

The Story of

Romulus and Remus



Long ago in Italy, there was a king named Numitor.

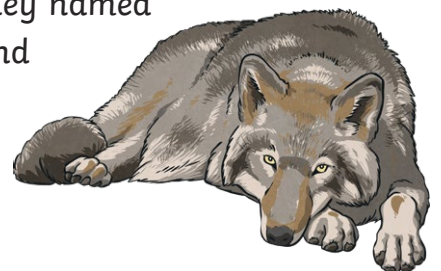
Numitor's younger brother Amulius wanted to be king, and so he stole the throne from his brother.



He killed Numitor's sons and forced his daughter Rhea Silvia to become a priestess, meaning she was not allowed to have children that could grow up to threaten his rule.

However, Rhea Silvia had two twin boys and King Amulius was furious. He imprisoned her and ordered his servant to drown the babies in the river Tiber. Amulius's servant felt sorry for the boys and placed them in baskets to float away safely down the river.

The twins were rescued by a wolf, who took them to safety. The wolf kept them safe until a shepherd came across them and took them home to his wife. They named the boys Romulus and Remus and they also grew up to be shepherds.



Many years later, Romulus and Remus got into a fight with some of the king's shepherds.

Remus was arrested and Romulus travelled to rescue him. He freed his brother and King Amulius was killed in the fighting.

The people realised who Romulus and Remus really were and the boys were invited to rule together as joint kings.

They said no, making Numitor king again, and left to build their own city.

Romulus and Remus found a perfect location to settle. However, the brothers disagreed which hill to build on.



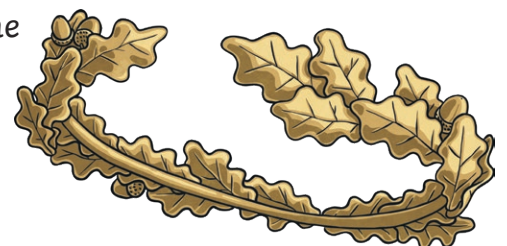
Romulus wanted to build on Palatine Hill but Remus wanted to build on Aventine Hill. They couldn't come to an agreement so decided to wait for a sign from the gods.

After a while, they spotted some vultures. Remus claimed to have seen six birds, whereas Romulus claimed to have seen 12 birds.

Again, they couldn't agree what the sign meant as Romulus claimed it backed him as he'd seen more birds and Remus claimed it backed him as he'd seen them first.

Romulus decided to start building on his hill without his brother, but Remus became jealous. The twins got into another fight, this time resulting in Remus's death. Romulus was free to build the settlement on Palatine Hill.

He called it Rome, named after himself, and it grew to become the centre of the Roman Empire and one of the most powerful cities in the world.



