The Birth of a Republic

• The Etruscans ruled Rome for over 100 years
  • Ruled by the Tarquins – a harsh Etruscan family
• While there, the Etruscans changed Rome from a village to a city
  • Brick and wood buildings
  • Streets, temples, central squares
  • Loose clothes like cloaks, togas
  • Most important: a model army
THE BIRTH OF A REPUBLIC

• In 509 BCE, the Romans overthrew the Tarquins to form a republic
• Republic: a form of government in which the leader is put in office by citizens with the right to vote

AND
leaders are elected to represent the people
THE EARLY REPUBLIC

- Over the next 200 years, Rome fights war after war against neighbors
  - Latins
  - Etruscans
  - Greeks
- By 267 BCE, the Romans had conquered most of Italy

**HOW?**

1. The Romans were excellent soldiers
2. All landowning male citizens
3. Harsh discipline
4. Borrowed and improved methods
Center of most important Public activities in Rome

THE FORUM
THE ROMAN ARMY

- **Legions** – small soldier groups of 6,000
  - Organized in smaller, special groups of 60-120
  - **Legionary**: a Roman Soldier

- Small, swift groups cut through enemies
- Legionaries armed with short sword and spear

Long iron point was made to bend after thrown, preventing enemies from using it.

Armor made from iron strips, tied with leather.

Shields were made from sheets of wood glued together, covered in leather or cloth.
THE ROMAN ARMY - LEGIONS

- Set up roads and towns as they expanded and conquered
- **Roman Confederation**: system created to rule new lands
  - Gave full citizenship to some people, especially Latins
  - Vote & serve in government
  - Treated like **Allies** – free to run local affairs, but paid taxes
- Clever or not?
LEGOAL VIDEO CLIPS

SET UP OF THE ROMAN LEGIONS
CLICK FOR LINK

HOW ROMAN LEADERS DOMINATED THE WORLD
CLICK FOR LINK
ROMAN ROADS

A Roman gate marks the entrance to the city of Siena, Italy

A Roman road today in Syria
THE REPUBLIC

Social Classes

I. Patricians
   • Wealthy landowners
   • Nobles who made up ruling class; could serve in gov’t

II. Plebeians
   • Artisans, shopkeepers, farmers, craftspeople
   • Cannot hold public office
   • Forced to serve in army
How was the Government Organized?

2 Consuls
- Power to veto, keep the other “in check”
- 1 year terms to avoid abuse of power

Senate
- 300 men, served for life
- At first, gave advice to consuls
- Later, proposes laws
- Approves building programs

Praetors
- Interpret law, tax records, finances, overseeing public festivals, etc.

Assembly of Centuries
- Elected consuls and praetors
THE PLEBEIANS REBEL

**Conflict of Orders:** the conflict between Patricians and Plebeians

- Roman laws not written down → when did they change?
- Plebeians fought in the army, but Patricians decided when to go to war
- In 494 BCE, the Plebeians walk out of Rome
  
  i. All work comes to a halt
  
  ii. Patricians now fearful and helpless
  
  iii. Compromise
THE PLEBEIANS GAIN POLITICAL EQUALITY

• Revolt led to major change in government
• Plebeians now became
  • **Tribunes**: official of Rome elected by the plebeians to represent them; had veto power
  • Still a minority, only ten in the Senate

• Demands
  • Write down those laws!
  • **The Twelve Tables** – laws published on tablets and displayed for all
• In 287 BCE, the Plebeians gained the right to pass laws for all Romans
• Citizens Association could approve/reject
• A Plebeian consul was elected
• Rome becomes a government ruled by a basic form of laws, or constitution.
• Roman ideals of civic duty, assemblies, citizenship, checks and balances, ‘the greater good’ shape republics today