CHAPTER 6

Ancient Rome and Early Christianity, 500 B.C.–A.D. 500

Previewing Main Ideas

POWER AND AUTHORITY Rome began as a republic, a government in which elected officials represent the people. Eventually, absolute rulers called emperors seized power and expanded the empire.

Geography *About how many miles did the Roman Empire stretch from east to west?*

EMPIRE BUILDING At its height, the Roman Empire touched three continents—Europe, Asia, and Africa. For several centuries, Rome brought peace and prosperity to its empire before its eventual collapse.

Geography *Why was the Mediterranean Sea important to the Roman Empire?*

RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS Out of Judea rose a monotheistic, or single-god, religion known as Christianity. Based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, it soon spread throughout Rome and beyond.

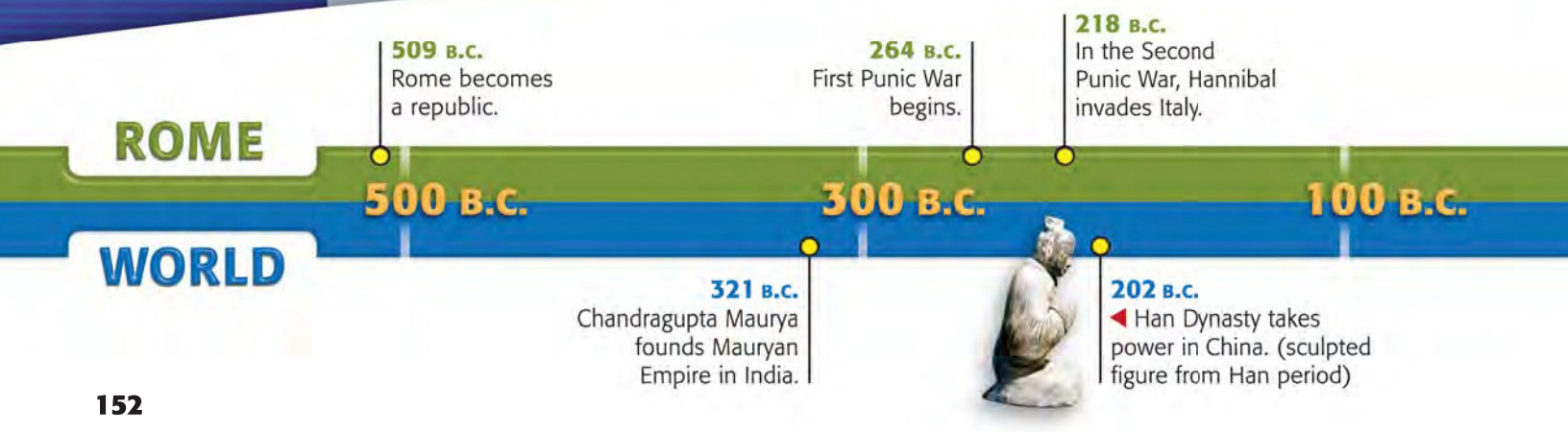
Geography *What geographic features might have helped or hindered the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire?*

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

eEdition
- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Interactive Primary Sources

INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to **classzone.com** for:
- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Primary Sources
- Chapter Quiz
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events



The Roman World, 265 B.C.–A.D. 117
ASIA
BRITAIN
GAUL
EUROPE
Rhine River
Danube River
Po River
DACIA
Black Sea
Massilia
Corsica
THRACE
SPAIN
Rome
ITALY
MACEDONIA
Byzantium
Tiber R.
Sardinia
Balearic Is.
Gades
ANATOLIA
Tigris R.
Euphrates R.
Athens
Ephesus
Antioch
Sicily
Crete
Cyprus
SYRIA
Damascus
Tyre
Caesarea
JUDEA
Mediterranean Sea
Cyrene
Alexandria
Memphis
ARABIA
EGYPT
Nile River
Thebes
Red Sea
AFRICA
Roman Republic, 265 B.C.
Areas added to Empire, A.D. 117
0 250 500 Miles
0 250 500 Kilometers
Conic Projection
31 B.C.
Octavian defeats the forces of Antony and Cleopatra. (bust of Cleopatra)
A.D. 284
Diocletian becomes emperor of Rome.
A.D. 476
Western Roman Empire falls. (Roman horseman)
A.D. 100
A.D. 300
A.D. 500
A.D. 100
Moche culture arises in South America. (gold toucan from Moche era)
A.D. 300
Aksum kingdom emerges in east Africa.

Interact *with* History

What makes a successful leader?

