

In this topic, we will learn about the myths that saw the foundation of Rome. We start with Aeneas and his intrepid journey from the defeated city of Troy to Latium, the area of Italy where Rome would be founded. We also learn about the founding of Rome itself and how two twins, their grand plans, and their falling out led to the creation of a city that would rule the world.

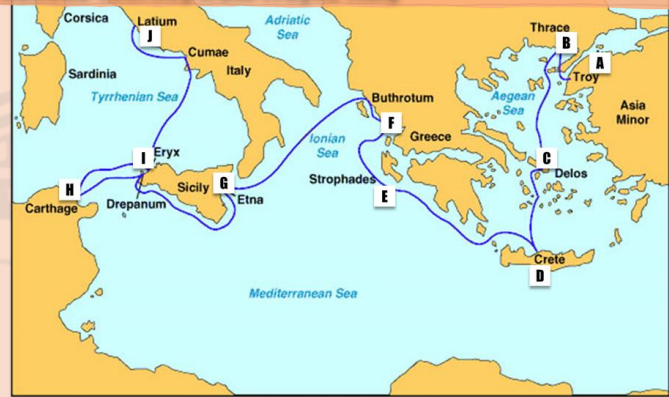
Aeneas: The First Hero of Rome

1	Aeneas' Parents	Similarly to Greek heroes, Aeneas had both mortal and immortal parents. His mother was Venus, the Roman goddess of love, and Anchises, a member of the royal family of Troy.
2	Royal Family of Troy	The last royal family of Troy was led by King Priam. He had many famous children: Hector and Paris being the most famous. Anchises, Aeneas' father, was King Priam's cousin.
3	The Trojan War	The Trojan War is the most famous war in Ancient Greek history. The Greeks lay siege to Troy after Paris took King Menelaus' wife, Helen, back to Troy. The war would last ten years, and the last two would be the focus of the famous Homer book, <i>The Iliad</i> .
4	Aeneas in the Trojan War	Having grown up in Troy, Aeneas became a fierce warrior and fought in the 10-year war against the Greeks. He is mentioned in Homer's <i>Iliad</i> as a brave soldier and loved by the gods. He survived the ten-year onslaught.
5	The Fall of Troy	After ten years of fighting, the Greeks had been unable to defeat the Trojans so turned to Odysseus, King of Ithaca. His plan of hiding armed inside a wooden horse worked and the Greeks burnt Troy to the ground, killing the Trojan King, Priam, in the process.
6	Aeneas Leaves Troy	Following the fall of Troy, Aeneas fled Troy with his father, Anchises, his wife, Creusa, and his son, Ascanius. During the chaos of leaving, his wife, Creusa, was killed. The story of Aeneas leaving Troy and leading the Trojans to a new life, is the basis of Virgil's <i>Aeneid</i> .
7	Public Penates	As well as his family, Aeneas also took some sacred objects with him from Troy, which would be dedicated to the new city he would found. These are called the Public Penates .
8	Aeneas' Journey	Aeneas' travels would take him across the Aegean Sea to Macedon, from Macedon to Sicily, and then from Sicily to the west coast of Italy. It is here that he would build his new city.
9	Pietas	Throughout his journey, Aeneas displayed his pietas. This is the most important heroic quality to the Romans and means a 'sense of duty', and a respect for your family, your gods, and your city.
10	Latium	Latium is the area where Aeneas would settle and create his new city.
11	War and Peace with King Latinus	After arriving in Latium, Aeneas engaged in a war with a local tribe led by King Latinus of Latium. After defeating him, he made peace with him and founded a new city, Lavinium.
12	Importance of Aeneas to Rome	Aeneas did not found Rome but is hugely important to Rome. Many years later, the first Emperor of Rome, Augustus Caesar traced his family back to Aeneas in order to legitimise their rule. By doing this he could claim he was related to the gods.
13	Aeneas to Romulus	Romulus would be the founder of Rome and he would be directly descended from Aeneas, although there is around 14 generations between them.

