

THE ANCIENT ROMANS – TIMELINE

Rome was founded in 753 BC.

Legend says that Rome was founded by twins called Romulus and Remus. As babies they were left in the woods and were brought up by a she-wolf.

But Rome was actually built by the Etruscans, a northern people who were in Italy in 700 BC. Rome was ruled by Etruscan kings.

Rome was ruled by Etruscan kings until 509 BC.

Then the Romans drove the last king out of the city and Rome became a Republic. A republic is a country without a king/monarch. Over the next years all the mid-Italian towns fell under Rome's power.

By 274 BC Rome controlled all of Italy.

The Romans built up one of the greatest armies in the ancient world.

In 146 BC they destroyed the city of Carthage in North Africa and took control of the Carthagian Empire (Found out by Fenicians, country Tunisia nowadays) This included lands in Sicily, North Africa and Spain. The Romans continued to expand both north and east.

In the year 117 AD the empire had reached its greatest size. It was one of the richest, most successful empires the world had ever seen. It stretched 4,000 kilometres from east to west, about 3,600 kilometres from north to south and had a

population of about 60 million people. It was connected by a network of roads and controlled by a powerful army. Two languages held the Empire together. In the west, people learned to speak Latin and in the east they spoke Greek.

In AD 455 Rome was destroyed.

In AD 476 the Western Roman Empire came to an end.

Empire in danger

Historians do not think there was only one reason for the fall of the Empire. Some of their ideas are listed below:

1. The Barbarians attacked the Empire.
2. Roman emperors were weak and selfish.
3. The Empire was too big.
4. Economic problems/the army got weaker.