You are a member of the senate in ancient Rome. Soon you must decide whether to support or oppose a powerful leader who wants to become ruler. Many consider him a military genius for having gained vast territory and wealth for Rome. Others point out that he disobeyed orders and is both ruthless and devious. You wonder whether his ambition would lead to greater prosperity and order in the empire or to injustice and unrest.



▲ This 19th-century painting by Italian artist Cesare Maccari shows Cicero, one of ancient Rome's greatest public speakers, addressing fellow members of the Roman Senate.

EXAMINING *the* ISSUES

- **Which is more important in measuring leadership—results or integrity?**
- **Does a leader have to be likable in order to succeed?**

As a class, discuss these questions. Based on your discussion, think about what you have learned about other leaders in history, such as Alexander the Great and Darius of Persia. What qualities helped them to be successful or caused them to fail? As you read about Rome, see how the qualities of its leaders helped or hindered its development.



1

The Roman Republic

MAIN IDEA	WHY IT MATTERS NOW	TERMS & NAMES
POWER AND AUTHORITY The early Romans established a republic, which grew powerful and spread its influence.	Some of the most fundamental values and institutions of Western civilization began in the Roman Republic.	• republic • patrician • plebeian • tribune • consul • senate • dictator • legion • Punic Wars • Hannibal

SETTING THE STAGE While the great civilization of Greece was in decline, a new city to the west was developing and increasing its power. Rome grew from a small settlement to a mighty civilization that eventually conquered the Mediterranean world. In time, the Romans would build one of the most famous and influential empires in history.

The Origins of Rome

TAKING NOTES
Outlining Use an outline to organize the main ideas and details.

I. The Origins of Rome
  A.
  B.
II. The Early Republic
  A.
  B.
III. Rome Spreads Its Power
  A.
  B.

According to legend, the city of Rome was founded in 753 B.C. by Romulus and Remus, twin sons of the god Mars and a Latin princess. The twins were abandoned on the Tiber River as infants and raised by a she-wolf. The twins decided to build a city near the spot. In reality, it was men not immortals who built the city, and they chose the spot largely for its strategic location and fertile soil.

Rome's Geography Rome was built on seven rolling hills at a curve on the Tiber River, near the center of the Italian peninsula. It was midway between the Alps and Italy's southern tip. Rome also was near the midpoint of the Mediterranean Sea. The historian Livy wrote about the city's site:

PRIMARY SOURCE

Not without reason did gods and men choose this spot for the site of our city—the [salubrious] hills, the river to bring us produce from the inland regions and sea-borne commerce from abroad, the sea itself, near enough for convenience yet not so near as to bring danger from foreign fleets, our situation in the very heart of Italy—all these advantages make it of all places in the world the best for a city destined to grow great.

LIVY, *The Early History of Rome*

The First Romans The earliest settlers on the Italian peninsula arrived in prehistoric times. From about 1000 to 500 B.C., three groups inhabited the region and eventually battled for control. They were the Latins, the Greeks, and the Etruscans. The Latins built the original settlement at Rome, a cluster of wooden huts atop one of its seven hills, Palatine Hill. These settlers were considered to be the first Romans.

Between 750 and 600 B.C., the Greeks established colonies along southern Italy and Sicily. The cities became prosperous and commercially active. They brought all of Italy, including Rome, into closer contact with Greek civilization.

The Etruscans were native to northern Italy. They were skilled metalworkers and engineers. The Etruscans strongly influenced the development of Roman civilization. They boasted a system of writing, for example, and the Romans adopted their alphabet. They also influenced Rome's architecture, especially the use of the arch.

The Early Republic

Around 600 B.C., an Etruscan became king of Rome. In the decades that followed, Rome grew from a collection of hilltop villages to a city that covered nearly 500 square miles. Various kings ordered the construction of Rome's first temples and public centers—the most famous of which was the Forum, the heart of Roman political life.

The last king of Rome was Tarquin the Proud. A harsh tyrant, he was driven from power in 509 B.C. The Romans declared they would never again be ruled by a king. Instead, they established a republic, from the Latin phrase *res publica,* which means "public affairs." A **republic** is a form of government in which power rests with citizens who have the right to vote for their leaders. In Rome, citizenship with voting rights was granted only to free-born male citizens.

Patricians and Plebeians In the early republic, different groups of Romans struggled for power. One group was the **patricians**, the wealthy landowners who held most of the power. The other important group was the **plebeians**, the common farmers, artisans, and merchants who made up the majority of the population.