Questions

1. Who was the daughter of King Numitor? Tick one.

- ☐ Amulius
- ☐ Rhea Silvia
- ☐ Romulus
- ☐ Remus

2. What was the name of the river that the boys were taken to? Tick one.

- ☐ Rome
- ☐ Italy
- ☐ Tiber
- ☐ Remus

3. What job did Romulus and Remus have? Tick one.

- ☐ shepherds
- ☐ priests
- ☐ servants
- ☐ guards

4. Match up the brother to the correct fact.

Romulus

Remus

wanted to build on
Palatine Hill

wanted to build on
Aventine Hill

founded the city of Rome

5. Why did King Amulius make Rhea Silvia become a priestess?

6. What sign from the gods did the brothers think they'd seen?

7. Why do you think the author describes Rome as 'one of the most powerful cities in the world'?

Answers

1. Who was the daughter of King Numitor? Tick one.

- ☐ Amulius
☒ **Rhea Silvia**
☐ Romulus
☐ Remus

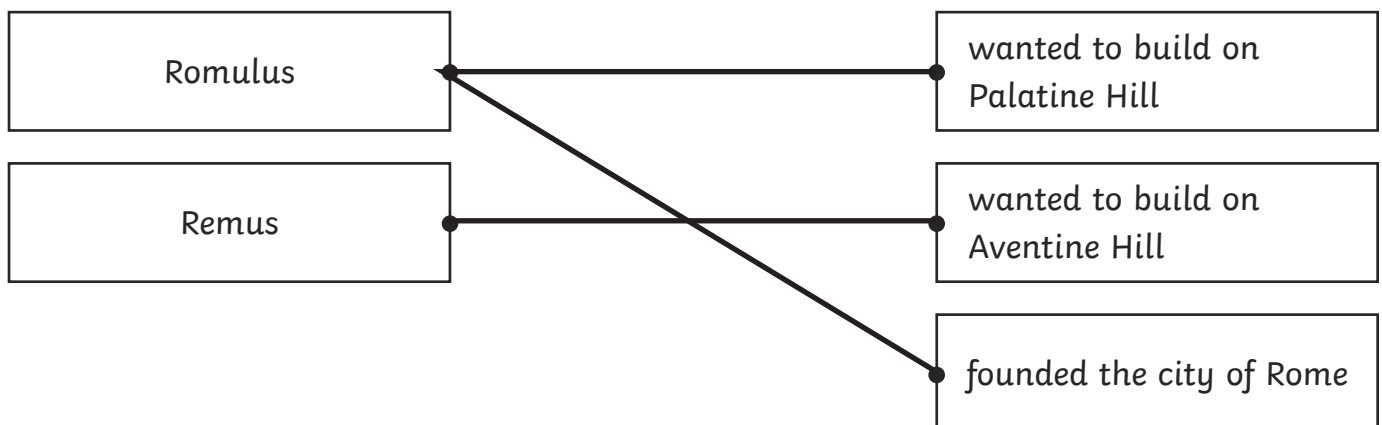
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- ☒ **shepherds**
☐ priests
☐ servants
☐ guards

4. Match up the brother to the correct fact.



5. Why did King Amulius make Rhea Silvia become a priestess?

King Amulius made Rhea Silvia become a priestess so she wouldn't be allowed to have children.

6. What sign from the gods did the brothers think they'd seen?

The brothers saw a large group of vultures which they thought was a sign from the gods.

7. Why do you think the author describes Rome as 'one of the most powerful cities in the world'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author describes Rome as one of the most powerful cities in the world because it went on to become the centre of the Roman Empire, which was a major civilisation and was important in world history.



The Story of

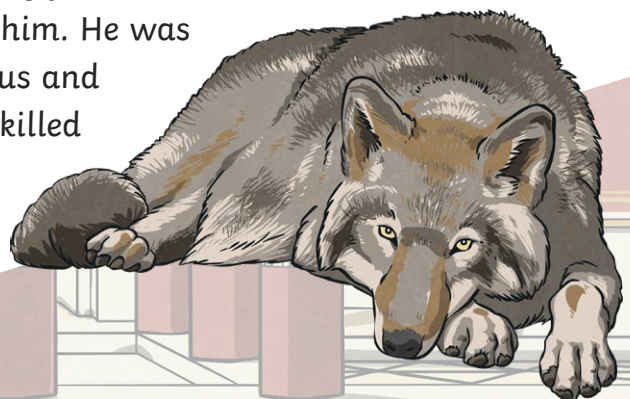
Romulus and Remus

Long ago, in an area of Italy known as Alba Longa, there was a king named Numitor. Numitor's younger brother Amulius wanted to be king, and so he formed a plot and stole the throne. He killed Numitor's sons and forced his daughter Rhea Silvia to become a priestess, meaning she was not allowed to have children and they could not grow up to threaten his rule.

However, Rhea Silvia had two twin boys fathered by the god of war, Mars. King Amulius was furious. He imprisoned Rhea Silvia and ordered his servant to drown the twins in the river Tiber. Amulius's servant felt sorry for the boys and placed them in baskets to float away safely down the river to be rescued.

The baskets came to rest further down the river and the twins were rescued by a wolf, who took them to safety. The wolf kept them safe until a shepherd came across them and took them home to his wife. They named the boys Romulus and Remus and they grew up to be shepherds.

Many years later, Romulus and Remus got into a fight with some of the king's shepherds. Remus was arrested and Romulus, fearing for his brother, travelled to rescue him. He was able to rescue Remus and King Amulius was killed in the fighting.



The people of Alba Longa discovered who Romulus and Remus really were and the boys were invited to rule Alba Longa together as joint kings. They refused the offer, making Numitor king again, and left to build their own settlement.

After searching many places, Romulus and Remus finally found a perfect location to settle. However, the brothers disagreed on the exact location. Romulus wanted to build the settlement on Palatine Hill, whereas Remus wanted to build on Aventine Hill.

They couldn't come to an agreement and so decided to wait for a sign from the gods to show them where to build.

After a while, they spotted some vultures. Remus claimed to have seen six birds, whereas Romulus claimed to have seen 12 birds.

Again, they couldn't come to an agreement as Romulus claimed the sign backed him as he'd seen more birds and Remus claimed it backed him as he'd seen them first.

