



The first gladiatorial combats were recorded during the republic. The Zliten mosaic from Libya (Leptis Magna) prob. 2nd c. AD:

III) THE ROMAN REPUBLIC

In 510 BC the monarchy was abolished and the Romans established a republic. This era ended in 27 BC when the first emperor was crowned.

Towards the end of the 5th century BC, Rome began to expand its control over neighbouring territories and peoples. By 275 BC Rome had complete control over the Italian peninsula. Rome's only remaining rival in the western Mediterranean was the powerful Phoenician colony of Carthage in northern Africa. During the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, three wars (the Punic Wars) were fought between Rome and Carthage. After a battle that lasted for most of a century, Carthage was finally destroyed in 146 BC. Now the Romans were the only important power left in the Mediterranean.

As a result of the tremendous growth of the Empire the division between the rich and the poor increased both in the cities and in the countryside. This caused tensions and conflicts. The late Republic saw a slave revolt led by Spartacus and military generals fought civil wars to gain control of Rome. Julius Caesar, the most famous general, won the civil war. He was proclaimed dictator for life. But Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC and another civil war started. Finally, peace was restored, and Octavian, Caesar's adopted son, was voted the first emperor of Rome by the Senate. He took the name Augustus.

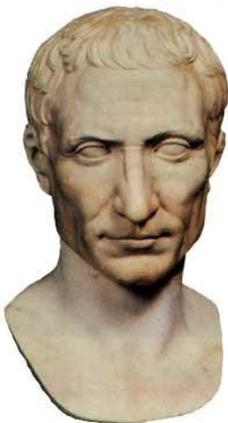
1) Read the text carefully and complete the timeline below:

- a) ___ BC : Rome became a republic.
- b) 275 BC : Rome controlled all of the Italian _____.
- c) 264 - 241 : First War between Rome and _____.
- d) 218 - 201 : _____ Punic War.
- e) 149 - ___ : Third Punic War.
- f) 73 - 71 : Slave revolt led by _____.
- g) 44 : _____ assassinated.
- h) ___ : Beginning of the Empire

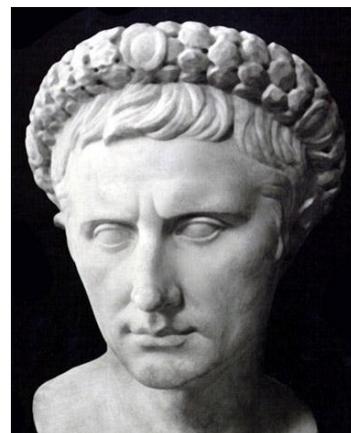
2) Are the following sentences true or false?

- a) Roman imposed its rule on the neighbouring countries.
- b) Carthage was a Phoenician colony in southern Europe.
- c) After 146 the Roman Republic was the only important power in the Mediterranean
- d) Both rich and poor benefited from the growth of the Empire.
- e) Julius Caesar was the first Roman emperor.
- f) Octavian became the emperor Augustus.

3) Complete the text below the busts with the correct names:



Reign: 49 BC - 44 BC



Reign : 27 BC -14 AD

PUNIC WARS

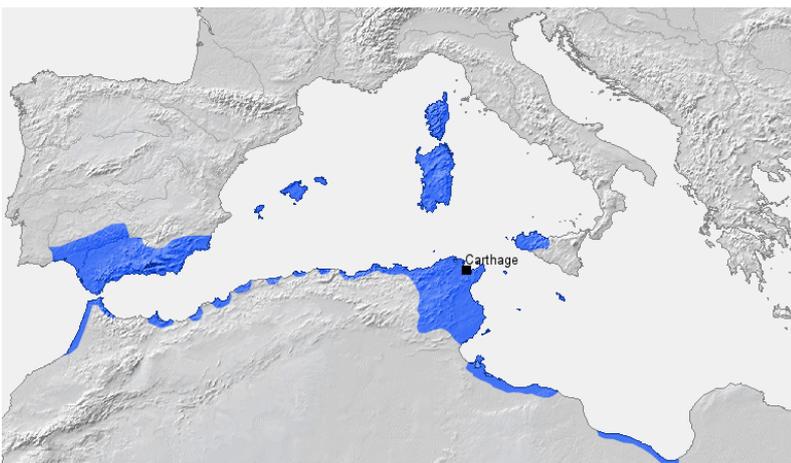
During the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, three wars were fought between Rome and Carthage. The name Punic, which is used to describe them, is derived from the Latin and Greek words for Phoenician. The city of Carthage, located in what is now Tunisia in North Africa, had been founded in 814 BC by the Phoenicians. All three wars were won by Rome, which then emerged as the greatest military power in the Mediterranean Sea.

