

1 Rome

According to tradition, Rome originated in **753 B.C.**

Rome began as an agricultural village on the Palatine Hill, which is on the banks of the river Tiber in the centre of the Italian Peninsula. A people called the **Latins** established it.

Rome gradually expanded across the Seven Hills and became a **walled city**. In order to promote trade, the Romans established the port of **Ostia** 30 km away at the mouth of the river Tiber.

At this time, various peoples inhabited the Italian Peninsula. The most powerful of these were the **Greeks**, who lived on the southern coast, and the **Etruscans**, who lived in the north and greatly influenced Rome. The city's expansion, **sewerage**¹ system, architecture and religion were all results of Etruscan influence.

Initially Rome was a **monarchy**. A succession of seven kings ruled the city, although there was also an assembly of **nobles**² called the **Senate**. In **509 B.C.** the Senate **deposed**³ Tarquinius Superbus, the last King of Rome. As a result, Rome became a **republic**⁴.

¹**sewerage:** pipes that remove human waste.

²**noble:** aristocrat

³**depose:** remove from power by force.

⁴**republic:** political system without a monarch; elected representatives exercise power.



CLIL activities

- 1 In your notebook, explain these terms.
 - a. Ostia
 - b. Etruscans
 - c. Palatine Hill
 - d. Senate
- 2 Listen and answer the questions.
 - a. Who were the parents of the twins?
 - b. Who rescued and took care of them?
 - c. Who was the first King of Rome?

- 3 Answer the questions. Then compare your answers with a classmate.
 - a. Describe Rome's geographical location.
 - b. What advantages did Rome's location provide?
Rome was on/next to/in...
This was an advantage because...
The most important advantage was being ... because...