

## SECTION

1

# The Rise of Rome

## GUIDE TO READING

### The BIG Idea

**Order and Security** The Romans conquered and controlled the Italian peninsula and then the entire Mediterranean world.

### Content Vocabulary

- republic (p. 148)
- consul (p. 148)
- patrician (p. 148)
- praetor (p. 148)
- plebeian (p. 148)

### Academic Vocabulary

- virtually (p. 148)
- inadequate (p. 149)
- institutions (p. 148)

### People and Places

- Rome (p. 146)
- Roman Senate (p. 148)
- Latins (p. 146)
- Carthage (p. 150)
- Sicily (p. 147)
- Hannibal (p. 151)
- Etruscans (p. 147)
- Alps (p. 151)
- Livy (p. 148)

### Reading Strategy

**Categorizing Information** As you read this section, complete a chart like the one shown below listing the government officials and the legislative bodies of the Roman Republic.

Officials	Legislative Bodies

### NORTH CAROLINA STANDARDS Ninth Grade World History

- 2.03** Describe the developments and achievements of Roman civilization and analyze the significance of the fall of Rome.
- 6.03** Trace the changing definitions of citizenship and the expansion of suffrage.

*Roman history is the story of the Romans' conquest of Italy and the entire Mediterranean world. The Romans were conquerors, but they also governed, using republican forms that have been passed down to us.*

## The Land and Peoples of Italy

**MAIN IDEA** Rome's central location and geographic features made it a desirable location from which to expand.

**HISTORY & YOU** What geographic features led people to settle in your area? Read about the conquest of the Italian peninsula.

Italy is a peninsula extending about 750 miles (1,207 km) from north to south. It is not very wide, averaging about 120 miles (193 km) across. The Apennine (A•puh•NYN) mountain range forms a ridge from north to south, dividing west from east. Italy has some fairly large fertile plains ideal for farming. Most important are the Po River valley in the north; the plain of Latium, where **Rome** is located; and the region of Campania, south of Latium.

As in other civilizations, geography had an impact on Rome's development. The Apennines, less rugged than the mountain ranges of Greece, did not divide the Italian peninsula into many small, isolated communities. Italy also had more land for farming than did Greece, enabling it to support a large population.

Rome's location about 18 miles (29 km) inland on the Tiber River was especially favorable. The river gave Rome a route to the sea, but Rome was far enough inland to be safe from pirates. Because it was built on seven hills, it was easily defended. In addition, it was situated where the Tiber could be forded, making it a natural crossroads. All in all, Rome had a good central location in Italy from which to expand.

The Italian peninsula juts into the Mediterranean Sea, making it an important crossroads between the western and eastern Mediterranean. After the Romans had established their empire around the Mediterranean, governing it was easier because of Italy's location.

Indo-European peoples moved into Italy from about 1500 B.C. to 1000 B.C. We know little about them, but we do know that one group called the **Latins** lived in the region of Latium. These people spoke Latin, which, like Greek, is an Indo-European language.

The Latins were herders and farmers who lived in settlements on the tops of Rome's hills. After about 800 B.C., other people also began settling in Italy—the two most notable being the Greeks and the Etruscans.