

The Story of Romulus and Remus

A long, long time ago, in Alba Longa in Italy, King Numitor lived. He was not king for long because his younger brother, Amulius, wanted to be king and managed to get the throne.

To make sure that nobody else would take the throne back off him, he had Numitor's sons killed and made his daughter, Rhea Silvia, become a Priestess



of Vesta meaning she was not allowed to have children so there was no one who could be king in the future.

However, his plan went wrong because Rhea Silvia had twins with Mars, the Roman God of War as the father. Amulius was scared of Mars, so he did not kill Rhea Silvia for breaking the rules instead he put her in prison and told a servant to take the twin boys and leave them in the River.

Amulius did not know that when the servant came to the River he felt sorry for the boys, and let them float down the river in their basket where he hoped they would be rescued.

The boys were saved when a wolf found them and took them to safety where she protected and cared for them. The wolf looked after the twins until a shepherd came one day and took them home to be looked after by him and his wife. They called the boys Romulus and Remus.

The shepherd and his wife cared for the two boys as if they were their own sons and Romulus and Remus became shepherds like their father.



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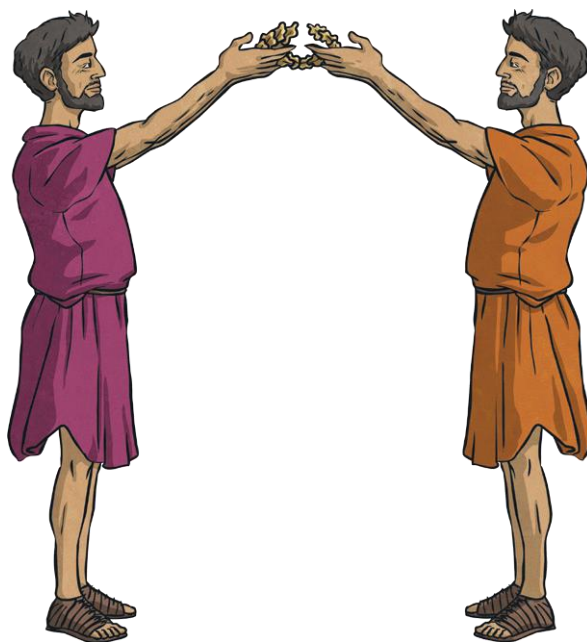
One day, Romulus and Remus met some of the king's shepherds and the men got into a fight. Remus was caught and taken back to King Amulius, who did not know who he was.

Meanwhile, Romulus decided to go and rescue Remus. He travelled to Alba Longa, killed the king and saved his brother.

The people of the city were not angry with the boys because they found out who they were. Instead, they wanted to crown them both as kings but the boys did not want to be kings because they wanted to build their own city somewhere else. So they went in search of a place.

They eventually found a place but they argued about on which hill the city should be built. Romulus wanted Palatine Hill but Remus wanted Aventine Hill so they decided to wait for a sign from the gods to tell them which hill they should use.

The sign from the gods was a group of birds but each brother believed they had won so the problem was not solved. Romulus decided to start building a wall around Palatine Hill, but Remus was jealous and started a fight where Remus was killed.



Romulus was now free to build his city, which was finished on the 21st April 753BC. He made himself king and named the city 'Rome' after himself. This was the start of one of the most powerful cities in the world for the next thousand years.

Questions

1. Name Romulus and Remus' birth mother.

2. Who was the city of 'Rome' named after?

3. Number these events in the order they come in the story: The

servant put the twin boys in the river

Romulus kills Remus in a fight

The boys are offered to be joint kings of Alba Longa Amulius

becomes king

4. Finish this sentence:

Mars was the...

5. Name the hill on which Remus wanted to build his city.

6. On what date did Rome finish being built?

7. How come there was only one brother who built a city?

8. Do you think the servant of Amulius did the right thing? Give reasons for your answer.