First Punic War (264–241 BC)

In first half of 3rd century BC Carthage held many territories that made it easy for them to control and dominate the western Mediterranean Sea. By that time Rome had brought all of (what is now) Italy under its control and wanted to extend its influence over the neighbouring islands. The First Punic War started when Roman and Carthaginian forces clashed over the control of the city of Messana, (now Messina) in north-eastern Sicily. In the end, Rome defeated Carthage. Final victory came in 241, in a naval battle off the west coast of Sicily. Carthage was forced to give first Sicily and then, two years later, Corsica and Sardinia to Rome.

1) Read the texts and look at the map below:

- a) find the places referred to in the text.
- b) name other places of Carthaginian influence.



Location of Carthage and Carthaginian influence sphere before the First Punic War (264 BC)

2) Complete the sentence below with the correct words:

For R _ _ _ the e _ _ _ of the First Punic War marked the s _ _ _ _ of the expansion beyond the Italian P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .

Second Punic War (218–201 BC)



3) Look at the map and the legend on the bottom right corner and answer the following questions:

- Did Carthage lose all its territories in the Mediterranean Sea after the First Punic war?
- Where did the influence of Carthage increase?

4) Read these extracts about two military leaders of the Second Punic War.

- Hannibal was a general from the ancient city of Carthage. During the Second Punic War Hannibal took an army of more than 100,000, supported by elephants, from Spain into Italy in an effort to conquer Rome.
- Scipio Africanus was a general in the Second Punic War and statesman of the Roman Republic. He defeated Hannibal of Carthage at the battle of Zama. This victory earned him the nickname *Africanus*.

5) Use the information in four to complete this summary:

In the _____ Punic War _____ crossed the Alps with war elephants to fight against Rome. After a long campaign a Roman army led by _____ defeated him at the battle of _____.

6) Read the text.

After the First Punic War, Carthage started to conquer Spain to regain wealth and power. The conquest of the Roman town of Sagunto by the Carthaginian military leader Hannibal marked the beginning of the second war between Rome and Carthage. This was one of the great military conflicts of the ancient world.

Hannibal led his forces from Spain through the Alps to Italy, where he defeated one great Roman army after the other. In 216 the Romans suffered the most important defeat at Cannae. But though Hannibal won several victories he was not able to take Rome.

In 206 the Roman commander Scipio Africanus drove the Carthaginians from Spain. The scene of war was now transferred to Africa and Hannibal and the Punic army were recalled from Italy. They were beaten by Scipio in a battle at Zama (202) and Carthage accepted severe peace-terms.

7) Write the correct town next to the information on the right:

- a) _____ An ancient town of northern Africa southwest of Carthage in present day Tunisia. The Romans defeated Hannibal here in the final battle of the Second Punic War.
- b) _____ A city of eastern Spain north-northeast of Valencia. Founded by Greek colonists and later allied with Rome, it was besieged and captured by Carthaginian forces led by Hannibal, thus precipitating the Second Punic War.
- c) _____ Ancient village in Apulia in southeast Italy. The Romans, with 80,000 men, met the 50,000 Carthaginian and allied African, Gallic, and Spanish troops under Hannibal's command and were crushed by them.



Hannibal crossing the Alps with war elephants: a fresco detail, ca. 1510, Capitoline Museums, Rome.



Profile of Scipio Africanus from a gold signet ring. Late 3rd c. BC.



The Battle of Zama by Cornelis Cort, 1567.

8) Comment on the Map on the right.



9) Complete the sentence below with the correct words:

For C _ _ _ _ _ the defeat in the S _ _ _ _ _ Punic War marked the e _ _ of its position as a M _ _ _ _ _ power.

Third Punic War (149–146 BC)

Carthage revived significantly during 50 years following the Second Punic War. Though it was militarily powerless it became commercially successful. It was the envy of Rome's merchant class, aided by friends in the Roman Senate, that led to the last of the Punic wars.