The patricians inherited their power and social status. They claimed that their ancestry gave them the authority to make laws for Rome. The plebeians were citizens of Rome with the right to vote. However, they were barred by law from holding most important government positions. In time, Rome's leaders allowed the plebeians to form their own assembly and elect representatives called **tribunes**. Tribunes protected the rights of the plebeians from unfair acts of patrician officials. (A)

MAIN IDEA

Making Inferences

(A) Why did patricians want to prevent plebeians from holding important positions?

Twelve Tables An important victory for the plebeians was to force the creation of a written law code. With laws unwritten, patrician officials often interpreted the law to suit themselves. In 451 B.C., a group of ten officials began writing down Rome's laws. The laws were carved on twelve tablets, or tables, and hung in the Forum. They became the basis for later Roman law. The Twelve Tables established the idea that all free citizens had a right to the protection of the law.



▶ Ruins of the Forum, the political center of the Roman Empire, still stand in present-day Rome.

Comparing Republican Governments

	Rome	United States of America
Executive	• Two consuls, elected by the assembly for one year—chief executives of the government and commanders-in-chief of the army.	• A president, elected by the people for four years—chief executive of the government and commander-in-chief of the army.
Legislative	• Senate of 300 members, chosen from aristocracy for life—controls foreign and financial policies, advises consuls. • Centuriate Assembly, all citizen-soldiers are members for life—selects consuls, makes laws. • Tribal Assembly, citizens grouped according to where they live are members for life—elects tribunes and makes laws.	• Senate of 100 members, elected by the people for six-year terms—makes laws, advises president on foreign policy. • House of Representatives of 435 members, elected by the people for two years—makes laws, originates revenue bills.
Judicial	• Praetors, eight judges chosen for one year by Centuriate Assembly—two oversee civil and criminal courts (the others govern provinces).	• Supreme Court, nine justices appointed for life by president—highest court, hears civil and criminal appeals cases.
Legal code	• Twelve Tables—a list of rules that was the basis of Roman legal system	• U.S. Constitution—basic law of the United States
Citizenship	• All adult male landowners	• All native-born or naturalized adults

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Charts

1. **Comparing** *What similarities do you see in the governments of the Roman Republic and the United States?*
2. **Drawing Conclusions** *Which government seems more democratic? Why?*

Government Under the Republic In the first century B.C., Roman writers boasted that Rome had achieved a balanced government. What they meant was that their government had taken the best features of a monarchy (government by a king), an aristocracy (government by nobles), and a democracy (government by the people—see the comparison above of Rome to the United States). Rome had two officials called **consuls**. Like kings, they commanded the army and directed the government. However, their power was limited. A consul's term was only one year long. The same person could not be elected consul again for ten years. Also, one consul could always overrule, or veto, the other's decisions.

Vocabulary The word *veto* comes from the Latin for "I forbid."

The **senate** was the aristocratic branch of Rome's government. It had both legislative and administrative functions in the republic. Its 300 members were chosen from the upper class of Roman society. Later, plebeians were allowed in the senate. The senate exercised great influence over both foreign and domestic policy.

The assemblies represented the more democratic side of the government. For example, an assembly organized by the plebeians, the Tribal Assembly, elected the tribunes and made laws for the common people—and later for the republic itself.

In times of crisis, the republic could appoint a **dictator**—a leader who had absolute power to make laws and command the army. A dictator's power lasted for only six months. Dictators were chosen by the consuls and then elected by the senate.

The Roman Army In addition to their government, the Romans placed great value on their military. All citizens who owned land were required to serve in the army. Seekers of certain public offices had to perform ten years of military service. Roman soldiers were organized into large military units called **legions**. The Roman legion was made up of some 5,000 heavily armed foot soldiers (infantry). A group of soldiers on horseback (cavalry) supported each legion. Legions were divided into smaller groups of 80 men, each of which was called a century. The military organization and fighting skill of the Roman army were key factors in Rome's rise to greatness.

Vocabulary The term *legion* also means a multitude.

Rome Spreads Its Power

For hundreds of years after the founding of the republic, Rome sought to expand its territories through trade and conquest.

Rome Conquers Italy Roman power grew slowly but steadily as the legions battled for control of the Italian peninsula. By the fourth century B.C., the Romans dominated central Italy. Eventually, they defeated the Etruscans to the north and the Greek city-states to the south. By 265 B.C., the Romans were masters of nearly all Italy.

