

# Storia di Roma in Inglese

Inglese

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## ROME: THE ORIGINS

Before the Romans, the Italian territory was divided into several domains and tribes (Celts in the north, Etrurian in the centre, Siculi in the South and many others). There were some indigenous populations, like Ligurians, Sicans, Sardinians and Etruscans, some Indo European populations, such as Latin, Siculi and Veneti, and other Italic populations, and Greek occupied the south of our peninsula. The nucleus of Romans were Latins, who were just one of the populations in the center of Italy.

In the 10th century, a group of shepherds who lived near the Tiber (Tevere) began to trade sea salt (conservation of food), oils and cereals with the neighboring populations. The road where they travelled became the Via Salaria, which connected the river with the hills.

Virgil and Livy say that Romans descend from Aeneas, who escaped from the destruction of Troy and arrived in Italy, where he married Lavinia, the daughter of the king of Latins. Their son Ascanius founded the city of Alba Longa, the most important city for Latins.

After 2 centuries, a descendant of Aeneas, the princess of Latin Rea Silvia, was raped by the war god Mars and had two twins, Romulus (Romolo) and Remus (Remo). When Rea Silvia's father Numitor, king of Latins, was killed by his brother Amulius, Romulus and Remus were abandoned in the Tiber. They were found by a she-wolf and after raised by the shepherd Faustulus and his wife Acca. Later they killed Amulius and decided to found a city.

They asked the gods who would be the king and the name of the city. The twins observed the flight of the Bird (like the Etrurian tradition) and the response was Romulus. He marked the border of the city, the POMERANIUM, but when Remus passed this border armed Romulus decided to kill him. Rome was founded on 21st April 753 BCE.

Rome arose thanks to many favourable factors: the city was in a very fertile coastal plain rich in water and protected by hills. This area was important for trade between the Apennine region and the Tyrrhenian populations and between Etruria, Latium and Campania.

The nucleus of Rome formed on the Palatine through the fusion of several communities (synoecism). Latins, Aequi, Volsci and Sabines lived on the hills surrounding the Tiber. They were independent villages of farmers and shepherds, but they had the same language and religion. After some wars for the control of the area, Rome extended its dominion.