hard work that these early farmers developed would help Rome succeed. They were the qualities that made Roman armies so successful. When soldiers went to war, they had to obey orders and do their jobs. This attitude would help Rome conquer all of Italy.

REVIEW Why was discipline important to early Romans?

Lesson Summary

- Legend and fact shaped Rome's early history.
- Rome's geography encouraged the growth of Roman civilization.
- Roman society benefited from the hard work and discipline of Roman farmers.

Why It Matters Now . . .

There are still many cultural connections among Mediterranean areas of Europe, Asia, and Africa as a result of Rome's influence.

1 Lesson Review

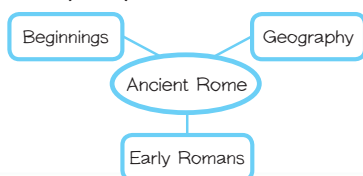
Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- | | | |
|---------|--------|-----------|
| Romulus | Aeneas | republic |
| legend | Remus | peninsula |

Using Your Notes

Categorizing Use your web diagram to answer the following question:

2. Which category of information would you use to describe why Rome developed into a powerful civilization? (6.7.1)



Main Ideas

3. What is the legend of Rome's founding? (6.7.1)
4. How was Rome's location good for defense? (6.7.3)
5. Why did early Romans have to work hard? (6.7.3)

Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** What does the legend about Rome's founding tell you about what was important to Romans? (6.7.1)
7. **Comparing and Contrasting** Compare the role of the Tiber in the development of ancient Rome with that of the Nile in ancient Egypt. (6.7.3, HI 2)

Activity

Illustrating a Legend Draw a picture that illustrates a scene from the legendary founding of Rome. (6.7.1)