Romulus decided to start building on his hill, but Remus became jealous. The twins got into another fight, this time resulting in Remus's death.

Romulus was now free to build the settlement on Palatine Hill. It was completed on 21st April 753 BC, and he called it Rome, named after himself.



Rome grew to become the centre of the Roman Empire and one of the most powerful cities in the world over the next thousand years.

Questions

1. Who was Romulus and Remus's father? Tick one.

- ☐ Numitor
- ☐ Amulius
- ☐ Mars
- ☐ Rhea Silvia

2. What did Amulius's servant do with Romulus and Remus? Tick one.

- ☐ drowned them in the river
- ☐ put them in a basket to float down the river
- ☐ taught them to swim in the river
- ☐ took them home and raised them as his own sons

3. Match up the brother to the correct fact.

Romulus

Remus

wanted to build on Palatine Hill

wanted to build on Aventine Hill

founded the city of Rome

4. Look at the opening paragraph.

Find and copy one word which means 'plan'.

5. When was the settlement of Rome completed? Tick one.

- ☐ 21st April 573 BC
- ☐ 21st April 753 BC
- ☐ 21st April AD 573
- ☐ 21st April AD 753

6. What occupation did Romulus and Remus have?

7. Why do you think the people of Alba Longa wanted Romulus and Remus to rule as joint kings?

8. Why do you think the author describes Rome as 'one of the most powerful cities in the world'?

Answers

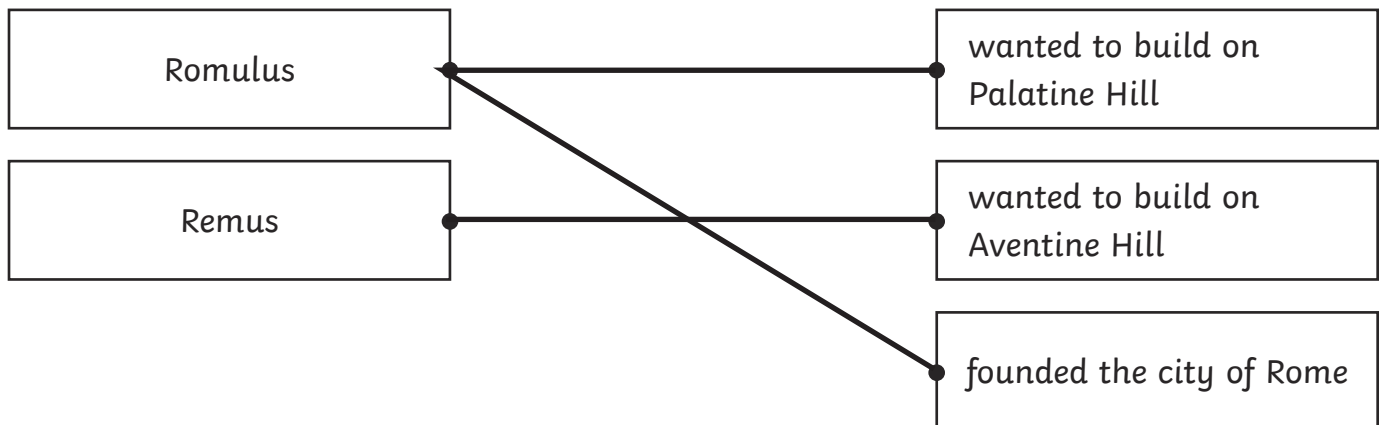
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- ☐ Amulius
- ☒ **Mars**
- ☐ Rhea Silvia

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plot

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- ☐ 21st April 573 BC
- ☒ **21st April 753 BC**
- ☐ 21st April AD 573
- ☐ 21st April AD 753

6. What occupation did Romulus and Remus have?

Romulus and Remus were shepherds.

7. Why do you think the people of Alba Longa wanted Romulus and Remus to rule as joint kings?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the people wanted Romulus and Remus to rule as joint kings as their grandfather Numitor had been king and so they would be in line to the throne. They also killed Amulius and he might not have been popular and so they were pleased with Romulus and Remus.

8. Why do you think the author describes Rome as 'one of the most powerful cities in the world'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author describes Rome as one of the most powerful cities in the world because it went on to become the centre of the Roman Empire, which was a major civilisation and was important in world history.

