

E. The Second Punic War (218-201 BC)

1. Soon after the first Punic war, Rome conquered Sardinia, Corsica, Spain and northern Italy, turning them into provinces. Meanwhile, the Carthaginians took over Iberia (Spain & Portugal), eventually putting a general named Hannibal in charge of it.
2. Hannibal then led an army of 40,000 (plus battle elephants) over the Alps.
3. By the time he reached Italy, he only had 20,000, but it was enough. After Hannibal defeated three Roman armies, the Gauls decided to join him against Rome. His force was still not large enough to attack Rome directly, so he chose to attack other parts of Italy instead.
4. The Romans decided to replace the two consuls with a single “dictator” for six months. However, the dictator they chose, Fabius Maximums, believed that they could not defeat Hannibal, so he did not attack him. The people grew impatient. They nicknamed Fabius “cunctator” -- the delayer.
5. Hannibal's campaign in Italy lasted 16 years!
6. Finally, the Romans leaders sent a general named Scipio to attack Carthage. The Carthaginians panicked and recalled Hannibal from Italy.
7. The two greatest generals from the two sides squared off in the Battle of Zama near Carthage in 202. It was Hannibal's first and only defeat. After this battle, Scipio became known as Scipio “Africanus.”

F. The Third Punic War: Final Conquest of Carthage (and Greece!)

1. After having suffered sixteen years of occupation by Hannibal's army, the Romans imposed a harsh peace on Carthage. They burned the Carthaginian navy in the harbor. All their battle elephants were also taken away.
2. Meanwhile, Philip V of Macedonia had made the mistake of allying with Carthage against Rome, so the Romans decided to punish Macedonia. The Greeks also decided to help Macedonia against Rome, which further angered the Romans.
3. After Macedonia was defeated, Greece was easy to take. Corinth, the leading city of Greece by this time, was destroyed in 146 BC, and Greece was turned into a Roman province.
4. Meanwhile, certain Roman leaders had become convinced that Carthage was a threat to Rome, because it was becoming especially rich thanks to the Pax Romana. These Romans continued to hate Carthage because of the previous wars.
5. One Roman leader, Marcus Porcius Cato, finished every speech to the Roman Senate with a reminder, “Carthago delenda est.” (“Carthage must be destroyed.)
6. Because Carthage defended itself against another Roman ally called Numidia, the Romans decided to punish Carthage (not Numidia!).
7. Carthage was burned to the ground, and the fields were salted to destroy the crops. Carthage was no more.

G. Slavery and the Decline of the Republic

1. In the Punic Wars, the Romans conquered Greece, Spain, and much of northern Africa and Turkey. This allowed them to take many *slaves*.
2. Because there were so many slaves available, slaves were not valued as highly as before. The price of slaves dropped, and Romans bought more of them.
3. The Romans treated slaves very badly, because they could easily be replaced.
4. This caused a rebellion in Sicily, where the Roman army had to fight slaves in the *First Servile War (134-132 BC)*.
5. The Romans did not decide to give up slavery, even though in a republic people are not supposed to rule each other. Slavery was practiced by all cultures in the world. They viewed it as a natural part of life, and could not see a way to abandon it.