

Central Italy

The city of Rome was situated near the center of the Italian Peninsula on the Tiber River. For the first few hundred years of its existence it fought neighboring tribes, including the Sabines, the Etruscans, the Aequi, the Latins, the Samnites, and the Gauls.

Cities:

Rome: Latin colony, grew to dominate Mediterranean region.

Alba Longa: First city in Latium, eventually overshadowed by Rome.

Veii: Etruscan city across the Tiber from Rome, conquered by Camillus.

Clusium: Etruscan city ruled by Lars Porsena, an ally of the Tarquinni.

Ostia: Port city at mouth of the Tiber, controlled by Rome.

Tusculum: Latin city, ally of Rome, defended by Cincinnatus against Aequi

Regions:

Latium: Coastal region south of the Tiber, north the Volturnus, home of Latins.

Etruria: Coastal region north of Rome, home of the Etruscans. (Tuscany)

Umbria: Mountain region north of Rome

Campania: Coastal region south of Latium, home to Oscii, Samnites, and Greeks.

Cisalpine Gaul: N. Italy, Po river valley, over-run by Gauls in 500 B.C. (Lombardy)

Rivers and Water Bodies:

Tiber: Major river through central Italy in which Rome was situated

Anio: Tributary to the Tiber, northeast of Rome, source of Roman aqueducts.

Allia: Tributary to the Tiber in Sabini mountains. Site of battle against Gauls.

Lake Regulus: Lake north of Alba Longa, site of battle against Tarquini.

City of Rome

Hills:

Palatine: First hill of Rome, home of prominent Romans during Republican times.

Capitoline: Location of the Temple of Jupiter and other important state buildings.

Caelian: Fashionable residential district; location of Baths of Caracalla.

Aventine: Hill selected by Remus, originally outside the boundary of Rome.

Esquiline, Viminal, Quirinal

Landmarks:

Forum: Plaza surrounded by public buildings. Center of civil life.

Campus Martius: Public area outside gates of Rome, used to gather and drill armies.

Suburban Bridge: Bridge across the Tiber, defended by Horatius.

Cloaca Maxima: Famous Roman sewer, used to drain swamps, built 600 B.C.

Circus Maximus: Open Arena used for public games and chariot races.

Coliseum: Flavian amphitheatre, built 80 A.D. for public shows, gladiators.

Servian Wall: Wall built around Rome around 350 B.C., named after earlier king.

Buildings:

Temple of Jupiter: Temple built on Capitoline hill by King Tarquin, 600 B.C.

Temple of Saturn: Temple built at the head of the Forum.

Temple of Vesta: Temple near the Roman forum, housed the Vestal Virgins.

Comitium (Senate): Assembly building for elections, councils, tribunals.