The Story of **Romulus** and **Remus**

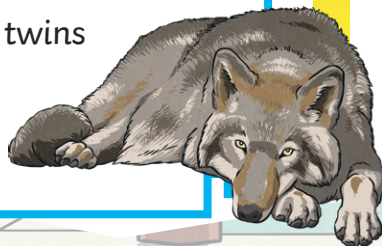
Long ago, in an area of Italy known as Alba Longa, there was a king named Numitor. Numitor had a younger brother called Amulius and several children, including a daughter named Rhea Silvia.

Amulius was jealous of his brother and wanted to be king, and so he formed a plot and stole the throne. He killed Numitor's sons and forced Rhea Silvia to become a priestess of Vesta, meaning she was forbidden from having children. Therefore, Amulius thought, she would not have any children that could threaten his place as king.

However, Rhea Silvia had two twin boys fathered by the god of war, Mars. King Amulius was furious at their birth. He imprisoned Rhea Silvia and ordered his servant to drown the twins in the river Tiber.

Amulius's servant felt sorry for the boys and when he reached the river, he placed them in baskets and allowed them to float away down the river in the hope that they would be rescued.

The baskets came to rest in reeds further down the river and the twins were rescued by a wolf mother called Lupa, who took them to safety and cared for them. Lupa kept them safe until a shepherd came across them and took them home to his wife to be raised as their own children. They named the boys Romulus and Remus and they grew up to be shepherds like their father.



The Story of Romulus and Remus

Many years later, Romulus and Remus got into an argument with some of the king's shepherds, causing a fight. Remus was caught and brought before the king, who did not know his true identity. Romulus, fearing for his brother, travelled to Alba Longa to rescue him. He was able to rescue Remus, although in the commotion, King Amulius was fatally wounded and died.

The people of Alba Longa discovered the true identity of Romulus and Remus and so the boys were not punished. The people invited them to rule Alba Longa together but they refused the offer, reinstating Numitor as king. Instead, the twins left to found their own settlement.

After searching many places, Romulus and Remus finally discovered a perfect location to settle. However, the brothers disagreed on the precise location. Romulus wanted to build the settlement on Palatine Hill, whereas Remus preferred Aventine Hill to settle on. They couldn't come to an agreement and so decided to use augury, a sign from the gods using birds, to come to a decision.

After a while, the twins spotted a large group of vultures. Remus claimed to have

seen six birds, whereas Romulus claimed to have seen 12 birds. Both claimed that this favoured their location; Romulus as he'd claimed to have seen more birds and Remus because he claimed to have seen them first. Again, they couldn't come to an agreement. Romulus decided to start building on Palatine Hill, but Remus jealously began taunting him.

This angered Romulus and the brothers began fighting, resulting in Remus's death.

Romulus was now free to build the settlement where he wished. It was completed on 21st April 753 BC, and he called it Rome, named after himself.



Rome grew to become the centre of the Roman Empire and one of the most powerful cities in the world over the next thousand years.

Questions

1. What was Rhea Silvia forced to become? Tick one.

- ☐ a queen
- ☐ a shepherd
- ☐ a priestess
- ☐ a goddess

2. What was Mars the god of? Tick one.

- ☐ love
- ☐ war
- ☐ Rome
- ☐ kings

3. Fill in the missing words.

The baskets came to rest in _____ further down the river and the twins were rescued by a wolf mother called _____, who took them to safety and cared for them.

4. Why was Remus arrested?

5. Who became King of Alba Longa after Amulius died?

6. In your own words, explain what augury means and how the brothers used it.

7. Why do you think the people of Alba Longa wanted Romulus and Remus to rule as joint kings?

8. Why do you think the author describes Rome as 'one of the most powerful cities in the world'?

Answers

1. What was Rhea Silvia forced to become? Tick one.

- ☐ a queen
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- ☒ **war**
- ☐ Rome
- ☐ kings

3. Fill in the missing words.

The baskets came to rest in **reeds** further down the river and the twins were rescued by a wolf mother called **Lupa**, who took them to safety and cared for them.

4. Why was Remus arrested?

Remus was arrested because he, along with Romulus, got into a fight with some of the king's shepherds.

5. Who became King of Alba Longa after Amulius died?

Numitor became king after Amulius died.

6. In your own words, explain what augury means and how the brothers used it.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Augury is using birds as a sign from the gods. The brothers used this to argue the gods favoured them, with Romulus arguing he'd seen more birds and Remus arguing that he'd seen them first.

7. Why do you think the people of Alba Longa wanted Romulus and Remus to rule as joint kings?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the people wanted Romulus and Remus to rule as joint kings as their grandfather Numitor had been king and so they would be in line to the throne. They also killed Amulius and he might not have been popular and so they were pleased with Romulus and Remus.

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