

The Myth of Romulus & Remus: Name: _____ Prd: _____ Score: ____ /20
The Birth of Rome

Directions: **As you read, highlight answers in the text to the ?s.** Then answer the questions on the right.

Rome's rise to world power was sudden. At first it had grown slowly, & there was nothing spectacular about it. Originally, there were many independent **city-states** ~ just like Greece & others in the Mediterranean had at that time. Around 509 BC, the last king was driven out & Rome became a **republic**.

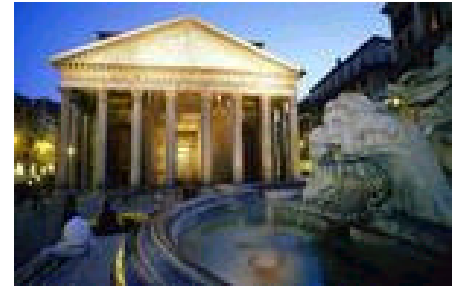
But then the city gradually dominated its Latin-speaking neighbors & clashed with the powerful Etruscans & the war-like people of the central Italian mountains. It also came in contact with the rich & cultural **Greek** cities to the south & became highly impressed by their civilization ~ eventually copying much of their culture, including their mythology.

The **mythological story of Rome** begins with the **birth of twins**, *sons of* the Roman god, **Mars** ~ god of war ~ & Vestal Rhea Silvia ~ *granddaughter of Aphrodite* ~ goddess of love & beauty. These twins were named **Romulus & Remus**.

After giving birth, Silvia was imprisoned & the infants were placed in a basket & cast into the **Tiber River** by their evil uncle in hopes they would die. They sailed along the river until the basket ran ashore under a fig tree. As luck would have it, a she-wolf was wandering by ~ an animal known to be sacred to the god Mars ~ & came upon this basket laden with the twin boys. *Her instincts strong*, something told her to *rescue these babies & raise them as her own!* These twin boys were fed, nursed & cared for by the she-wolf for many, many years. As time passed, they grew into strong, athletic boys.

One day while the she-wolf was out hunting, a shepherd stumbled upon the boys alone & unguarded. Thinking they had been abandoned & were in need of adoption, he took them home with him to his wife. Through the years they flourished & eventually grew into strong & gifted warriors.

Making analogies:
democracy:
 Athens ::
republic:



Applying past knowledge: What were 2 legacies from Greece? 1) _____

2) _____ (2pts)

(Some are even represented here on this worksheet!)

Rome was **highly influenced by** _____'s culture, having come *before* them in history.

The story of Romulus & Remus explains Rome's **ties with beauty as well as violence** (war) because of their father _____, **god of** _____ & their grandmother _____, **goddess of** _____ & _____.

Applying map skills: The Tiber River flows through which well-known Italian city? _____



Art appreciation: Explain what this bronze statue is depicting or representing. (It has to do with the myth).

Making inferences: How did the twins grow into adulthood to resemble their real father, Mars?

When Romulus & Remus had grown into young manhood, an **oracle** predicted that the twins would build a great city. After studying the flights of birds & the signs in the sky (& many arguments,) they determined that their city would be built on the shores of the Tiber River ~ the very place where they had been found by their shepherd father so many years ago... However, *as children often do*, they could not agree upon the name for it *nor* who would run it!

They decided to ask the gods for a sign. *Each* awaited the decision while high above one of the seven hills of the city in a *separate* section that they had claimed as their own. There they sat, watching the birds above. Remus saw the first sign ~ 6 vultures hovering above him! Then Romulus saw 12 vultures flying over his, thus signaling that Romulus' section would be *twice* the size of his brother!! With that, Romulus claimed the kingship for himself!!! *He* would be considered the 1st king of Rome!

Then Romulus, using a plow pulled by a white cow & bull, cut a furrow in the ground to mark the boundary of *his* section. Remus, angry at his brother for getting the larger part, jumped *over* the line & into Romulus' section, *mocking* him with, "That is what our enemies will do!"

And with that, Romulus responded with, "And *this* is how they will fare!" And he struck his twin! A fight broke out & Romulus killed Remus!

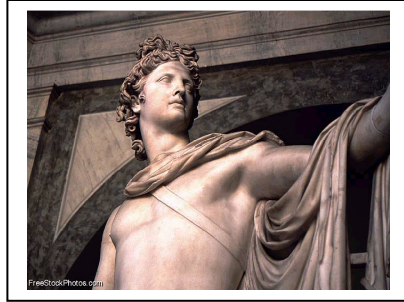
Romulus completed the work alone, calling his new city, "**Roma**" (Rome) after himself. He admitted anyone who wished to come, but many of his new citizens were outlaws & outcasts ~ making Rome particularly distasteful to its neighbors.

Romulus spent much of his 37-year reign establishing the laws & regulations which would govern his new city. Upon death, he was believed to have been taken into the heavens on a *chariot of fire* by Mars (his father) & became Quirinus, the guardian god of the Romans.

Because of this myth, the she-wolf became the unofficial symbol of Rome & *still is today!*

Applying past knowledge: From Greece, what is the definition of an **oracle**? _____

Drawing conclusions: **Why** would the twins choose to **build** their city **on** the Tiber River? _____



The **outcome** of Romulus & Remus' argument over who would run the city was that _____.

- a. Remus saw more vultures d. Remus would rule
b. Romulus saw more vultures e. b & c only
c. Romulus would rule f. a & d only

Another word for "**mocking**" is _____.
_____. (Use a thesaurus if you don't know!)

What was the **outcome** of the fight **between** Romulus & Remus? _____

_____ was **named after** Romulus.

Making inferences: **How** did Romulus' city **policy** **offend** his neighbors? _____

BONUS: What was the name of 1981 Oscar-winning film about British triumphs at the 1924 Olympics? _____

The _____ - _____
has become Rome's
unofficial symbol.