A Roman army was sent to Africa. Carthage wanted peace but was forced to fight for survival. A siege of Carthage lasted two years without result. But ultimately Carthage was defeated. The city was torn down and the surviving inhabitants were sold into slavery. The territory became a Roman province.

10) Read the text and answer the following questions:

- a) Who started the Third Punic War?
- b) Why did the war take place?
- c) What were the consequences of the Third Punic War?

JULIUS CAESAR

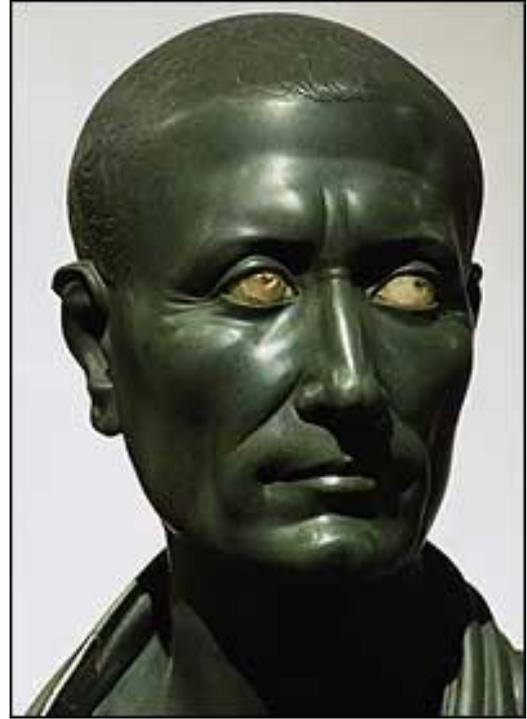
Julius Caesar was born in 100 BC. In 78 BC he started his political career and soon he became a famous orator. First he served as a young officer in Asia. In 68 obtained a seat in the Senate. Caesar organized spectacular games that made him popular with the public. In 61 he became the governor of Hispania Ulterior (Farther Spain).

In 59 BC Caesar was elected consul, the highest public office in ancient Rome. As one of two consuls, he ruled the Roman state for one year. In the following years Caesar conquered all of Gaul and defeated several rebellions. Caesar advanced the power of Rome to the Rhine and led expeditions to Britain.

In 49 BC, he returned from Gaul to fight against his rivals in Rome. This led to a civil war; Caesar's campaigns were fought in Spain, Macedonia, Egypt and Africa. In the end Caesar achieved his aim and in 45 BC he was named dictator of Rome for life.

However, Caesar's rule was short. On March 15 (the Ides of March in the Roman calendar), 44 BC, 60 senators joined a conspiracy to assassinate Caesar. They called Caesar to a meeting of the Senate and stabbed him to death.

Caesar was one of the world's greatest generals. He played a great role in making Rome one of the most important of all ancient empires. He was also a writer and recorder the events of his military campaigns. The drama of his death is depicted in the play Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare.



Julius Caesar, bust circa 1-50 A.D



Julius Caesar in the Asterix comics



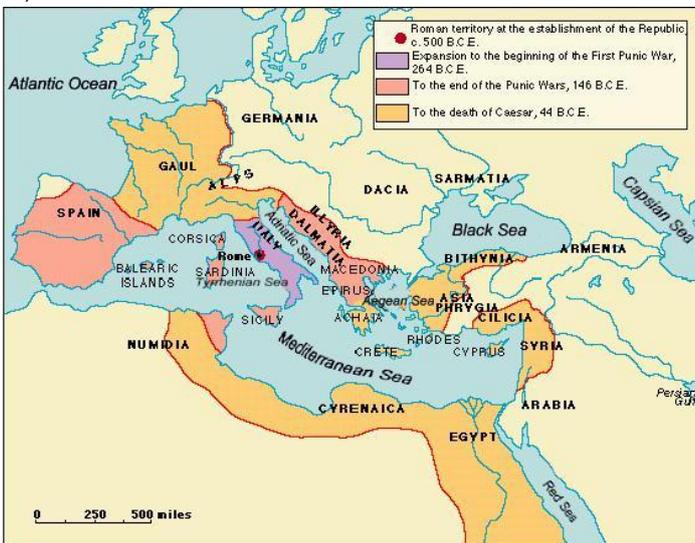
1) Are the following sentences true or false?

