

ANCIENT ROME

750 B.C. TO 450 A.D.

ROMULUS TO FALL OF ROME

ERA SUMMARY – ANCIENT ROME

The Ancient Rome division of the Young Readers collection is fairly limited, since most introductory histories of the period are written at an intermediate level. Roman history, as well as Greek history, is fundamental to understanding Western Civilization, so younger students should at least be familiar a few of the major characters.

Ancient history is especially attractive to young students, partly because it is so rich in mythology, and partly because it has an exceptionally interesting military history that is quite appealing, especially to boys. Rome rose on the strength of her exceptionally well organizing fighting forces, and declined over a long period, when her civilization became corrupt. Rome's history therefore, is full of terrific military adventures and moral lessons which can easily be appreciated by younger students.

In terms of heroism and adventure, the attractions of Roman history are even greater. Few modern heroes can compare with [Horatius](#), [Pompey](#) or [Julius Caesar](#), and few modern villains are as interesting as or [Attila the Hun](#). The Young Reader's collection includes only a few books that focus only on Roman history, but stories about famous Romans are also included in several anthologies of famous stories and works of historical fiction.

Most of the Young Reader **Study Questions** that relate to Roman history are taken from Lemon's [Stories from Greek History](#) and selected stories from the [Famous Stories](#) series by Baldwin. Heritage History offers many more books of interest about Roman history in the Ancient Rome [Academy Course](#) for intermediate students.



ROMAN SOLDIER VICTORIOUS

CHARACTERS – ANCIENT ROME

KINGDOM OF ROME

Romulus	771–716 BC	Legendary founder of the city of Rome, with brother Remus.
Tarquin Superbus	~ 535 BC	Killed Servius and usurped throne, eventually overthrown but tried to regain throne by force.
Horatius	535–509 BC	Hero who held the Sublican Bridge against Porsena's entire army.
Lars Porsena	~ 508 BC	Etruscan king and supporter of the Tarquins who raised an army to march against Rome.

ROMAN REPUBLIC

Coriolanus	500–450 BC	Hero, provoked to turn traitor. Convinced by his mother to spare Rome from destruction.
Cincinnatus	519–439 BC	Called to be dictator when Roman army was trapped. Saved them, and then returned to his farm.
Hannibal	247–182 BC	Carthaginian general who invaded and laid waste to Italy for sixteen years.
Fabius Cunctator	250–203 BC	Elected dictator to resist Hannibal; counseled delay, not direct assault.
Scipio Africanus	234–149 BC	Roman hero of second Punic War. Led armies in Spain and Africa. Defeated Hannibal at Zama.
Tiberius Gracchus	163–132 BC	Promoted Land Reform and fought for people's rights. Murdered by senators.
Gaius Gracchus	154–121 BC	Continued reforms of his brother, but was undermined by the senate.
Pompey	106–48 BC	Very renowned general. Defeated pirates. Led opposition to Caesar in civil war.
Julius Caesar	100–44 BC	Conquered Gaul, prevailed in civil war. Mastermind of Roman empire. Killed by senators.

ROMAN EMPIRE

Antony	83–30 BC	With Octavius, led empire after Caesar's death. Liaison with Cleopatra caused downfall.
Marcus Brutus	84–42 AD	Leader of conspirators to assassinate Caesar. Committed suicide at Philippi.
Augustus Caesar	63–14 AD	First emperor. Reigned for over fifty years. Established the Imperial system.
Constantine	272–337 AD	First Christian emperor. Unified empire. Moved capital to Constantinople near Black Sea.

TIMELINE – ANCIENT ROME

- 750 Kingdom of Rome is established by [Romulus](#).
- 510 Roman Republic is founded by [Junius Brutus](#). [Tarquin Superbus](#), the last king of Rome is exiled.
- 280 Rome defeats [Pyrrhus](#), conquers all of Italy.
- 202 [Hannibal](#) is defeated at Zama, end of [Second Punic War](#).
- 168 [Roman Macedonian Wars](#)—Greece and Macedonia fall to Rome.
- 146 Carthage and Corinth are destroyed; Rome controls all the Mediterranean.
- 52 [Julius Caesar](#) [conquers Gaul](#).
- 49 [Julius Caesar](#) crosses the Rubicon, [conquers Rome](#).
- 44 [Julius Caesar](#) is assassinated.
- 31 [Augustus Caesar](#) gains undisputed control of the **Roman Empire**.
- 68 Death of [Nero](#), last of the Caesars.
- 313 [Constantine](#) issues the Edict of Milan—Christianity is recognized by Roman Empire.
- 410 Rome is sacked by [Visigoth](#) army.

RECOMMENDED READING – ANCIENT ROME

- Dalkeith - [Stories from Roman History](#) *entire book*
- Cowles - [Our Little Roman Cousin](#) *entire book*
- Winlow - [Our Little Carthaginian Cousin](#) *entire book*