

The story of Romulus and Remus



Title: Romulus and Remus.

CORE: Describe details of the legend of Romulus and Remus

EXTENSION: Be able to explain the difference between a Legend and a True story

CHALLENGE: Be able to suggest reasons why the Romans wanted the legend to be told..

A legend dating back to about the 4th century BC holds that twin brothers named Romulus and Remus founded the city of Rome.



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According to the legend, Romulus and Remus were the sons of Mars, the god of war.

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Their mother was Rhea Silvia, the daughter of a king. Her father was removed from the throne by her uncle, Amulius.

Rhea was forced to swear that she would not have children, because Amulius did not want her to give birth to anyone who might threaten his claim to the throne.



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Rhea went against her uncle's wishes and had twin boys with Mars. Amulius found out. Rhea was sent to prison and the babies were set adrift on the River Tiber, as a way of getting rid of them.



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High waters carried the boys to the riverbank and they landed safely under a fig tree. They were found by a she-wolf who took care of the boys.

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The twins were later found and taken in by a kind shepherd. He and his wife raised them until they become adults.

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The boys, now adults, found out what had happened to them so they killed Amulius. They wanted to build a city in the area where they had been saved by the she-wolf, but could not decide on which hill. Romulus began to build a boundary wall around one hill whilst Remus chose another hill to build on.



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Remus was jealous of Romulus' new wall and decided to jump over the wall to show how rubbish Romulus' boundary wall was.

Romulus was so angry that the brothers began to fight.

Romulus killed Remus and said

“So perish all who cross my walls!”

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Romulus built Rome and became a King

With Remus dead, Romulus returned to where he started to build his wall on Palatine Hill and continued to build his city.

He officially founded the city on 21st April 753BC, making himself king and naming the city Rome after himself. He then began to organise his city. He divided his legions of 3,300 men. He called his 100 most noble men the Patricians and the elders of Rome the Senate. The city grew and prospered into one of the most powerful cities in the world, and would be for another 1,000 years.



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One day Romulus mysteriously disappeared in a storm. Believing that he had been changed into a god, the Romans worshipped him.



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