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Facts to Know

Aeneas	<i>Trojan chief; early king of Latins; hero of the <u>Aeneid</u></i>
Romulus and Remus	<i>founders of Rome, twin brothers</i>
Sylvia	<i>mother of Romulus and Remus</i>
Vestal Virgins	<i>attendants to Vesta, vowed not to marry</i>
Faustulus	<i>herdsman who named and raised the twins</i>
Palatine Hill	<i>where Rome was founded</i>
Sabines	<i>tribe from which Romans took their wives</i>
Tarpeia	<i>killed at the gate of Capitoline Hill</i>
Campus Martius	<i>“field of Mars (god of war)”; where soldiers trained</i>
Tiber River	<i>river that runs through Rome</i>

“It is the will of the gods that Rome shall be the greatest city of the world.” **apparition of Romulus**

“You killed our mother and you shall die for it.” **Romulus and Remus**

Vocabulary

1. ...inhabited the adjacent mountains...	<u>next to, neighboring</u>
2. ...one of his descendants named Procas...	<u>offspring</u>
3. ...the feeble cries of the infants...	<u>weak</u>
4. ...Remus had a quarrel with some of the herdsman...	<u>fight</u>
5. He laughed scornfully ...	<u>with contempt</u>
6. So perish anyone who shall hereafter attempt...	<u>to die</u>
7. ...make Rome a place of refuge ...	<u>place of shelter</u>
8*. He established a body called the Senate ...	<u>legislative assembly</u>
9*. The descendants of those settlers were called patricians ...	<u>nobles; ruling class</u>
10*. The ordinary citizens were called plebeians ...	<u>the common people</u>

* Vocabulary items throughout the book marked with an asterisk are specialized for Roman history or Latin.



Romulus (753-672 B.C.)

Comprehension Questions

- 1. Why did Amulius put Numitor's son to death and make his daughter a Vestal Virgin?**
Amulius knew his position as king was threatened by Numitor's children. He worried that Numitor's son would rise against him and claim his right to the throne or that his daughter might bear a son who could challenge him.
- 2. Why are Romans called a "she-wolf's litter"? How does this name fit their national character?**
Romulus and Remus founded Rome. Romans were called a "she-wolf's litter" because they descended from men so fierce and courageous that they were raised by a wolf rather than a human mother.
- 3. How did the twins decide who would be king of Rome?**
The two boys decided they would seek a sign from the gods that indicated which boy they favored. When Romulus saw 12 vultures soaring in the skies and Remus saw only 6, Romulus claimed the favor of the gods and declared himself king.
- 4. Explain how Romulus populated his city and found wives for the Roman men.**
Romulus made Rome a place of refuge, a safe place for people running from enemies or punishment. To get wives for the men, Romulus hosted a festival and invited the barbarian Sabine tribe. Roman men seized the women who attended.
- 5. What good things did Romulus do for his city?**
Romulus was a fair and wise king. He established a Senate to help him with important government affairs. He also took great care in training young Romans to be good soldiers.
- 6. Describe Romulus' final departure from Rome. What did his spirit foretell?**
Romulus disappeared from the earth. Legend says that the god Mars took him up to the clouds in a golden chariot. The spirit foretold that Rome would be the greatest city of the world.

Activities

- 1. Draw a family tree (on drawing pages in the Review lesson) including: Aeneas, Procas, Numitor, Amulius, Sylvia, Romulus, Remus.**
- 2. Start your Roman History Timeline with 753 B.C. as the date Rome was founded.**
- 3. Identify on your map (Appendix) of Ancient Italia and memorize: Italy
Rome
Tiber River**
- 4. Identify on your map (Appendix) of Ancient Rome: Palatine Hill**
- 5*. Discuss how the story of Romulus and Remus is similar to the story of Cain and Abel.**
In each pair, one brother killed the other and went out to build a new city or nation.
- 6. Why do you think Campus Martius was so named? Who is Mars?**
Mars is the god of war and according to legend the father of Romulus and Remus. Campus Martius was where Roman soldiers drilled and armies assembled in preparation for war.
- 7*. Rome claimed divine ancestry through its founders Romulus and Remus (sons of Sylvia and Mars) and Aeneas (son of Venus). How might this have affected the Roman character?**
The idea of divine ancestry fed the Romans' strong sense of destiny, as well as their famous perseverance and bravery (if they refused to quit, they would eventually win). It also made them empire-builders, claiming the right to rule all other peoples.

* Activities throughout the book marked with an asterisk may be given as composition assignments.