Rome had different laws and treatment for different parts of its conquered territory. The neighboring Latins on the Tiber became full citizens of Rome. In territories farther from Rome, conquered peoples enjoyed all the rights of Roman citizenship except the vote. All other conquered groups fell into a third category, allies of Rome. Rome did not interfere with its allies, as long as they supplied troops for the Roman army and did not make treaties of friendship with any other state. The new citizens and allies became partners in Rome's growth. This lenient policy toward defeated enemies helped Rome to succeed in building a long-lasting empire. For more than two centuries after 265 B.C., Roman power spread far beyond Italy. B

MAIN IDEA

Analyzing Issues

B How did its treatment of conquered people affect Rome's expansion?

Rome's Commercial Network Rome's location gave it easy access to the riches of the lands ringing the Mediterranean Sea. Roman merchants moved by land and sea. They traded Roman wine and olive oil for a variety of foods, raw materials, and manufactured goods from other lands. However, other large and powerful cities interfered with Roman access to the Mediterranean. One such city was Carthage. Once a colony of Phoenicia, Carthage was located on a peninsula on the North African coast. Its rise to power soon put it in direct opposition with Rome.

War with Carthage In 264 B.C., Rome and Carthage went to war. This was the beginning of the long struggle known as the **Punic Wars**. Between 264 and 146 B.C., Rome and Carthage fought three wars. The first, for control of Sicily and the western Mediterranean, lasted 23 years (264–241 B.C.). It ended in the defeat of Carthage. The Second Punic War began in 218 B.C. The mastermind behind the war was a 29-year-old Carthaginian general named **Hannibal**. Hannibal was a brilliant military strategist who wanted to avenge Carthage's earlier defeat.

Vocabulary

The term *Punic* comes from the Latin word for Phoenician.

Hannibal assembled an army of 50,000 infantry, 9,000 cavalry, and 60 elephants with the intent of capturing Rome. Instead of a head-on attack, however, Hannibal sought to surprise the Romans with a most daring and risky move. He led his army on a long trek from Spain across France and through the Alps. Despite losing more than half his men and most of his elephants, the general's move initially worked. For more than a decade, he marched his forces up and down the Italian peninsula at will. Hannibal won his greatest victory at Cannae, in 216 B.C. There his army inflicted enormous losses on the Romans. However, the Romans regrouped and with the aid of many allies stood firm. They prevented Hannibal from capturing Rome.

History Makers



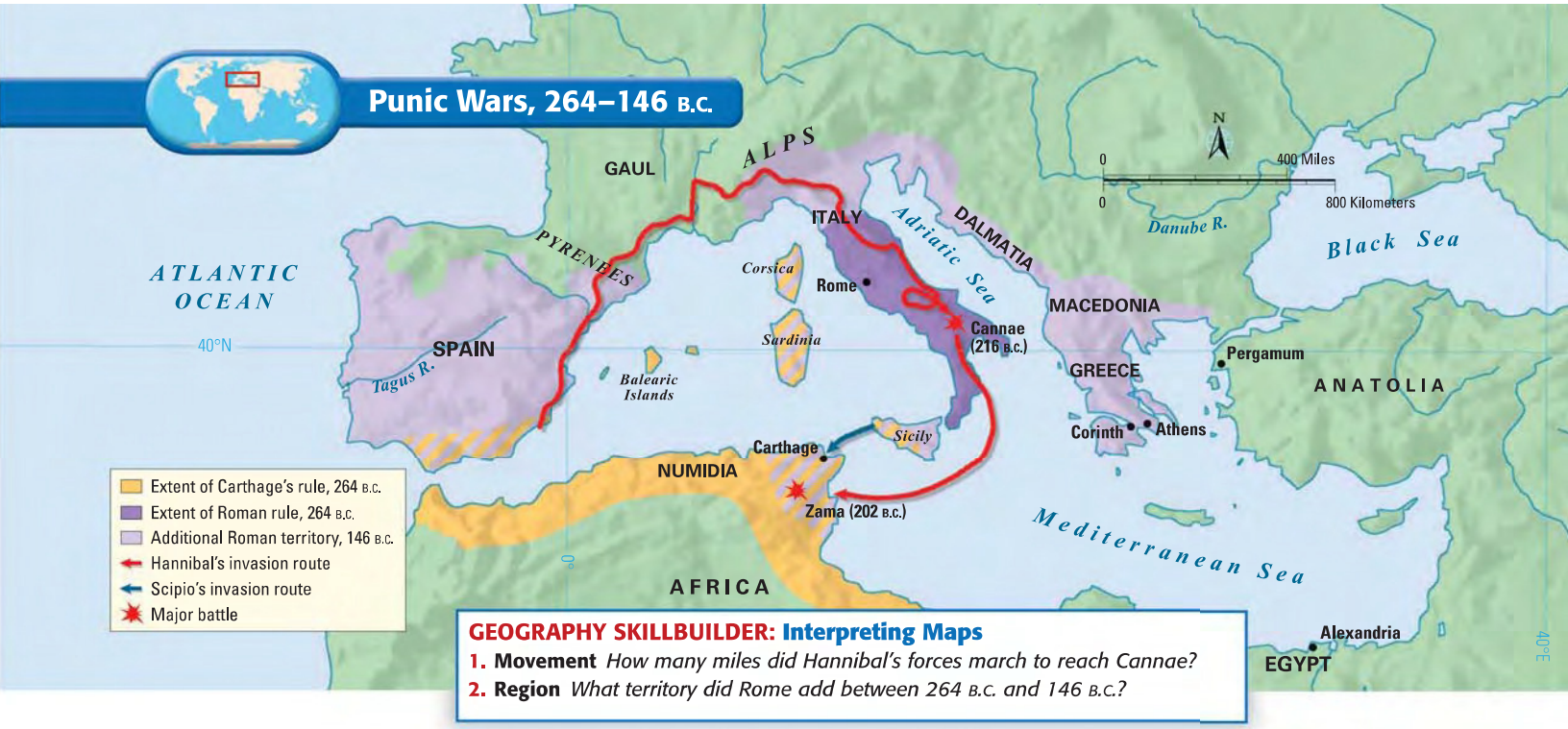
Hannibal 247–183 B.C.