- a) Caesar was known as an elegant speaker.
- b) Caesar became a member of the Senate.
- c) Common people did not like Caesar.
- d) Caesar conquered Spain.
- e) A consul was elected for two years.
- f) Julius Caesar took his troops to Britain.
- g) The civil war between Caesar and his enemies was fought in Italy.
- h) Caesar was murdered by members of the Senate.
- i) William Shakespeare wrote a tragedy called "Julius Caesar."

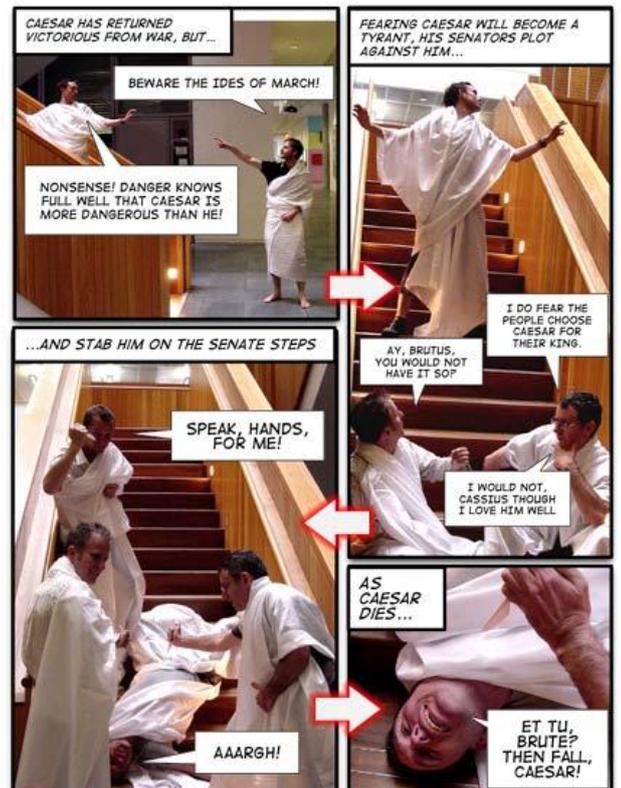
2) Complete these texts and match them with the correct illustrations.

- a) Map showing the expansion of Roman territory from the establishment of the _____ to the _____ of Julius Caesar
- b) *Commentarii de Bello Gallico*, written by _____ about his nine years of war in _____.
- c) Photo-story illustrating _____'s play "Julius Caesar". The scene shows Caesar's assassination by the Roman _____.

1)



2)



3)



3) Read the text again and complete the timeline of Caesar's life. Use the sentences Below

- 2) Governor of Further Spain 1) starts political career 3) Caesar's Birth
 4) Declared dictator 5) Civil War begins 6) Becomes Consul for life
 7) Assassinated 8) Invades Britain

The Life of Julius Caesar

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 100 | a) | 60 |
| 84 | Marries Cornelia | 59 d) |
| 78 | b) | 55 Marries Calpurnia |
| 75 | Captured by Pirates | 53 |
| 73 | Elected Pontifex | 52 Crassus killed in Asia |
| 69 | Cornelia dies | 49 defeats Vercingetorix |
| 67 | Marries Pompeia | 48 e) |
| 63 | Elected Pontifex Maximus | 45 Pompey murdered |
| 62 | Divorces Pompeia | 44 f) |
| 61 | c) | g) |

Notes:

Pontifex: Member of a council of priests in ancient Rome

Pontifex maximus: the chief of the council of priests

Crassus + Pompey: They formed an alliance with Caesar to control Rome. Crassus was killed in battle and a civil war between Caesar and Pompey started.

Vercingetorix: he managed to unite the Celtic tribes against Caesar. In the end he was defeated.

4) Match these Latin sentences spoken by Caesar with the correct context.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| a) Vēnī, vidī, vīcī | 1) "You too, Brutus?", or "And you, Brutus?" or "Even you, Brutus? Words spoken by Caesar that his friend Brutus was among his murderers |
| b) Et tu, Brute? | 2) "The die has been cast". Caesar said this sentences when he crossed the river Rubicon. With this step, he entered Italy at the head of his army in defiance of the Roman Senate and began his long civil war. |
| c) Alea iacta est | 3) "I came, I saw, I conquered." Caesar used the sentence as the full text of his message to the Roman senate describing a victory |