Livy – The Historian

14	Livy	Livy's full name is Titus Livius and he was born in Padua in Northern Italy, in either 64BC or 59BC.
15	Context	He was born during the time of the Civil War between Julius Caesar and Pompey Magnus. He would have been about 16 years old when Julius Caesar was assassinated in Rome. His early adulthood was lived under the first Emperor of Rome, Augustus Caesar, after he defeated all of his uncle's (Julius Caesar) enemies. During his lifetime he saw the fall of the Roman Republic and the start of the Roman Empire.
16	Early History of Rome	His most famous work is his <i>Early History of Rome</i> , which comes in five books.
17	Unreliable Historian	We have to be very careful to describe Livy as an historian; his writing is not like a modern historian. He never referenced sources of evidence, his research, or any other materials, as a modern historian would do. Therefore, there could be a large margin of error in what Livy writes, especially as many of his 'sources' were oral accounts of what happened. This makes him unreliable as an historian.

Aeneas' Journey from Troy to Italy



A Troy

Aeneas' home and the city he would flee after the Trojan War.

B Thrace

Aeneas' original place to build a city, but bad omens suggested he should move on.

C Delos

When Aeneas lands in Delos, he meets Apollo who tells him to travel where his ancestors lay.

D Crete

Whilst resting in Crete, Aeneas has a vision telling him to travel to Italy.

E Strophades Islands

Aeneas and his crew are attacked by Harpies (half-bird, half-woman creatures). After defeating them, the Harpies reveal that Latium was where he would build a city.

F Buthrotum

Aeneas meets Andromache, wife of the Trojan hero, Hector.

G Sicily

Aeneas meets Achaemenides, a Greek who retells Odysseus' tales. His father would also die and be buried here.

H Carthage

Aeneas meets Queen Dido and they fall in love. However, Aeneas would continue his quest and Dido would commit suicide.

I Eryx

Aeneas enters the Underworld here and is visited by fallen Trojan warriors and Dido. He is also visited by future Roman leaders.

J Latium

It is here that Aeneas would settle and build his city, Lavinium but only after defeating King Latinus in a war. This would also mark the end of Virgil's *Aeneid*.

Livy – The Historian

18	Romulus and Remus' Parents	Romulus and Remus were the twin sons of King Numitor's daughter Rhea Silvia. Their father was the God of War, Mars.
19	King Numitor's Death	King Numitor was killed by his brother, Amulius. Fearing revenge, Amulius had all Numitor's male heirs killed, and his daughter Rhea Silvia was made a Vestal Virgin.
20	Rhea Silvia and Mars	Yet, Rhea fell in love with Mars and they had twin boys. Fearing the wrath of Mars, he had Rhea imprisoned and had a servant put the boys into the river Tiber.
21	She-Wolf Protects Twins	The servant could not kill the boys so placed them in a basket and hoped that someone would rescue them. A she-wolf found the boys and protected them, and then eventually a shepherd who would name them Romulus and Remus.
22	Remus Captured	When older, Romulus and Remus became shepherds who got into a fight with shepherds of King Amulius. Remus was captured by soldiers unaware of who he really was.
23	Amulius Killed	When Romulus rescued Remus, he killed Amulius in the process. When the city learned of who the boys really were, they offered the crown to them as joint kings. The twins turned down the offer as they wanted to found their own city.
24	Location of Rome	They travelled to where Rome is located today. They both liked the area but wanted to build the city on a different hill to each other; Romulus on the Palatine Hill, Remus on the Aventine Hill.
25	Augury	After both read an augury differently, they both claimed victory. Both went on to build walls around their respective hills and quarrelled continuously.
26	Remus Killed	During one bad fight, Romulus killed Remus. He would go on to build his city called Rome and it was officially founded on 21st April 753BC, and he was named its first king.