When Hannibal was only a boy of nine, his father, Hamilcar Barca, a general in Carthage's army, made him swear that he would always hate Rome and seek to destroy it.

After his defeat at the battle of Zama and Carthage's loss in the Second Punic War, Hannibal took refuge among Rome's enemies. He fought against Roman forces as an ally of the kings of Syria and Bithynia. When Roman agents came for him in Bithynia on the Black Sea in Anatolia in 183 B.C., he committed suicide rather than submit to Rome.

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

INTERNET ACTIVITY Create an annotated map of Hannibal's journey through the Alps. Go to **classzone.com** for your research.



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. **Movement** *How many miles did Hannibal's forces march to reach Cannae?*
2. **Region** *What territory did Rome add between 264 B.C. and 146 B.C.?*

Rome Triumphs Finally, the Romans found a daring military leader to match Hannibal's boldness. A general named Scipio (SIHP•ee•oh) devised a plan to attack Carthage. This strategy forced Hannibal to return to defend his native city. In 202 B.C., at Zama near Carthage, the Romans finally defeated Hannibal.

During the Third Punic War (149–146 B.C.), Rome laid siege to Carthage. In 146 B.C., the city was set afire and its 50,000 inhabitants sold into slavery. Its territory was made a Roman province.

MAIN IDEA

Drawing Conclusions

C Why were the Punic Wars important?

Rome's victories in the Punic Wars gave it dominance over the western Mediterranean. The Romans then went on to conquer the eastern half. By about 70 B.C., Rome's Mediterranean empire stretched from Anatolia in the east to Spain in the west. As you will read in Section 2, however, such growth and power brought with it a new set of difficulties. C

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

TERMS & NAMES 1. For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

• republic • patrician • plebeian • tribune • consul • senate • dictator • legion • Punic Wars • Hannibal

USING YOUR NOTES

2. What do you consider to be the key characteristic of the early Roman Republic? Why?

I. The Origins of Rome
A.
B.
II. The Early Republic
A.
B.
III. Rome Spreads Its Power
A.
B.

MAIN IDEAS

3. What limits were there on the power of the Roman consuls?
4. What was the significance of the Twelve Tables?
5. How was Hannibal's attack on Rome daring and different?

CRITICAL THINKING & WRITING

6. **FORMING OPINIONS** Do you think the Roman Republic owed its success more to its form of government or its army? Why?
7. **ANALYZING ISSUES** Do you agree with claims that early Rome had achieved a "balanced" government? Explain.
8. **CLARIFYING** How did Rome expand its territory and maintain control over it?
9. **WRITING ACTIVITY** POWER AND AUTHORITY Write a brief **essay** explaining what problems might arise from appointing a dictator during times of crisis.

CONNECT TO TODAY **PREPARING AN ORAL REPORT**

Use the library and other resources to locate any monuments built to either Hannibal or the Punic Wars. Then present what you found and the circumstances surrounding the monument's creation in an **oral report.**