The Rise of Rome

Geography

- Italian Peninsula
- Tiber River
- Juts out into Mediterranean Sea
- Island of Sicily is only 80 Miles from Africa
- Hilly land
- Apennine Mts. create many plains
- Fertile land, Rome had strong agricultural economy



People of Ancient Italy

- Lived there since 6,000 b.c.e.
- Italic people lived inland
- Etruscans lived in northern part
- Greeks in southern part

Etruscans

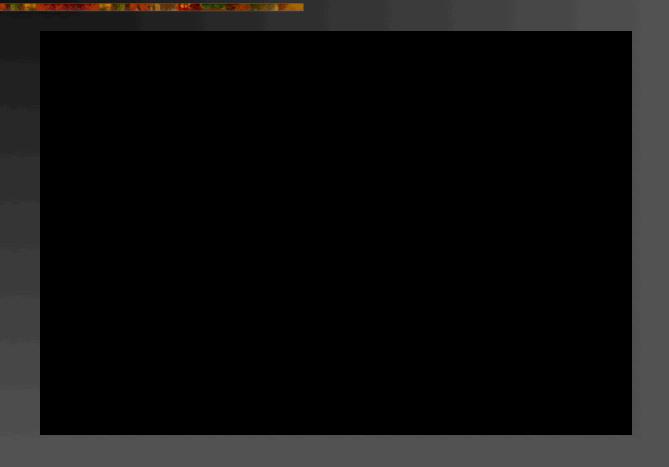


- Came from Asia Minor
- Adapted GreekAlphabet
- Cities protected by moats and walls
- Farmers, miners, traders
- Ruled Rome from 616-509 b.c.e.

Early Rome

- Legend says Romulus & Remus founded Rome in 753 (rescued and raised by a wolf)
- Republic was formed after getting rid of the last Etruscan King
- Republic: sovereignty (supreme legal power) is done by voters
- Male citizens w/ property

Creating a Republic (3:30)



Early Rome cont.

- 2 dominant groups (patricians, plebeians)
- Patricians
 - 200 wealthy families
 - Had all the political power
- Plebeians
 - Rest of the free population

Political Reform

- Plebeians threatened to move away
- Tribunes (officials) were elected to listen to plebeians
- Twelve Tables (450 b.c.e.)
 - Codes created to limit patricians
 - Elected 2 consuls (leaders)
 - Controlled army also

Roman Army

- To vote you had to be in the army
- No payment given, received a share of whatever was taken from the conquered
- Very organized
 - 1st New Recruits & Poor
 - 2nd mix of young and old
 - 3rd Veterans & Wealthy



The End.